

New Photographic Exhibition by Smokeshow Images celebrates Brum Creatives this May 8th -18th 2014

This exhibition ‘**Brum Creatives**’ by **Smokeshow Images** comprises a series of portraits featuring Birmingham Creatives ranging from local designers, artists, writers, producers and film makers, to celebrity status figures such as Jasper Carrott, Patti Bell, Glynn Purnell and Brian Travers. The exhibition aims to celebrate the rich creative talent that Birmingham produces. **It will take place from 8th-18th May at Stryx Gallery, Digbeth.** The exhibition is partnered with the Birmingham Loves Photographers Spring/Summer Programme which is funded by the Arts Council.

About Smokeshow Images

SmokeShow Images is a collaboration between photographer, Ian Davies and award winning stylist, Sy Anne Holden.

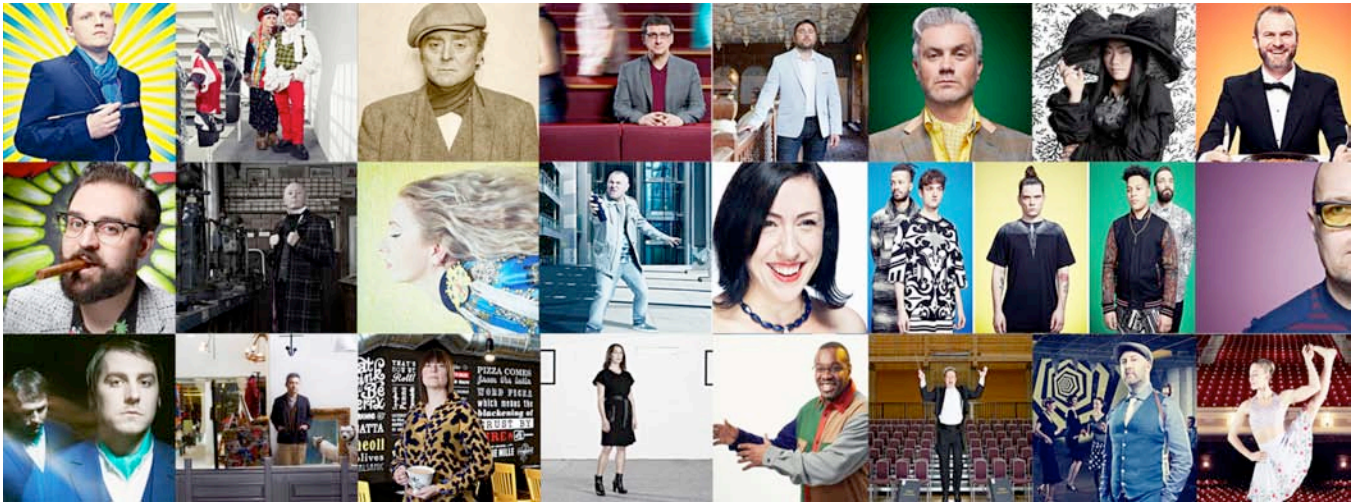
Having initially been required to shoot some portraits of local creative industry professionals, the pair saw the opportunity to produce a wider project, not only to develop their creative working relationship but to look into the many colourful characters that are based in Birmingham and surrounding areas.

From artistic direction and styling, through to post production, SmokeShow take a light-hearted approach to documenting and celebrating Brum’s Creatives.



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About Ian

Ian was runner up in Marketing Birmingham’s young photographer of the year in 2006 and went on to gain a 1st class honours degree from BCU in 2009. Having produced a range of work for commercial and editorial clients, working on a project of this nature has allowed him to develop a visual style that is colorful, striking and a little bit cheeky.

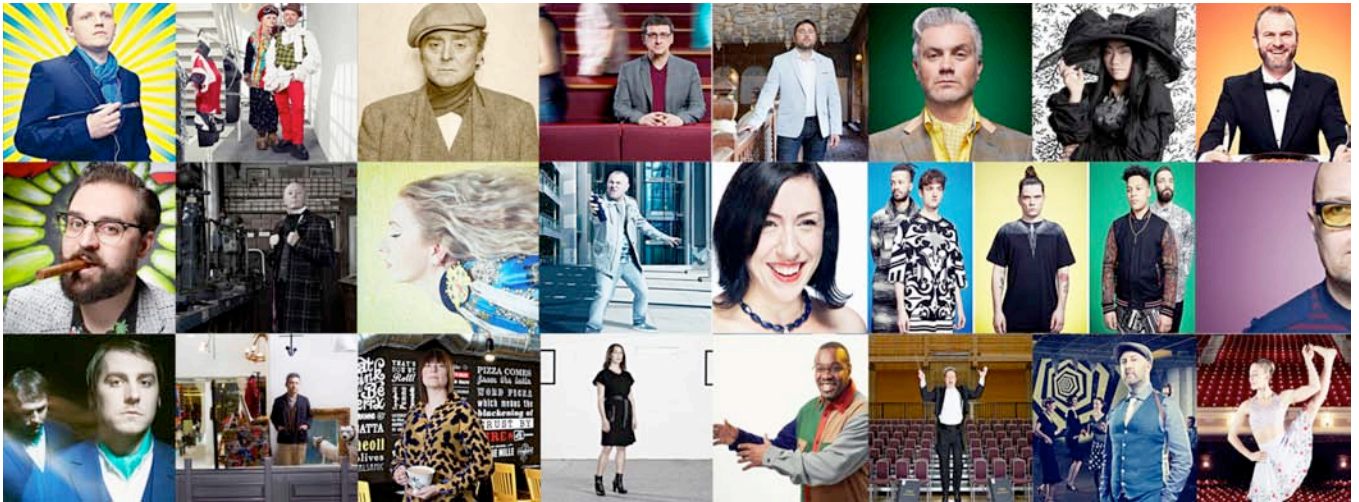
About Sy-Anne

Having come from a background in marketing, Sy-Anne has been working towards a career in styling for the last 3 years. With a focus on local designers and local independent stores, she became the *Midlands Fashion Awards Stylist of The Year* in 2013.

About Birmingham Loves Photographers

Birmingham Loves Photographers is a network and hub for photography run by Creative Producer Jenny Duffin. It is a space to promote Birmingham & West Midlands based photographers of all styles, both amateur and professional. It produces lectures, workshops and projects for fellow camera lovers to connect with others and improve their skills. Birmingham Loves Photographers supports and presents this exhibition of work as part of an Arts Council funded 6 month Spring/Summer programme.





What the sitters say:

“In an age of digital democracy, where anyone can be a photographer, the care, attention with which the cultural sector is captured in this work is impressive. Ian approaches this group through his own creative lens, evoking something of their essence as well as his own flair and expertise. Sy-Anne’s sartorial choices only add to the striking portraits.”

Professor Paul Long, Reader in Media and Cultural History at Birmingham City University.

“I was initially approached by SmokeShow at the beginning of the project. From the outset, Sy-Anne and Ian’s creative project sounded really exciting. Their ideas and enthusiasm were impressive. It was a pleasure working with them on the shoot. As well as being really professional, we had loads of fun. It has been brilliant watching the whole project evolve and I am honoured to be part of it. The images are a fantastic portrayal of Birmingham personalities.”

Glynn Purnell, Michelin Starred Chef, Purnell’s.

Notes to the Editor:

1) The exhibition takes place between 8th-18th May at Stryx Gallery, 13 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, West Midlands B5 5RS.

2) Press and contributor Launch - Thursday 8th May 6-9pm

3) Private/invite only launch Friday 9th May 6-9pm

4) There will be artist talks on Saturday 10th May 2-3pm and Thursday 15th May 6-7pm.

5) For more information, quotes or images contact either:

Sy Anne Holden: info@bysy.co.uk

Ian Davies: info@iandaviesphoto.com

Jenny Duffin: birminghamlovesphotographers@gmail.com or jenny.duffin@hotmail.co.uk

5) This exhibition is part funded and fully supported by Birmingham Loves Photographers and the recent Arts Council Grant For The Arts it received to produce a Spring/Summer Programme.