

Peter Mitchell: Nothing Lasts Forever 7 March – 15 June 2025

A retrospective of work by one of the leading early colour photographers of the 20th century opens this March at The Photographers' Gallery.

Peter Mitchell (b.1943, UK) is widely regarded as one of the most important early colour photographers of the 1970s and 1980s. A powerful storyteller and social historian, Mitchell's photography unfolds a longstanding and poetic connection with Leeds. He has chronicled the people and fortunes of the city with warmth and familiarity for over 40 years.

Described as 'a narrator of who we were, a chaser of a disappearing world' (Val Williams), his work reveals his love, and at times quirky, off-beat vision, of the people and changing face of Leeds.

The retrospective explores the breadth of Mitchell's photographic practice. It brings together his famous series 'A New Refutation of the Viking 4 Space Mission', which imagines England as seen through the eyes of an alien from Mars, demolished flats, shopkeepers and their shops, and boarded-up and disused buildings, as well as his portraits of scarecrows. The exhibition marks a return to The Photographers' Gallery for Mitchell – he first exhibited at the Gallery in 1984.

A chronicler of a changing city, he said of his work photographing the demise of the iconic Quarry Hills Estate in Leeds, 'I know there was no point in keeping Quarry Hill flats. But what it stood for might have been worth keeping.'

Calling himself 'a man of the pavement', Mitchell continues to regularly walk the streets of Leeds to photograph his beloved hometown today.

Peter Mitchell: Nothing Lasts Forever will include rarely seen works from Mitchell's own collection, personal ephemera and found objects.

Peter Mitchell: Nothing Lasts Forever is in collaboration with Leeds Art Gallery. *Nothing Lasts Forever*, published by RRB Photobooks, is available now.

Press contacts

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The Photographers' Gallery is a registered charity no. 262548. The Photographers' Gallery Limited is registered in London no. 986208. VAT registration no. GB645332251.

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Notes for editors

Peter Mitchell

Peter Mitchell was born in Manchester in 1943. He studied at Hornsey College of Art in London, then moved north to look for work and never left. Living and working in Leeds

for much of his life, Mitchell treats his surrounding with a unique sense of care. An essential part of the colour documentary scene in the 1970s and 80s, Mitchell's landmark show *A New Refutation of the Space Viking 4 Mission* at Impressions Gallery in York in 1979 was the first colour photography show in the UK.

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery explores how photography is connecting, captivating and radically changing our world today. The Gallery's programme and spaces – from exhibitions, events and digital platforms, to the galleries, shop and café – all explore the beauty, complexity and future of photography. Right outside the Gallery, the very best of contemporary photography is shown for free, day and night, in Soho Photography Quarter.

Find out more at: thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor information – The Photographers' Gallery

Mon – Weds 10am – 6pm

Thurs & Fri 10am – 8pm (Friday free from 5pm)

Sat 10am – 6pm

Sun 11am- 6pm

Tickets - your ticket covers entry to all exhibitions on the day of your visit

£10 / £7 concessions (members go free)

Advance online booking: £8.50 / £6 concessions

Also on show at The Photographers' Gallery from 9 October 2024 – 23 February 2025:

[Deborah Turbeville: Photocollage](#) and [Letizia Battaglia: Life, Love and Death in Sicily](#)

In Soho Photography Quarter, [Sian Davey - The Garden](#) is on show until November 2024, free.

The Photographers' Gallery

16-18 Ramillies Street, London, W1F 7LW

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