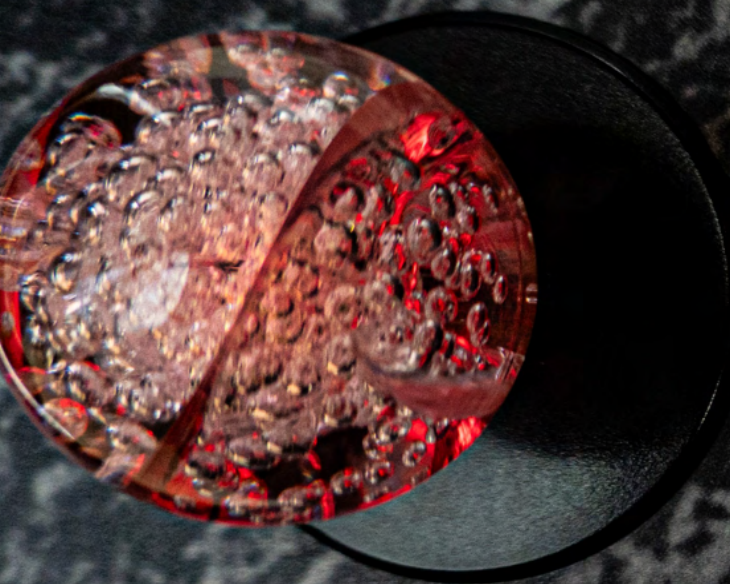


THE **RPS**

ROYAL  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY

CONTEMPORARY  
GROUP



# Members' Outing to Leeds

A Contemporary Group North Activity

Issue 16

DATE August 24





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

Designed and compiled by Lyn Newton

Cover image by John Elvin

## **August 20, 2024**

Twelve of us met at the Leeds train station for a day of photography. We separated into several groups, concentrating on the city centre area around the station. We were helped in our travels by Leeds artist Teddi Coutts who provided us with maps, information and directions.

### **Contributors:**

Harry Silcock

Morris Gregory

Barbara Pollard

David Leighton

Lyn Newton

Patricia Ruddie

John Elvin

Celine Alexander-Brown

Janet Cook

Wendy North

Mary Crowther

Avijit Datta



## Harry Silcock

Rather than the usual 'straight' photo I am always trying to find some unusual content, of which there was plenty in Leeds (as in many city locations). Here are a few of my images from our successful day out.



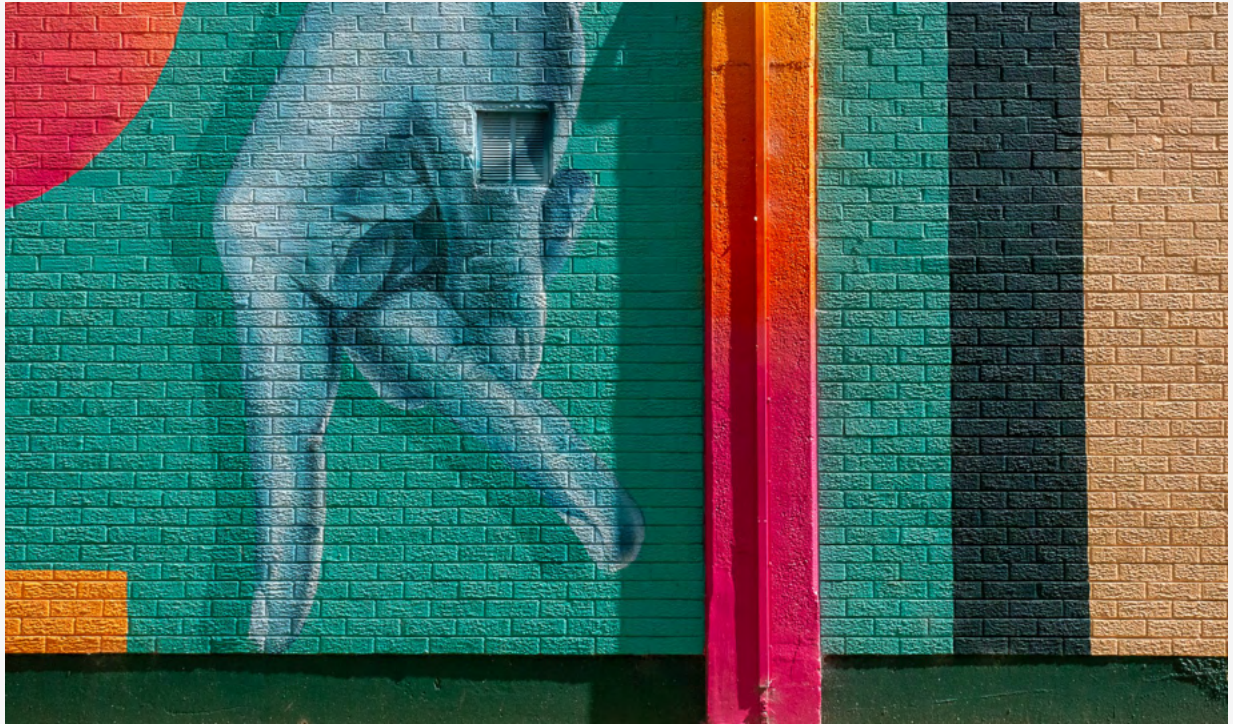




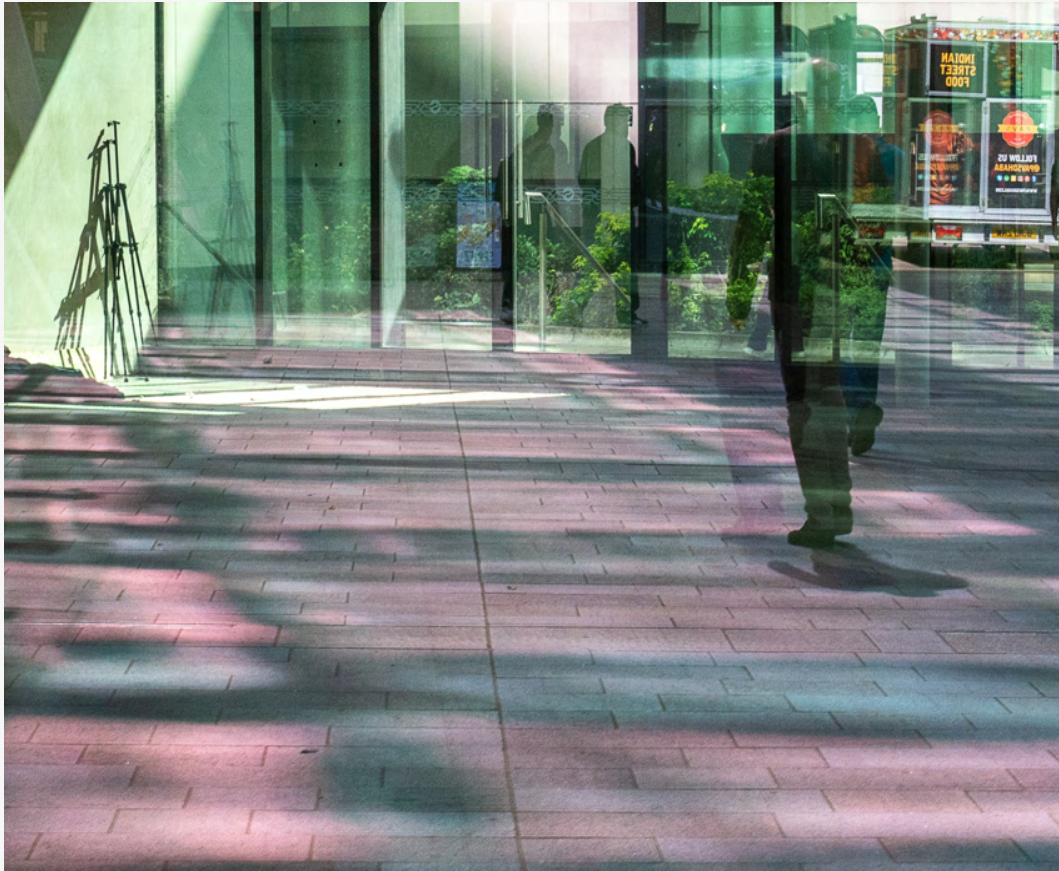




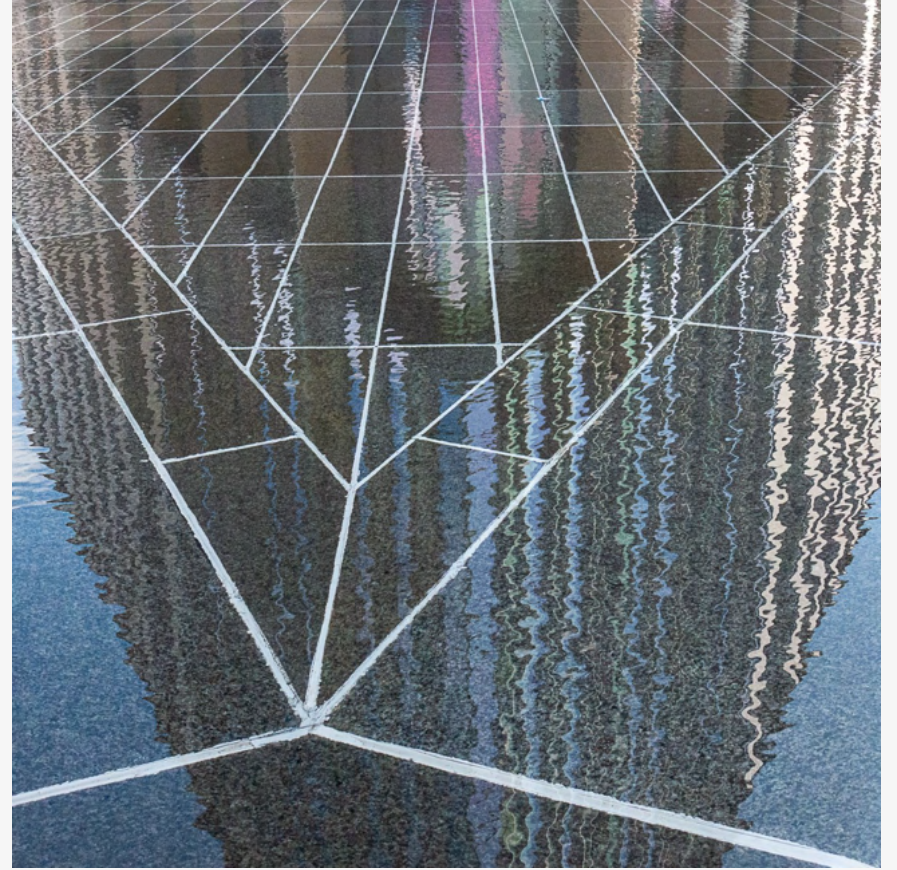












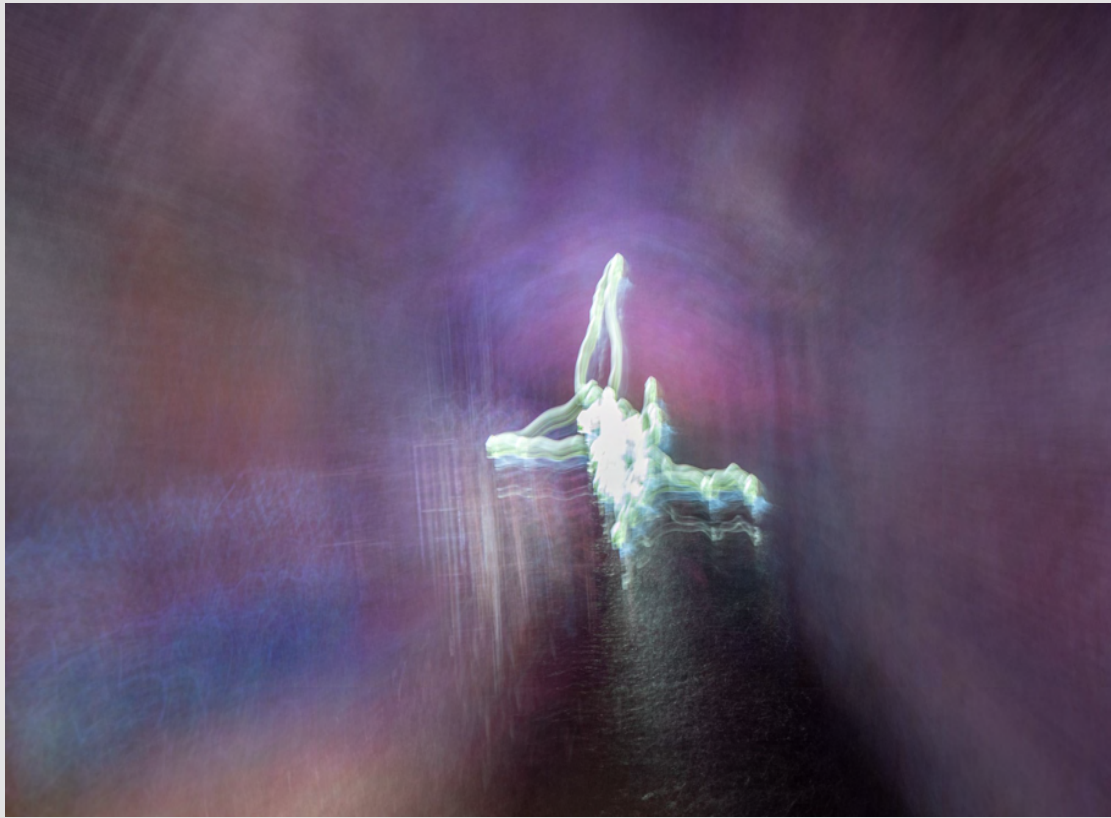


## Morris Gregory

I went to Leeds with only the vaguest plan of what I was going to photograph, probably some graphic architecture and maybe street shots in the outdoor market. I was happy to go with the flow and just see what turned up. It was quite liberating to wander around with others from our group and photograph whatever presented itself. I did get some of those graphic architecture shots and managed a short visit to the market, just as they were packing up, but also enjoyed a visit to the dark arches which I found quite challenging. The photographs I have presented reflect the diversity of what I found on the day. Overall, it was a very enjoyable outing with excellent company.





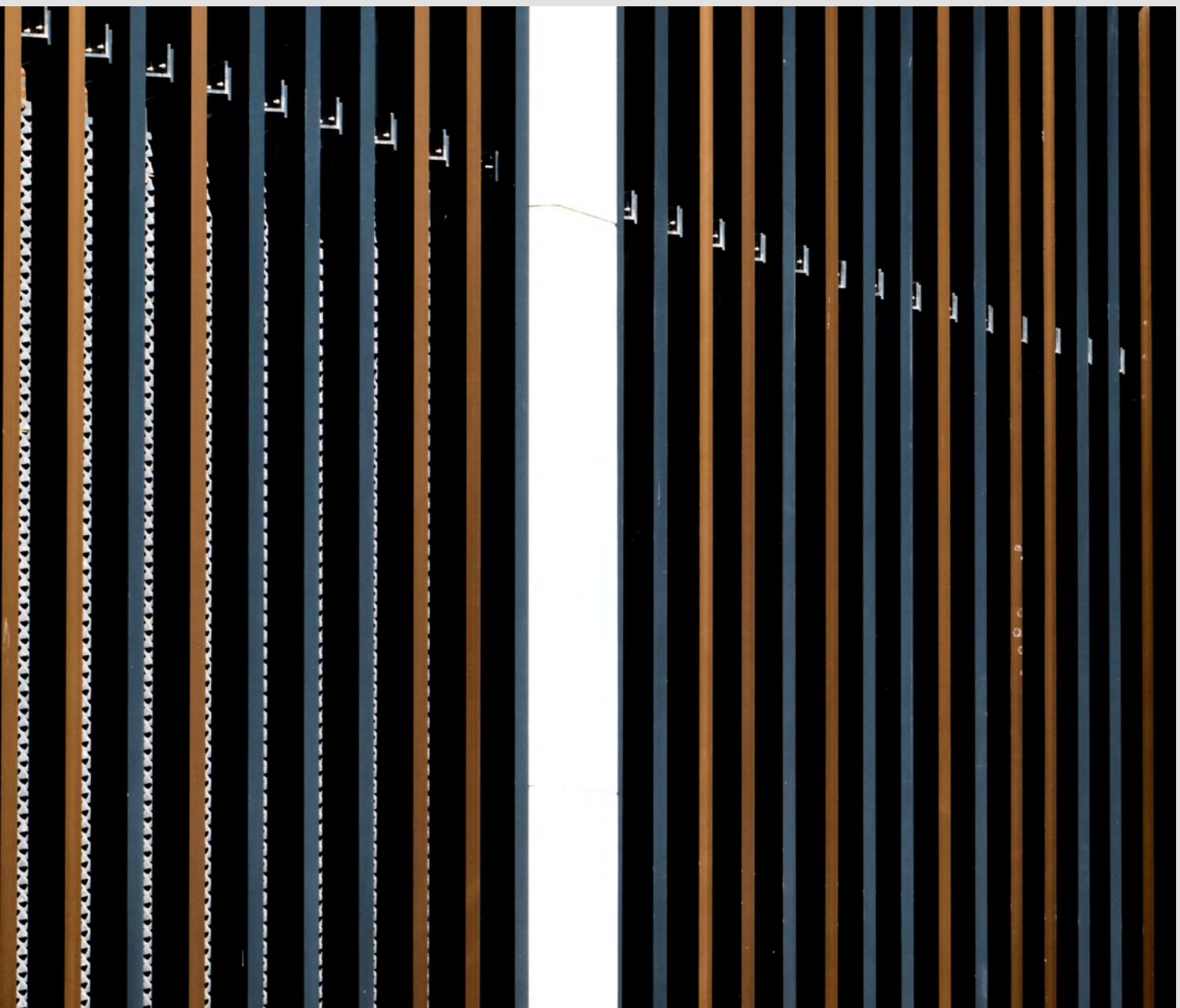


After taking a few straight shots in the dark arches I decided to experiment with long, hand-held exposures, to produce abstract effects. I was pleasantly surprised by some of the results.

















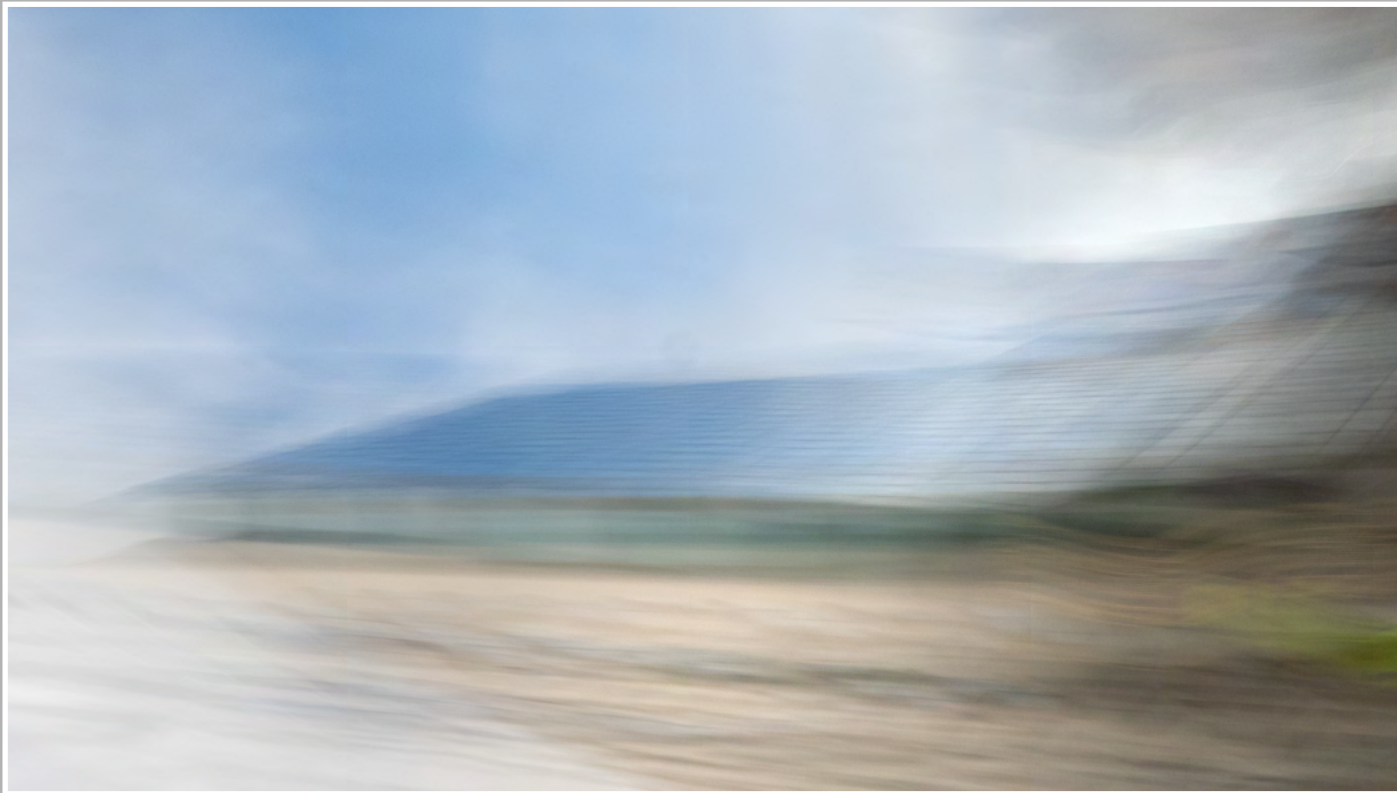


## Barbara Pollard .....Old Memories, New Reality

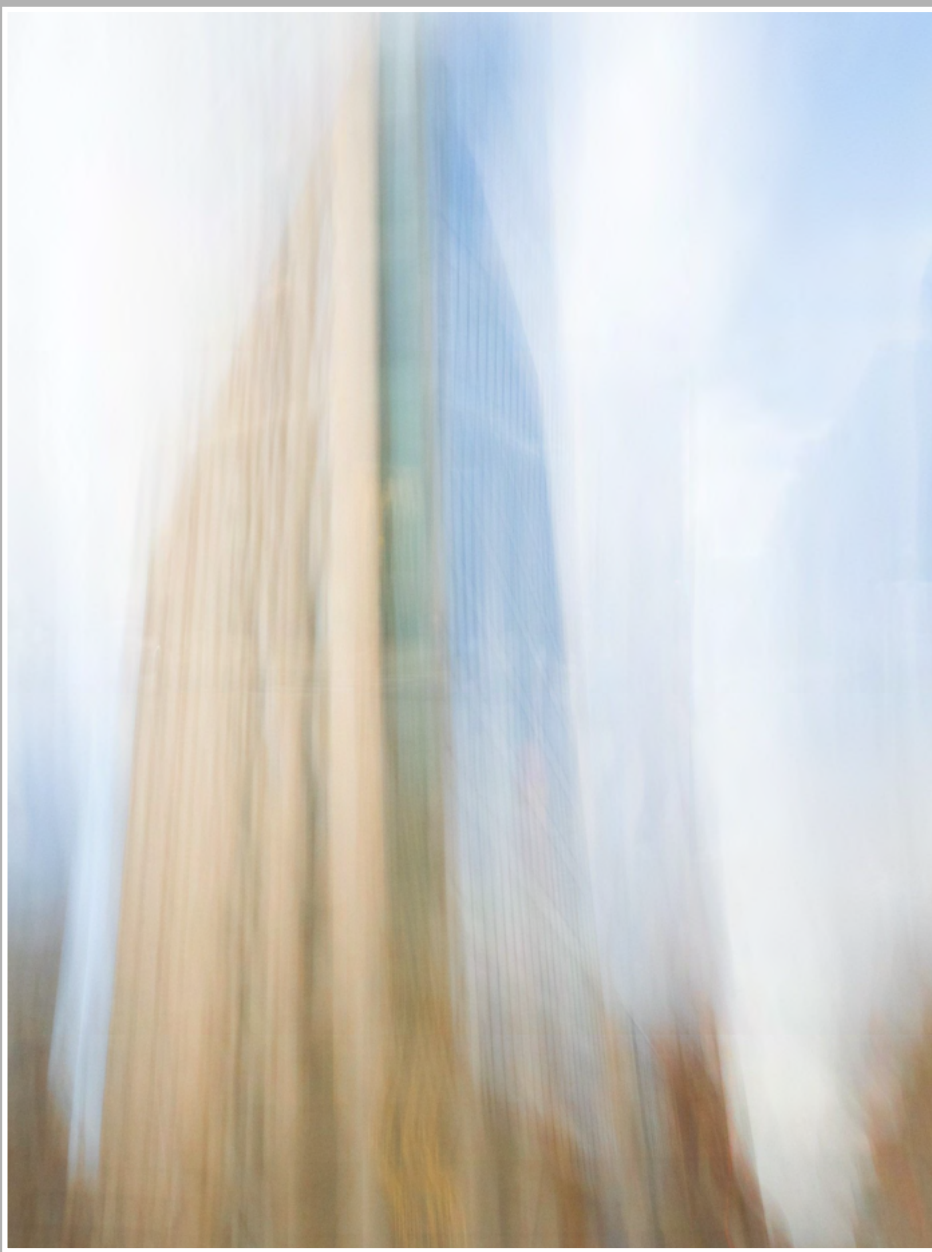
I lived in Leeds for 11 years until I moved away to a small village in 2004 and I have not returned to the city centre since then. I remember large parts of the city as being run-down, derelict and depressing, so was interested to find out how it looked now.

What struck me immediately was how much lighter and more vibrant the contemporary buildings and streets are, compared to the old dingy areas of my day. People, too, seemed more interesting and colourful as they hurried past.

This set of images, made with intentional camera movement (ICM), captures how Leeds felt to me on that day - busy, dynamic and exhilarating.



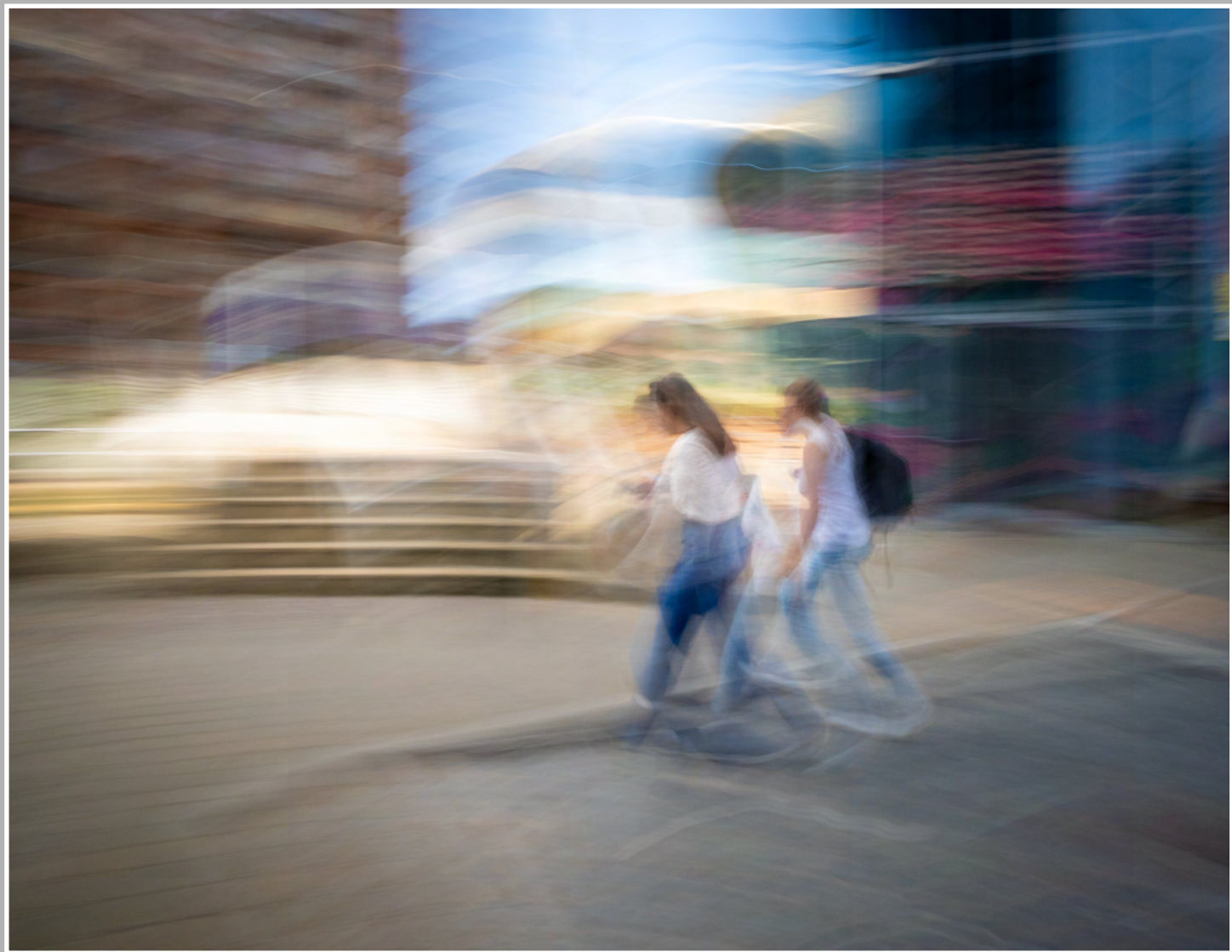






















## David Leighton

I am enclosing some pictures from last week's walk around Leeds. I enjoyed being with a group of like minded people and these images just tickled my sense of humour.

At one point I was asked by someone from one of the offices on a "fag break" why lots of people were photographing the buildings.



Who is working....?





Where are we going to ?





What's tickling Patricia?



Taking photos of each other





In search of a subject

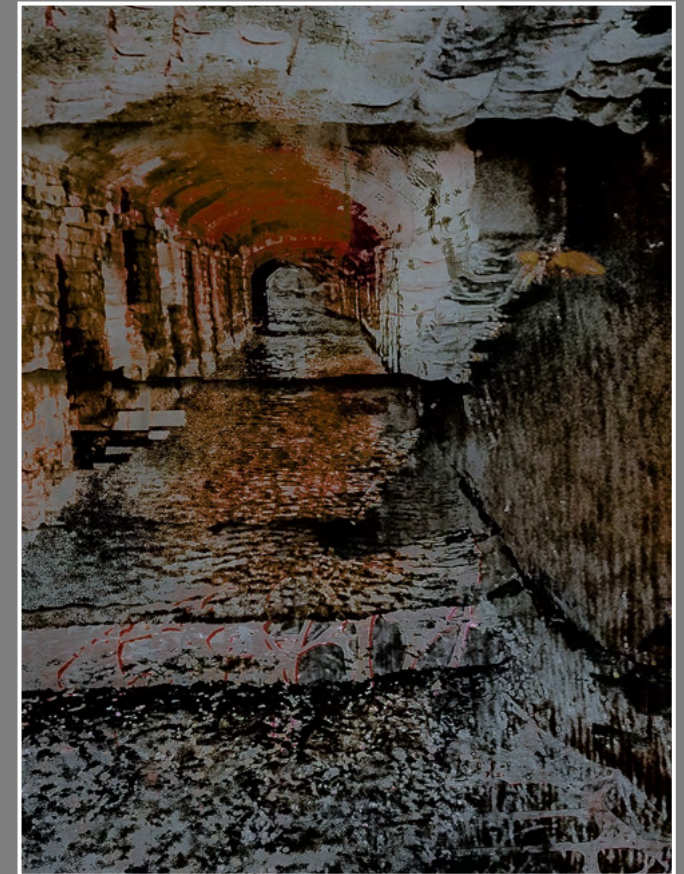


Photographers at work

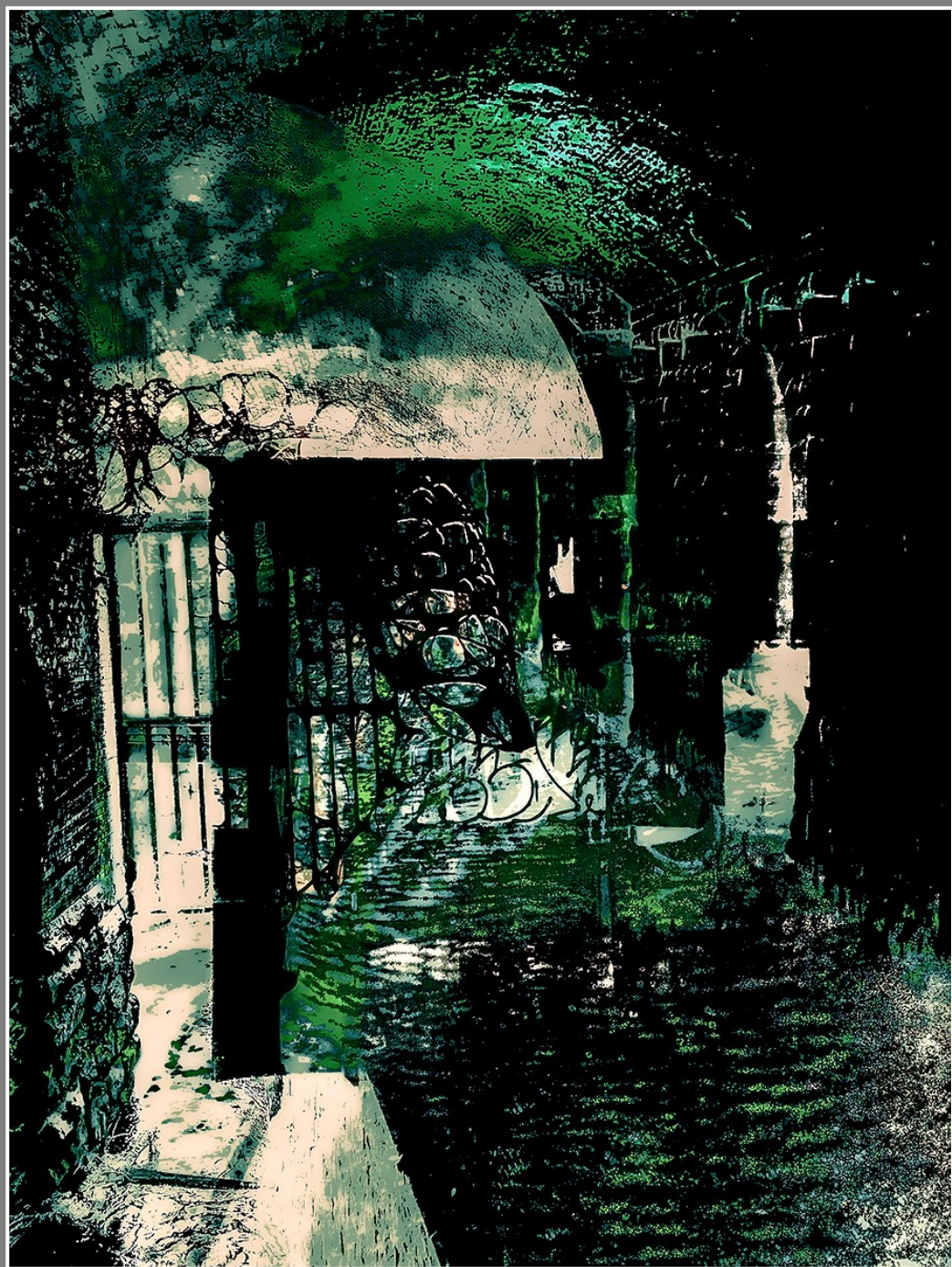


## Lyn Newton

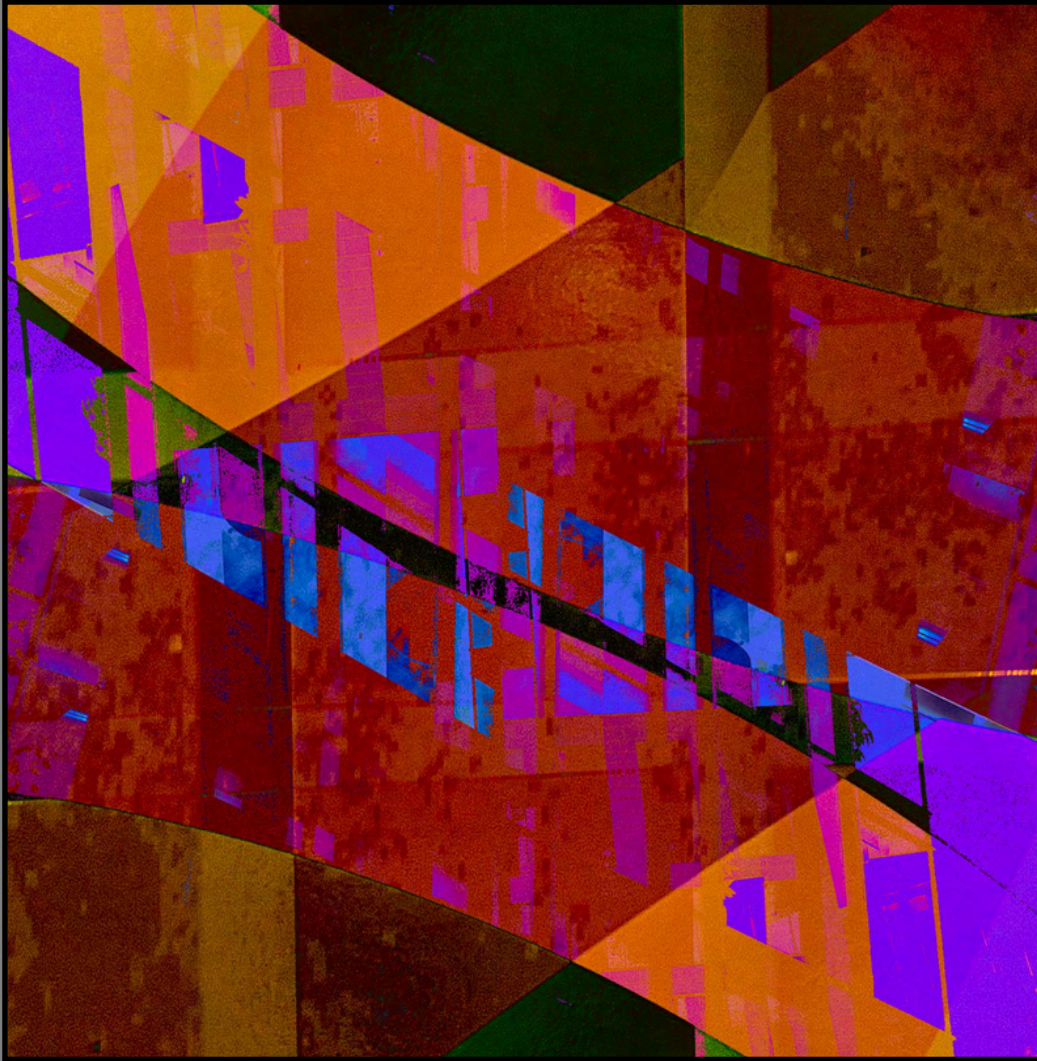
When I go anywhere with my camera, I find myself straying—looking for scenes I can use to create something different, something that I can put my own mark on—something that appeals to my sense of the aesthetic. I love feeling that I am ‘painting’ with my camera. This is what draws me in and both attracts and challenges me. Not everybody’s cup of tea I accept but something I find very satisfying.





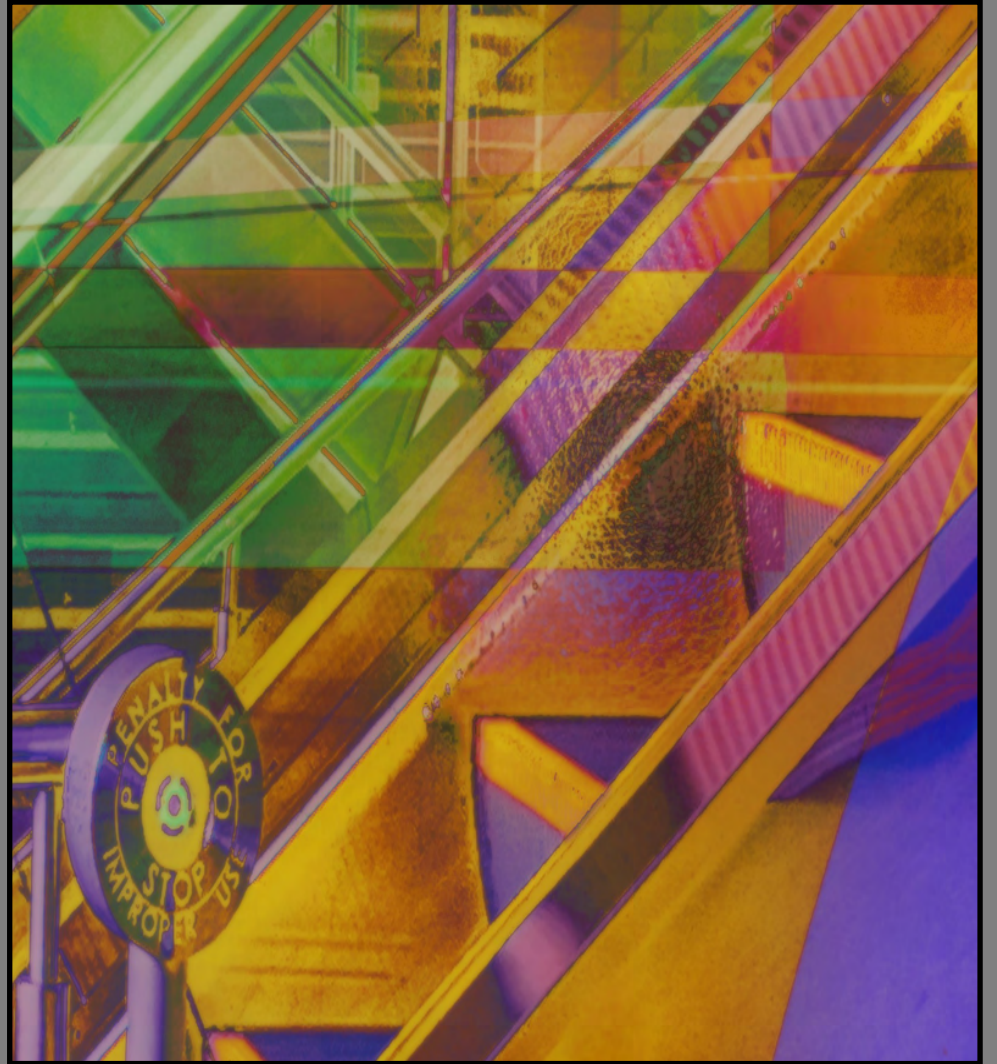
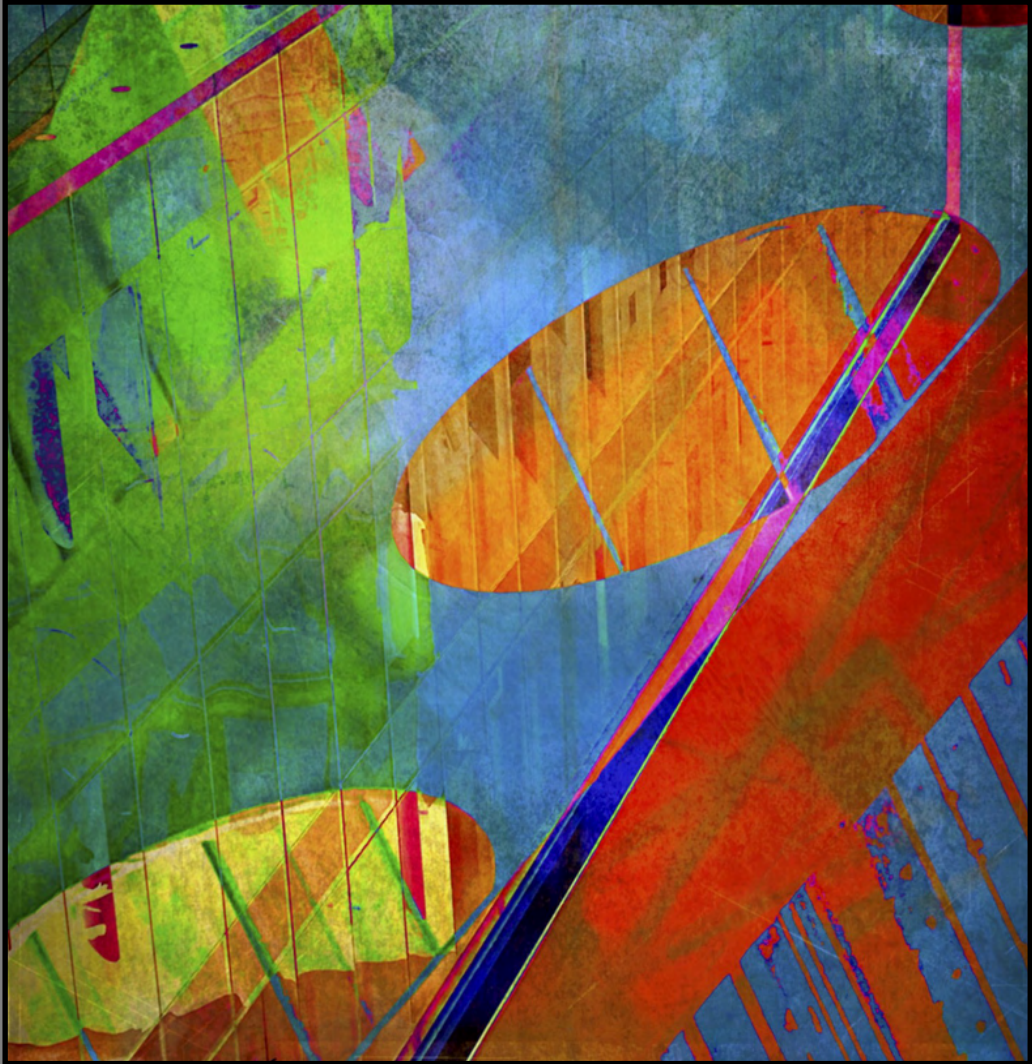






Escalators, pavements, reflective buildings and water features went into the making of these images.

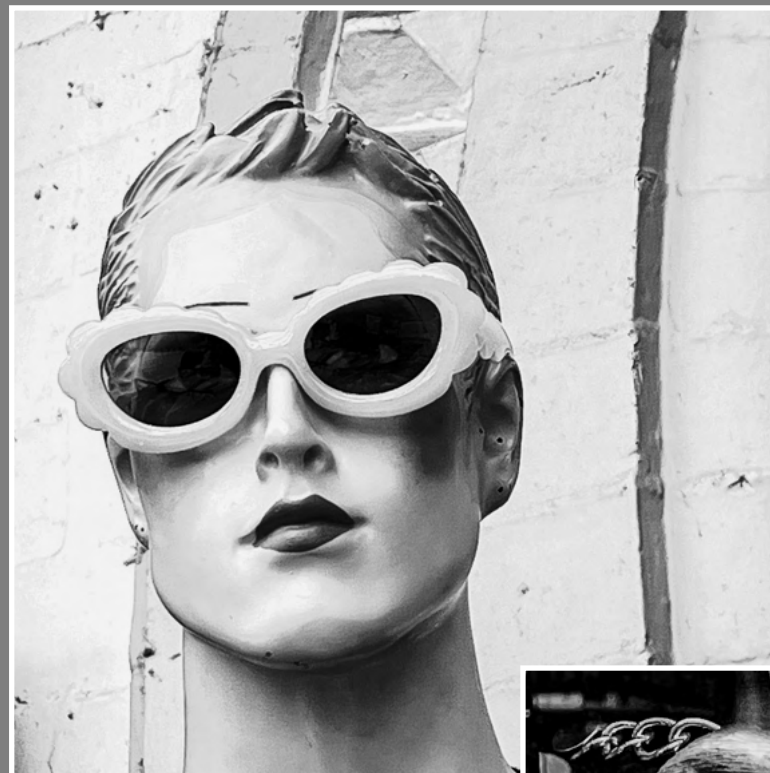












So many interesting little cameos in a city like Leeds.



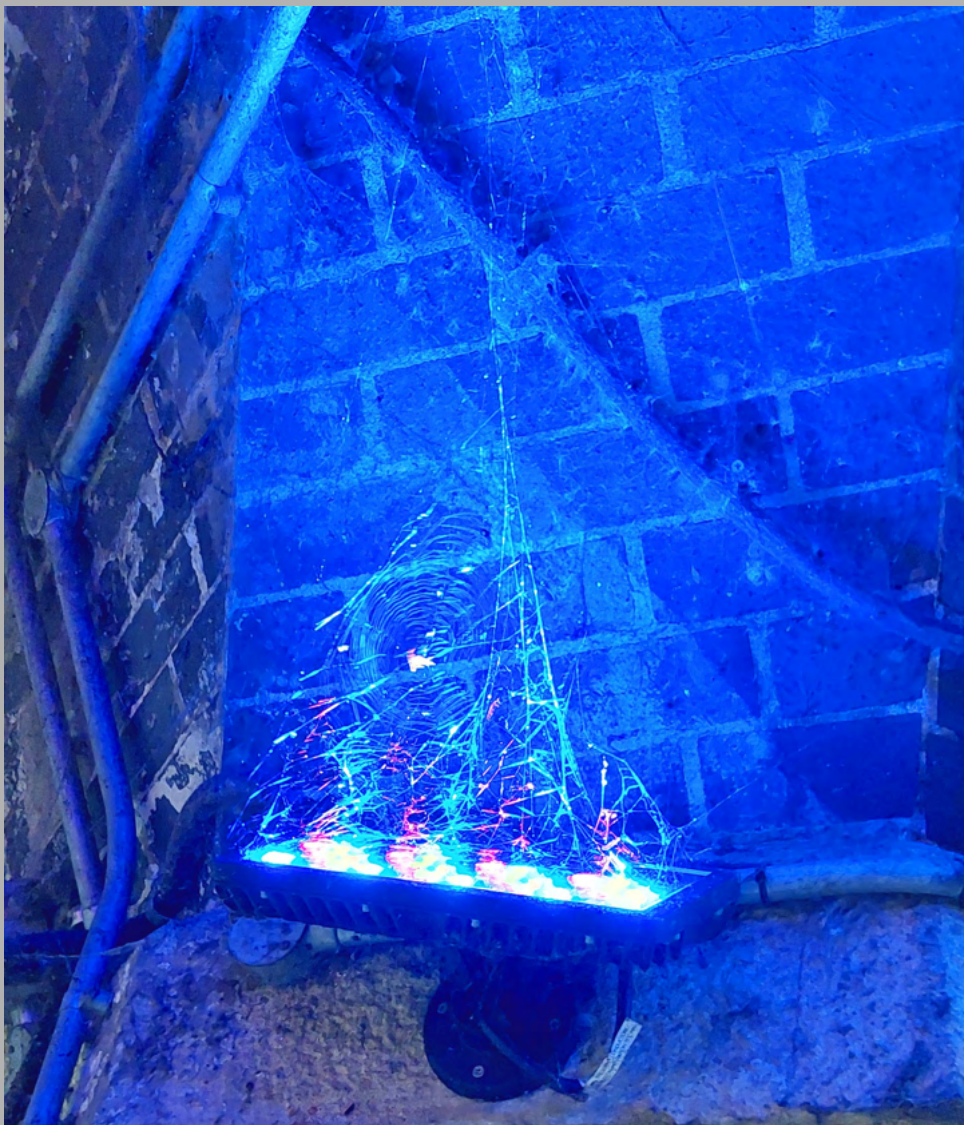
## Patricia A Ruddle ARPS .....The Dark Arches

The very name conjures up a Victorian slum where the poor and dispossessed live in a subterranean underbelly.

The Dark Arches, a network of brick arches with the River Aire running through, were built originally to support Leeds railway station. Completed in 1869, the vaulted tunnel experienced several reincarnations in an attempt to revitalise the underground space. Once again it is now being renovated to bring new life to the area between dark Neville Street and Granary Wharf.

The path is marked by changing colourful lights that illuminate the dark. The sound of the river's rushing water accompanies the magical atmosphere.

Now no longer a hideaway for dark, degenerate activities.





















## John Elvin

I have always enjoyed walking round Leeds Covered (and Open) Markets, in particular the seafood in the fish aisle. Although somewhat reduced in size, this aisle still has quite spectacular displays of exotic fish and holds a great fascination for me.



Mackerel



Gilthead Bream



Carp





Passing the Queens hotel on City Square, I was drawn to the lights and reflections in the revolving doors. Serendipity dictated that the couple leaving the hotel were in the perfect position when I pressed the shutter.



Neville Street passes under the main lines of Leeds station in a long tunnel which is in permanent gloom. Brook's Store is normally a bright beacon in the street, and on this occasion the road works, and particularly the temporary traffic lights, added a new dimension to the scene.



The bright, warm colours of the arm of this construction machine form a good contrast with the more muted colours of the background office and make a frame for the reflected building.





A rare penetration of sunlight into the otherwise gloomy atmosphere of the famous Dark Arches.



An uplifting proverb from a fake vicar dumped in a disused telephone box.



Part of the control panel from a 1970s arcade game.





An exuberant artwork painted on the wall of an LGBTI+ bar in Leeds.

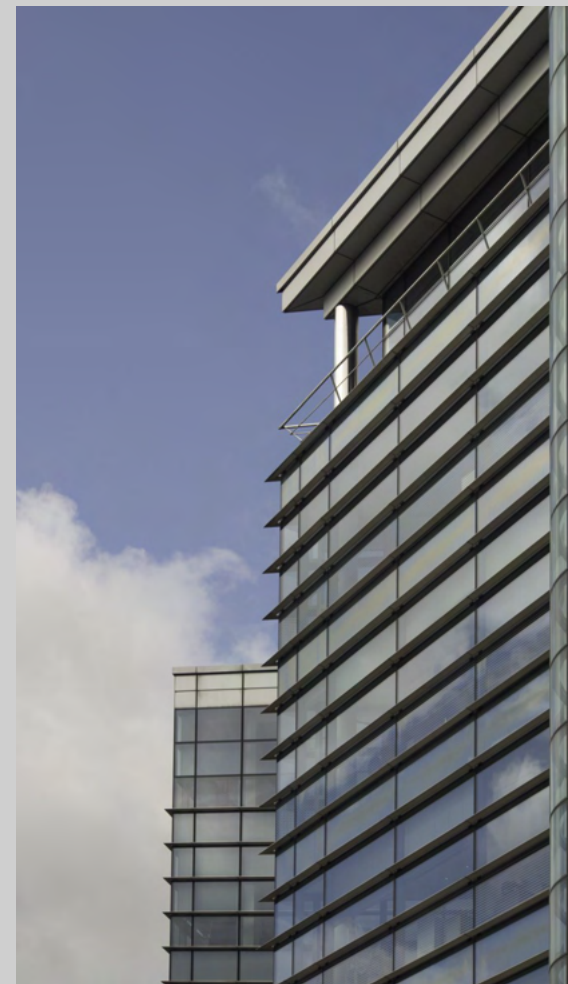
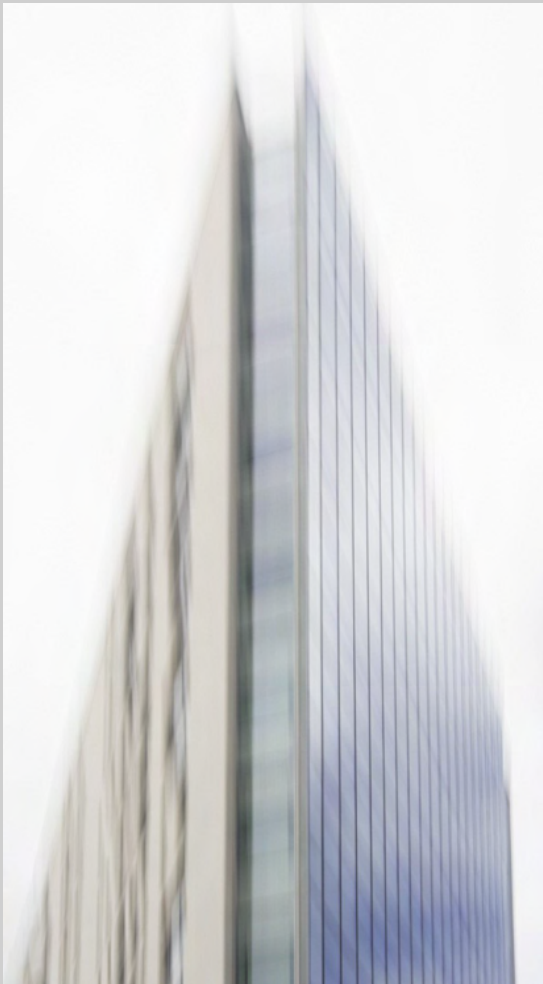




## Celine Alexander-Brown

During my trip to Leeds, I focused on shape, colour and reflections while experimenting with Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) and multiple exposures. I hope these techniques transform ordinary scenes into abstract, dynamic compositions, bringing out the beauty in unexpected ways.

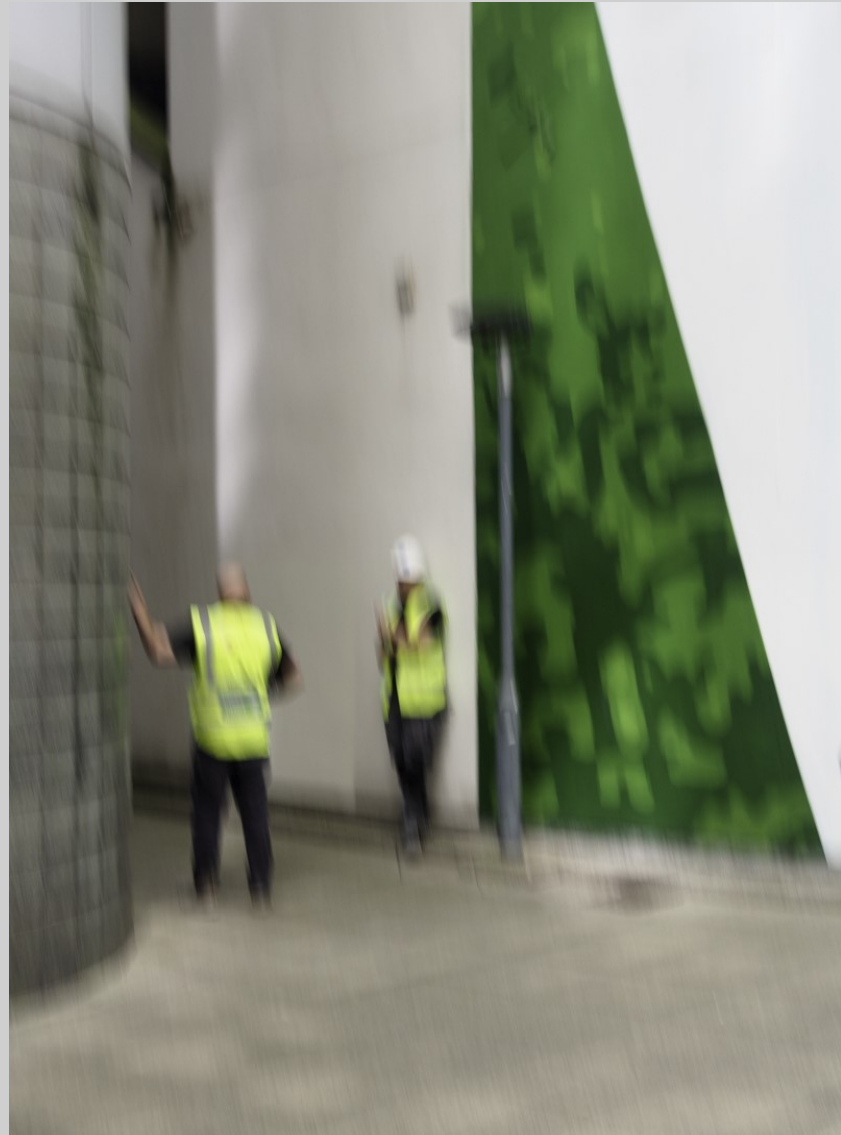
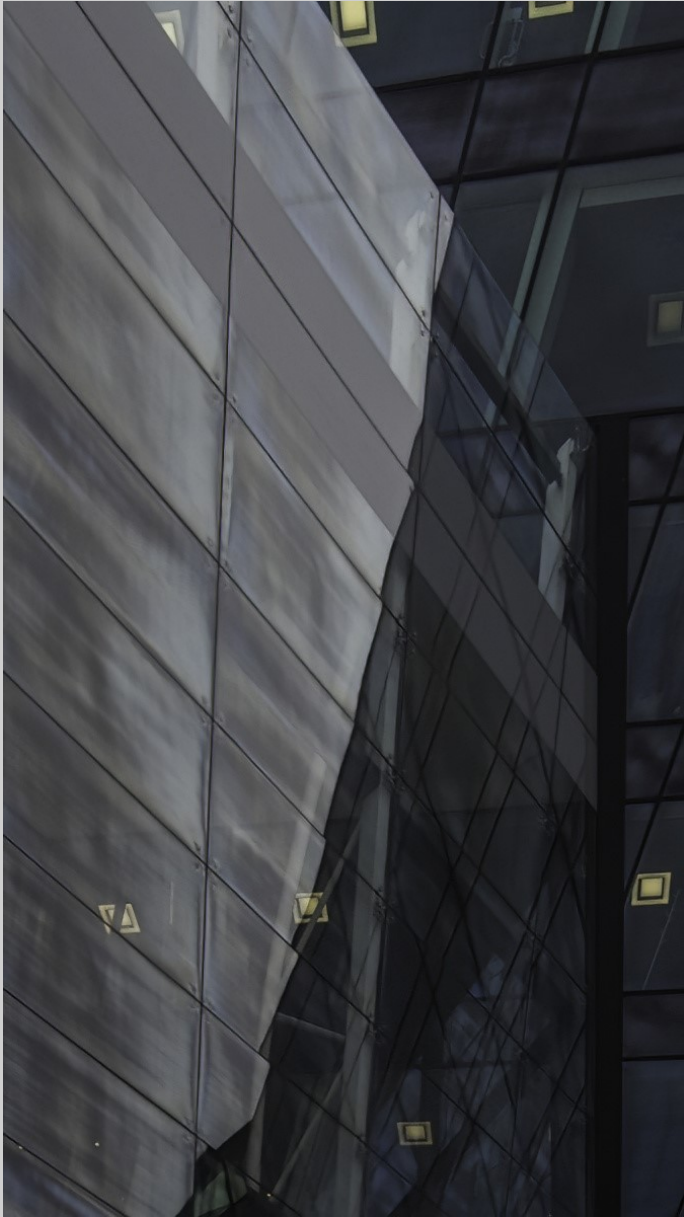
I was also drawn to the structural beauty of the buildings, exploring geometry, light, and shadow.



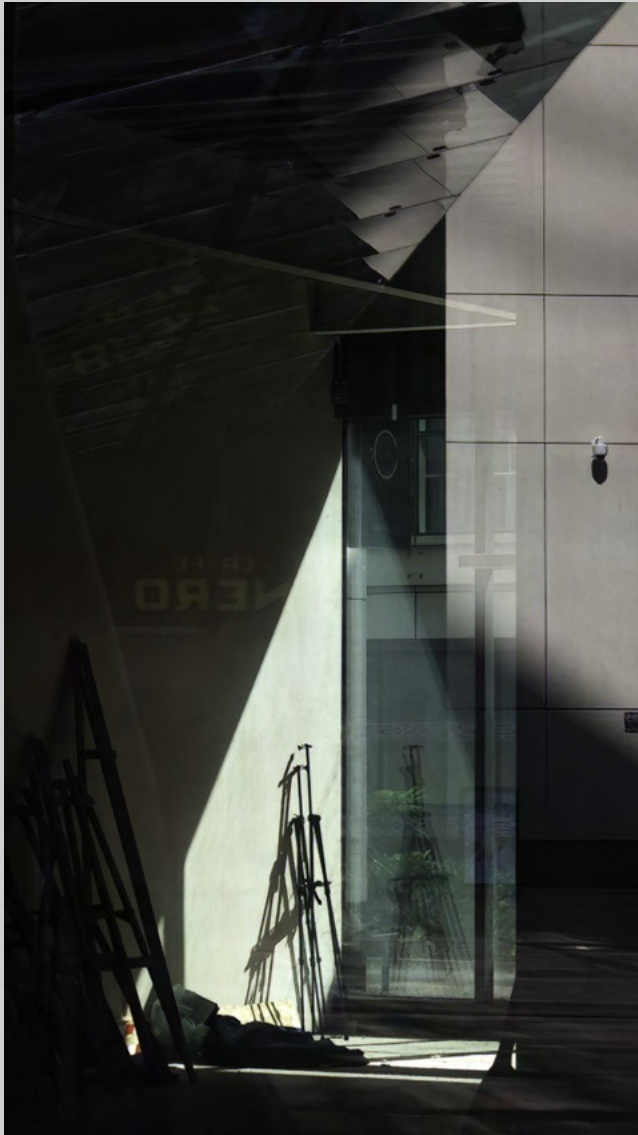


















# Janet Cook

'Reflections On The Present'





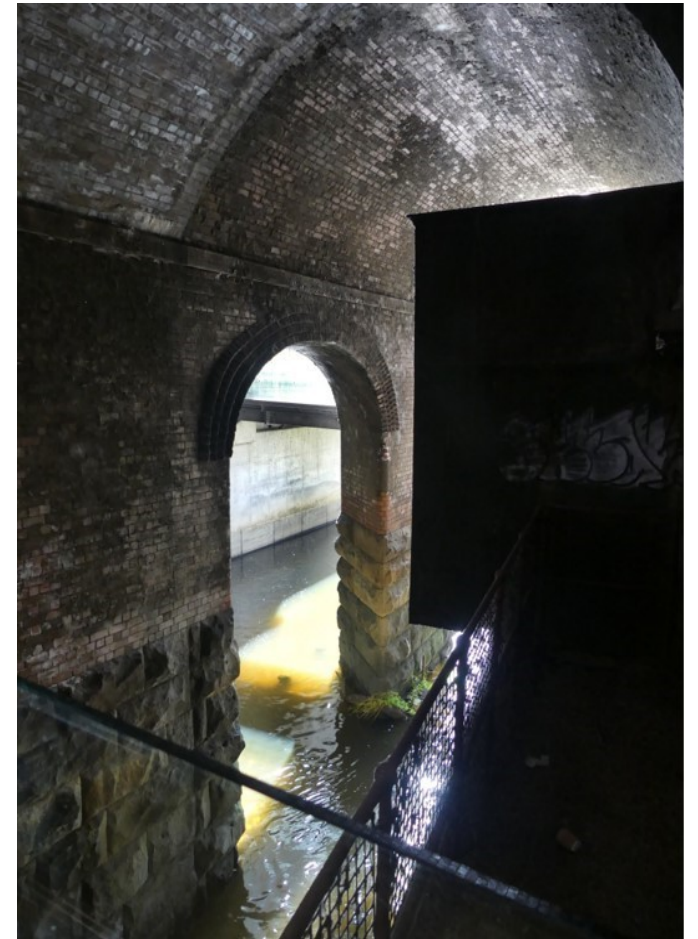








## 'Reflections On The Past'



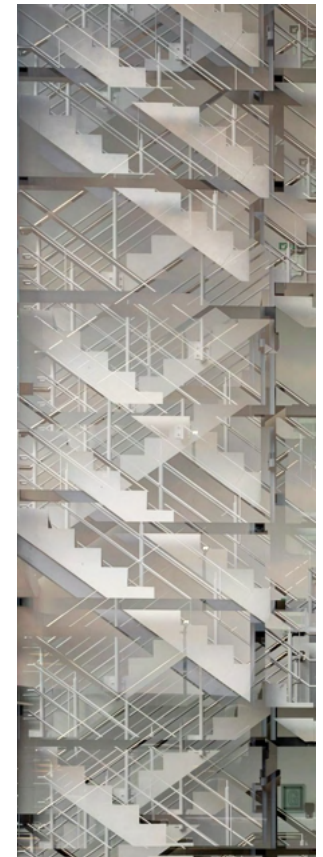
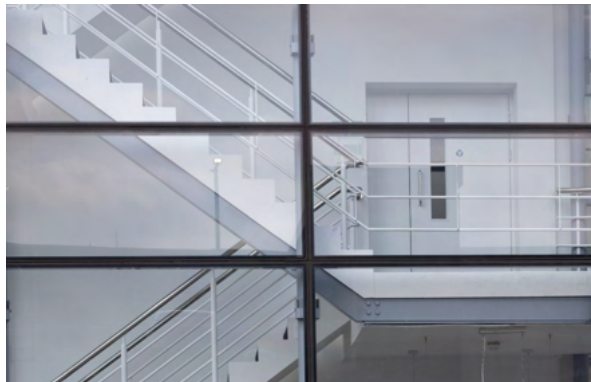
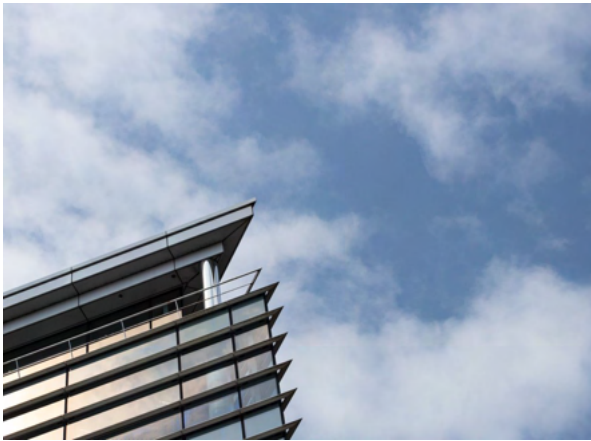


## 'Reflections On The Day'



## Wendy North

On my latest visit to Leeds (August 2024) I was accompanied by four other members of Contemporary North. We began our walk just at the side of the station, where the pointy facade of the Princes Exchange building rises, before we made our way to Wellington Place, then back to City Square and under the extensive rail bridge and onto Granary Wharf via the Dark Arches. We were a relatively small group and in many ways these occasions are as much about catching up with friends as they are about taking photographs. (The more serious I get in pushing an idea then I find I'm better on my own, or sharing the location with just one other friend.) So on this occasion, when I also wasn't feeling 100%, I set myself the task of making several mini-collections of places that interested me and of trying out alternative techniques such as in-camera multiple exposure (which didn't always work so I deleted lots of images).







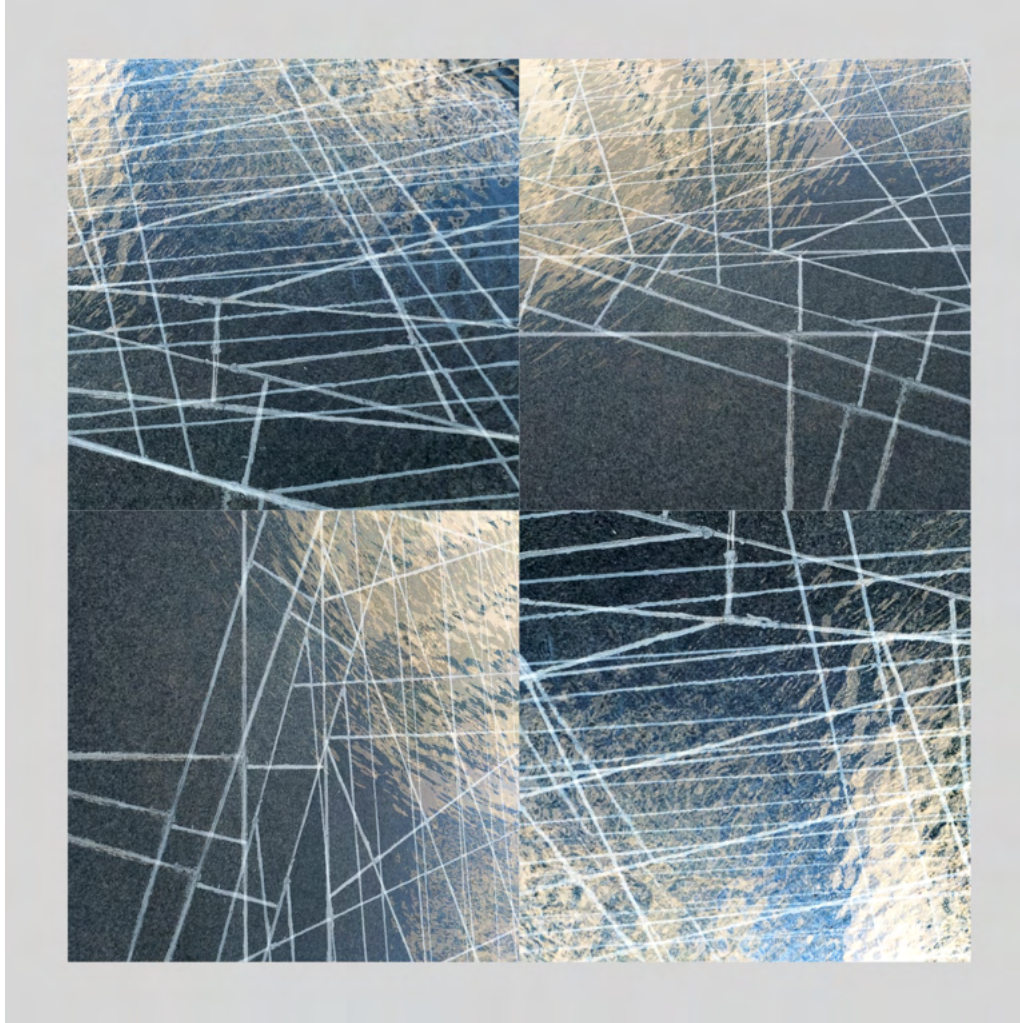
**Princes Exchange Building** - my first encounter with this building was on a visit three years ago with a friend. At that time I was using my Canon EOS D and using it with the dark and light blend modes. I've included three images that were taken with my Canon camera on that occasion. What I wanted from this visit was a view from the front and I chose to use my iPhone 13 because of its wide angle lens.





Aire Street Fire escape - This building with the fire-escape ladders always makes me think of New York, which I've never visited. On this occasion my images were quickly snatched as the others were ready to move on. I had fun with a bit of post-processing where I was playing with colour and changes in exposure.

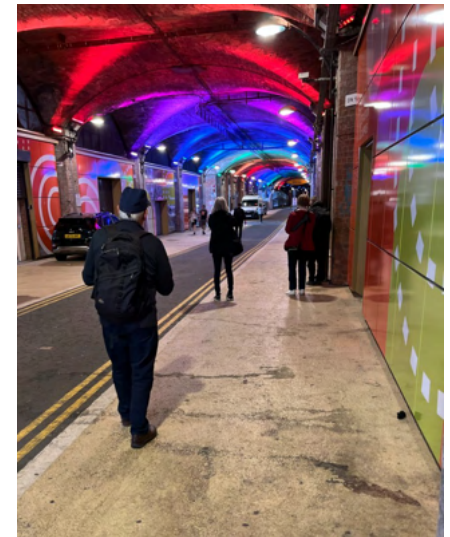
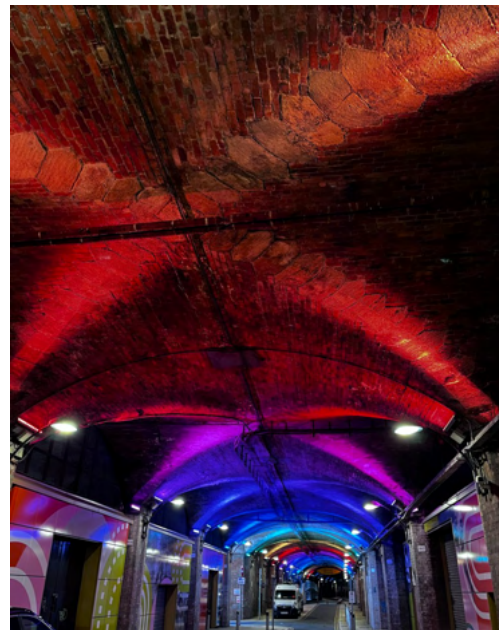
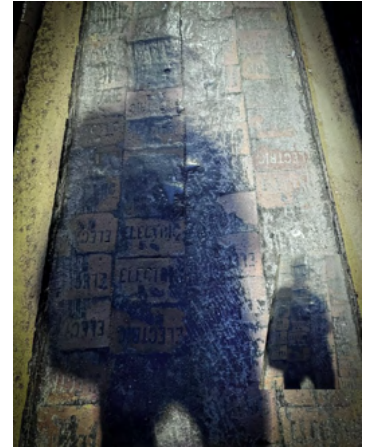
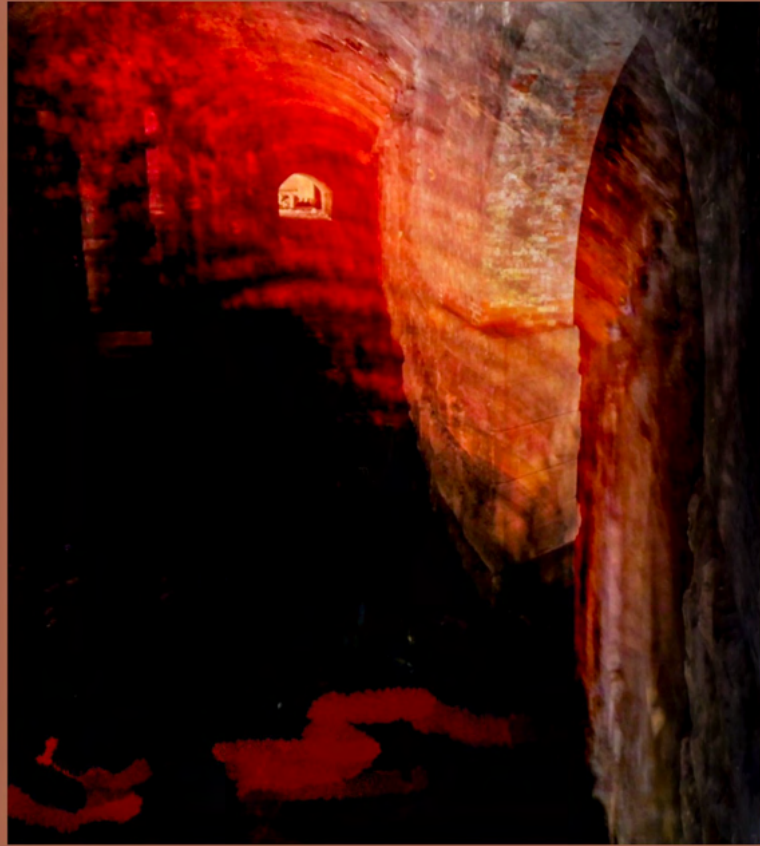




Wellington Place - the reflections in water caught my attention here and I created images of the lines and reflections using a double exposure technique. My Panasonic TZ 200D creates multiples using the average blend mode. I've chosen to present these as a collage using the App InCollage, because I like the way the patterns complement one another.

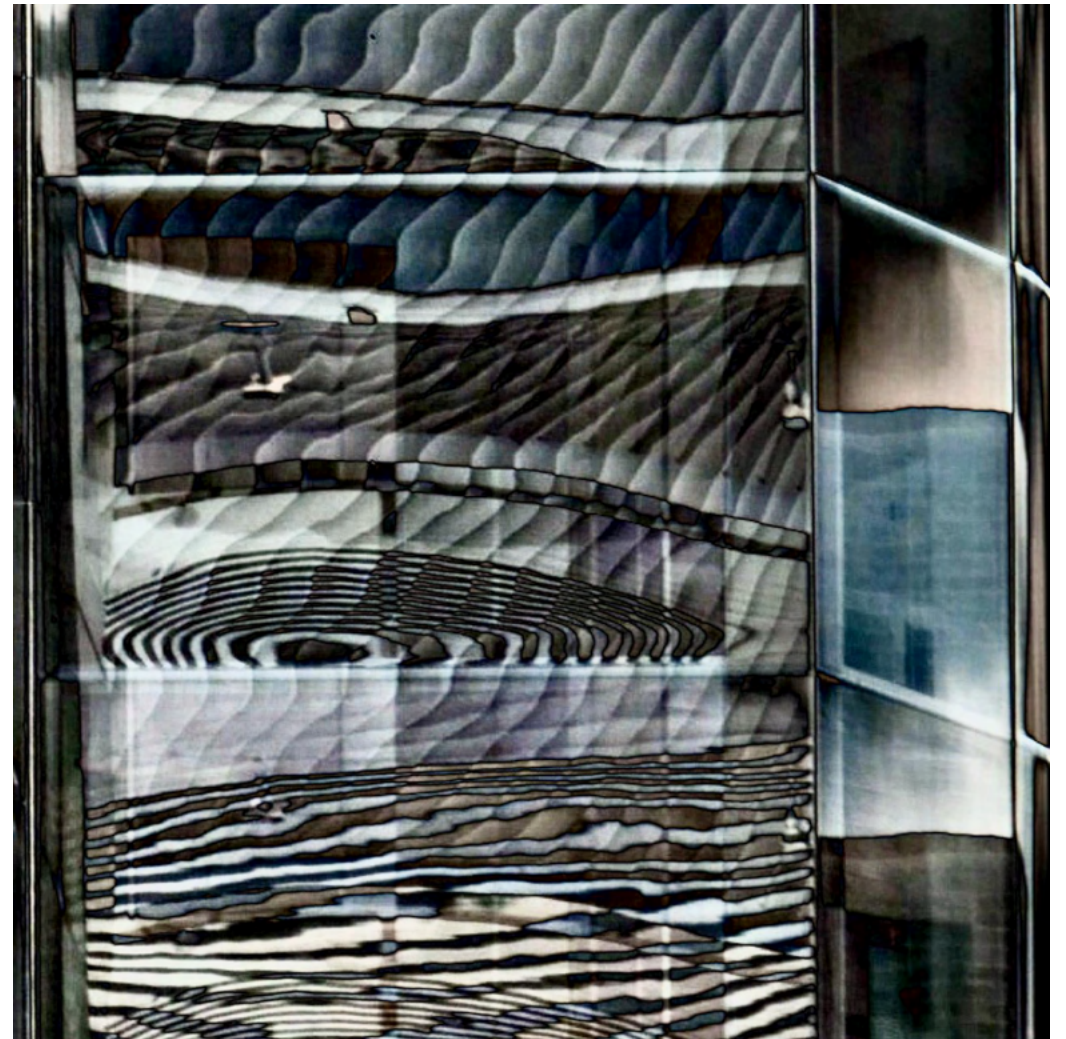
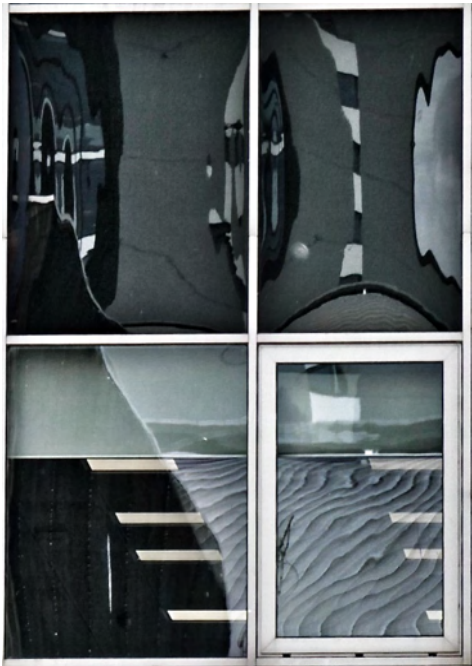


Under the Dark Arches - lots to catch my attention. I took a few images of the friends I was with, which also captured the changing light in the tunnel. I took lots of views of the river as it surges through the tunnels.



I decided to take advantage of the red lighting to create a different artistic interpretation, 'Follow the river under the arches ...' has been my initial working title.





Reflections in windows also caught my attention as I looked down the access road to Granary Wharf.

## Mary P. Crowther ARPS

Leeds City centre like many cities has an eclectic display of architecture, most of which now is furnishing shops, café bars and restaurants. There is almost always a vibrancy either through the colours or sounds of a bustling city centre. On just a short walk around the centre it is easy to see what might attract people to visit.























## **Avijit Datta** FRSA ..... **The New Topographics of Leeds and York Railway station**

We had a jolly time together with members of Contemporary North recently in bustling daytime Leeds – a meeting convened by Patricia Ruddle; some of us travelled by train together and we all met at the railway station.

I wanted to convey York and Leeds railway stations at night, devoid of people and in monochrome. As such, these images are made in the style of *The New Topographics*.

New topographics was a term coined by William Jenkins in 1975 to describe a group of American photographers (including Robert Adams, Lewis Baltz, Nicholas Nixon and Bernd and Hiller Becher) whose pictures had a common banal aesthetic and stark austerity. These photographers abandoned the romanticism and idealism traditionally associated with landscape photography. Instead, they adopted a more objective and detached approach to capture the contemporary urban environment. There was a landmark exhibition of this contemporary landscape photography held at the International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House, Rochester, New York from October 1975 to February 1976.

The images I show constitute formal black and white prints of railway stations in the North of England during a cost of living crisis and the cancellation of the northern segment of the HS2 railway line which had been envisaged would drive prosperity.















