

Big Heart, Strong Hands

Anne Helene Gjelstad

10/22-12/22

1. *Loved the work, the depth of colour is amazing and perfectly tells the stories of these older women. Loved it*
2. *Wonderful view into the most colourful of places*
3. *Beautiful photos with the text that is insightful, telling the fascinating stories of interesting people*
4. *Beautiful imagery*
5. *Lovely*
6. *Stunning— took me back and remembered how strong my nana was—thank you*
7. *A great body of work— evocative*
8. *Great colours within the photos. Interesting to read and hear all the great stories*
9. *Loved the wall cards and all the history!*
10. *Extraordinary!*
11. *Wonderful exhibition of the tough lives these women have, but they smile— a lot!*
12. *Just superb*
13. *Loved reading the history behind the photographs. So evocative*
14. *Stunning photos and lovely tales behind them. Thank you*
15. *Beautiful*
16. *A fascinating exhibition of a robust yet beautiful culture and people!*
17. *Truly amazing exhibition—captures the humanity, culture and issues of both islands*
18. *Such a delicate depiction of a society slowly being blown away by the winds of time.*
19. *Blown away by the colours and beautiful portraits. Amazing*
20. *Absolutely stunning! Such powerful, beautiful photos. So authentic, so real and raw. The photographer should be so proud of her work!*
21. *I'm speechless. These photographs tell their own stories. Amazing experience, truly.*
22. *Amazing photos— really fascinating and I am absolutely amazed by how they tell the story of the people from Estonia. Thank you for this beautiful exhibition.*
23. *Awesome*
24. *Beautiful, thank you*
25. *Very fascinating!*
26. *Beautifully captured. Intriguing, thank you*
27. *Wonderful. We think we make progress but lose contact with life/death along the way*
28. *Beautiful work, thank you for having us. It was lovely looking at all the photography*
29. *Fascinating capture of the disappearing way of life*
30. *Love the representation of matriarchy. Puli Saare (2017) the idea of disrespecting the broom that symbolised no one was home— we can't do that now. We can't leave without locking up.*
31. *Love the divine feminine energy!*
32. *Very good!*
33. *So emotive, wonderful and endearing. Beautiful community*
34. *Great stuff!*
35. *A really fascinating and emotional exhibition. So brilliant to see the strength of so many women*
36. *Vibrant colours and strong personalities*
37. *Fascinating. Reminds us of Grandma Madeline*
38. *Mesmerising! Thank you for bringing these treasures to Newcastle*
39. *Mind opening exhibition*

40. Really like the photography. Brings out the culture. Even without any words, you can tell how much life they have even with low poverty. It shows that the family around them mean a lot to them
41. The capturing of the forgotten and hidden parts of the world. Seeing the story behind it all made us realise how well off we are, even with the cost of living rising. Without seeing the collection of work, I wouldn't have been able to reflect on how lucky we are. Having the work displayed in a place of free entry really helps to reflect the body of work and the reality behind it
42. A true reflection of life _____. Really good. Well done the Side.
43. Powerful messages that reflect a very interesting society
44. It is a wonderful telling of stories not yet lost. So much information is given in the images and the beautifully written descriptions alongside. Stunning all round and displayed beautifully in this intimate space. I wonder what the women depicted would say to see themselves in pride of place here
45. Wonderful photography with a heart
46. Fascinating, beautiful—I thought the explanation notes were particularly beautifully written
47. Seems like a more simple place! a less _____ world! Powerful. Thank you
48. Aitaah! [Thanks] From Estonia
49. Good exhibition
50. Thank you whoever put together and organised this wonderful, inspiring exhibition. A way of life almost lost to us all. Thought provoking
51. Thank you for sharing such wonderful and emotive images—it took me straight there! Amazing work!
52. As always, an amazing exhibition. We are so lucky to have the Side Gallery in Newcastle
53. A great exhibition
54. Beautiful and interesting!
55. A wonderful exhibition
56. Had an amazing time
57. An incredible and amazing exhibition
58. Sunderland university visit 2022: was brilliant and very interesting. Thank you for having us
59. Sheffield Hallam uni trip: beautiful photos. Absolutely loved it
60. I really enjoyed both Matriarchy exhibitions. Particularly the curation and text. From Wales
61. Amazing photography capturing a perfect insight into those women's lives. Such a connection between the viewer and subject; quite special
62. Great exhibition! From Scotland
63. Good to have positive and negative aspects of Soviet Union recognised
64. Cracking exhibition!
65. Very interesting exhibition!
66. Wonderful and colourful
67. Fantastic— both images and stories
68. Beautiful stories and ladies. I feel connected just by looking through the pictures!
69. Great exhibition! Send it to Berwick!
70. illegible handwriting
71. illegible handwriting
72. Fantastic
73. Raw and emotional. Amazing!
74. Very interesting and brilliant gallery. From Amsterdam
75. Beautiful exhibition, reminds us of home!
76. Beautiful pictures and stories! Another great exhibition exhibition— thanks!
77. Touching and at times, heartbreaking. Humanity in the people and the photographer
78. Very interesting, both Estonian and Mexican cultures from an anthropological. Beautiful people, interesting gender fluidity that is respected

79. Coming from France and advised by a neighbour, had a wonderful time in this gallery
80. Amazing exhibition and beautiful pictures. This reminded me of my village back in my home country (Iran). It's really amazing!
81. Such beautiful photographs you have here
82. Looking at those pancakes made me hungry. Good to see its not just me photographing my fry up
83. *illegible handwriting*
84. Reminds me of my home country. Very Eastern European culture. Vive La Romanian. ____
85. Really captures the way of life in this little-known corner of Europe. Good still life's
86. These stories touched my heart. It felt like I was seeing a lot of films at once. Beautiful women. With much love. Thank you for sharing their stories
87. A great exhibition— good to see older women being respected— some lovely stories
88. Wonderful exhibition. Beautiful photos and life stories
89. Fascinating exhibition! I learnt a lot!
90. C'est absolument magnifique. Bravo. Thank you for such a powerful visual/textual reminder. Hold the world's heart beating, in their bare hands, giving us so much
91. Wonderful exhibition, as always. A fascinating glimpse of life in a community most of us will never know existed. Superb colours. Excellent interpretation. A triumph!