

Daniel Meadows

Photographer, documentarian and digital storyteller Daniel Meadows (b. 1952) has spent a lifetime recording British society, challenging the status quo by working in a collaborative way to capture extraordinary aspects of ordinary life through pictures, audio recordings and short movies.

He is best known for his 1973-74 journey around England in the *Free Photographic Omnibus* when he travelled 10,000 miles in a converted double-decker and made 958 portraits in "free studio" sessions on the streets of 22 different British towns and cities. This is a project he revisited in the 1990s, photographing again some of the subjects of those portraits for his widely published series *National Portraits: Now & Then*.

His pioneering community storytelling project *BBC Capture Wales* (2001-08) encouraged many hundreds of people across Wales to embrace the arrival of the digital age in pop-up workshops by making their own two minutes of TV, framing their memories and pictures into digital stories, "multimedia sonnets from the people". *Capture Wales* won a BAFTA Cymru in 2002.

Meadows taught the documentary photography course with David Hurn in Newport (1983-94); also photojournalism (1994-2001) and digital storytelling (2000-2012) at Cardiff School of Journalism, Media & Cultural Studies where he also completed his PhD (2005). In the 1990s he taught photojournalism workshops in the emerging democracies of eastern Europe, also in India and Bangladesh. After 2000 he travelled repeatedly to Australia and the USA lecturing about his pioneering work in participatory media.

His photographs and (more recently) his short films have been exhibited widely both in the UK and on the continent of Europe. Solo shows include ICA London (1975), The Photographers' Gallery London (1987), National Media Museum Bradford (2011). Group shows include Serpentine Gallery London (1973) and Tate Britain (2007).

His books include:

*Living Like This – Around Britain in the Seventies* (1975)

*Nattering In Paradise – A Word from the Suburbs* (1987)

*National Portraits – Photographs from the 1970s* (1997)

*The Bus – The Free Photographic Omnibus 1973-2001* (2001)

A detailed and scholarly overview of his early work, *Daniel Meadows: Edited Photographs from the 70s and 80s* by Val Williams, was published in 2011.

His photo-essays done in the industrial north of England in the 1970s are celebrated in the Café Royal Books boxed set edition *Eight Stories* (2015).

The Daniel Meadows Archive was acquired by the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford in March 2018.