

Touring information



Make Yourself at Home

An exploration of community, identity and belonging



Make Yourself at Home

Archival family photographs and new commissions by Anselm Ebulue, Tori Ferenc, Laura Mate, Nathan McGill and Karol Wyszczynski

Make Yourself at Home is a contemporary portrait of Britain, shared through the lens of one of its most diverse cities. Developed through 18 months of co-creation and mentorship with a group of young curators, the exhibition explores what it means to make and sustain home and community, through newly commissioned photography and community-sourced archival images.

Commissioned as part of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, *Make Yourself at Home* reflects

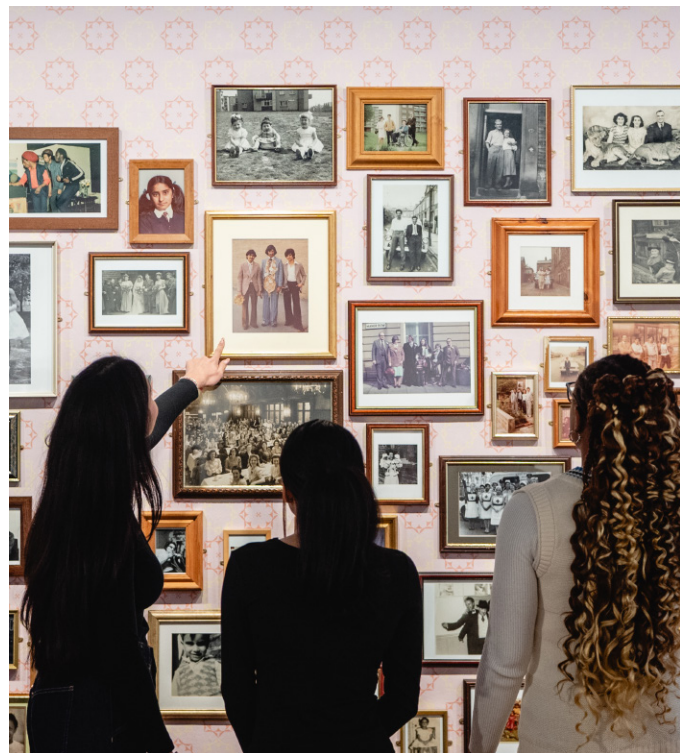
on the stories that shape cities across the UK. The exhibition takes Bradford as a starting point for a broader national conversation, at a time when ideas around belonging and integration are increasingly visible across public life. *Make Yourself at Home* is a reflection of the richness and complexity of contemporary life in the UK, where cities are increasingly defined by movement, migration and cultural exchange, with generations of communities contributing to our nation's ever-changing identity.

Five photographers from diverse backgrounds were commissioned to produce new work for the exhibition throughout 2025. Each artist engaged with different groups and individuals, creating an iconic series of portraits at a unique moment in Bradford's history.

Laura Mate's *A Fair Trade* captures the vibrancy of regional markets and the communities that have grown around them.

Tori Ferenc's *Sęmbja* draws on her Polish heritage, visiting Eastern European social clubs alive with music, laughter and memory. In *From Hope, From Bradford*, **Anselm Ebulue** meets people through chance encounters, making intricate large-format portraits against a diversity of landscapes, from rural moorlands to city streets. **Nathan McGill's** *Home Grown* celebrates shared green spaces where asylum seekers and refugees meet to plant, grow and connect in a new home. **Karol Wyszynski's** *Under One Roof* introduces eight families, and explores how different households share space and shape one another's lives.

Make Yourself at Home also features images from *Bradford Family Album*, a community-sourced archive created in collaboration with local people. From circus parades along residential streets to wide-lapelled wedding outfits, the photographs, reproduced from personal albums and collections, feature family milestones, cultural traditions and everyday moments of connection. Placed alongside the contemporary commissions, the archive creates a dialogue between past and present, revealing how experiences of arrival and adaptation continue to shape communities across generations.



'Celebrating difference through the generations is at the heart of this project.'

Channel 4 News

Visitors are invited to reflect on their own experiences of place, family and identity, recognising how these themes resonate across communities throughout the UK. Many regions share similar histories shaped by industrial heritage and evolving multicultural identities and, across the country, questions of belonging and the meaning of home have become particularly urgent.

The exhibition provides opportunities to connect these ideas with local experiences and histories, encouraging audiences to consider how communities are formed, sustained and transformed over time.

Curated with young people



Make Yourself at Home and *Bradford Family Album* have been developed by Impressions Gallery and Bradford Young Curators alongside a team of mentors including curators, archivists and photographers.

Bradford Young Curators are a diverse group of aspiring creative professionals, part of Impressions Gallery's nationally acclaimed young people's collective, New Focus. The Bradford Young Curators are Amina Ahmed, Zarah Ashraf, Louie Haslam-Chance, Esther Hill, Keyhan Modaressi, Ramlah Qureshi, Gyula Papp, Lauren Waldron and Mia Wilson. The young curators spent 18 months working with communities to collect archival images, liaising with artists on the production of commissioned work, and steering the design of the exhibition and archive.

The Young Curators were advised by a cohort of expert mentors and creative professionals including leading photography curator Anne McNeill; founder of the award-winning Apna Heritage archive Anand Chhabra; former New Focus members, now multimedia producers, Usmaan Arshad and Mahnoor Akhlaq; Photographer and Head of Programme at Tasweer Photography Festival Maryam Wahid; photography historian Brian Liddy; and curator and producer Angela Brown.

'An awesome exhibition from the next generation of talented curators - powerful stories that show that it takes all of us to create community!'

Exhibition visitor

Key themes

Make Yourself at Home offers a flexible exhibition that combines contemporary photography with community storytelling. Visitors have responded positively to the personal nature of the work, often recognising aspects of their own lives reflected in the stories on display. Its themes of home, identity and belonging makes the project relevant to a wide range of contexts.

By presenting a contemporary portrait of Britain through lived experience, *Make Yourself at Home* encourages audiences to reflect on the shared narratives that connect communities across the country. Ultimately, it demonstrates how photography and storytelling can foster empathy, dialogue and a deeper understanding of the places we call home.

Key themes of the exhibition

- Home, belonging and identity
- Migration, heritage and diaspora
- Family, community and intergenerational exchange
- Everyday life and lived experience
- Representation and contemporary portraiture
- Regional storytelling, reflecting on national identity
- Co-creation and collaborative curatorial practice

Adaptable to your venue

With advice available from Impressions, there are opportunities for each venue to develop:

- Workshops exploring identity and belonging
- Story or photo sharing events specific to your local community
- Youth-led or co-curated tours or public events
- Photo studio events inspired by archival images
- Photowalk events encouraging audiences to engage with your local area

Alignment with your programme priorities

- Community engagement and co-creation
- Youth engagement and skills development
- Representation and inclusive storytelling
- Placemaking and regional, lesser known histories
- Socially engaged and participatory photographic practice

‘Beautiful exhibition in a time of uncertainty, reminding us we are always stronger together.’

Exhibition visitor



New commissions: Laura Mate *A Fair Trade*



Images clockwise from top:

Neil Priestley, Oastler Market, Bradford

Joy, Oastler Market, Bradford

Nigel, Ilkley Farmers Market

All images © Laura Mate, 2025

Selling everything from cotton reels to deli meats, Laura Mate captures the vibrant spirit of regional marketplaces. The photographs celebrate market sellers and shoppers alike, exploring the personalities behind each stall who bring the spaces to life. These historic places of exchange now serve as meeting points and social hubs, *A Fair Trade* reveals how markets continue to nurture community and bring people together.

New commissions: Tori Ferenc *Sěmьja*



Images clockwise from top left:

Paul, Estonian Club, Bradford

Sofia, Ukrainian Club, Bradford

Anastasia, Ukrainian Club, Bradford

All images © Tori Ferenc, 2025

In *Sěmьja* (pronounced sim-ya, a proto-Slavic word for family and close communities) Tori Ferenc draws on her Polish heritage to photograph Eastern European clubs and community centres. Her portraits of second and third-generation migrants reflect on identity, memory and cultural continuity. These spaces, reimagined as homes in their own right, bring communities together to celebrate heritage and preserve traditions. Through intimate, intergenerational portraits, *Sěmьja* is a testament to the ways in which cultural identity is preserved, reshaped, and carried forward within Eastern European communities.

New commissions:
Anselm Ebulue *From Hope, From Bradford*



Images clockwise from top left:

Etuna and Khama, City Park, Bradford

Seamus and friends, Ilkley Moor

Patrick and Rachael, Haworth

The Singh Family, City Park, Bradford

All images © Anselm Ebulue, 2025

In *From Hope, From Bradford*, Anselm Ebulue lets the district's landscape and people guide his practice. Ebulue pairs portraits with iconic landmarks, from inner city parks to the home of the Brontës in Haworth village, his images are expansive yet intimate, tying personal stories to the places that shape them. Ebulue's work invites viewers to appreciate the diversity of regional landscapes, and presents Bradford as a single, interconnected community, where place and identity are inseparable.

New commissions:
Karol Wyszynski *Under One Roof*



Images from top:

Ryoko Yoshida and the Besrest-Butler family, Shipley
The Hargrave Atkinson family, Keighley

All images © Karol Wyszynski, 2025

Karol Wyszynski presents intimate portraits of families in homes and community spaces. His work explores how families grow together, shape one another, and rely on each other in both spoken and unspoken ways. Listening to their stories, he explores how families preserve traditions while embracing change. His photographs remind us that family is not fixed, but an evolving idea with connection, care and resilience at its core.

New commissions: Nathan McGill *Home Grown*



Images clockwise from from top left:

Refugees and Asylum Seekers Allotment Project, Scotchman Road, Manningham
Stand and Be Counted Theatre, Bowling Park
Refugee Action Gardening Club, West Bowling
Refugee Action Gardening Club, West Bowling

All images © Nathan McGill, 2025

In *Home Grown*, Nathan McGill works with asylum seekers and refugees taking part in wellbeing activities such as gardening clubs and theatre groups. Set in green outdoor spaces, including community parks, gardens and allotments, the work captures quiet acts of healing and growth. For many affected by displacement, these groups offer a sense of stability and the chance to form chosen families, coming together in shared spaces to plant new roots in a new city.

Archival images: Bradford Family Album



Accompanying the commissions is *Bradford Family Album*, an extensive community sourced archive of family photographs. Built through months of dedicated community outreach, the archive brings together personal photographs from households, families, and community hubs across the city. Bradford Young Curators have digitised hundreds of images, offering an authentic view of Bradford as seen and lived through the eyes of its residents.

View the full archive of images at bradfordfamilyalbum.org



Images from top left:

Dzidra Busevics and colleagues, Bairds Television Factory, 1972
 The Harris family with neighbour, Queens Road, c.1967
 Aslam, Parvaz and Arshad, Drummond Road, 1975
 Mary and Whiskey, Thorpe Edge Flats, c.1970
 Arvids Krauze, Clayton, c.1980
 Jamshad Sehgal and family, Toller Lane, c.1973

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'Our new exhibition tells our families' stories in Bradford'

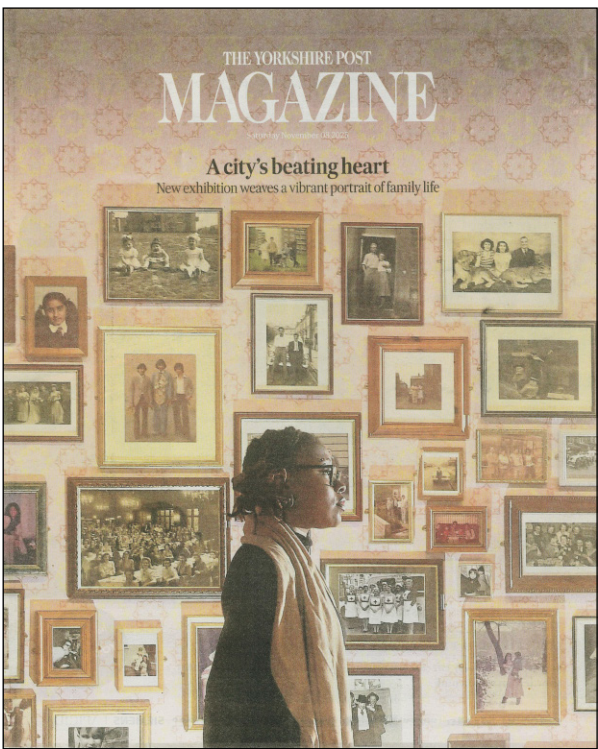


BBC/ARZU DUTTA

The young curators have uncovered the social history of Bradford

Arzu Dutta
BBC News, Yorkshire

13 September 2025



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Ramlah Qureshi
Bradford Young Curator

13 Sep 2025

From Latvia to Pakistan – Bradford exhibition explores diversity

'Celebrating difference through the generations is at the heart of this project.'

Channel 4 News

Our visitors said...



'An awesome exhibition from the next generation of talented curators - powerful stories that show that it takes all of us to create community!'

'Heartwarming and inspirational, in a UK which on the surface seems bitterly divided.'

'Just arrived from London for a weekend in Bradford City of Culture and could not have kicked off better than Make Yourself at Home. I feel like I am already getting to know the city and its people through this fantastic photo archive.'

'Beautiful exhibition in a time of uncertainty, reminding us we are always stronger together.'

'This sort of non-judgemental, happy, human-centric art is exactly what we need in our trying times.'

'Fantastic exhibition - every town should do this!'

'Very interesting and enjoyable exhibition. A look into the lives of ordinary people showing how although we may have differences, we are unified by our humanity.'

Exhibition content

Space required

Approximately 50 - 70 linear metres. We can advise on adapting the show to suit your space.

Artwork

There are a total of 5 bodies of work by commissioned artists featured in the exhibition alongside 116 small framed archival family album photographs.

Anselm Ebulue: From Hope, From Bradford

12 framed artworks at 59.5 x 77.5 cm

Tori Ferenc: Sěmya

9 artworks at 39cm x 47.7cm
2 artworks at 50cm x 62.7cm
2 artworks at 58.5cm x 72cm
2 artworks at 72cm x 58.5cm

Laura Mate: A Fair Trade

7 artworks at 33.5cm x 49cm
6 artworks at 72.5cm x 48.5cm
1 artwork at 32.5cm x 22.5cm
1 artwork at 22.5cm x 32.5cm

Nathan McGill: Home Grown

3 artworks at 38cm x 46.5cm
6 artworks at 26.5cm x 32.5cm
1 artwork at 32.5cm x 26.5cm
1 artwork at 27.5cm x 27.5cm

Karol Wyszynski: Under One Roof

6 artworks at 57.5cm x 39.5cm
3 artworks at 92.5cm x 62.5cm
3 artworks at 44.5cm x 30.5cm

Family Album Photographs

116 framed images ranging in size from 9 x 9 cm to 35 x 40cm. Minimum length of wall needed 6 metres.

Optional film:

The Berry Family Photography Archive

7 minute film supplied as MP4 file.

The Berry Family Photography Archive brings together photographs of family life in Bradford between 1960 and 1980. The collection was one of the inspirations for developing *Bradford Family Album*.

The curated slideshow presents a portrait of working-class life in the North of England, seen through the lens of amateur photographer Trevor Berry who captured the world with his Leica 3G.

The full film is available to view via [Youtube](#).



Film still from *The Berry Family Photography Archive*







Resources

Interpretation

The following are supplied as InDesign files for you to produce in your preferred format to suit your space:

- Title and introductory text panel
- Introductory panel for *Bradford Family Album* archival images
- Introductory panels for each body of work.
- Information sheet, including large print template.

The following interpretation film will be supplied in MP4 format for venue to utilise with their own AV equipment.

- *Meet the Bradford Young Curators*
10 minute film exploring the development of *Bradford Family Album* and *Make Yourself at Home* with Bradford Young Curators.
Includes film transcript, with large print.

Filmmaker: Michael McCabe



Free newspaper

200 copies of accompanying newspaper publication featuring commissioned artists, images from *Bradford Family Album* and information on the Bradford Young Curators programme.

VR virtual exhibition experience

An interactive virtual experience, which can be embedded into the venue's website. Visitors can explore the exhibition at Impressions online, zoom into artworks and click on hotspots to view more information.

Marketing

- Text for venue to produce press release
- Twelve hi-resolution press images

What the hire fee covers

Your touring fee of £3,000 +VAT includes:

- Loan of exhibition and all artworks for up to 12 weeks at your venue, plus additional time for installation and take-down.
 - Suggested liner hang 50 - 70 linear metres.
 - Artist fees.
 - A fully interactive virtual reality version of the exhibition, which can be experienced remotely on tablets, mobile phones, laptops and desktops.
 - Templates for interpretation (exhibition guides and information sheets).
 - Digital copies of exhibition interpretation to use and reproduce, including wall panels, information sheets, exhibition guides, and family activities.
 - Media pack with high resolution rights-cleared digital images and press release for your own press campaign.
 - Curatorial and technical support from Impressions to help you plan the exhibition.
 - Support from Impressions to develop your own engagement and learning resources.
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Your venue will cover the following:

- Two-way transport of the exhibition and insurance in transit and in situ.
- Exhibition installation.
- Travel and accommodation for a member of Impressions' curatorial team to attend layout day, if appropriate.
- Fabrication of interpretation, such as wall panels and info sheets.
- Exhibition launch (if applicable) and costs for artists to attend from within the UK.
- Fees and costs for your education and learning programme, and any engagement activities involving the curator and/or artists (if applicable).
- Press and marketing for your own venue.

About Impressions Gallery

Impressions Gallery is a charity that helps people to understand the world through photography and acts as an agent for change.

We opened in 1972 as one of the first specialist photography galleries in the country, and have played a vital role in changing the way people think about photography. We believe photography is for everyone and support ground-breaking artists who challenge and change photography. We present world-class exhibitions that explore issues such as identity, race, gender and politics. We showcase new work as well as historical photography outside the mainstream.

With an international reputation, we're proud to be in Bradford. In 2025, our landmark exhibition *Nationhood: Memory and Hope* launched the Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture programme before touring to Cardiff, Belfast and Glasgow. Throughout the year, we continued to commission and share photography that cemented Bradford's reputation as a dynamic centre for contemporary arts and culture.

Our national and international touring exhibitions programme means that more people have the opportunity to experience great photography. We have worked with a variety of partners from museums and arts centres to heritage sites and international festivals. With curatorial and technical expertise, marketing and interpretation templates, and photographers' fees inclusive in exhibition hires, we make the touring process as easy as possible.

Impressions Gallery is funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation and supported by Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

Contact

Impressions in Residence
1 Piece Hall Yard
Bradford, BD1 1PJ

touring@impressions-gallery.com

