



PRESS RELEASE

HOME MADE IN SMETHWICK – a new book

A two-year project documenting life in Smethwick comes to an end this year as photographer, Liz Hingley, completes her work on **Home Made in Smethwick**, which has been showcased in a brand new publication commissioned and produced by Multistory. The book combines Liz's portraits with favourite dishes and hand-written recipes of Smethwick residents.

Liz has created an intimate photographic portrait of the people and the food cooked in Smethwick in the Black Country, one of the most culturally diverse towns in the UK.

As well as being a reception area for newly arrived immigrants, Smethwick is a longstanding neighbourhood of Afro-Caribbean, Irish, Muslim, Sikh and White British communities. Multistory and Liz worked with local community organisation, Brushstrokes, to get to know the residents. They were welcomed into people's homes and invited to share food cooked from special recipes, passed down from generation to generation. Mopane worms, Lipie bread and blackberry crumble are just some of the treats awaiting you in 'Home Made in Smethwick'.

Rather than a traditional cookbook, this collection of portraits and hand-written recipes reveals how food can act as a bridge from one continent to another; from one generation to the next; and from one house to its neighbour. By asking the simple question, 'what is your favourite family recipe?', Liz drew out life stories and discovered the complex journeys that have brought people from 130 countries to their Smethwick home.

Liz Hingley, photographer, said: "The smells of cooking from all around the world permeate the terraced streets of Smethwick. I was generously welcomed into homes and given the unique opportunity to taste personal dishes embedded with meanings and associations. All those I met contributed to this celebration of the social heritage and culinary richness of Smethwick today. With the aim of capturing the essence of a community, I have been the lucky guest at their table and passenger on their journey."

Emma Chetcuti, Director of Multistory, said: “Home Made in Smethwick is the latest commission that Multistory has produced as part of a long standing, and on-going, documentary photography project about life in the Black Country. We make the work with, and for, a local audience so that their stories can be heard and shared far and wide. We are grateful for financial support from, Arts Council England, Sandwell Council, The Owen Family Trust and The Grimmitt Trust.”

The book will be launched at a celebratory event for all participants and their friends and family, when Multistory will gift the book to everyone who was involved. It is available for sale from Multistory’s website from Friday 12 August, 2016.

www.multistory.org.uk/shop/

Home Made in Smethwick was commissioned by Multistory, an ambitious community arts charity based in West Bromwich in the borough of Sandwell, as part of an ongoing body of photographic work and digital archive that documents life in Sandwell and the Black Country. Multistory commissions critically acclaimed photographers and writers to work with local people to tell their stories of every day life; recent commissions have included projects by Martin Parr, Margaret Drabble and Susan Meiselas.

www.multistory.org.uk

Media

If you are interested in any of the following, please contact Caron Wright at Multistory on 0121 569 2883; or email caronwright@multistory.org.uk

- To attend the launch of the book on 11 August.
- A selection of free to use high-res press images (see attached PDF).
- A press review copy of the book.
- An interview with Multistory and / or Liz Hingley.

ENDS