

This is Whitechapel

Much like today, east London in the 1970s was undergoing rapid social and economic change. As the established Jewish community moved away and a south Asian population took their place, the Whitechapel Gallery commissioned leading British photographer **Ian Berry**, to document this period of transition.

A member of the photojournalist organisation Magnum, Berry had established a reputation for his street photography. He captured a now distant history of iconic local landmarks and people who lived in Whitechapel and Spitalfields to create a major exhibition. Alongside Berry's photographs were works by photographers **John Donat** and **Ron MacCormick**, as well as projects by local schools.

At the same time, numerous self-organised and politically concerned creative groups produced challenging work, drawn mainly from their experiences of living and working in east London.

The Basement Film Project and Basement Writers are representative examples of the diverse local groups.

Taking *This is Whitechapel* in 1972 as its impetus, this archive exhibition revisits the historical commission and presents works which were produced at the time. *Tunde's Film* 1973, directed and produced by **Maggie Pinhorn** and **Tunde Ikoli**, together with the publications produced by the **Basement Writers** and **Ian Berry's** photographs present different facets of the creative activity taking place in east London in the 1970s.

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