



freiraum für
fotografie

PRESS RELEASE | Berlin, July 23, 2025

f³ – freiraum für fotografie presents

Martin Parr. Early Works

September 13 – November 30, 2025



Martin Parr (*1952, Epsom, Surrey, UK) is one of the most important British documentary photographers and photojournalists. He became internationally known for his large-format, colorful photographs that humorously scrutinize British society. With his ironic and socially critical view of everyday situations, he has made photographic history.

The exhibition ***Martin Parr. Early Works*** focuses on the early work of the *MAGNUM* photographer and presents 75 rarely shown black and white images. Bird clubs in Surrey, pilgrimages to the Pope in Ireland, holiday trips to the Scottish Highlands, provincial football matches, and traditional village banquets are just some of the social events that grasped the young **Martin Parr's** attention. Exaggeration and emphasis – two key elements of his work – run like a thread through these photographs. The strength of his images lies in the precise observation of everyday situations and in their focus on the seemingly unspectacular. Local traditions, street life, and the unforgettable fluctuating island weather: **Martin Parr** compels us to take a second look and cherish the funny sides of life.

Included in the exhibition are some of Parr's encompassing views such as "*Mayor of Todmorden's Inaugural Banquet*", from 1977, where hungry guests squeeze shoulder to shoulder, not to miss the best dish. Also outstanding is the photograph "*Surrey Bird Club*", which shows two couples in 1972, equipped with binoculars and engaging in their favorite hobby: birdwatching. Or "*Glastonbury Tor*", featuring an animal protagonist – a cow – posing like a sightseer in search of attractions at the popular tourist hotspot *Glastonbury Tor*.

At first glance, nostalgia or romanticism seem to be at the forefront, but **Martin Parr** questions the subjects of his photographs and their seemingly ordinary actions. With an almost anthropological interest, he dissects our behavior, prompts us to reflect, and reveals – both humorously and critically – the complexity and absurdity of modern life.



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BIOGRAPHY

Martin Parr (*1952 in Epsom, Surrey, GB) studied photography at *Manchester Polytechnic* and began his career in the 1970s. Initially working in black and white, he switched to colour photography in the mid-1980s. He has been a member of the renowned *MAGNUM photo agency* since 1994. Parr has published over a hundred books of his own and has curated numerous festivals, including the *Rencontres d'Arles* and the *Brighton Biennale*. His photographs are exhibited worldwide and are represented in many collections. The *Martin Parr Foundation* was established in 2014 and is based in Bristol since 2017.

Martin Parr. Early Works was curated by **Celina Lunsford** (*Fotografie Forum Frankfurt*) in close collaboration with the photographer and the *Martin Parr Foundation*.

Accompanying the exhibition, the publication "*MARTIN PARR. Early Works*" is available at *f³ – freiraum für fotografie*.

OPENING: Fr., September 12, 2025, 7 PM. Speaker: Celina Lunsford,
Artistic Director *Fotografie Forum Frankfurt*. Admission free!

GUIDED-TOUR: Sun., October 5 and November 2, 2025, 11 AM (DE) / 12 AM (EN)

GUIDED-TOUR & DRINKS: Wed., October 16 and November 20, 2025, 7 PM

An exhibition of



In cooperation with

MARTIN PARR FOUNDATION
PAINTWORKS BRISTOL BS4



ATTENTION! NEW ADDRESS FROM JUNE 2025:

f³ – freiraum für fotografie | Prinzessinnenstraße 30 | 10969 Berlin

Opening Hours: Tue – Sun, 1 – 7 PM | Admission: 7 €, reduced 5 € | www.fhochdrei.org | [@fhochdrei](https://twitter.com/fhochdrei)

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IMAGE MATERIAL

The images may only be used for current editorial coverage of the exhibition. The images may not be modified, cropped or overprinted. **f³ – freiraum für fotografie**, the artist as well as the location and dates of the exhibition and the caption must be mentioned in any publication.

High-resolution print data is available for download at the following link:

[Martin Parr. Early Works](#)



Elland, West Yorkshire, England 1978
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Glastonbury Tor, Somerset, England 1975
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Lynotts Bar, Manorhamilton, County Leitrim, Ireland 1983
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Mayor of Todmorden's inaugural banquet, Todmorden,
West Yorkshire, England 1977
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



O'Connell Bridge, Dublin, Ireland 1981
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Osmond Fan, Manchester, England 1973
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



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Halifax Town football ground, West Yorkshire, England 1977
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



St Paul's School, Darjeeling, India 1984
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



St Peter's Walks, Bolton, Greater Manchester, England 1979
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Steep Lane Baptist Chapel buffet lunch, Sowerby, Calderdale, West Yorkshire, England 1977
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Stonehenge, Wiltshire, England 1975
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Surrey Bird Club, Surrey, England 1972
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



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[*Martin Parr. Early Works*](#)



Tom Greenwood cleaning, Hangingroyd Road,
Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, England 1975
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Wedding at Crimsworth Dean Methodist Chapel,
Hebden Bridge, Calderdale, West Yorkshire, England 1977
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos