

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
December 1990

## FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION** **BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE THATCHER YEARS**
- DATES** February 14 - April 30, 1991
- ORGANIZATION** Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art
- CONTENT** Since 1979, with the election of Margaret Thatcher, there has been a new approach to social documentary photography among a postwar generation of British artists. The exhibition features seventy-five photographs by John Davies, Paul Graham, Chris Killip, Martin Parr, and Graham Smith. These photographers are directed by individual intuitions about complex social problems, having lost faith in the simpler solutions and programmatic political stances of traditional documentarians.
- Davies's black-and-white photographs depict the uneasy relationship between the bucolic English countryside and its cities and towns, a landscape in constant transition. In Graham's work, a series titled *In Umbra Res (In the Shadow of It)*, expressionistic color portraits and still lifes convey the omnipresent tension of life in Northern Ireland. Killip's black-and-white photographs, selected from his book *In Flagrate*, portray the townspeople of Newcastle, a post-industrial city in northeast England. Parr's vivid color images of Britain's burgeoning middle class are characterized by a dry sense of humor consistent with the country's satirical literary tradition. Smith photographs friends and relatives at work, on the street, and in the local pubs of Middlesbrough, a depressed community in northeast England.
- PUBLICATION** *British Photography from the Thatcher Years* by Susan Kismaric. 48 pages. 48 illustrations, including 30 color plates. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Paperbound, \$17.95; available in The MoMA Book Store.
- TRAVEL** A tour is planned.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9750. No. 120