



**Members' Showcase**  
**An activity of the RPS Contemporary Group**

Issue 14  
May 2024

## ***Members' Showcase***

provides a platform for contributors to our monthly meetings to display the work they have shared.

Contributors have curated their own images and provided the accompanying text making this a collaborative group venture.

18th May 2024—Meeting via Zoom

Chaired by Patricia Ruddle

Contributors:

- 1) Andrew Fitzgibbon
- 2) Martyn Pearson
- 3) Adrian James
- 4) Harry Silcock
- 5) Anastasia Potekhina



Andrew Fitzgibbon

# DRIFTING BY THE LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL

A SHORT FILM BY ANDREW FITZGIBBON ARPS

*“Forged on the Gritty Foundations of Northern Trade, the Canalways of 18th Century England Once Told a Very Different Tale to That Portrayed in Their Often Idyllic Imagery Today. Now Such Traces of History in Motion Have Been Captured on Camera, Not in Pastoral Shades or Picture Postcard Impressions, but in the Vibrant Detail of a Living, Useful Space.”*

THE YORKSHIRE POST

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT - ABBREVIATED

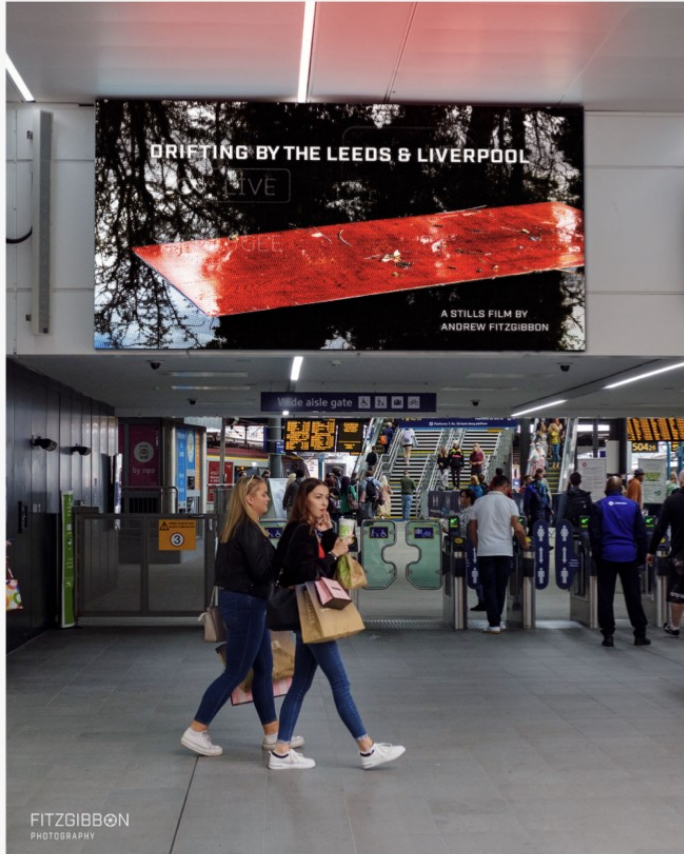
Drifting by the Leeds & Liverpool (canal) is not a eulogy to lost industry but an experience of anxiety weighing on a place with only pockets of regeneration (Aditya Chakraborty, 2011). After decades, 'levelling up' the UK is one of the most geographically unequal countries in the world (Bourquin et al., 2020). The canal's flow is a silent witness.

The short film celebrates the diversity of meanings and experience found in the everyday condition, along the waterway's journey through marginal and affluent space. The project shares a psychogeographic drift, an experience of reality that is not glossed over with images of the bucolic, white washing the landscape for leisure and tourism. Through photography, there's the experience of looking intensely at the banal; things often overlooked or missed when walking distracted through a landscape.

The canal is now a back-route, mostly empty of people (even more so during the Covid-19 pandemic), and the work a portrait of humanity through its traces; a cultural landscape of past activity. The traces of people in the work are joined to the living and the long-gone through an actor-voiced narrative, sound recordings and samples from oral histories.

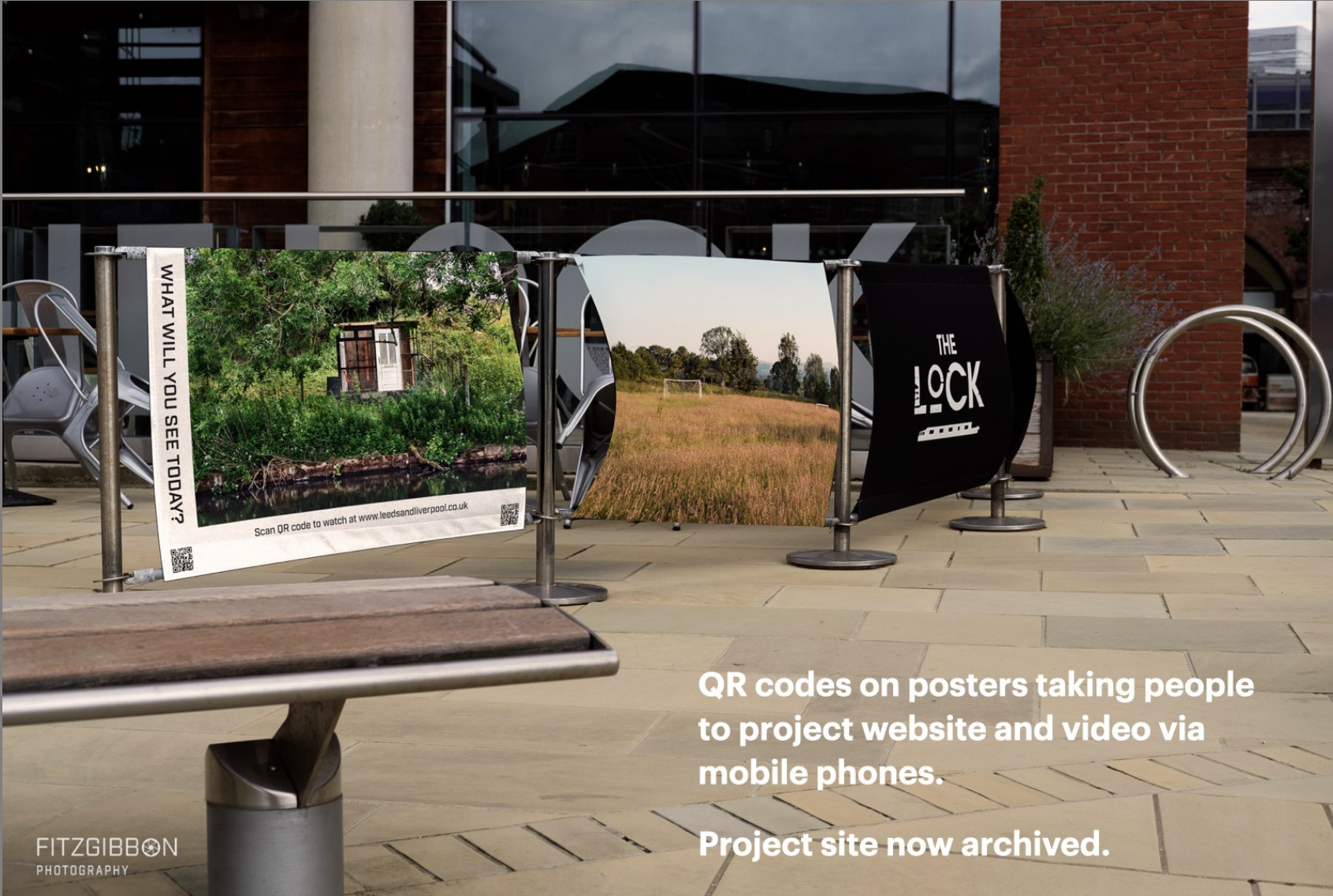
These remains of the everyday condition are often rendered invisible in socially shared and publicity images. I hope the film to convey a sense of poignant calm and encourages looking at the fractures as well as popular beauty.

*Andrew Fitzgibbon, 2020.*



# IN SITU EXHIBITION

Created and imagined for project publicity and funding

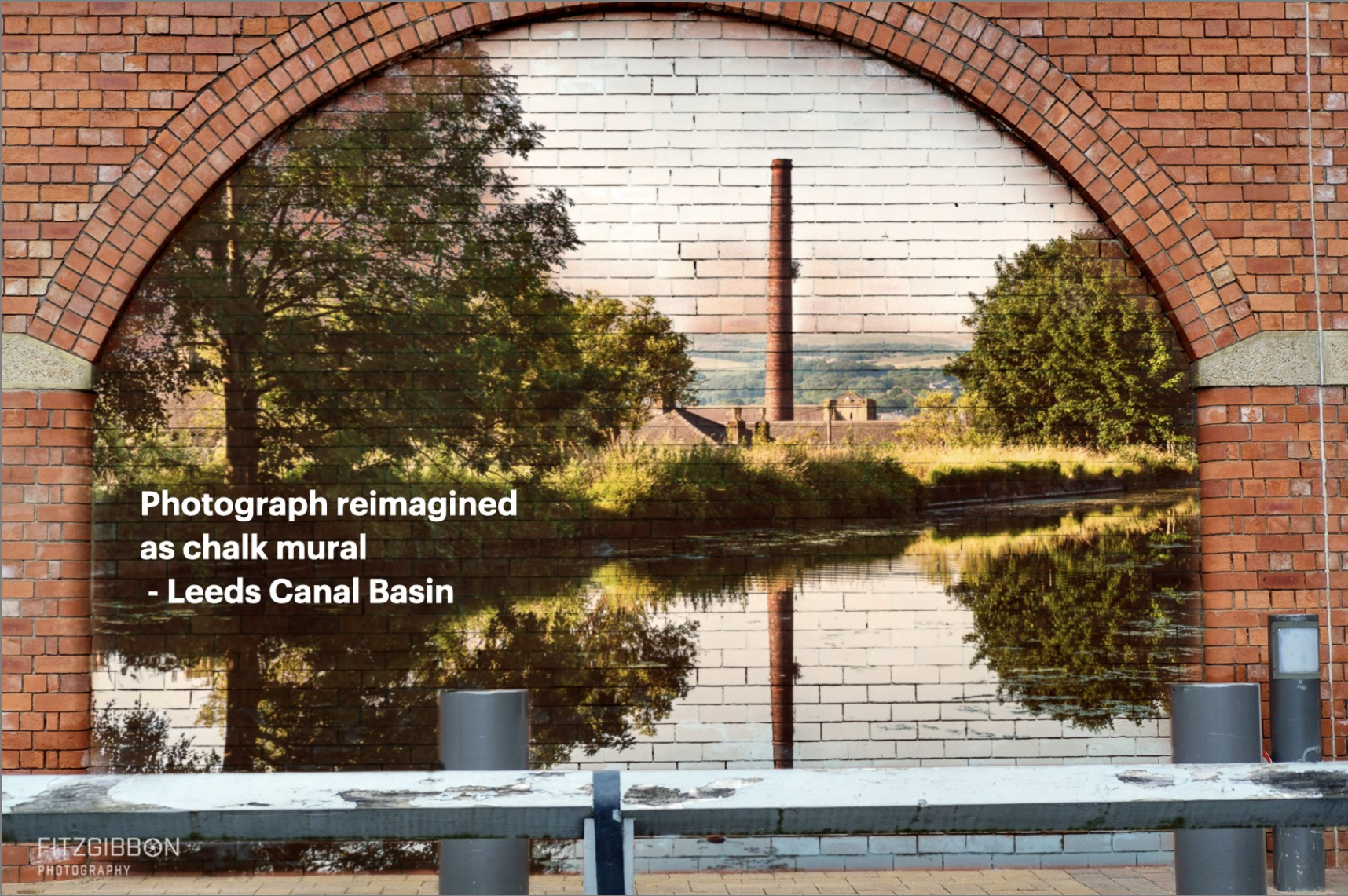


QR codes on posters taking people to project website and video via mobile phones.

Project site now archived.

FITZGIBBON  
PHOTOGRAPHY

PROJECT IMAGES SUPERIMPOSED AROUND CANAL ENVIRONMENT



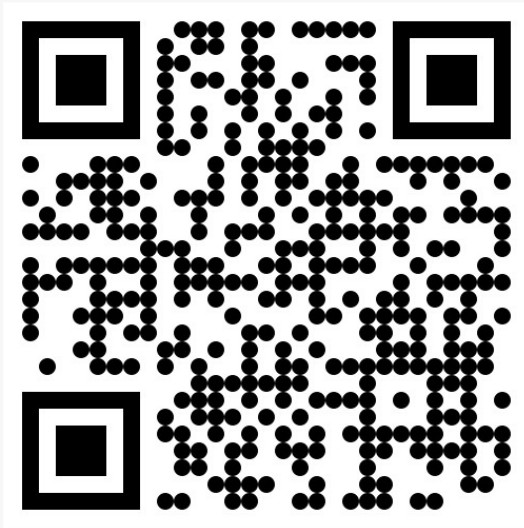
**Photograph reimagined  
as chalk mural  
- Leeds Canal Basin**

**FITZGIBBON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**PROJECT IMAGES SUPERIMPOSED AROUND CANAL ENVIRONMENT**



# WATCH FILM ON VIMEO



<https://vimeo.com/472727539>

Scan QR code with camera phone or follow hyperlink

Martyn Pearson ..... The Sheffield Great Flood





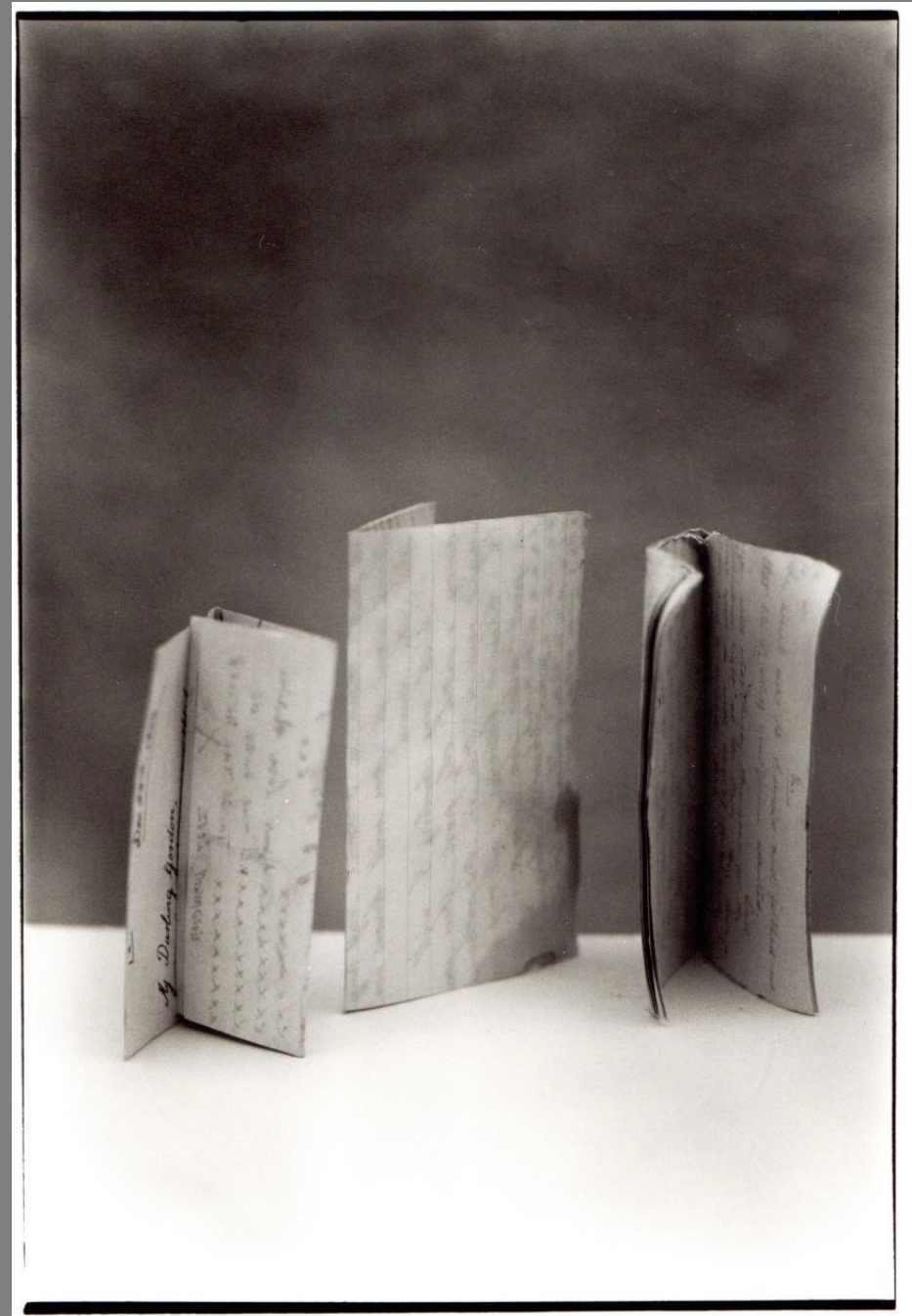




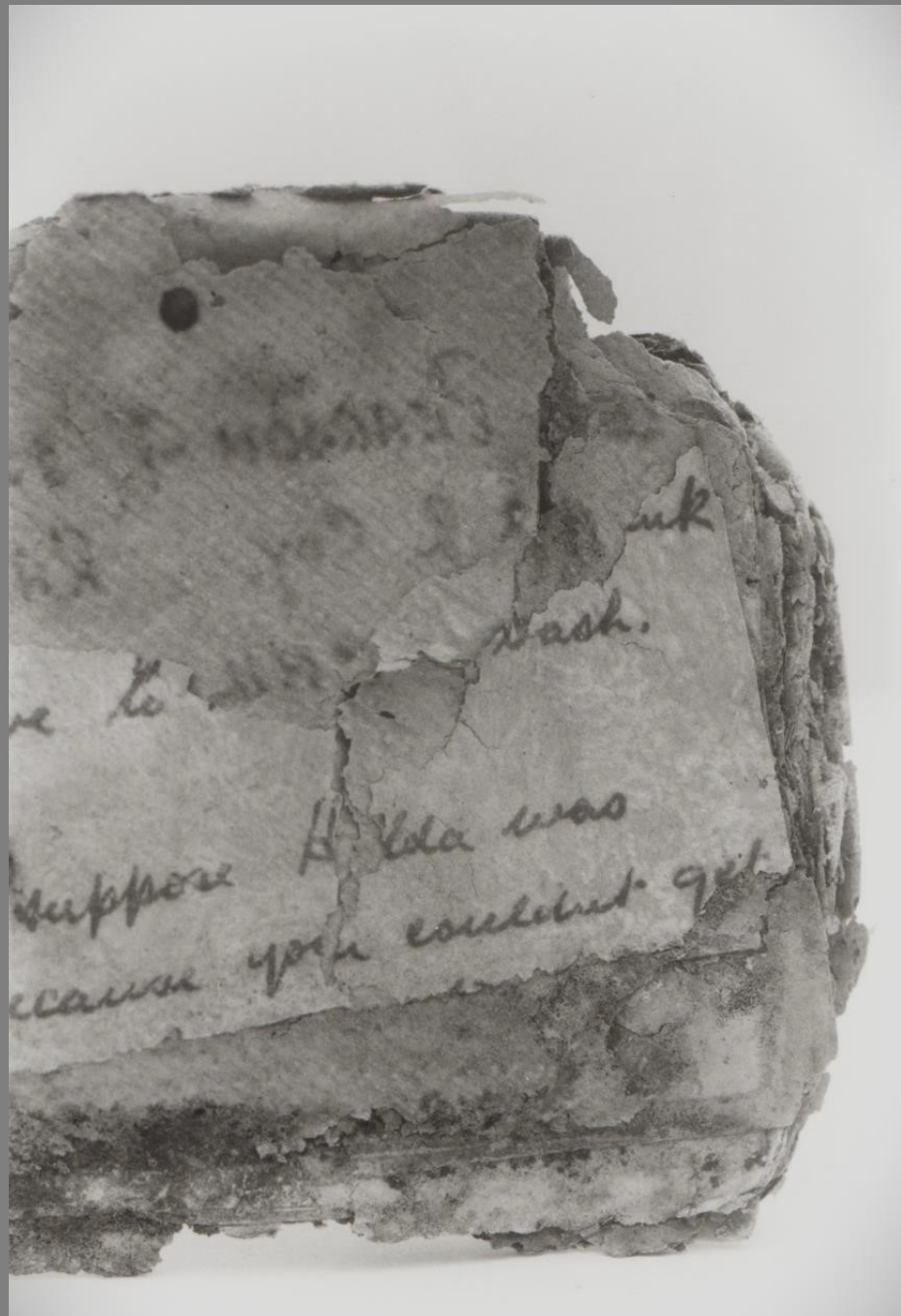




1952 to 1954 -Love Letters







## **Adrian James** LRPS .....**Lanzarote - Grids and Collages**

Following the previous meeting of the group when several members presented images in the form of grids and collages, I was motivated to try to produce some images using this approach.

I have not tried this before but I decided that it might be an innovative, and hopefully interesting, way of presenting a pictorial summary of our recent holiday in Lanzarote.

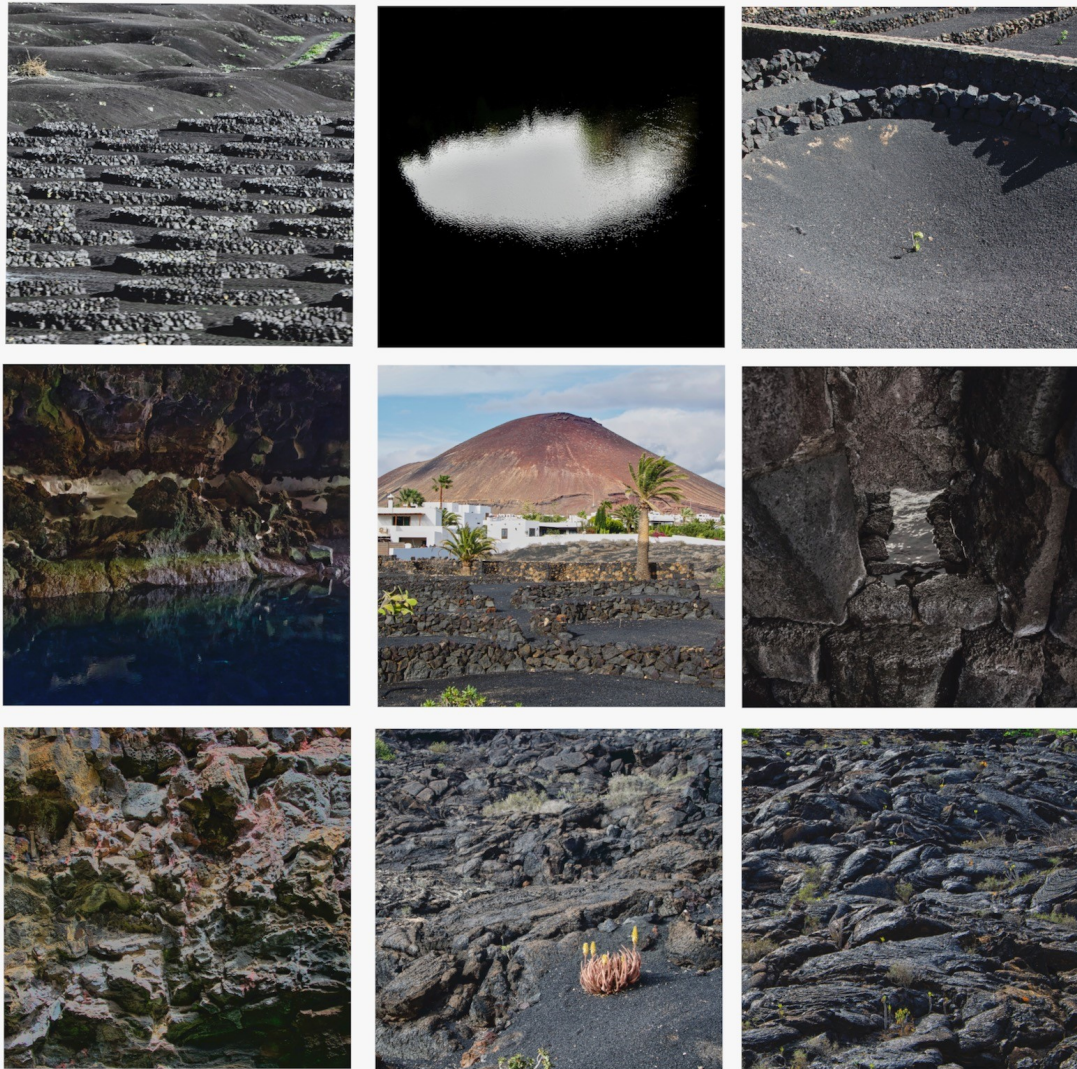
I took some 400 images during the week we were there and as I went through them when we got home, I realised that they mainly fell into three basic categories, which I hadn't consciously thought about at the time but that reflected fairly accurately the range of images I took.



One of the most interesting things about our holiday, which I suspect is true for most holidays, is the people we saw and I took a number of images that basically could be categorised as 'street photography', so my first grid was an attempt to capture some of the essential elements of the human dimensions of a holiday in Lanzarote (image 1).



As a photographer, I don't often have in mind the work of other photographers or artists when I'm taking images, and I'm undecided whether my photographs would be improved or not if I did so more often. On this occasion, however, having recently seen some of David Hockney's swimming pool pictures, I was struck by the way his colour palette was so evident in so much of what I saw in various places on the island, so image 2 is an attempt to bring together these images in a way that enables them to work together and present a more powerful collective picture than the individual images.



The other striking feature of Lanzarote is that, as an island formed by volcanic activity, much of the landscape is dominated by black, solidified basaltic lava flows and dark grey volcanic ash. These have become a significant feature of the various tourist trails, whilst horticultural practices, including a thriving viticulture, have been adapted to these challenging growing conditions. Image 3 is an attempt to give a flavour of this unique landscape.



Image 4 was taken at the Saturday market in Playa Blanca as part my holiday street photography. When I spotted this woman having her hair braided, I was struck not only by the look of intense concentration on the face of the woman doing the braiding but by the glorious riot of colour in this simple image.



I therefore decided to try something a bit more adventurous and make a collage from some of the different elements of this one image - this is image 5.

## Harry Silcock

I chose a selection of street photos mostly taken during my travels in India, which related to portraits often taken with the agreement of the subjects, unlike many of my street photography where I choose not to engage with the subjects. The last image was taken in Nepal.











## Anastasia Potekhina ARPS

Self-portraits with family and friends. We all need support. Family and friends, they are always with us, as in the famous song:

Ben E.King – Stand By Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwZNL7QVjE>









