

# HAYWARD GALLERY

## TOURING

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### After the End of History British Working Class Photography 1989 - 2024

**Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry:** 29 March - 16 June 2024

**Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea:** 3 July - 14 September 2024

**Bonington Gallery, Nottingham:** 27 September - 15 December 2024



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

Launching in March 2024, **Hayward Gallery Touring** - the UK's largest contemporary art organisation producing exhibitions that tour Britain - will present ***After the End of History: British Working Class Photography 1989 - 2024***. The exhibition will bring together working class artists who use photography to explore the nuances of life in all its diversity today, turning their gaze towards both their communities and out to the wider world.

*After the End of History* will offer a picture of working-class life today; from **Rene Matic's** portrait of growing up mixed race in a white working-class community in Peterborough, to **Elaine Constantine's** documentation of the Northern Soul scene, to **Kavi Pujara** ode to Leicester's Hindu community, and **JA Mortram's** documentation throughout his life of marginalised people while working as a caregiver.

The year 2024 will mark 35 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the symbolic end of Communism. For the economist Francis Fukuyama, writing in the early 1990s, this

celebrated triumph of Western Liberal Democracy as the only viable future for global politics represented the “End of History”.

The counter-cultural energies of the 1980s, very often powered up by the alternative ideologies embodied by Communism, and a reaction against Thatcherism, produced a collective, coherent and politically engaged generation of working-class artists. But after the so-called “End of History” was announced in the 1990s, what became of working-class culture and the working class creative? What kind of images has working-class life produced in the last 35 years? *After The End of History* aims to illuminate these questions.

Among the artists featured in this exhibition are Richard Billingham, Sam Blackwood, Serena Brown, Antony Cairns, Rob Clayton, Joanne Coates, Josh Cole, Artúr Conka, Elaine Constantine, Natasha Edgington, Richard Grassick, Anna Magnowska, Rene Matic, J A Mortram, Kelly O'Brien, Eddie Otchere, Kavi Pujara, Khadija Saye, Chris Shaw, Trevor Smith, Ewen Spencer, Hannah Starkey, Igoris Taran, Nathaniel Telemaque, Barbara Wasiak and Tom Wood.

**Johny Pitts, Curator of *After the End of History***, says: “Developing a show with Hayward Gallery Touring, which pieces together complex and counterintuitive expressions of working class life through the lens, has been a deeply enriching process. I hope the extraordinary work included offers not only a celebration of the craft and creativity of working class practitioners, but also engages, surprises and inspires a working class audience, and anyone interested in art against-the-odds.”

**Brian Cass, Senior Curator, Hayward Gallery Touring**, says: “Thanks to the insights and passion of curator Johny Pitts, *After the End of History* offers a portrayal of working-class culture that doesn't conform to expectation. It features a fascinating range of artists whose visually compelling images challenge the ideals of classic documentary photography while also saying something vital about class, community and creativity. We are delighted to be working with our exhibition partners on this project and we hope the exhibition offers audiences a thoughtful, relevant and affirming celebration of working-class creativity.”

**Marguerite Nugent, Cultural Director, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**, adds: “We're absolutely thrilled to be the first venue to host *After The End of History* at the Herbert this coming spring. The exhibition will represent the working-class story since the Thatcher era, told through the lens of working-class artists, and will offer audiences the opportunity to engage with themes about class and identity.”

**Katharine Stout, Director, Focal Point Gallery**, comments: “We are delighted to present *After the End of History*, which will explore the nuances of working-class life from 1989 to today as captured by the camera lenses of working-class practitioners, especially as this exhibition speaks to Focal Point Gallery's origins as a specialist photography venue.”

**Tom Godfrey, Director, Bonington Gallery**, says: “We are extremely excited to be hosting *After the End of History: British Working Class Photography 1989 - 2024* and to be working with such wonderful partners. The exhibition will offer a timely platform for a group of

practitioners with extremely valuable perspectives, offering insight into their worlds against the timeline of such a tumultuous and hard-to-quantify period of collective history."

*After the End of History: British Working Class Photography 1989 - 2024* is a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition curated by Johny Pitts with Hayward Gallery Touring.

**-ENDS-**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Image Credits (left to right)**

- Serena Brown, *Clayponds*, 2018, Courtesy the artist.
- Eddie Otchere, *Goldie: Metalheadz at the Blue Note in Hoxton Square in 1996*. Courtesy the artist.
- Elaine Constantine, *Steve in his kitchen*, 1993–96, Courtesy the artist.

### **About Hayward Gallery Touring**

Hayward Gallery Touring organises contemporary art exhibitions that tour galleries, museums and other publicly funded venues throughout Britain. In collaboration with artists, independent curators, writers and partner institutions, Hayward Gallery Touring develops imaginative exhibitions that are seen by up to half a million people in over 45 cities and towns each year.

### **About the Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk>

Facebook: Southbank Centre

Instagram: @southbankcentre

X (formally Twitter): @southbankcentre

### **About Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, located in the heart of Coventry, is a vibrant cultural institution that celebrates art, history, and culture. With a rich and diverse collection, the Herbert offers a unique experience for visitors of all ages. The Herbert boasts an extensive collection that spans centuries, featuring artworks, artifacts, and exhibits that showcase the rich tapestry of human history and creativity. From contemporary art to ancient artifacts, our collections offer a journey through time and diverse cultures. Our gallery hosts a dynamic range of exhibitions and events throughout the year, showcasing local, national, and international talents. From thought-provoking contemporary art installations to interactive historical exhibits, there's always something inspiring happening at the Herbert. Our mission is to inspire, educate, and engage our community through the exploration of art, heritage, and creativity. We aim to provide a dynamic space for cultural enrichment, fostering a sense of wonder and curiosity.

Website: <https://www.theherbert.org/default.aspx>

Facebook: Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

Instagram: @the\_herbert\_cov

X (formerly Twitter): @The\_Herbert

### **About Focal Point Gallery**

Focal Point Gallery is South Essex's only public contemporary art gallery, open to all. Offering an exciting and ambitious programme of largely free workshops, talks, outdoor film screenings and offsite projects, we also present four major exhibitions a year featuring both international and local artists. We believe in building a community and a safe space to enjoy art and the creative process, where everyone is valued. Our aim is to inspire curiosity by producing and presenting thought-provoking art made today that explores our locality, sense of self and the importance of communities through investigating current concerns that resonate internationally. We set out to enrich the cultural lives of local residents of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, by providing them access to world-class, pioneering art, and creating opportunities for them to develop their own creative skills and thinking. We strengthen our offer through partnerships and networks, working together to co-design projects and initiatives with a belief in working openly with others.

Website: <https://www.fpg.org.uk/>

Facebook: focalpointgallery

Instagram: @focalpointgallery

X (formerly Twitter): @focalpointgallery

### **About Bonington Gallery**

Founded in 1969, Bonington Gallery has been at the forefront of Nottingham's rich and vibrant visual arts community for over fifty years, offering an innovative and dynamic programme of local, national, and international significance. Situated at the heart of Nottingham Trent University's School of Art & Design, our 'art school' context is reflected throughout our multi-disciplinary programme of exhibitions and events – presenting and exploring practices related to visual art, fashion, film, music and design. Beyond our building, our connections with colleagues in academic subject areas help ground our programme and thinking within past, present and future cultural and societal discourse

Website: <https://www.boningtongallery.co.uk/>

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**Herbert**  
Art Gallery & Museum



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