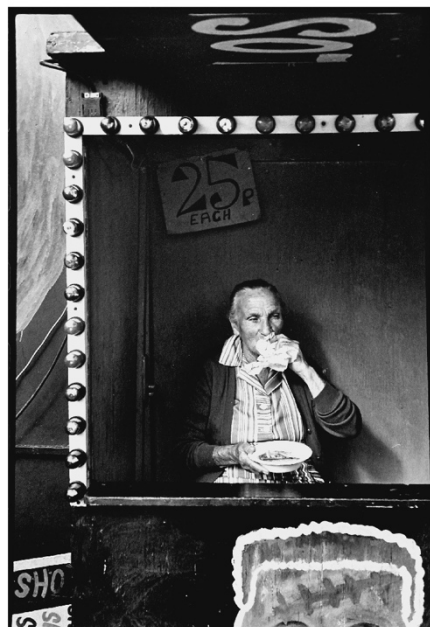


# Roger George Clark – The World of Yesterday

8 December 2023 – 3 February 2024 / Aperture Gallery

Opening reception: 6.30 pm, Thursday, 7 December, 2023



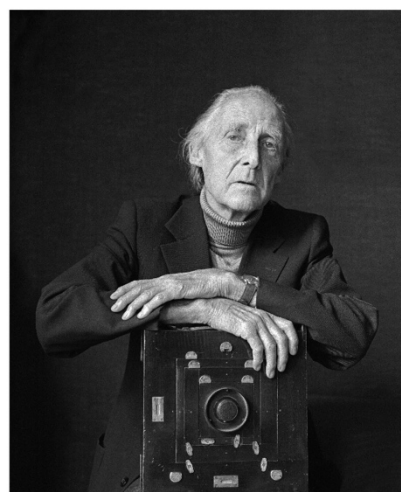
Roger George Clark, *Richmond Fair Grounds*  
© Roger George Clark Archive / Hulton Archive Getty Images

Aperture Gallery is delighted to present the new photographic exhibition “Roger George Clark – The World of Yesterday,” which will showcase the photographer’s achievements in different genres.

Roger George Clark (b. 1943) is an English photographer and former BBC broadcaster. Inspired by finding a copy of Cecil Beaton’s *Photobiography* in a local library at an early age, Clark decided to pursue his interest in photography. From early snap shots in Battersea Park to photographing some of the world’s most famous photographers including Norman Parkinson, David Bailey, Jane Bown, as well as artists and personalities including, Henry Moore, Graham Sutherland and J. B. Priestley. Clark’s collection of 150,000 negatives and associated materials is now part of the Hulton Archive – Getty Images.

School in Battersea. His portraits of school life were included in the school magazine *The Portcullis*. A contemporary of Clark’s at Emanuel was photographer Mick Rock, (the man who shot the 70s), but their paths didn’t cross in later life. In the 1960s and early 1970s, Clark went to the Greek islands, the Isle of Wight and Malta and took photo essays of the islands in the style of J. Allan Cash, a travel photographer and another of Clark’s early inspirations. Initially training as a teacher, Clark decided to work for the Focal Press and

Clark began taking photographs whilst a student of Emanuel



Roger George Clark, *Bill Brandt*  
© Roger George Clark Archive / Hulton Archive Getty Images

between 1971-73 as

Production Editor of the Observer Colour Magazine. Joining local radio in the early 1970s Clark began a career as a broadcaster and producer working for BBC Radio London, the World Service and BBC Radio Four up until the mid-1990s.



Roger George Clark, *Norman Parkinson*  
© Roger George Clark Archive / Hulton Archive Getty Images

In the mid-1970s Clark began photographing mid-twentieth century personalities, principally people who had been famous in the inter-war years including the entertainer Gracie Fields and

the inventor Barnes Wallis. Then in the late 1970s Clark began a series of interviews and portraits for *The British Journal of Photography*. For this series he interviewed and photographed David Bailey, Sir Cecil Beaton, Jane Bown, Bill Brandt, André Kertész, Jacques-Henri Lartigue, Angus McBean, Don McCullin, Norman Parkinson, Lord Snowdon, among others. Taking the advice of David Bailey to buy an Olympus camera, Clark moved from medium format work - he used a Rolleiflex twin-lens camera for most of his portraits of photographers - to 35mm format. In the 1980s, between being a full-time broadcaster and producer, Clark made extensive photo essays of the last years of Soviet Russia, Oxford, Henley Royal Regatta, fun fairs and European cities including Amsterdam, Paris and Rome. Clark photographed mainly using black and white film, but there are small selections of colour work he made in Venice, Rome and elsewhere.



Roger George Clark, *Henley Royal Regatta*  
© Roger George Clark Archive / Hulton Archive Getty Images



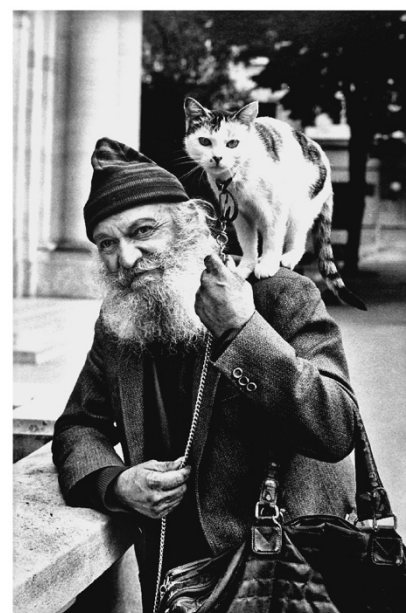
Roger George Clark, *Richmond Fair Grounds*  
© Roger George Clark Archive / Hulton Archive Getty Images

In 1986, Clark had a one-man show at the National Theatre with 25 portraits and 25 photos of Henley Royal Regatta on display. This exhibition at the Aperture Gallery marks the first time since 1986 that Clark's work has been shown in the UK. Pre-pandemic there was an exhibition in Kronstadt, Russia, of his Soviet Russia photo essay, some 12,000 photographs made between 1986 and 1992.

Over 30 portraits Clark made in the 1970s were acquired for the National Portrait Gallery's permanent collection in the early 1980s.

As a BBC radio broadcaster and producer, Clark's time was short but he managed to take his cameras with him and documented behind the scenes, making photographs of fellow broadcasters including John Snagge, with whom he worked closely on the Boat Race and John Snagge's London, (Snagge announced to the nation that the Allied armies had landed in northern France on D-Day), the disc jockey Tony Blackburn and the radio and television broadcaster Michael Aspel. He also photographed on the set of the 1977 James Bond film *The Spy Who Loved Me*, including Roger Moore and Barbara Bach whilst being interviewed by John Snagge, in addition to former prime ministers Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher. From the 1960s he also photographed members of the Royal Family at various state occasions and during royal visits.

Clark has produced several books of his work including: *Chelsea Today*; *Richmond Today* (both titles published by Robert Hale); *Henley – The Regatta*, with Dan Topolski (John Murray); *Perfect England – The Isle of Wight in the 1960s* (The



Roger George Clark, *Paris*  
© Roger George Clark Archive / Hulton Archive Getty Images

Dovecote Press), as well as a Café Royal book on *Richmond's Magical Funfairs 1980s*. A new book, *A Candid Camera in 1980s Oxford*, is forthcoming.

In April 2013 the Royal Mail produced a Norman Parkinson stamp, colourising Clark's portrait of the fashion photographer. Clark's work has also appeared in numerous magazine articles since the 1960s, including *Amateur Photographer*, *The British Journal of Photography*, *The Telegraph* weekend magazine and others.

Clark's photographic style was inspired and has been likened to a continuation of the *Picture Post* Magazine aesthetic - the popular weekly photo news magazine which was produced between 1938 and 1957. Whilst *Picture Post* closed its doors in the late 50s, it was photographers like Clark who continued to photograph subjects in the photo journalistic style of those times through to the 1990s.

In the early 2000s, Clark discovered small digital cameras and embarked on documenting London, his home town. His digital work runs into hundreds of thousands of images made between the early 2000s and last decade but it is Clark's analogue years that this exhibition focuses on.

You can see more of Roger George Clark's work on his archive's Instagram account: @rogergclarkarchive

This exhibition is curated by Dan Kirmatzis.

### **Curator's Talk**

6.30 – 8.30 pm / Wednesday, 24 January 2024

Dan Kirmatzis, a close friend of Roger Clark's and the curator of this exhibition, will talk about Clark's work. This event is free to attend and there is no need for RSVP.

### **Print Sales**

The prints offered for sale in this exhibition were all printed by Roger Clark in his south London darkroom between the 1970s and 1990s. The photographer made a number of prints of each sitter or scene he photographed. Each print comes with an official archive stamp and frame especially crafted by Clapham Picture Framers for this occasion. Please send an inquiry to [gallery@apertureuk.com](mailto:gallery@apertureuk.com) for further details.

### **Aperture Gallery**

(Basement level of Aperture UK)

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London W1W 7DT  
Tel. 020 7436 9844  
<http://apertureuk.com>

### **Opening Hours**

Tuesday – Saturday	12 – 6 pm
Mon/Sun/Bank holidays	closed

### **Press/sales Contact**

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