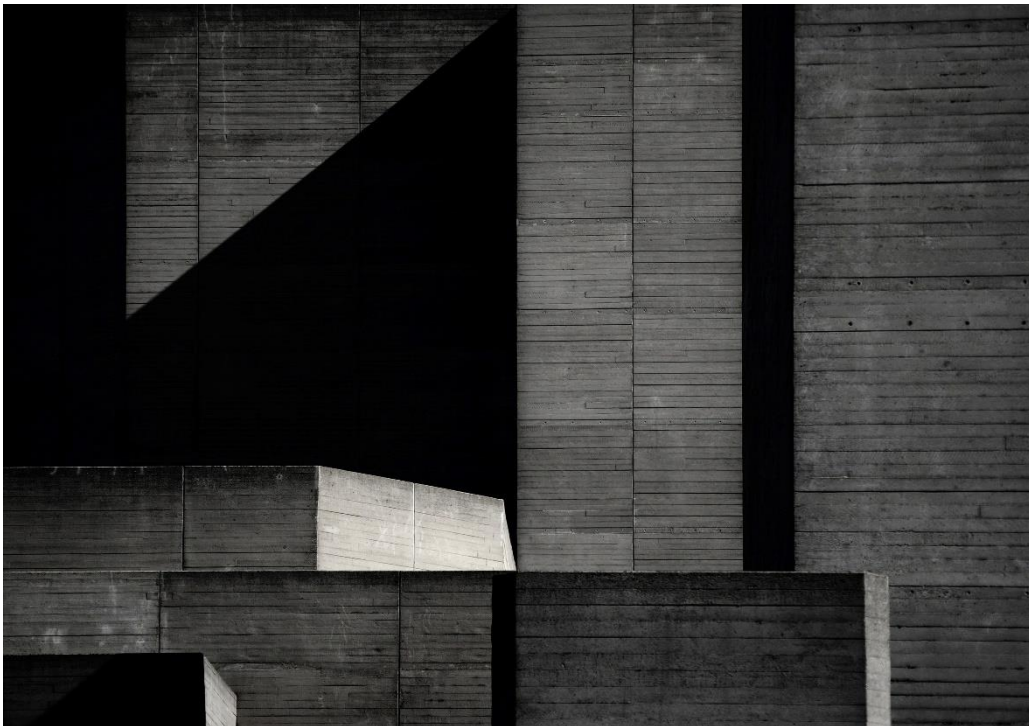


# National Theatre

For immediate release: 18 January 2024

## National Theatre announces a new, free exhibition *Abstractions: Studies of the National Theatre*



Link to the images is available [here](#)

The iconic, brutalist architecture of the National Theatre building on London's South Bank has been documented by photographer **Amelia Lancaster** for over 20 years. These images can now be seen inside the very building they depict at a free exhibition, ***Abstractions: Studies of the National Theatre***, currently running in the Wolfson Gallery at the National Theatre.

Lancaster has been taking photos of the South Bank area and its buildings since 2003, and says she was fascinated by “the simplicity of the trio of concrete, sunlight and shadows” at the National Theatre - how light and shadow would dramatically alter the facade of the Denys Lasdun-designed building.

The images, shot mostly on 35mm film, interrogate geometries that are revealed as the light moves around the different angled planes of concrete. They are presented in three subsets - beautiful brutalism, reduction, and negatives - and each subset uses colour and contrast to take the already-angular National Theatre and create new abstract compositions.

*Abstractions: Studies from the National Theatre* is Lancaster's debut solo exhibition. It is free to visit in the Wolfson Gallery at the National Theatre, located between Lasdun Restaurant and the Olivier Stalls level. The exhibition will run until autumn 2024.

For more information, please visit the [National Theatre website](#).

### Ends

For further press information contact NT Press Coordinator:

[achakrapani@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:achakrapani@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

### **About Amelia Lancaster**

Amelia Lancaster originally trained as an architect and set designer, winning a National Set Design Competition to work at the BBC, and worked as an Art Director before becoming an artist and photographer.

From 2018-2021 Lancaster was Artist in Residence for the London Borough of Brent on The South Kilburn Housing Estate. 'Memorial Lines' records traces of past lives during an extensive period of regeneration, silently reflecting on inhabitants in their absence. These pictures were exhibited at The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and The London Festival of Architecture.

In 2019 Lancaster was commissioned by Brent Council to take a series of portraits to celebrate the lives of tenants for The Addison Act Centenary, commemorating 100 years of council homes and the start of social housing. These were exhibited at the Brent Civic Centre with The Chartered Institute of Housing.

Lancaster's South Bank photographs transform architecture through spatial abstraction. Contrast and colours are manipulated to accentuate shape and structure, creating new concrete compositions and ambiguous spaces. Colour is used to flatten the image and negative space is also explored to locate latent configurations beyond the human eye.

Where her Southbank series places a strong emphasis on abstract geometries/geometric compositions, and is consciously non-figurative, her regeneration work examines the interface between architecture and its inhabitants with particular reference to the South Kilburn Estate.

### **About the National Theatre**

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

[@NationalTheatre](#)

[@NT\\_PressOffice](#)