

Celebrating 40 years of Scotland's photography collection

This October the National Galleries of Scotland is partying like it's 1984 with *Celebrating 40 Years of Scotland's Photography Collection*, at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery from 26 October 2024 – 16 March 2025.

Step back in time to the 1980s when the National Galleries of Scotland officially began its world-class photography collection. Explore over 100 art works from Scotland's national photography collection, dating from the 1840's to the present day in this free-to-visit exhibition. Marvel at historic photographs, visit some famous faces and discover an exciting range of what makes a photograph in this eclectic celebration of the nation's photography collection.

Celebrating 40 Years of Scotland's Photography Collection marks this magnificent milestone, reflecting on all that has been accomplished in the last four decades and looking to the future. In the 1980s recognition of photography as an artform was growing rapidly as museums and galleries around the world were looking to establish and grow their collections. National Galleries of Scotland were no different. Having begun collecting photography in the late 19th century, it was in 1984 that the National Galleries of Scotland

collection was formally established. A world-renowned photography collection it is regarded as one of the best in the UK, its breadth and quality matches those of London institutions such as the V&A and National Portrait Gallery, London. Due to its original remit to collect the very best of Scottish and international photography, the collection has developed over the last 40 years to have global reach.



PHOTO © Stewart Attwood Photography 2024.

Now more than 55,000 artworks strong, the ever-growing collection is showcased in this lively exhibition which explores the major themes, subjects and processes from throughout the history of photography. Including works by major photographers such as Julia Margaret Cameron, Robert Mapplethorpe and Annie Leibovitz. Highlighting the enticing and universal nature of photography, the exhibition will include six themes: portraiture, landscape, documentary photography, archives, inclusion and experimentation.

Find portraits of famous Scots such as, Andy Murray, The Proclaimers, Jackie Kay and David Tennant as well as fun and

vibrant portraits such as Viviane Sassen's *In Bloom*. A newly acquired work consisting of photographs, film and performance by Glasgow-based artists Beagles & Ramsay will be on display for the first time. The *Sanguis Gratia Artis (Black Pudding Self-Portrait)*, is a performance piece alongside photographs where the artists make black pudding out of their own blood to explore the boundaries of the self-portrait.

Celebrating the connectivity and nostalgia that photographs bring to people worldwide, the exhibition looks at how this incredible artform can be traced through generations of Scottish photographers and schools of photography. Embracing the eclectic nature of photography, vibrant displays will create interesting contrasts and connections between historic and contemporary images.

Discover how the ideas and subject matters that started with David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson in the 1840s continues to be photographed centuries apart with different and modern cameras.

Take pride in the influential alumni of Scottish photography schools whose connections extend around the world, making Scotland a significant home to photography. Explore the idea of what makes a photograph, reflecting on changing technology and taking a look at artists who are pushing the boundaries of what we might have traditionally thought of as a photograph.

National Galleries Scotland: Portrait

26 October 2024 – 16 March 2025

[Celebrating 40 Years of Scotland's Photography Collection | National Galleries of Scotland](#)

Free



PHOTO © Stewart Attwood Photography 2024



Viviane Sassen



Jackie Kay by Norman McBeath



Julia Margaret Cameron The red and white roses



David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson – Jeanie Wilson at Newhaven