

SIDE

AMBERSIDE

AmberSide Trust
Charity #: 1160760

Website: sidegallery.co.uk
Instagram: @amber_sidegallery
Facebook: SideGallery
X: @sidegallery
BlueSky: @sidegallery.bsky.social



15th July, 2026

National Lottery Heritage Fund support secures major new public future for the AmberSide Collection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - The AmberSide Trust, one of the UK's most significant documentary and film collections has received £242,508 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for Relocating Amber, a major new project that will protect the world-renowned AmberSide Collection while expanding public access to it across the North East.

The project will bring one of the UK's most significant documentary photography and film collections on loan to Newcastle University's Special Collections, enabling people to encounter the Collection through exhibitions, screenings, education and community programmes across the region.

Built over more than five decades, the AmberSide Collection contains more than 20,000 photographs, around 100 films and extensive paper and digital archives documenting working class communities, mining, shipyards, housing, protest, youth culture, family, migration and everyday life across the North East and beyond. Key elements of the Collection were inscribed onto UNESCO's UK Memory of the World Register in 2011.

Under the custodianship of Newcastle University Special Collections, the preservation of the Collection will be supported within specialist archival facilities, whilst opening the works up to new opportunities for public access, research, teaching and engagement through Newcastle University Library.

At the same time, Side, the delivery team for the AmberSide Trust's exhibitions, will expand the screening and public programmes through collaborations throughout the North East. Rather than being centred in a single venue, Side and its partners will bring photographs, films and local histories directly into the communities they were made with and about, through exhibitions, screenings, talks and events across the region.

The project will also create new pathways for photographers, artists, filmmakers and heritage practitioners. From Side's new curatorial office at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, practitioners will be able to access the Trust's reference library, and receive portfolio reviews and project advice, supporting the development of new documentary work rooted in place, research and social engagement.

Amber Education will continue to use the Collection in classrooms, connecting children and young people with local history, place and lived experience through inter-generational community projects centred around photography and film.

Laura Laffler, Managing Director of the AmberSide Trust said: "The AmberSide Collection was built through long-term relationships with communities across the North East. This project protects that work for the future while opening up new ways for people to encounter and use the stories it contains. Through collaboration with Newcastle University, Side's regional programme, Amber Education and our new

curatorial office, we can care for the Collection properly while sharing it more widely and supporting the next generation of documentary practitioners."

Jill Taylor-Roe, Director of Academic Services and the Newcastle University Library said: *"Newcastle University is proud to partner with Amber to safeguard their incredible archive, which has documented and celebrated working-class culture for more than fifty years. Our nationally accredited archive service will curate the collection to ensure that future generations may benefit from access to these resources. We look forward to enabling wider community engagement with the archive and are excited by the opportunities that will be afforded to students and researchers through having enhanced access to this iconic collection."*

Helen Featherstone, Director, England, North at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: *"Preserving heritage is very important to us at The National Lottery Heritage Fund and we're proud to be able to support the safeguarding of this incredibly significant collection thanks to National Lottery players. Working with Newcastle University, it is fantastic news that AmberSide Trust will unlock many new opportunities for the public to engage with this important archive that showcases and celebrates the wonderful heritage of the North East."*

Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. Relocating Amber is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, Relocating Amber will support collections care, conservation rehousing, archive integration, digital access, education activity, practitioner development and a new programme of exhibitions, screenings and public events across the North East.

This project marks a major new public chapter for the AmberSide Collection, protecting a nationally significant archive while ensuring stories of working-class life, community memory and social change remain public, local and active.

- ENDS -

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

AmberSide Trust: side.gallery@amber-online.com

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The AmberSide Trust

The AmberSide Trust is a registered charity (No. 1160760) based in the North East of England. It preserves and conserves the AmberSide Collection and supports public access to it through Side's exhibitions, education, community and public programmes.

It remains a fully independent body working in partnership with organisations, such as Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and Newcastle University Special Collections.

The Collection grew out of the work of the Amber Film & Photography Collective, founded in 1968, and Side, which opened on Newcastle's Quayside in 1977 as a home for humanist documentary photography and film. Across more than five decades, Amber and Side have produced, commissioned, collected and presented work rooted in long-term relationships with working-class communities in the North East, across Britain and internationally.

The AmberSide Collection comprises more than 20,000 photographs, 100 films and 10,000 slides, spanning historic and contemporary documentary work. It includes major bodies of work by Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen, Tish Murtha, Chris Killip, Graham Smith, John Davies, Ian Macdonald, Mik Critchlow and Alys Tomlinson, alongside photographs by internationally significant figures including Diane Arbus, Weegee, Bill Brandt, Don McCullin, Susan Meiselas, Graciela Iturbide, Robert Doisneau, Abbas, Lewis Hine, August Sander, Walker Evans, Tina Modotti, Berenice Abbott, Shahidul Alam, and Newsha Tavakolian.

In 2011, Amber's films and Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen's photographs were inscribed on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register as being of "outstanding national value and importance to the United Kingdom". Through The AmberSide Trust, the AmberSide Collection is protected by an asset lock, meaning it will remain intact and accessible in the North East of England.

sidegallery.co.uk

Facebook: @SideGallery / Instagram: @amber_sidegallery / Bluesky: @sidegallery.bsy.social /
X: @SideGallery / LinkedIn: @side-gallery

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art is a major international centre for art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. It has welcomed over 10 million visitors since opening in July 2002. Baltic presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of temporary exhibitions and events and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art. Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, Baltic houses 2,600 square metres of art space, making it one of Europe's largest dedicated contemporary art institutions.

Baltic has exhibited the work of over 877 artists of 78 nationalities in 266 exhibitions to date including Joy Labinjo, Hew Locke, Heather Phillipson, Antony Gormley, Cornelia Parker, Daniel Buren, Lubaina Himid, Steve McQueen, Jenny Holzer, Judy Chicago, Lorna Simpson, Imran Perretta, Huma Bhabha and John Akomfrah.

Newcastle University

Newcastle University, UK, is a thriving international community of more than 28,000 students from over 130 countries worldwide.

As a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities in the UK, Newcastle has a world-class reputation for research excellence in the fields of medicine, science and engineering, social sciences and the humanities.

Its academics are sharply focused on responding to the major challenges facing society today. Research and teaching are world-leading in areas as diverse as health, culture, technology and the environment. Newcastle is committed to providing students with excellent, research-led teaching delivered by dedicated and passionate teachers.

Newcastle University is placed 36th in the QS World University Rankings: Europe 2026, 137th in the QS World Ranking 2026 and joint 144th in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2026. Newcastle University is Top 100 in the world for sustainable development in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.

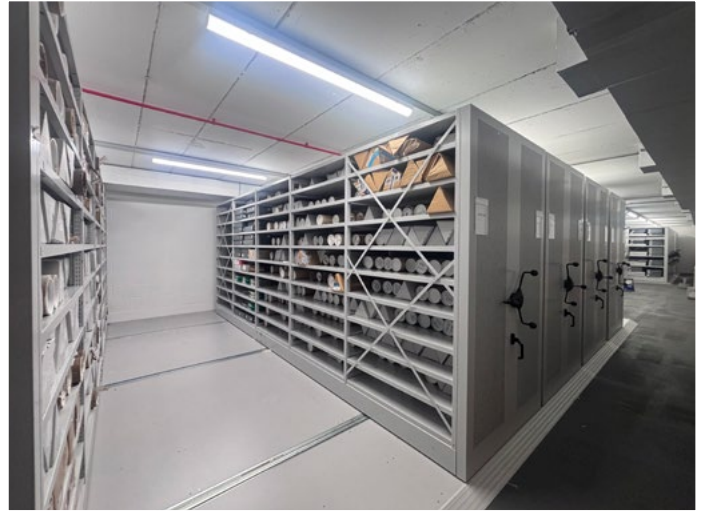
heritagefund.org.uk Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter/X, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLottery #HeritageFund



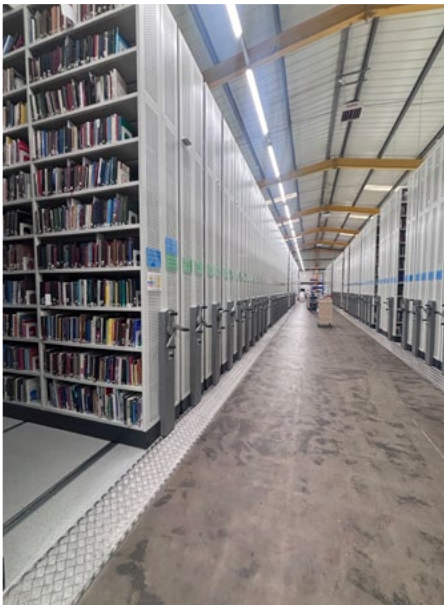
AVAILABLE IMAGES - NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:



1. Newcastle University Special Collections Store, 2026, Courtesy of Newcastle University



2. Newcastle University Special Collections Store, 2026, Courtesy of Newcastle University



4. Newcastle University Special Collections Store, 2026, Courtesy of Newcastle University



5. Newcastle University Special Collections Store, 2026, Courtesy of Newcastle University



6. Newcastle University Special Collections Store, 2026, Courtesy of Newcastle University

AVAILABLE IMAGES - BALTIC CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART:



*Baltic Square View
Courtesy of Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art*



*River Tyne View
Courtesy of Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art*



*Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art
©Graham Peacock,
Courtesy of Baltic Centre for Contemporary art*



*Bridge Approach
Courtesy of Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art*

AVAILABLE IMAGES - THE AMBERSIDE COLLECTION:



Dorman Long Collection - Building the Tyne Bridge, 1927, Courtesy of AmberSide Collection



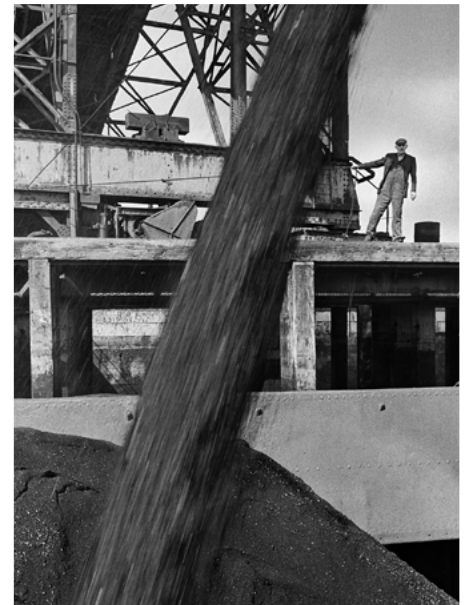
*Shipbuilding on the Tyne - Section in "Fab" Shed, 1983
© Bruce Rae, Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*



*Harry Morrison Collection,
The Flour Mill, Gateshead, 1953
© Harry Morrison
Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*



*Jungle Portraits, 1980
© Izabela Jedrzejczyk
Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*



*River Project - Coal Staiths of the
River Tyne, 1973
© Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen
Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*

AVAILABLE IMAGES - FROM THE AMBERSIDE COLLECTION (CONTINUED):



*Farewell Squalor, 2001/02 ©Sally-Ann Norman,
Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*



*Unclear Family: Crook International Photography
Workshop ©Miriam Reik,
Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*



*Interiors: Children from a Juvenile Jazz Band,
St. Christophers Way, North Shields, May 1981
© Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen
Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*



*Surviving on Darlington's Shop Floors:
Morrisons of North Road, 1980/81 ©Richard Grassick
Courtesy of AmberSide Collection*