



PRESS RELEASE

Amber Film & Photography Collective is awarded a £236,615 National Lottery grant to preserve and celebrate the social and industrial heritage of the North East

Amber Film & Photography Collective, the parent organisation of Side Gallery, has received a grant of £236,615 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting heritage project, Transforming Amber: Building a Resilient Future in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Made possible by National Lottery players, the project focuses on safeguarding the Amberside collection by developing a new business model and new ways to generate income for the organisation to become financially sustainable.

Over 12 months the project will explore new partnerships with working photographers and the North East arts community to make the unique collection more accessible to a wider audience through exhibitions, events and a publicly accessible catalogue.

The Heritage Fund grant will put Amber Film & Photography Collective on the path to reopening the gallery which closed in 2023, but it won't be business as usual; instead, they plan to forge a new direction that is mindful of their humanist principles.

Laura Laffler, Managing Director, at Amber Film & Photography Collective said:

We are thrilled to launch this program that will rejuvenate Amber and ensure its sustainability in the future. We have reached this point thanks to the 2,000 individuals who donated to the SaveSide Campaign. With their generous support, we were able to retain a small part-time team to manage the archive, continue the education program in local schools, and apply for crucial funding from National Lottery players.

Helen Featherstone, Director, England, North at The National Lottery Heritage Fund said: "Thanks to National Lottery players we are delighted to award this grant that will support work towards a strong and resilient future for the Amber Film & Photography Collective whose collection truly spotlights the rich working class and industrial heritage of the North East.

It is wonderful to know that through our support they will be able to preserve this unique archive and share its fascinating stories for generations to come."

SIDE
GALLERY



Step by Step, 1983 © Sirkka-Liisa Kontinen

SIDE
GALLERY



Step by Step, 1983 © Sirikka-Liisa Konttinen

About Side Gallery

Side Gallery exhibits the best in contemporary and historical documentary photography.

Opened on Newcastle's quayside in 1977 by the Amber Film & Photography Collective, it has brought the work of many of the worlds most renowned and celebrated photographers to the region for all to enjoy for free, as well as supporting and promoting the work of emerging documentarians.

Amber and Side Gallery are also funded by: Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Arts Council England, Archives Revealed, and the Community Foundation.

SIDE GALLERY



For more information on the history of Side Gallery visit: www.amberonline.com

Website: www.amberside.org

Facebook: [@SideGallery](https://www.facebook.com/SideGallery)

Instagram: [@amber_sidegallery](https://www.instagram.com/amber_sidegallery)

Twitter: [@SideGallery](https://twitter.com/SideGallery)

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

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Further information

For press images, further information, and interview requests please contact:

side.gallery@amber-online.com