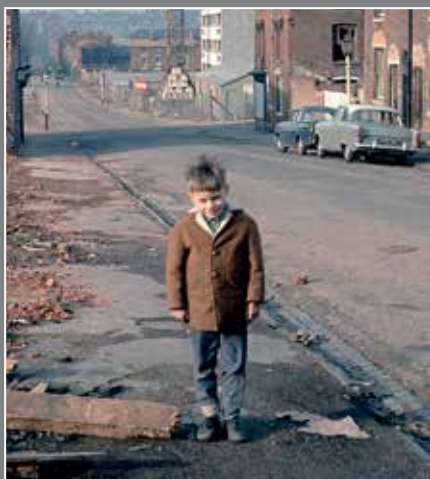


THE GRID PROJECT

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PHYLLIS...

**EXHIBITION | MOSELEY COMMUNITY HUB
MOSELEY ROAD ART SCHOOL BUILDING**



**HALF A CENTURY AGO PHYLLIS NICKLIN PHOTOGRAPHED
BIRMINGHAM. A TEAM OF PHOTOGRAPHERS WENT BACK
TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE SAME PLACES...**

SUNDAY 5TH MAY - THURSDAY 23RD MAY 2019

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PHYLLIS...

Between April and December 2017, a team of 71 photographers took 863 photographs of Birmingham. The locations for these photographs were determined by the places that Phyllis Nicklin photographed between 1953 and 1969.

Around half a century on, the Grid Project paid homage to this amazing woman's work. It had been a decade since the first Birmingham Grid Project. Previously we had used maps to determine arbitrary locations for photographs: this time we decided to follow in her footsteps.



PHYLLIS NICKLIN (1909 - 1969)

Phyllis Nicklin, born in Aston, Birmingham, was educated at George Dixon Grammar School for Girls and the University of Birmingham. She returned there as a Geography Lecturer from 1950-1969 and it was during this period that she made her extensive photographic survey of Birmingham.



Other than the fact that she used her photographs in her teaching, little else is known about her or them. 1063 of Phyllis Nicklin's photographs are held online by The University of Birmingham.

THE GRID PROJECT

The first Photographic Grid Project was carried out in Halifax, West Yorkshire and exhibited at The Dean Clough Galleries in 2004. The Birmingham Photographic Grid 2007 - Inside The Outer Circle - was exhibited in The Mailbox, Birmingham in 2008-9. Projects were also carried out at the Manchester After Hours Festivals (2014 and 2016) and The Liverpool LOOK/17 International Photography Festival (2017). Most recently, projects were carried out in galleries and exhibited in them: The Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2018) and Tate Liverpool (2019) were the venues.

"A photographic grid aims to make a meaningful visual statement about an environment by adopting a systematic approach. What does this place look like? What does this place feel like? These are the questions being answered by a grid photograph. The grid imposes a system that may sometimes locate the picturesque but is just as likely to find the industrial, the rugged, the new, old, boring, threatening or just ugly."

The project is run by Dave Allen, a former student of Moseley Road Art School, Birmingham, and Cheltenham Art College. Previous Grid Projects can be viewed online by visiting www.thegridproject.org.uk

PHYLLIS NICKLIN'S PHOTOGRAPHS

All of the photographs by Phyllis Nicklin are © The University of Birmingham and are licensed for non-commercial use. They can be accessed online in the ePapers Repository at epapers.bham.ac.uk/chrysalis.html

LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM COLLECTIONS

This exhibition was first shown at the Library of Birmingham in 2018. The Library show was visited by over 3000 viewers and its coverage by the BBC got to number 3 in the UK online rankings. Two books of the complete project are kept in the library's collection.

The Library of Birmingham is a centre of activity for seeing, studying and exchanging knowledge about historical and contemporary photography. The Photography Collection is of national and international significance.

This exhibition was made possible through the support of Trevor Beattie, and is dedicated to the memory of Pete James (1958-2018). Both have supported the project since its inception.