

Darkness in the Golden Land

Humanity and Inhumanity in the State of Burma

Dean Chapman

Saturday 1 December to Sunday 27 January

A land of stunning temples and pagodas, immense natural resources and an ambitious population, Burma has been rendered by successive dictatorships one of the world's poorest nations. Oppression is all-pervasive, torture an everyday occurrence. Gatherings of more than five are forbidden. A license is required to own a typewriter. Guests cannot stay at a friend's home unless the authorities are informed. Farmers may need a pass to visit and work in their fields. The military requisitions land and property at will. Forced, unpaid labour amounts to institutionalised slavery. The nation's universities have been closed for most of the past decade. Even primary schools have been closed down at the slightest sign of unrest. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate, is again under house arrest.

Cover image: 13 year old Karenni Army soldier on the front line



Lacking medication, a child malaria victim is coated with wet towels



I find it impossible to be 'objective' in my approach to the joys, desperation and terrifying fear that the peoples of Burma experience. It is the indomitable spirit, their kindness, determination and humanity that motivates me to persevere with my documentation of these people's endless suffering. Dean Chapman

Reporting Human Rights

Dean Chapman discusses the difficulties presented when a country's continuing abuses slip down the news agenda.

Tuesday 4 December, Side Gallery, 6pm • FREE

Reporting Burma

In a collaboration with Tyneside Radical Film Festival, Dean Chapman introduces an evening of recent documentaries about the struggle of the Burmese people.

Wednesday 16 January, Side Cinema, 8pm • FREE

(Donations to TRFF welcome)

First Sight

Children's Photographs from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal,

Palestine & Lebanon, Kenya, Brazil and Guatemala

Saturday 2 February to Sunday 17 March

Throughout the world, the camera is being used to allow children to present their own visions of the way they live. This Side originated exhibition looks at emerging practice across a number of long-term projects. The children explore their environments unhampered by the restrictions or the assumptions made by adults and non-indigenous documentarists. Enthralled and enthused by the photographic process, they portray everyday difficulties and joys with a knowledge and understanding that only they possess. The resulting images are both a celebration of empowerment and a rich expression of their hopes, dreams and needs.



Here I am, a refugee, but I don't want to be. I want to fly. Photo: Aila Moya (Nepal)

This exhibition was developed in close liaison with Photovoice, a London-based organisation working internationally to provide photographic training for people whose views are marginalised. The individual workshop leaders involved come variously from backgrounds in photography and development work: **Anna Blackman** (Vietnam), **Drik** agency (Bangladesh), **Tiffany Fairey** (Nepal), **Peter Fryer** (Palestine/Lebanon), **Lana Wong** (Kenya), **Julian Germaine** (Brazil) and **Nancy McGirr** (Guatemala).

In a Child's Eye

A day of talks and discussions exploring approaches to photography work with children, speakers to include **Anna Blackman** and **Tiffany Fairey** (co-founders of *Photovoice*), **Peter Fryer** (Save the Children UK, *Eye to Eye*) and **Richard Grassick** (*Stepping Up*, a project with children in the Durham Dales).

Saturday 2 March, Side Cinema, 10am to 4pm • £6 (£3.50) incl. lunch

The edge of my world. Photo: Nisreen (Palestinian refugee camp, Lebanon)

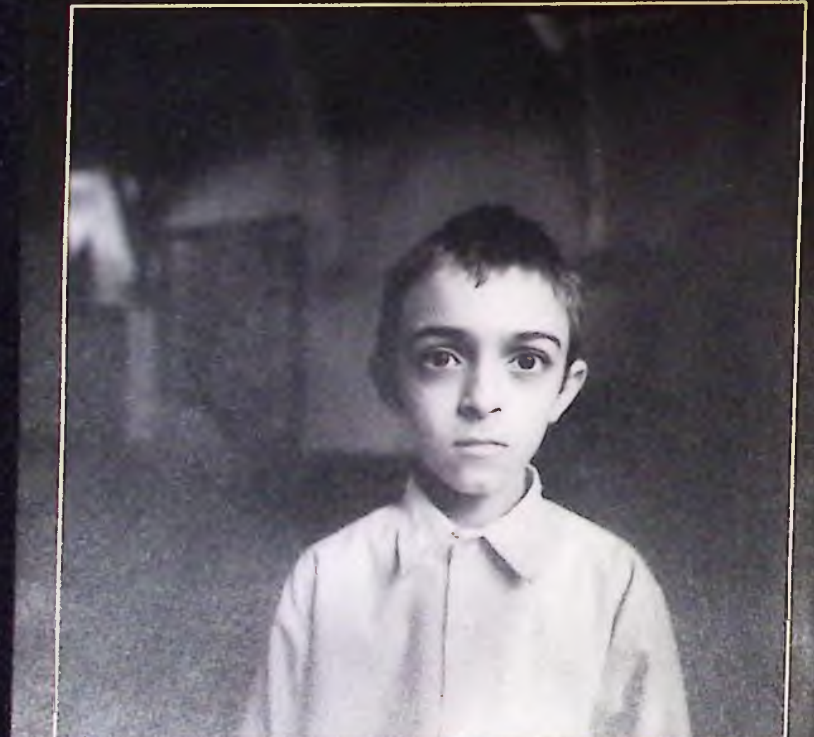


Primary

Clement Cooper

Saturday 23 March to Sunday 5 May

A series of large-scale black and white images of primary school children in Birmingham, Manchester and Preston, the exhibition moves beyond conventional child portraiture. At the same time confident and vulnerable, innocent and aware, his subjects challenge our assumptions about what it feels like, growing up against the backdrop of prevailing social definitions and ambiguities of class, race, childhood and adulthood.



The work, developed over a series of residencies, was three years in the making. Always using natural light and the child's own familiar locations, the photographs reveal Cooper's patience: waiting for the children to ignore the distractions of their friends, waiting for the posed smile to drop, waiting for the moment.

Primary

An audio-visual presentation and discussion of his photographs with Clement Cooper

Tuesday 26 March, Side Gallery, 6pm • FREE



Side Gallery

Committed to documentary in the tradition of the concerned photographer, the gallery exhibits international, national and regional work, drawing both on current and historical practice. Side is also committed to a continual programme of new production, currently focused on an exploration of post-industrial experience in County Durham. Side is always open to approaches by new photographers.

Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Sunday 11am to 5pm

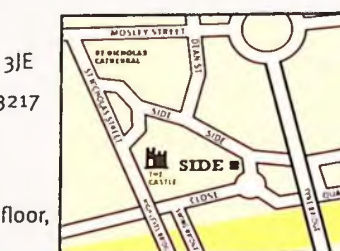
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www.amber-online.com

The gallery is situated on the first floor, above Newcastle Bookshop.



Side Cinema

This accessible 52 seat cinema is now host to exciting programmes by two independent groups.

Cineside

is a new film club, which, on Sunday evenings in December will be showing *Dr Strangelove* (2nd), *Dawn of the Dead* (9th) and *My Life as a Dog* (16th). Showings are at 5.45pm and 7.45pm. Membership costs £12 (£10) per ten films. Contact Christo Wallers or Mat Fleming on 0191 233 0405 or email cineside@hotmail.com.

Tyneside Radical Film Festival

presents talks, radical films, shorts and documentaries that aim to inform and inspire action. On Wednesday 12 December, at 8pm, it is showing *Zapatistas*. Events are free, but donations are welcome.

Contact Paul on 0191 272 4635

or email paul.chatterton@ncl.ac.uk.



SIDE

Photographic Gallery

December 2001 to May 2002

