

R E F L E C T I O N S O F T H E
B L A C K E X P E R I E N C E



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Many thanks to Brixton Art Gallery, the photographers and everyone who has been exposed through the lens.

REFLECTIONS OF THE BLACK EXPERIENCE

PRESENTED BY: THE GLC RACE EQUALITY UNIT

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: PARMINDER VIR

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS: JOHNEY OHENE/EDDIE GEORGE

PICTURE EDITOR/EXHIBITION CO-ORDINATOR: MONIKA BAKER

The photographers are:

MARC BOOTH ■

VANLEY BURKE ■

SUNIL GUPTA ■

MUMTAZ KARIMJEE ■

DAVID LEWIS ■

ZAK OVE ■

INGRID POLLARD ■

SUZANNE RODEN ■

MADAH SHARAK ■

**SELECTIONS
OF WORK BY
ARMET FRANCIS**

The photographic exhibition is one of the events in the Black Experience Arts Programme which is a London wide programme reflecting historical and contemporary black experience through a variety of art forms.

With this exhibition we are confronted with a body of photographic work: a body of reflections of the black experience in post war Britain. The exhibition consists of a series of photographic studies, diverse in their character yet consistent. The consistency lies in the emphasis placed on achieving autonomous representation of matters central to the lives of Black people in Britain.

The substance of the exhibition concerns the social, political, economic, cultural and gender and sexuality: a wide range of issues which necessarily overlap.

What is there to convince us that these photographers can at least show something new of the familiar or at best convince us of anything more than the familiar?

Ten black photographers are featured here, some of whom may be new to you. Among them are photo journalists, cultural practitioners, students and political activists.

They come from a diversity of cultural/political backgrounds, and use photography for a number of different ends. This might make us wonder about the idea of so many divergent perspectives forming one exhibition, especially one with such a unifying title.

Simultaneously, these photographers are also Asian women and men and Afro-Caribbean women and men. They take photographs and the unity of their exclusivity makes them particular. Collectively they challenge the existing and inadequate visual histories of the black experience, and promise to enrich and inform the substance of cultural struggle.

This photographic exhibition is contextualized within the 'contemporary initiatives' section of the programme which is concerned with tracing the impact and continuing influence of black people in this country.

Eddie George
Race Equality Unit

We are proud to present the specially commissioned works of 9 black photographers, as part of the GLC Race Equality Unit's Black Experience Arts Programme.

Despite the GLC's contribution to developing a progressive visual art policy, photography has been somewhat neglected.

Reflections of the Black Experience marks a milestone for Black photographers in this country.

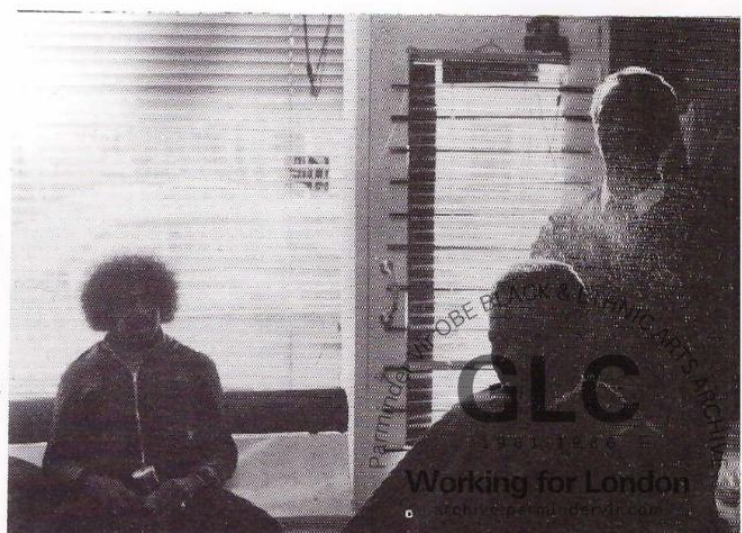
A small selection of photographers were chosen to use their skill and artistry to document the social, cultural and political changes in Britain today. Their brief was defined in five broad categories economic, cultural, political and sexuality/gender.

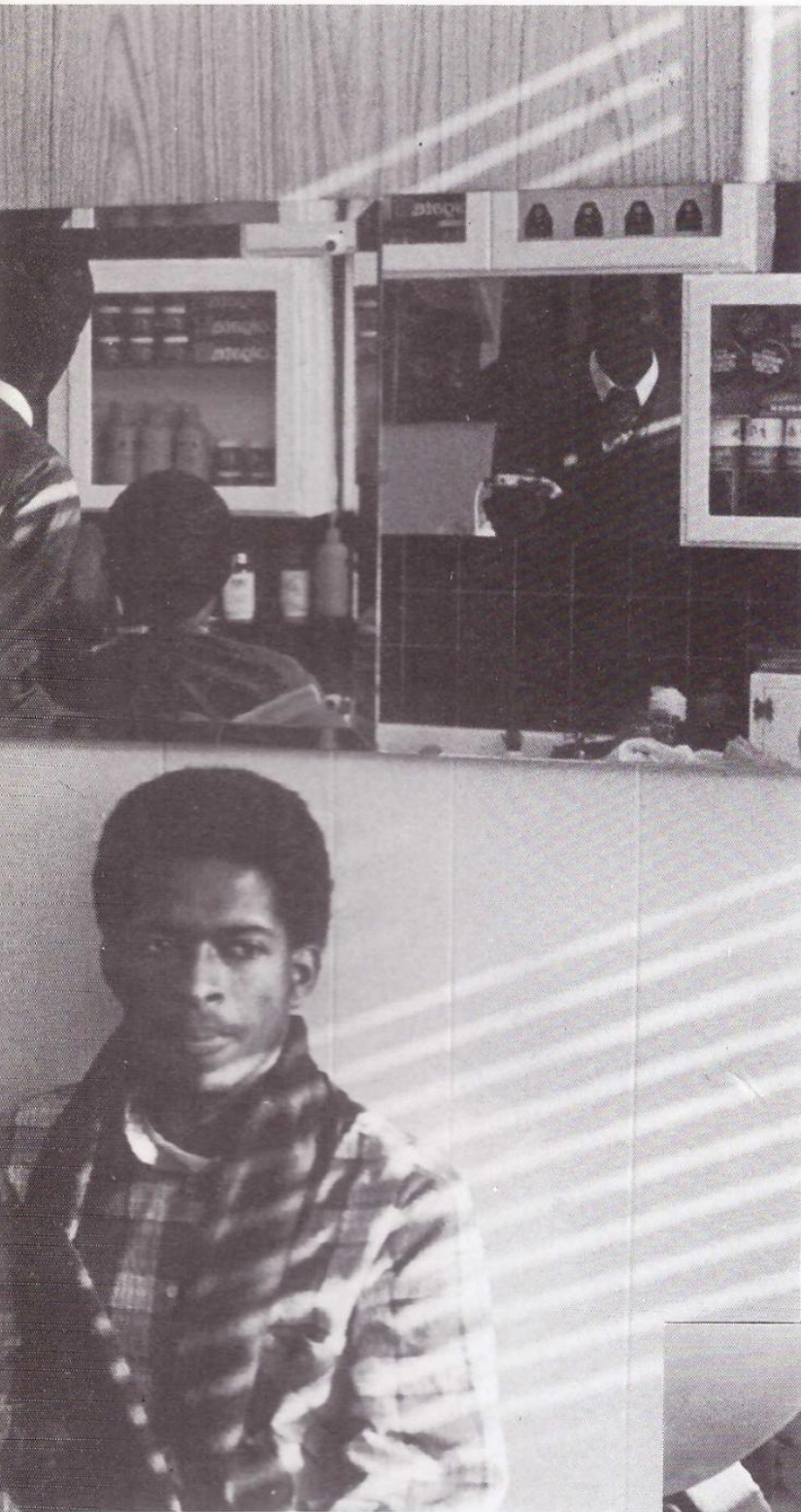
The strength of the final work presented was achieved through the sensitivity that comes from an identification with the subject, matched with the technical skills of the photographers.

It is through the medium of photography that this exhibition has chosen to express the mood and feeling of black people's presence in contemporary Britain.



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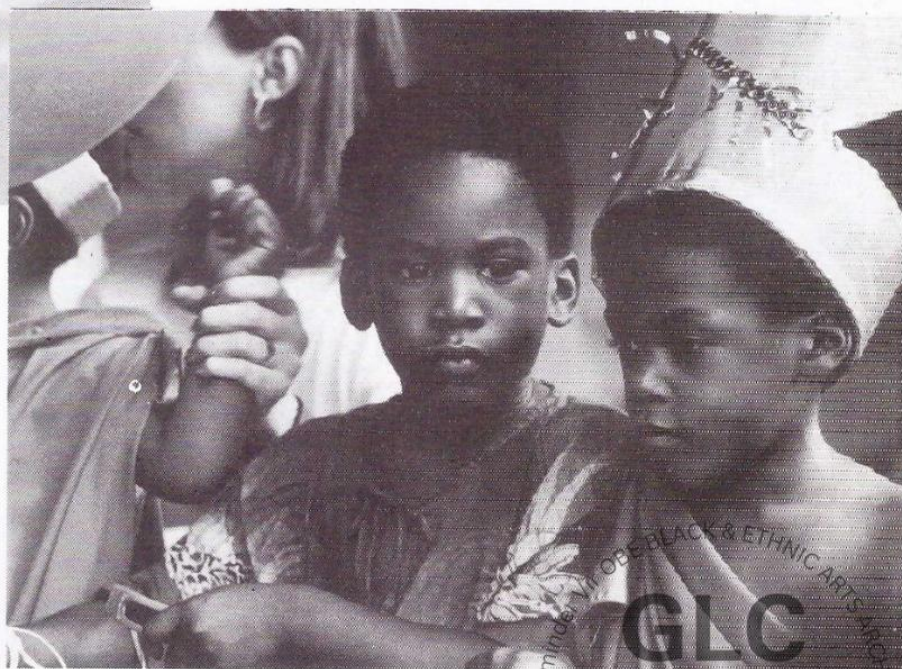




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1. Waiting for a haircut.
2. Watchmaker.
3. Carnival brothers.
4. Final Spray.
5. Bargain hunters.



1



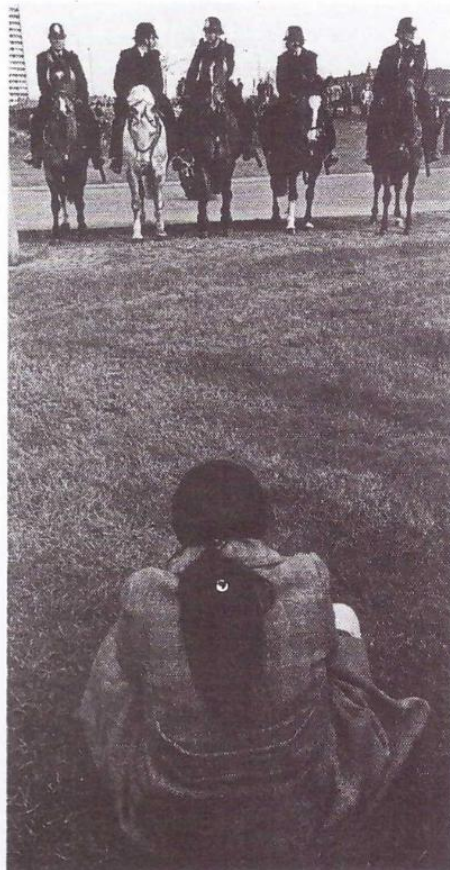
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1. Lozelle Road window, Birmingham.
2. The Bull's Head, Hansworth, Birmingham.
3. Rastafarian demonstration against police harrasment, Hansworth.
4. Children in the grass, school trip, Hansworth.
5. West Bromich, anti-nazi demo.

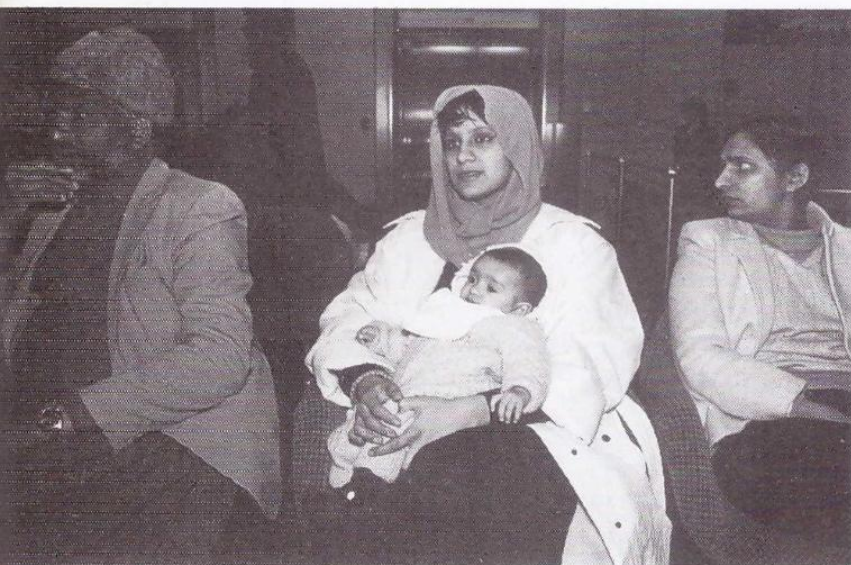


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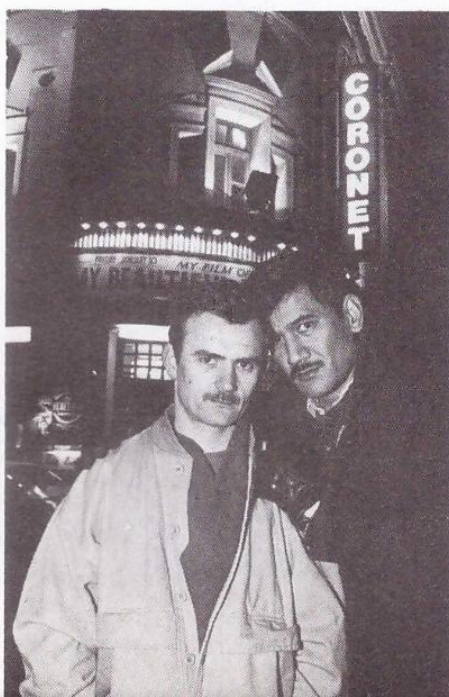
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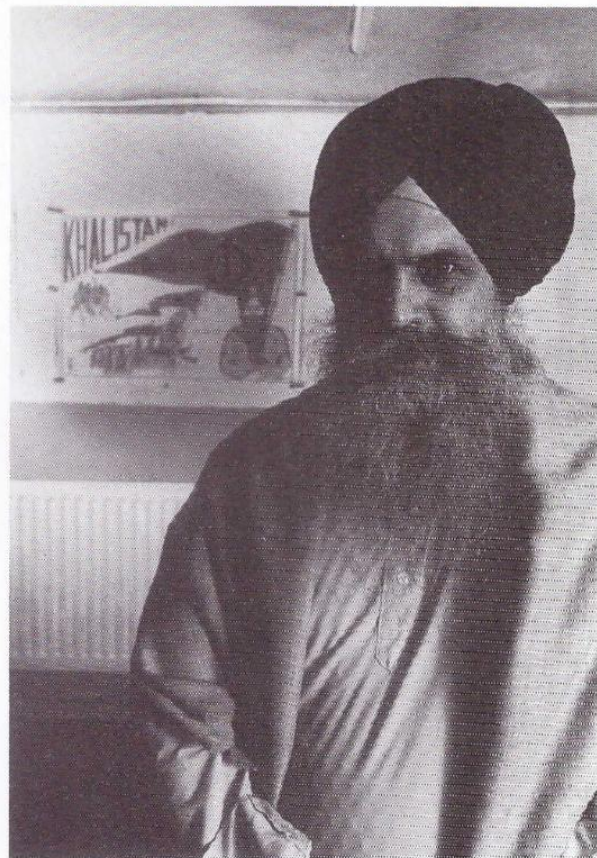


4

1. Mrs Qutb cares for Mrs Flowers.
2. The S.G.S.S. Gurudwara, Radcliffe Road, Hitchin.
3. Coronet Cinema, Notting Hill Gate.
4. Arrivals, Terminal 3, Heathrow.
5. Mrs Jayaram visits her grandchildren, Baliol Road, Hitchin.



3



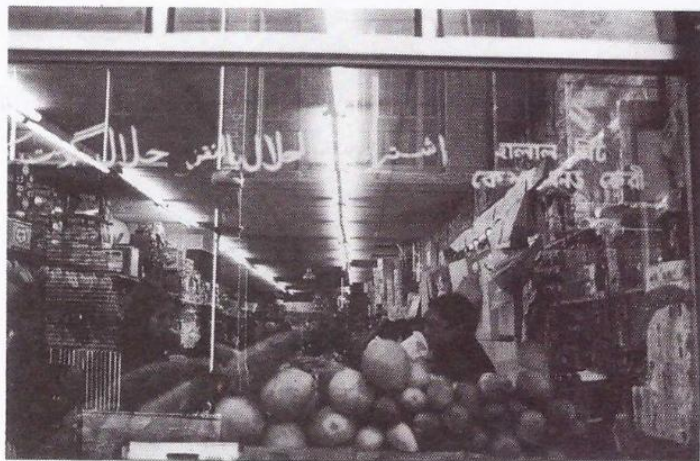
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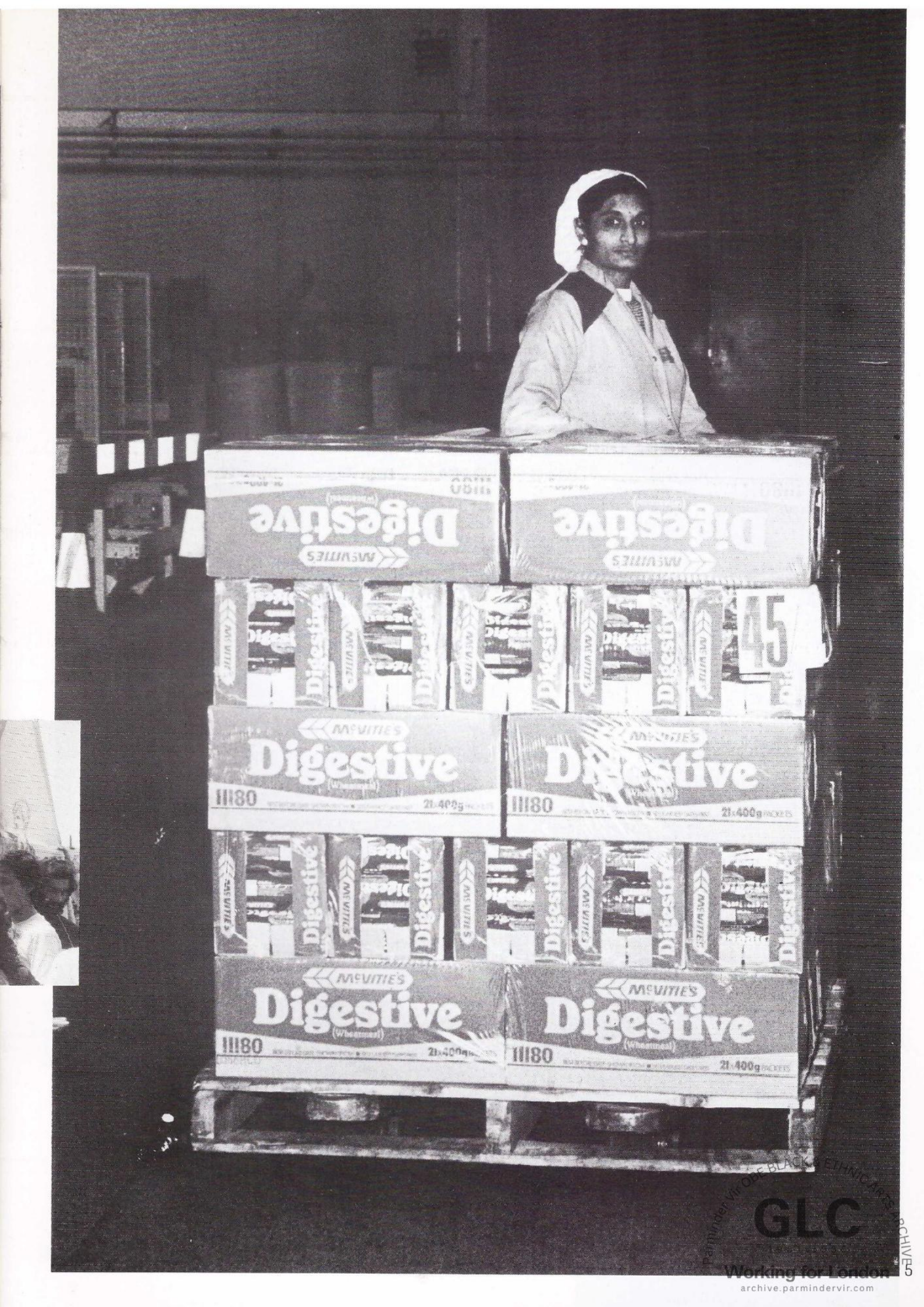


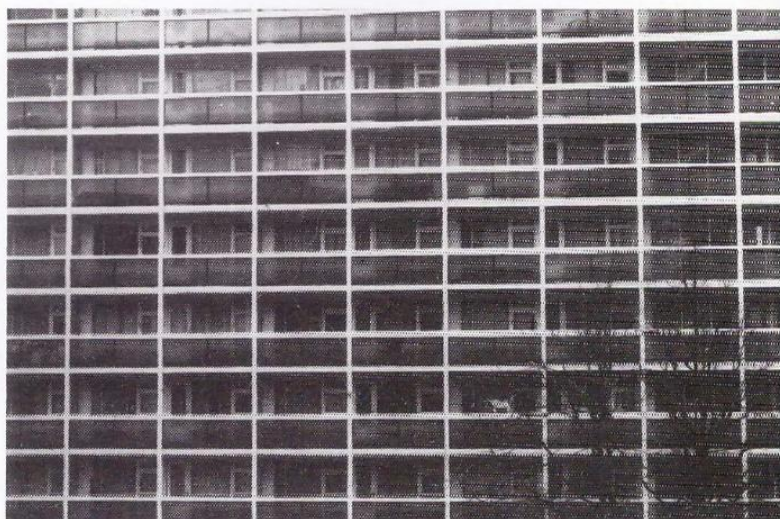
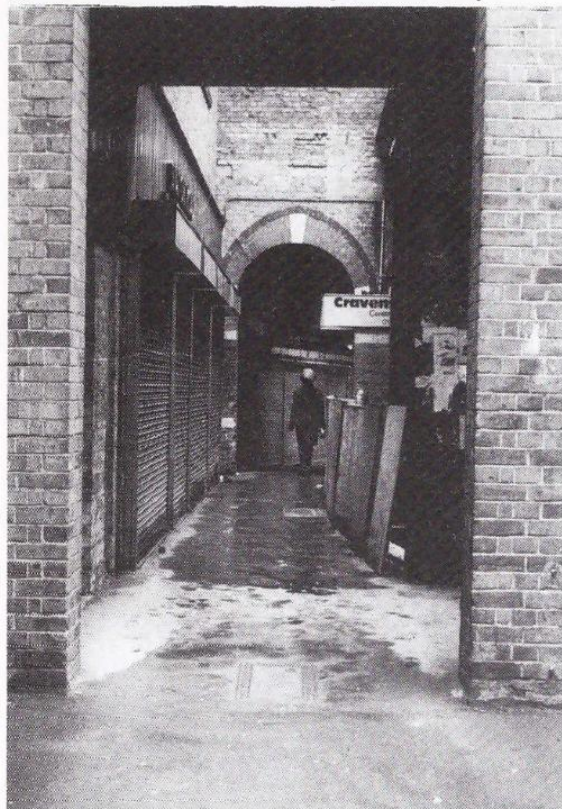
1



4

1. Newham 7 picket.
2. Shop in Brick Lane.
3. Brick Lane.
4. Flora Gatha.
5. Fork-lift truck driver.





1. To church through Brixton market.
2. Winston Silcott defence campaign, Jan '86.
3. London Transport garage.
4. Housing estate, Loughborough.
5. Mural, Stockwell.



Parminder Virjee BLACK & ETHNIC ARTS
GLC
1981
Working for London
archive.parmindervir.com



1



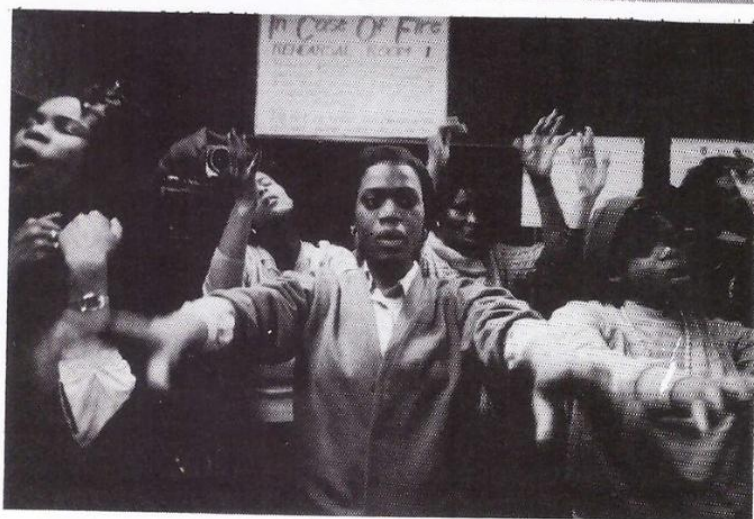
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3

1. 'All Souls' – Children at the All Souls Primary school.
2. 'Busking below' – John Taylor, classical violinist, Feb '86.
3. Gospel choir clas at the Brent black music co-operative, Jan '86.
4. 'Paying for lunch' – Caribbean elderly peoples luncheon centre, Feb '86.
5. Elderly day centre, Western Road, Southall, Jan '86.

1. Passing the message, Ridley Road market, Dalston.
2. Artlins provision stall, Ridley Road market.
3. Hair, cosmetics, Ridley Road market.
4. Bible stall, Ridley Road market.
5. Marsha Prescott.





2



3



3



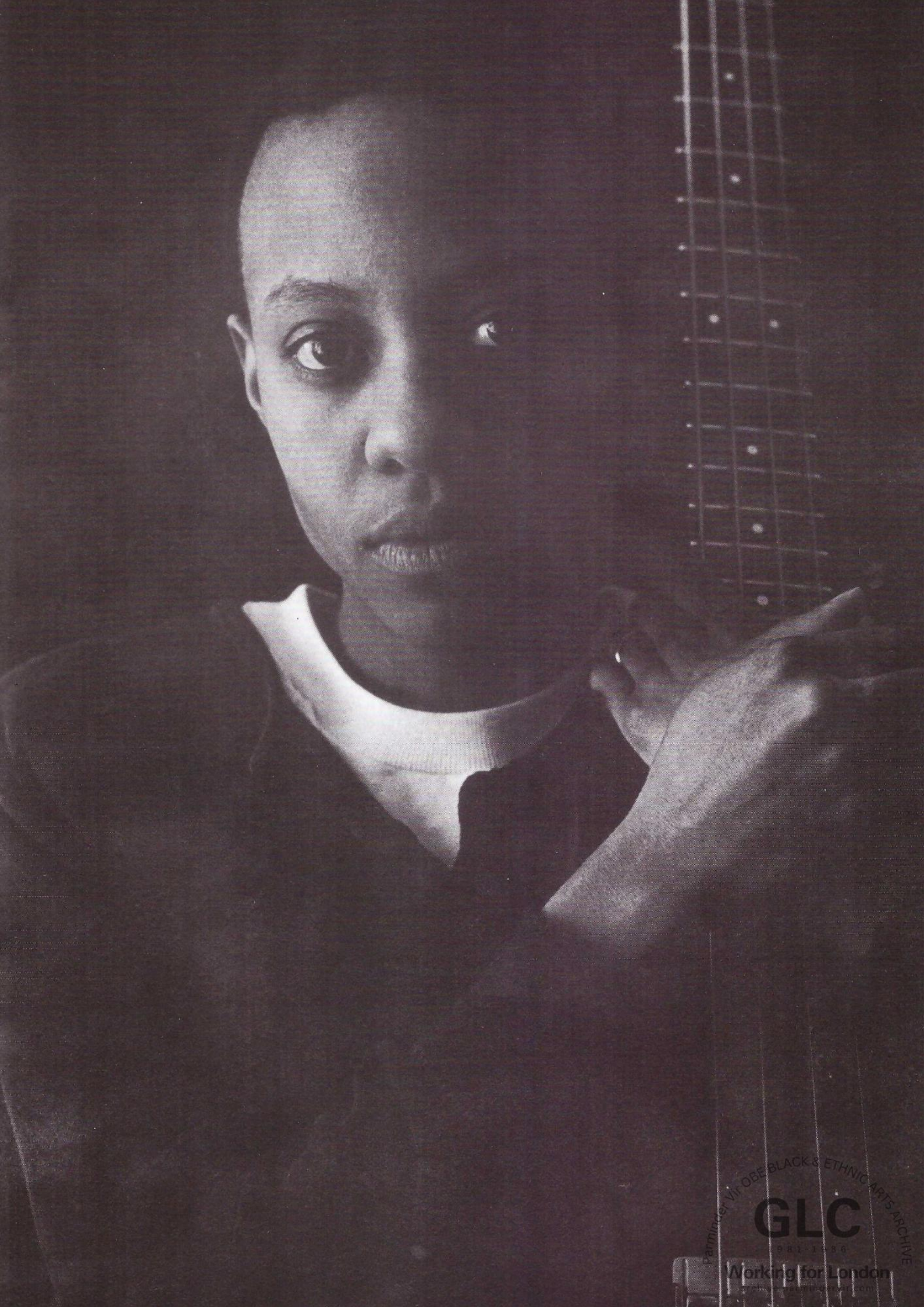
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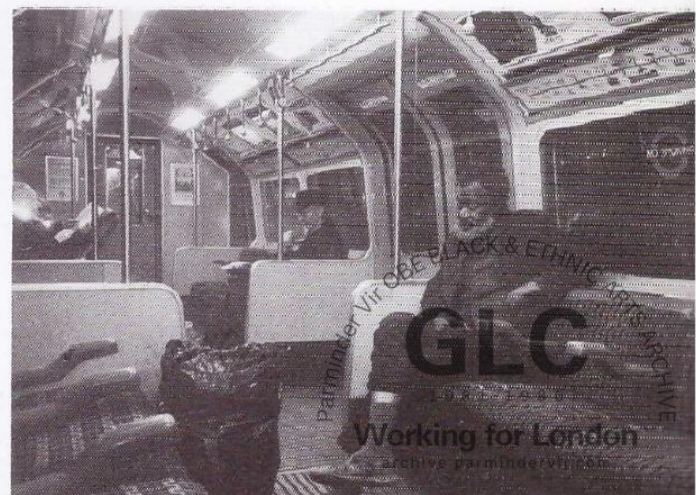
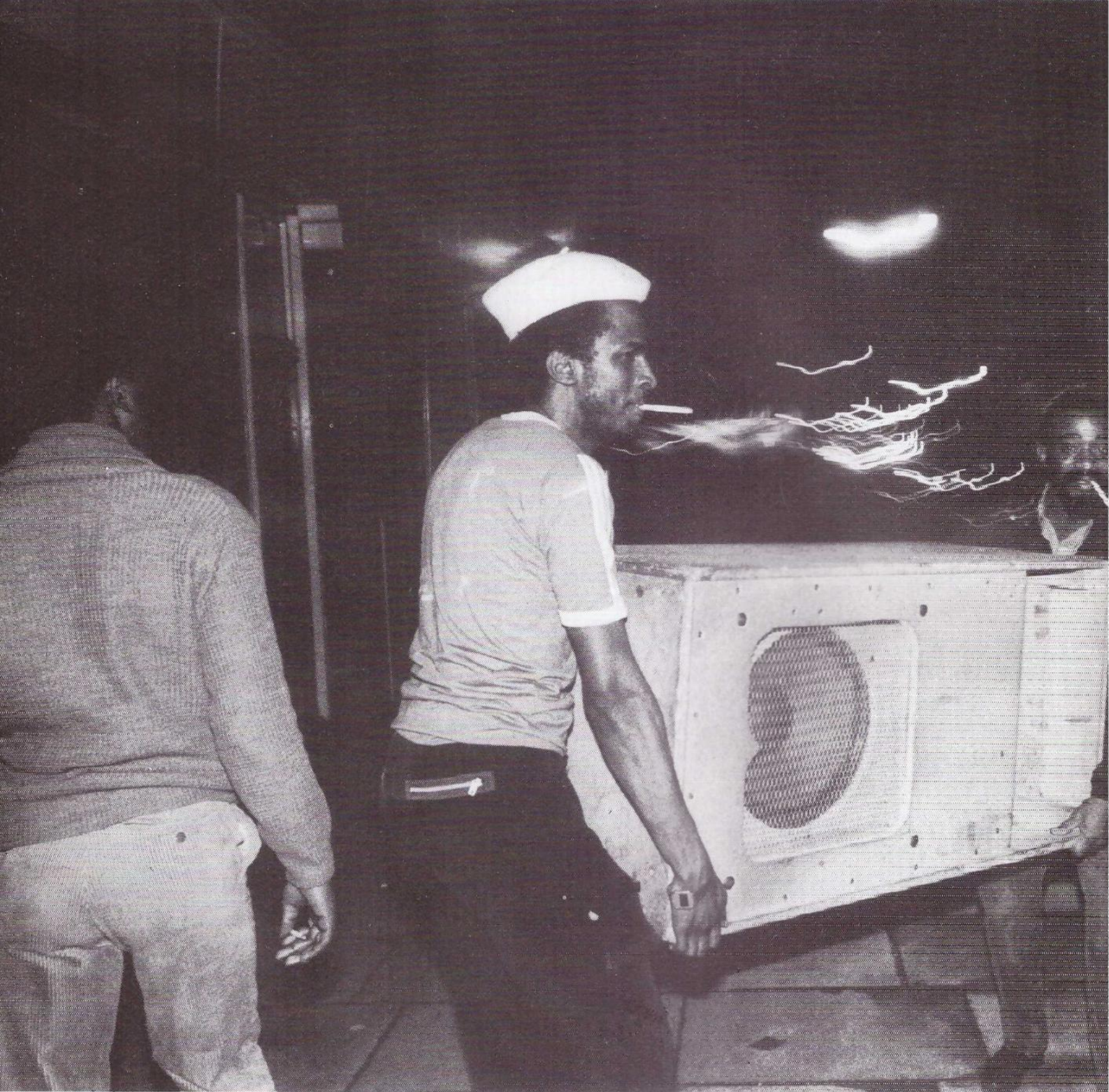
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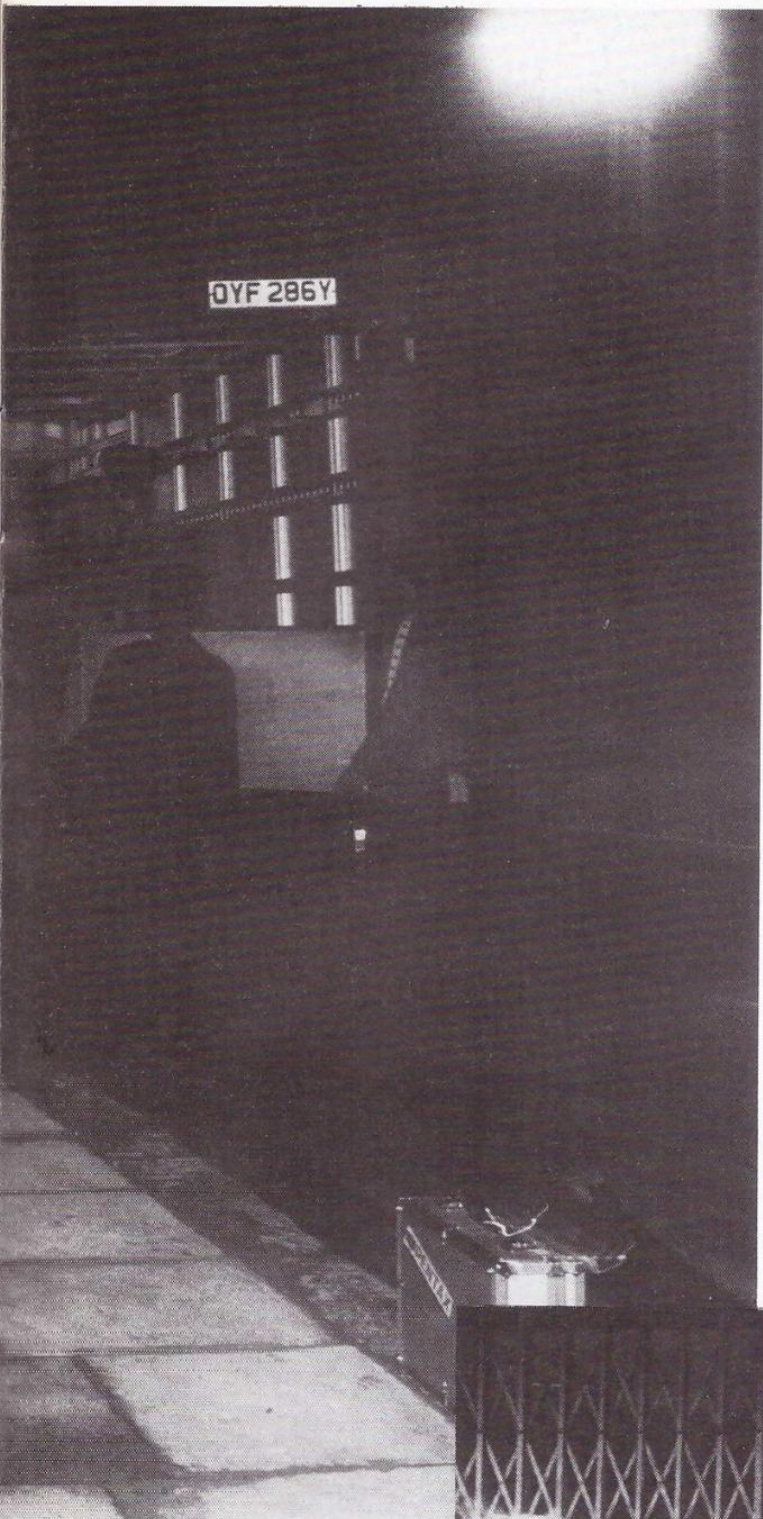


1. Dominoes. 2. Reggie and Israel. 3. Reading of the Garanth Sahit. 4. Golf Links estate. 5. Gail Anne Dorsey.



Parmlinder Vir OBE BLACK & ETHNIC ARTS ARCHIVE
GLC
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archive.parmlinder.com

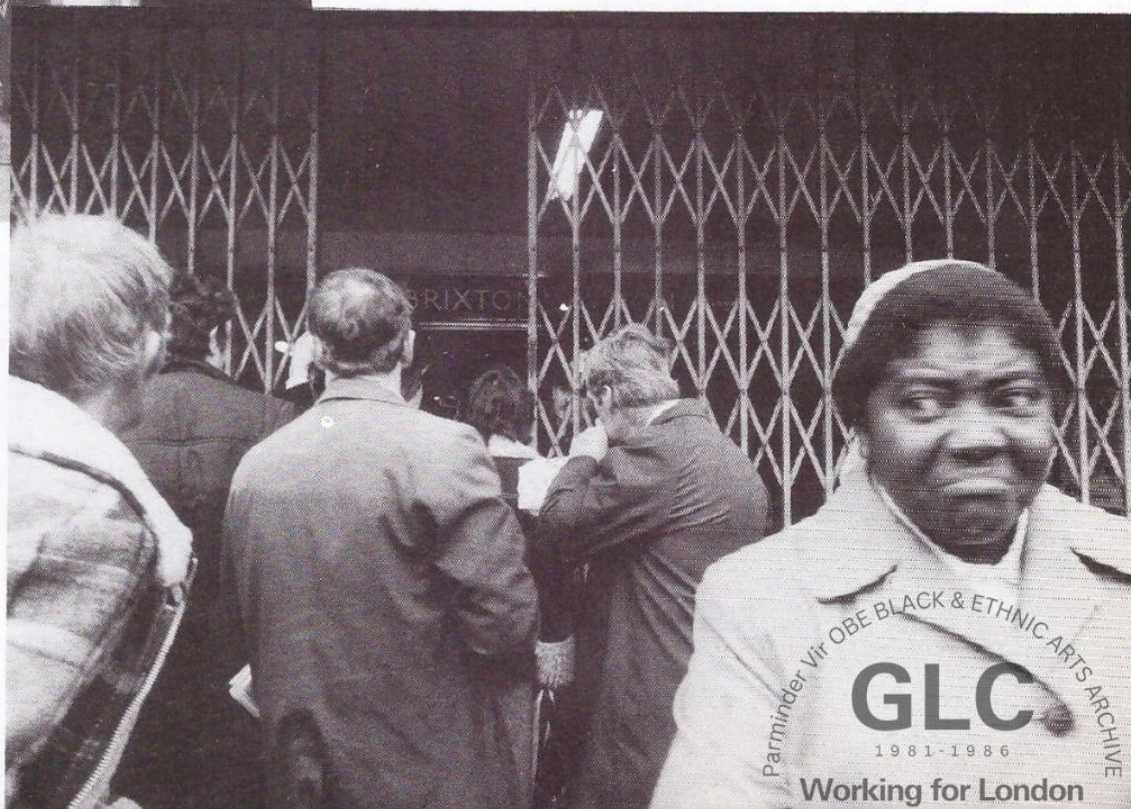




1. Making the pennies stretch, Brick Lane.
2. Disgust, Brixton.
3. Isolation, frustration, desolation.
4. Looking through you/looking through me, Shephards Bush.
5. Fine style rapping in Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park.



1



2





Armet Francis, one of the early black photographers working in Britain, first came to England from Jamaica at the age of eight. After leaving his London school Armet worked in a series of short-term occupations. His photographic career began as an assistant, where he learnt the skills of his profession.

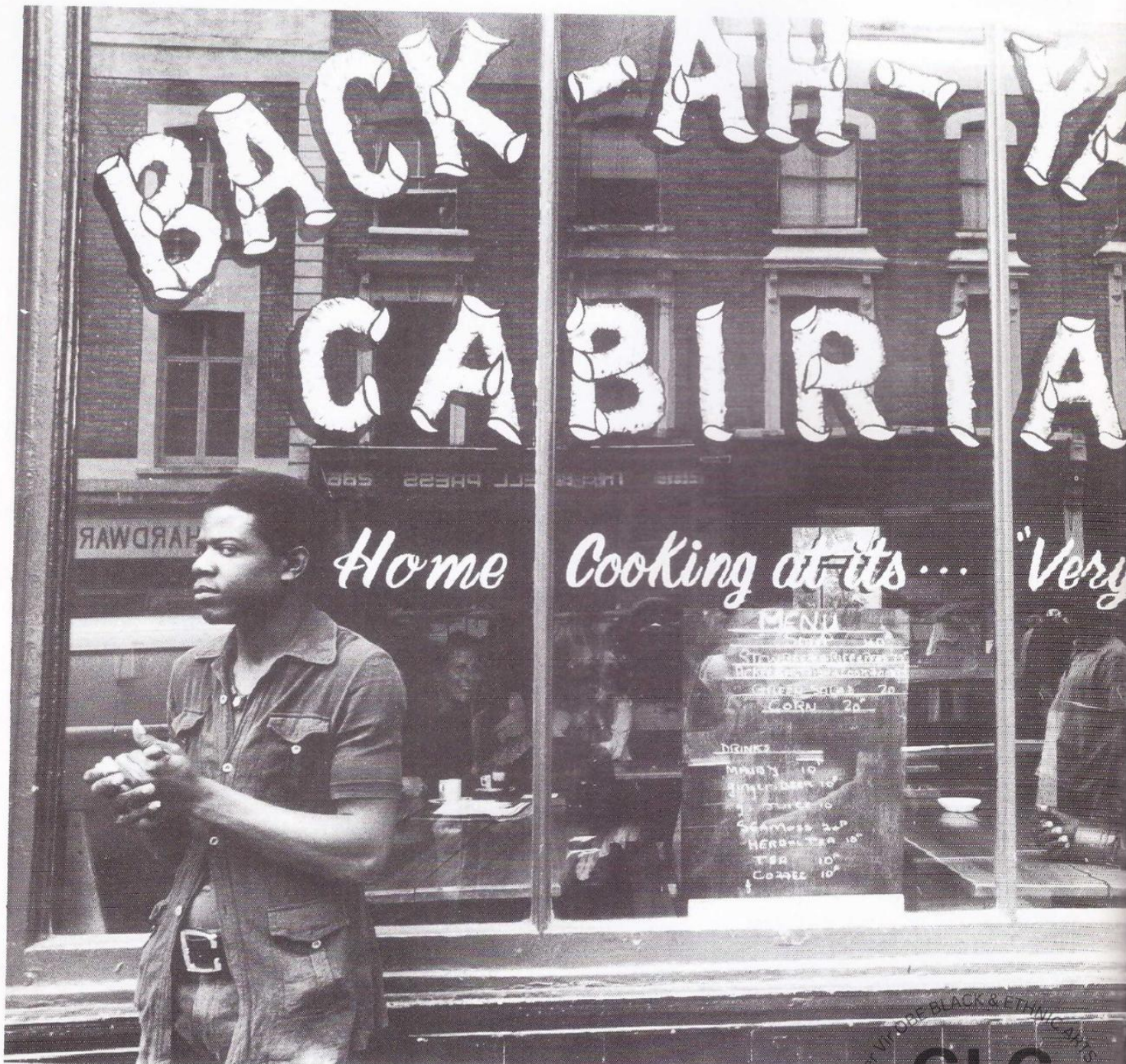
In the late sixties as a freelance photographer, he covered many styles including fashion, advertising and reportage. Armet's work has been published in several magazines including *The Sunday Times*, *West Africa*, *Time* and *Gens L'Afrique*. As a black photographer in England Armet has tried to develop and promote a strong identification with his fellow black people who have been dep-

1. **Funeral, London**
1974.

2. **London 1981.**



1. New Cross
march, 1980.
2. New Cross
march, 1980.
3. Back-ah-Yard
restaurant,
Portobello Road.





2



3

rived of their 'true' cultural identities. He feels 'this rich and beautiful heritage' should not be marginalised but shared by the World, a cross-fertilization of cultures which is a step towards a multi-cultural society and acceptable integration.

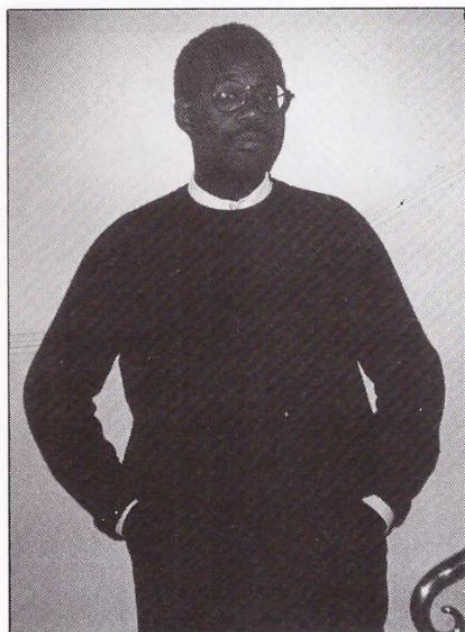
Armet's photographic skills have taken him over three continents. This has enabled him to produce *The Black Triangle*, (pub. by Seed Publications) a book outlining in photographs and poetry the route taken by the slave trade.

The commonwealth Institute was the venue for his first one-man show in 1974, and during the 1970's and 80's had exhibitions in New York, Africa and The Caribbean.

The photographers' Gallery housed his most recent exhibition 'The Black Triangle'; 1983 and this has travelled to different venues in Britain. City Limits has recently written an in-depth profile on Armet's work.

Armet's multi-faceted talents have led him to working on documentaries for BBC and Channel 4 television.

Whatever project Armet is involved in his policy of cultural integration and the development of black culture will always be paramount.



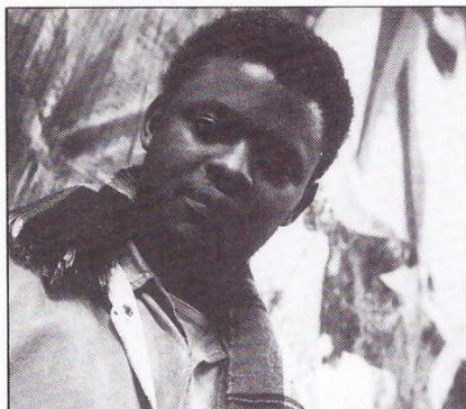
MARC BOOTHE

Born London, 15 June 1960.
Self-taught photographer
Education: Middlesex Polytechnic, South Bank Polytechnic, City of London Polytechnic.
Occupation: Micro Technician.

EXHIBITIONS:

1980 Tate Library, London
1982 The Africa Centre, London
1983 Portfolio Gallery, London
1984 The Black Art Gallery, London
1984 The London Coliseum, Covent Garden, London

Freelance: Various magazines i.e. Time Out.
Schedules for March 1986 the GLC 'BLACK EXPERIENCE': 'Ten Black Photographers' (Group Exhibition).



VANLEY BURKE

Born, Jamaica, West Indies, 1951. Came to Britain 1965.
Education: School of Photography, Birmingham Polytechnic 1972-75

EXHIBITIONS

1975 Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
1976 Shrewsbury College of Art and Design
1979 Grove Junior School, Birmingham
1979 Birmingham Polytechnic
1979 Manchester (Pan African Congress Rally)
1980 Wolverhampton Polytechnic
1980 West Bromwich Town Hall
1981 TAKE 4. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

1982 Jamaican High Commission
1983 Black Teachers Association, Birmingham
1983 Ikon Gallery, Birmingham
1983 Commonwealth Institute, London
1983 Black Art Gallery, London
1984 Leicester (Bosworth Community College)
1984 Aston University
1984 TAKE 5, Huddersfield Centre, Huddersfield
1984 Manor High School, Sandwell, West Midlands
1984 Arts Council Touring Exhibition, Darlington
1984 Serpentine Gallery, London (Arts Council)
1985 Summer in the City, Ikon Gallery.
1985 Human Interest, Cornerhouse, Manchester.
1985 Dudley Art Gallery
1985 Palace Theatre, Redditch
1985 Pool Hall, Hansworth, Birmingham
1986 Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry; Birmingham and Midland Institute.

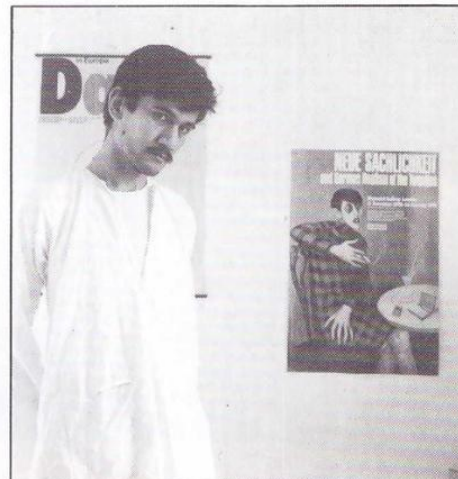
Published work: British Journal of Photography (Annual), Triangle News Paper, Youth in Society, Ten 8 (Photography Magazine), Conoural Immigrant in a British City, Racism and Reaction (Routledge Kegan Paul), Designed cover: "Geoffrey Morgan" — UB40 LP, City Limits, Time Out, Caribbean Times, Black Echoes, New Musical Express, Black Beat International.

Photographs used in films: "A Sense of Mission" — Film for Channel Four, "Labour of Love" — UB40 Video

Awards: Connection Commission Manchester/Liverpool; Kodak Bursary, West Midlands; Art grants.

Worked for: Central Television — UB40; Routledge and Kegan Paul; Youth in Society; Birmingham Education; Sandwell Education; Dudley Education; Health Service; Title Photographs BBC Ebony.

1985-86 West Midlands Arts Photography Panel, West Midlands representative on Art Council Photographic Panel.



SUNIL GUPTA

Born, New Delhi, India 1953. Migrated, Canada 1969.

Education: Concordia University, Montreal — Bachelor of Commerce.
The New School for Social Research, New York
Photography Workshops with Lisette Model and Philippe Halsman.
West Surrey College of Art & Design, Farnham — Diploma in Photography.
Royal College of Art — M.A. (Photography).

EXHIBITIONS:

1980 India International Centre, New Delhi
1983 Commonwealth Institute, London
1984 UN International Maritime Organization, London
1984 Nottingham Museum and Art Galleries
1984 Leicester Museum and Art Galleries
1986 South Hill Park, Bracknell

Group Exhibitions:

1980 "Salford '80", Salford
1982 "Metropolis", Royal Festival Hall, London
1982 "The Living Arts", Serpentine Gallery, London
1983 "New Contemporaries" ICA, London
1983 "Snap", Oval House, London
1984 "Brilliance Books", People's Gallery, London
1984 "South London", Battersea Arts Centre, London
1985 "Staying On", The Photographic Gallery, London

Awards: 1972 University Entrance Scholarship
1983 Royal College/3M "Best Folio"

Panels and Committees:

1984 GLC-Anti-Racist Year Design Committee, London

1985 Camerawork Advisory Panel, London

Audio-visual:

1983 "Rager: The Leather Workers of Harmara" Oxfam

Agency: Network/Photographers. 01-251 1597

Articles:

1982 "They Dare Not Speak Its Name in Delhi" The Guardian

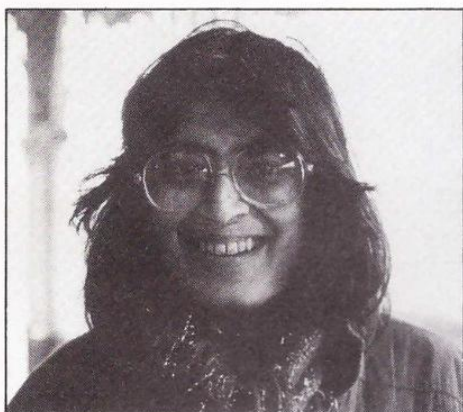
1983 "Best Foot Forward" South magazine

1984 "Ten Years On" Square Peg magazine

1984 "The Hidden India" Gay Times magazine

1985 "Closetted by Caste and Class" Inside Asia

1985 "A Positive Test for Gay Men?" News on Sunday (dummy)



MUMTAZ KARIMJEE

Born, 17 May 1950

Photography: No formal qualifications –
Freelance

EXHIBITIONS

1983 Women in China, Black Women Time
Now, Battersea Arts Centre.

1984 Women in China + Poetry of the
Democracy Movement, South of the Border,
London

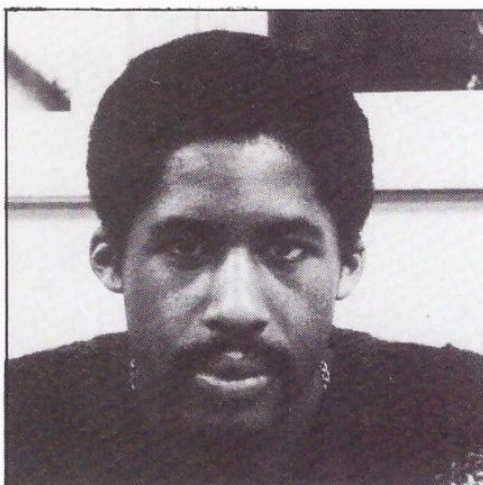
1984 Chinese Billboard, School of Oriental and
African Studies, London University

1985 Notes from The City of The Sun, Tricycle
Theatre Gallery, Kilburn

1985 Women in China, Drill Hall Arts Centre

1985 Notes from The City of The Sun, Civic
Centre, Hounslow

Current work: Aurat-Shakti Exhibition (Also part
of Black Experience), The Black Experience
Arts Programme, Tape-slide on Palestine.



DAVID LEWIS

Born, 5 October 1962

Education: 1975-81 Christopher Wren,
Secondary School, Hammersmith, London. ('O'
Levels) 1981-82 Hammersmith and West
London College, Barons Court, London. ('A'
Levels) 1982-1985 Polytechnic of Central
London, WC1. B.A. (Hons) Film & Photographic
Arts.

1979-1983 Playleader – specialising in teaching
Arts (School Holidays only).

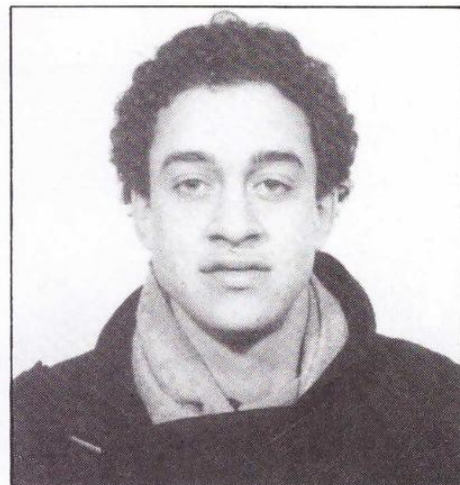
1984 Photographer: Grenada Food and
Nutrition Fund – West Indies. (July-September)

1985 Resident Photographer, Last Chance
Centre, Hammersmith. (Teaching handicapped
adults) (August-September)

EXHIBITIONS

1985 College Leaving Exhibition

1985 to date Black Experience Arts Programme.



ZAK OVÉ

Born, London, 1966

Mother English, Father Trinidadian.

Education: In State Schools in the Borough of
Camden: Primrose Hill, Haverstock Hill
Comprehensive.

1982 Left school. Began developing strong
interest in films and photography through
influence of father. Worked on documentary "I
Feeling Nice Now" made in Trinidad for
B.B.C.T.V., directed by Horace Ové.

1983 Pursued interests in London, working on
and off, painting quite a bit, and becoming
involved with music.

1984 Worked as stills photographer on Albert
Bailey's "Shadow" documentary, set around this
calypsonian's tour of England.

Accepted by St. Martin's School of Art to follow
B.A. Film Course (3 years).

1985 Worked on two documentaries in India, as
stills photographer: "Dabbawallahs", set in
Bombay, and "Who Shall We Tell?", story of
Bhopal gas victims.

1986 During the course at St. Martins, is making
30 min 16 mm film in black & white, which he
wrote and is directing, to be completed and
shown later this year.



INGRID POLLARD

Born, Georgetown, Guyana 1953. Brought to England 1956

Education: Creighton Secondary School, London

EXHIBITIONS

1983 Black Women Time Now, Battersea, London

1983 Celebration of Black Women, Southall, London

1984 Echoes of Black and White Britain, Camden, London

1985 International Women's Day, Brixton, London

1985 International Women's Day, Harringay, London

1985 GLC Spring Festival, Waterloo, London

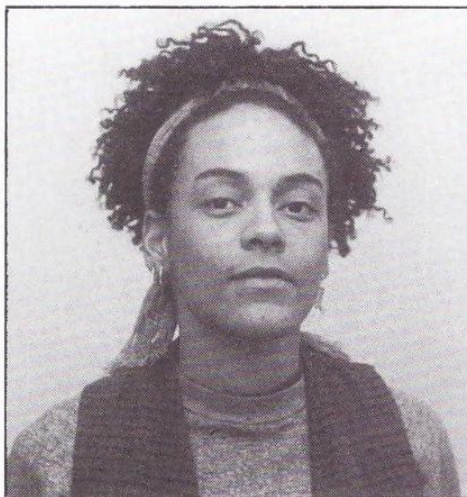
1985 Black Women's Creativity Project, Camden, London

1985 Dalston Children Centre Open Day, Dalston, London

1985 Thin Black Line, ICA, London Publications

1984 Everybody's Different. Dalston Children Centre, London (Illustrations)

1984 Giving Up Smoking, (Illustrations) Doing my flat up, Centerprize, London



SUZANNE RODEN

Born, Bournemouth, England, May 1958

Last School: St. George, Bristol

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE:

1983 West London Media Workshops and self taught

1983 Priory Community Centre Darkroom Co-ordinator

1985 Acton Community Arts Workshop (ACAW) and Format Picture Agency (Freelance)

EXHIBITIONS

ACAW: 'Learning Power and Earning Power' and exhibition with Islington Voluntary Action Women's Section.

'Women and Work' with Lambeth Women and Work and Waterloo Employment Project

'Local Women Photographers' an exhibition of work by women in west London

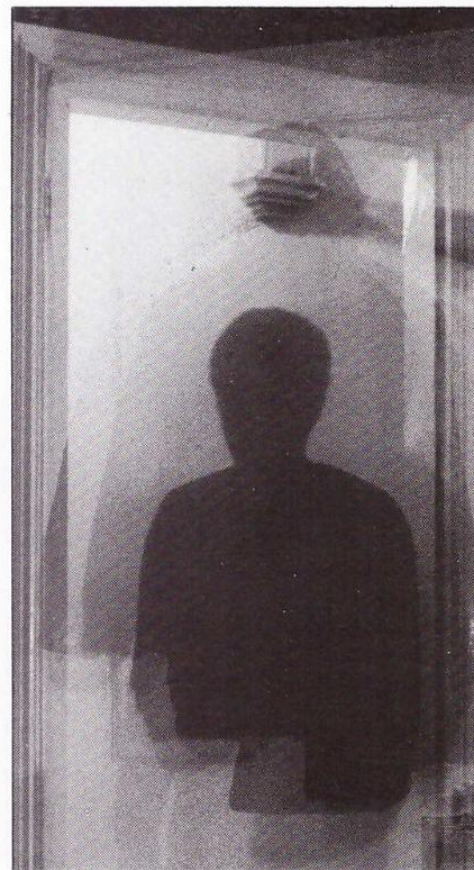
1986 WAMT calender 'Then and Now' Freelance work: Southall Black Women in the Arts Exhibition

Magazine work for various publications including Spare Rib, the Voice, City Limits, Zig Zag, GLC.

Currently working on: Black Women and Construction Tape/slide

Attitudes to Work GLC

Caribbean Focus Exhibition.



MADAH SHARAK

Born, Epworth, St Anns, Jamaica 1955. Joined parents in UK 1969. Started working in Photography in 1973. Worked in a number of darkrooms/photography establishments in London until 1978

Education: Derby Lonsdale Collodge of Art & Technology. Diploma Advance Creative Photography

1982 Started working as a freelance Photographer

EXHIBITIONS

1978 Mixed Media Exhibition "Black Eye Peas" Keskide Centre, Calidonian Road, London N1

1974 One Man Show, Centre Prise Kingsland High Road, London E8

1978 Mixed Media Exhibition on Black Art Warehouse, Gallery, Covent Garden, London WC2

1979 British Council Touring Exhibition to the West Indies. Black on White. Organised by the British Council and Drum Arts.

1980 "Five Black Photographers" Jamaican High Commission, St. James Street, London W1

1979 One Man Show National Theatre, South Bank. Organised by Drum Arts.

1983 One Man Show. Sheffield University Library, Sheffield University, Sheffield. Part of he Conference on education. Organised by Prof. Christerfer Heywood.

1983 Mixed Media Exhibition, Trycycle Theatre, Kilburn High Road. Organised by the Caribbean Craft Circle.

1985 Jointed Exhibition "Five Photographers". Williamson Art Gallery, Birkenhead, Merseyside. Organised by Peter Karpinski.

Organisations: Founder Member of the Caribbean Craft Circle. Founder Member of STRINGS Harringey Computer Access Group.

Work Published: West Indian World, Ritz Newspaper, Observer, magazine, Ego.

Brenda Agard
158 Fellows Court
Wymouth Terrace
LONDON E2

Norman Anderson
31 Auden Place
Manley Street
Primrose Hill
LONDON NW1 8NB

Anthony Andrews
2 Hastings House
Cardwell Road
Woolwich
LONDON SE18

Madan Arora
201/203 Holland Road
LONDON W6

David A Bailey
18 Richmond Avenue
LONDON N1

Monika Baker
37 Moreton St.
LONDON SW1

Mark Boothe
c/o Portolio Gallery
345 Portobello Road
LONDON W10

Merle Van Den Bosch
22A Topsfield Parade
LONDON N8

Godfrey Brown
Flat 4
3 Westbourne Grove
Terrace
LONDON W2

Newton Brown
Flat 2
49 St Mike's Avenue
LONDON SW4

Sid Burke
12 Cambrian Road
Richmond
SURREY

Vanley Burke
39 Beaumont Road
Bournville
BIRMINGHAM
B30 2EA

Chila Burman
20 Houseman Way
LONDON SE5

Annette Carty
17 Crabtree Walk
Peckham
LONDON
SE15 5LY

Carl Chambers
c/o Annette Carty
17 Crabtree Walk
Peckham
LONDON
SE15 5LY

Eddie Chambers
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Prodeepta Das
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Francis Fafhein
13 Holcroft House
Ingram Street
LONDON SW11

Barry Ford
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Brixton
LONDON SW2

Armet Francis
15A St Ann's Villas
LONDON W11

Chris Francis
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International Press Centre
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LONDON EC4

Karl Gabriel
129 Carroll Court
Osborne Road
LONDON W3

Caudley George
36 West Green Road
LONDON N15

Eddie George
Black Audio
Film Collective
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LONDON E8

Judith Greenwich
19 Carlyle Avenue
Southall
MIDDLESEX

Sunil Gupta
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Al Hamilton
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Avenue
Manor Park
LONDON E12

Dan Harriot
c/o Caribbean Times
Hansib Publications
Tower House
139/149 Font
Hill Road
LONDON N4

Hilary Jacobs
3 Blemont Close
Clapham
Common
LONDON SW4

Ms Laxmi Jamdagni
51 Martlesham
Broadwater Farm Estate
Adams Road
Tottenham
LONDON N17

Claudette Johnson
Lenthall Road
Workshops
Lenthall Road
Hackney
LONDON E8

Ms Jo Johnson
South London Press
2-6 Leigham Court Road
LONDON SW16

Mumtaz Karimjee
14 Belsize Park
LONDON NW3

Rochini Kempadoo
56 Tamworth Road
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LE6 5PT

Nasee Khan
25 Platts Lane
LONDON NW3

David Lawson
c/o Black Audio
Film Collective
89 Ridley Road
LONDON E8

L Lee
1 Henderson Road
LONDON SW18

David Lewis
12 Starfield Road
LONDON W12

Errol Lloyd
c/o MAAS
Beauchamp Lodge
2 Warwick Avenue
LONDON W2

David McCalla
c/o The Voice
94 Bow Road
LONDON E3

Madahi
c/o 15a St Ann's
Villas
LONDON W11

Eugene Maynard
Echoes Publication
Rococo House
283 City Road
LONDON EC1

Colin Dedass
12 Trimmer Walk
Walnut Tree Road
Brentford
MIDDLESEX

Leslie Mitchell

c/o Camerawork
121 Roman Road
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E2 OQN

Geoff Morris
Camden Race
Relations Unit
The Town Hall
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Humphrey Nemar
c/o Caribbean Times
Hansib Publications
Tower House
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LONDON N4

Glynis Nesien
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Pragma Patel
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Southall
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Clapton Pond
LONDON E5

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