

CIARA LEEMING

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I'm a freelance photographer, writer, researcher, editor, and multimedia producer. My background is in newspaper reporting but my practice now also includes documentary work, lecturing and running participatory workshops. I balance commissions with independent projects, and the current focus of my personal work is Romani migration to the UK. I have a strong interest in challenging social exclusion and visual stereotypes through personal storytelling, and have a track record at forming artistic collaborations with groups often labelled as hard to reach. As well as Roma I have worked with indigenous Gypsies and Travellers, asylum seekers, young carers and homeless adults.

PARTICIPATORY WORK

Artistic collaboration with Ramona Constantin, Roma migrant, and others. Jan 2011-present
Self-initiated documentary project which used participatory research methods to develop a fresh and unusual piece of work about Ramona's life. The resulting book, *Elvira and Me*, was published by The Big Issue in the North Trust and sent to MPs, think tanks and others to raise awareness of Roma issues. My project has now expanded to include other Roma families, thanks to support from Arts Council England and Side Gallery. Please see <http://www.theromaproject.com>

Roma Matrix, Jan 2014-present. I am a creative partner on this Salford University-led research project, which is mentoring three Roma adults in Manchester to document stories of interest to their community.

Roma Source/Migration Yorkshire, Harehills Primary School, Leeds. July 2012
Facilitated workshops with Roma children aged 6-11. Using materials generated through fun activities, I created short films exploring their lives in Leeds which are being used as a tool of advocacy.

Creative Partnerships, St Anne's RC Primary School, Ancoats, Manchester. April 2011
Over the course of a term I worked with a class of year fives (aged 10) to produce a newspaper, with the aim of increasing their media literacy and writing. They interviewed a police officer, local historians and engineers working on a nearby tram-extension project and wrote up the stories. The newspaper which I designed can be viewed here: http://issuu.com/ciaraleeming/docs/sentinel_low_res

JOURNALISTIC WORK

Freelance writer, editor, photographer and educator since 2006. Clients include *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue in the North*, Save the Children, Action Aid, Newsweek, BBC, *Gay Times*, Al Jazeera, Council of Europe, Roma Education Fund, Salford Council, University of Salford, Al Jazeera English, You Magazine. Since 2007 I have cover edited *The Big Issue in the North* for about four weeks a year.

Independent documentary projects: 2006 onwards, Streetfighters; 2010 onwards, Roma Britain

Visiting lecturer in photojournalism at the University of Chester, 2013 & 2014.
Photography/writing/multimedia/visual research workshops for the University of Manchester's MA visual anthropology (2012-14), London College of Communication (2013-14) Manchester College (2013), Uclan (2013). Talks about my photography at the Universities of Falmouth and Huddersfield, Roma Source, Look13 Photo Festival, Side Gallery, Miniclick at White Cloth Gallery and other events.

Part-time news reporter, Manchester Evening News, 2006 – 2008

Investigations reporter, North West Enquirer, 2006 – 2006

Chief reporter & news editor, Evening Leader, 2004 – 2006

Freelance arts and music writer, 2002 – 2004

AWARDS, GRANTS, COMMISSIONS & COLLABORATIONS

2014: Roma images and book in *From Extra to Ordinary* show at Romanian Cultural Centre, London.
2014: Portrait commission from DaDaFest for *Working Lives* exhibition, Liverpool.
2014: Artist in residence, University of Salford school of arts and media.
2014: Publication of *Travellers' Tales*, a book I edited in collaboration with nun Sister Carmel Clancy.
2013: *Stay Where There Are Songs* exhibition at Side Gallery, Newcastle, October-December. Prints now in Side archive. 18-month project on a Czech Roma family, funded via a Homelands Commission.
2013: Here Heard, multimedia collaboration with a radio producer to explore Manchester's migrant communities through their shops. Ongoing.
2012: The Big Issue in the North Trust sponsored a 1,000-copy book run of *Elvira and Me*
2012: Arts Council England Grants for the Arts award towards Roma Britain project.
2011: Oriel Wrexham commission and exhibition documenting changes in the community of Hightown.
2011: Amnesty Media Awards, honourable mention in the digital innovations category, for Streetfighters (personal project on the human cost of urban regeneration <http://streetfightersproject.wordpress.com/>).
2011: Shortlisted in International Street Paper Awards, *Roma and Proud*
2011: Lipman-Miliband Trust grant for Roma photography project which became *Elvira and Me*
2011: Transition, a collaborative show at Look11 photo festival, Liverpool. Outside exhibition featured large poster prints pasted on the exterior of shipping containers
2010: Collaborated with Inspired Youth on *Young Carers Revolution* participatory film project and mental health arts project in Stockton-on-Tees
2010: BlowUp! Street intervention/guerilla photography exhibition in Mumbai.
2010: Shot Up North/Sunrise photography award, commended
2010: Three-month photographic residency at Manchester's Booth Centre, a drop-in for homeless adults.
2009: Honourable mention, Photo Philanthropy activist awards
2009: Shortlisted in Guardian international development journalism contest
2008: Shortlisted in the International Street Paper Awards, *A Rough Guess*
2007: Lipman-Miliband Trust grant for regeneration project which became Streetfighters.
2003: Manchester Evening News bursary to fund NCTJ course

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

MA photojournalism & documentary photography, University College of the Arts London (LCC), 2010-2011 (distinction)

Digital filmmaking & Final Cut Pro training, Futureworks, Manchester, 2013.

Participatory photography facilitation training with PhotoVoice, 2011

Photojournalism workshops with Ed Kashi, Rena Effendi, Brenda Ann Kenneally (2009-2012)

Multimedia storytelling workshop with Duckrabbit, 2009

City & Guilds levels 1&2 in photo image capture, Stockport College 2008-2009

NVQ4 newspaper writing (senior reporter level), North Wales Newspapers, 2005

PG Dip newspaper journalism (NCTJ), University of Central Lancashire, 2004

BA Hons European studies & French, University of Manchester, 1999-2003 (2:1). Third year spent working as an English language assistant at a lycée near Lyon, France.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Intensive TEFL Courses, 2001

OTHER

Software: Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop, Audition, Premiere, Final Cut X, InDesign, Wordpress.

Languages: French (fluent)

Teeline shorthand (100wpm)

Travel: I have lived and worked in France for 18 months, first in a ski resort and later as a teacher. I have travelled extensively in Europe, Australia, Brazil and India, and worked independently as a journalist in India, Turkey, Romania, Israel and the West Bank.

Holder of CRB (enhanced) certificate

REFERENCES ON REQUEST