

Alan John Ainsworth
Freelance photographer
and writer

www.alanainsworthphotography.com



With Jay Maisel, New York, 2018

Biography

I am an independent photographer and writer in the fields of architecture, design, jazz and photographic history. After successfully completing a Ph.D. at the University of Warwick I followed a business career in London. I retired in 2006 to focus on photography and writing.

I have an extensive body of work in urban, architectural and performing arts photography, especially jazz . My work in architectural photography can be seen at www.alanainsworthphotography.com

My most recent architectural books include *The Barbican: Architecture and Light* (Oblique Publishing, 2015) and (with Alec Forshaw) *New City: Contemporary Architecture in the City of London* (Merrill, 2013) and *Brussels Art Nouveau: Architecture and Design* (Unicorn Press, 2016).

I have published many articles on jazz and photography and my book, *Sight Readings: Photographers and American Jazz 1900-1960* (Intellect Books/Intellect University of Chicago) was published in 2022. My book was nominated for the 2023 Jazz Journalists Association of New York book of the year.

Books

Clerkenwell: change and renewal (London: Oblique Publishing, 2010)

New City: Contemporary Architecture in the City of London (with Alec Forshaw). (London: Merrill Publishing, 2013)

The Barbican: Architecture and Light. (London: Oblique Publishing, 2015)

Brussels Art Nouveau: Architecture and Design (with Alec Forshaw). (London: Unicorn Press, 2016)

Sight Readings: Photographers and American Jazz, 1900-1960 (London: Intellect/University of Chicago Press, 2022)

Cont./...

**Articles
and reviews**

- "Religion in the Working Class Community and the Evolution of Socialism in Nineteenth Century Lancashire", *Histoire sociale-Social History*, 10 (20) 1977: 355-380.
- "Image, Document and the Search for Truth: Ponte City", *Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Twentieth Century Society Magazine*, No.3, 2015
- "Constructing Worlds", *Barbican, Twentieth Century Society Magazine*, No.2, 2015
- "Herb Snitzer: Jazz Photographer", *Jazz Journal*, September 2017: 12-13
- "Early New Orleans Band Photography," *Jazz Research Journal* 11 (1), 2017: 28-61
- "Photographic Representations of Jazz: Testimonial Advertising in *Down Beat*, 1938-48," *Jazz Research Journal* 11 (2), 2018: 111-52
- "A Return to the Street: The Photography of Roger Mayne," *The PhotoHistorian*, No.180, 2018: 23-34.
- "A Private Passion: The Jazz Photography of Bob Douglas," *Southern California Quarterly*, 101(3) 2019: 317-38
- "Photography and the ecology of jazz," *Music in Art*, 46 (1-2) Spring-Fall 2021: 32-53.
- "Rhetoric of the Jazz Studio Portrait," *Jazz Perspectives*, 13 (2) 2021: 99-137.
- "A superb library at bargain cost: Britain's Jazz Book Club, 1956-67," *Jazz Research Journal*, 16 (1) 2023: 8-37.

**Online
presentations**

- "The Brian Foskett Collection at the National Jazz Archive." *Art Unlocked. An Online Series from ArtUK* available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8Wducj-CbU&t=255s>

**Conference
papers**

- "Jazz Photography: Narratives in black and white." Presentation to the Symposium *Jazz and Visual Style*, Birmingham School of Media. July 6, 2017
- "Technology, photography and Early Jazz." Presentation to *Re/Sounding Jazz Conference*, Amsterdam, 2 September 2017
- "Émigrés, Exiles and Jews in Jazz Photography." Presentation to the *Sixth Rhythm Changes Conference*, University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz 13 April 2019.
- "The Visual Ecologies of Music." Presentation to *Documenting Jazz Conference*, Birmingham City University. January 16-18, 2020.
- "A Cultural Encounter. Bill Bernbach, Bert Stern, Louis Armstrong and Polaroid." Presentation to the *Documenting Jazz Conference*. Edinburgh, June 23-26, 2021.
- Online presentations

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**Photography
exhibitions**

Southport Jazz Festival, 2006 - "Imagining Jazz"
Sevenoaks Arts Festival, 2009 - "Jazz Portraits"
The Neaman Practice, London, 2010 "Solo exhibition"
Alan Baxter Gallery, London, 2013 - "New City"
Fidelity Investments, London, 2013 - "New City"
Goldsmiths' Centre, London, 2013 - "The Spirit of Clerkenwell"
Barbican Arts Centre Library, London, 2014 - "Contemporary Architecture
in the City"
Alan Baxter Gallery, London, 2014 - "Architecture in London, Brussels and
Chicago"
Fethiye Arts Festival, Turkey, 2014 - "Overseas Photographers"
Alan Baxter Gallery, London, 2018 - "The Jazz Moment"

**Photographic
e-Books**

A Portrait of Borough Market (2021)
Immokalee, Florida (2021)
Architectural Lines (2021)
Chicago Architecture: Michigan Avenue, the Riverfront, Loop and
University Campuses (2022)
Colours of Ecuador (2022)
The Barbican: Architecture and Light (2022)

**Artistic
representation**

Angela Davis or Nathan Grainger
Heritage Images, www.heritage-images.com