

Jenny Lewis

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Biography

Jenny Lewis is a London-based award-winning artist, editorial and portrait photographer. Her expansive lens-based practice spans 25 years and now incorporates time-based work, collage and installation. She is interested in themes of transition, loss and reconnection, disrupting and reassembling the language and constraints of photography. Much of Jenny's work is rooted in a profound and intimate relationship with her local community in Hackney. In recent years, she has focused on exploring aspects of women's lives that are unseen or unexplored – from birth to menopause. Her current work navigates and confronts challenging aspects of selfhood, subverting the more traditional genre of portraiture.

Her projects have been extensively exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the National Portrait Gallery, London, Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool and Photo 22 Melbourne, as well as at community spaces, such as the Britannia Leisure Centre and Shoreditch Trust. She has published three monographs with Hoxton Mini Press. Her works are in the permanent collections of the National Portrait Gallery, the Wellcome Collection, and the Walker Collection, among others, and her monographs are held at the Glasgow Women's Library, the Tate Library, and the Women's Art Library. In 2023, Jenny was shortlisted for the Ampersand/Photoworks Fellowship and received an Arts Council England DYCP grant in 2022 and an ACE project grant in 2021. She is a mentor within the extended photography community and is a frequent lecturer and workshop leader at universities, community and arts institutions across the UK.

Jenny Lewis's series *One Day Young* (2015) celebrates women, the day they gave birth. Shot in their own homes, the portraits bring visibility to new mothers and this life-changing transition while diluting the negative narratives surrounding birth.

Hackney Studios (2018) explores the connectivity and network required to sustain a creative practice. In this collaborative project, each artist recommended the next participant. The series offers a complex look at a vibrant creative community in East London.

In *One Hundred Years* (2021) This moving collection of stories from Hackney residents at every age – from birth to 100 – is not simply a portrait of the artist's neighbourhood; it is a powerful reflection of the deep sorrows, fierce joys and many contradictions that all our lives contain. Her portraits are authentic representations of her subjects in their own homes, workspaces, or local environs, and they are a historically significant record of how we live.

Jenny Lewis CV (continued)

Jenny's recent project, *UnBecoming* (2024), documents and conceptualises the artist's experience living with a chronic invisible illness while simultaneously navigating the unknown territory of menopause. By confronting the politics of gender, representation and the medically unexplained, Jenny seeks to shift topics often stigmatised and surrounded by shame, bringing them to the fore of our cultural consciousness.

Selected Exhibitions

2026	<i>Gender Stories</i> , The Walker Gallery, Liverpool, UK
2025	<i>A Mind of One's Own</i> , Old Fire Station, Photo Oxford, UK
2025	<i>Eve Arnold Photography Award</i> , Women in Art Prize, London, UK
2025	<i>Seeing Each Other: Portraits of Artists</i> , Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK
2024	<i>Illumination</i> , Centrespace Gallery, Bristol, UK
2023	<i>Taylor Wessing</i> , National Portrait Gallery, London, UK
2023	<i>One Day Young</i> , Lancashire Photo Festival, UK (solo)
2022	<i>PHOTO 22</i> , Melbourne, Australia (solo)
2022	<i>This Separated Isle</i> , Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow
2022	<i>One Hundred Years</i> , permanent installations, Shoreditch, London, UK (solo)
2021	<i>Taylor Wessing</i> , National Portrait Gallery, London, UK
2020	<i>Open Walls Arles</i> , Galerie Huit, Arles, France
2020	<i>IPE162</i> , Royal Photographic Society, Bristol, UK (touring)
2019	<i>Taylor Wessing</i> , National Portrait Gallery, London, UK
2019	<i>IPE 161</i> , Royal Photographic Society, Bristol, UK (touring)
2019	<i>Kinship</i> , Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, UK
2018-19	<i>209 Women</i> , Parliament, London and Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, UK
2017	<i>Portrait Salon</i> , London, UK
2016-17	<i>Portrait of Britain Vol. 6</i> , British Journal of Photography, UK
2016	<i>Portrait Salon</i> , London, UK
2016	<i>Undocumented</i> , Doctors of the World, Four Corners Gallery, London, UK
2016	Vogele Kultur Zentrum (Centre of Culture), Freienbach, Switzerland
2015	<i>One Day Young</i> , Portrait Salon, London, UK (solo)
2014	<i>Portrait Salon</i> , London, UK

Acquisitions, Public and Museum Collections

Birth Rites Collection, University of Kent, UK
National Portrait Gallery Collection, London, UK
The Walker Gallery Collection, Liverpool, UK
Pallant House Collection, Chichester, UK
Wellcome Collection, London, UK
Parliamentary Art Collection, London, UK

Jenny Lewis CV (continued)

Monographs

Lewis, Jenny (2021) *One Hundred Years*. London: Hoxton Mini Press.
Lewis, Jenny, trans. Korean (2019) *One Day Young*. Seoul: HB Press.
Lewis, Jenny (2018) *Hackney Studios*. London: Hoxton Mini Press.
Lewis, Jenny (2015) *One Day Young*. London: Hoxton Mini Press.

Additional Publications

Vandenbrouck, Melanie (2025) *Seeing Each Other: Portraits of Artists*, Pallant House Gallery, p.7, 14
Howarth, Sophie (2025) *Everyday Wonder*. London: Hoxton Mini Press
Monarchi, Christiane and Gordon MacDonald, eds. (2024) "UnBecoming", *Hapax*, Issue 3, Spring, pp. 14-25.
Polla, Barbara (2023). *Women of Today in the Gaze of Artists*. Geneva: Edition Slatkine, p.59-62.
National Portrait Gallery (2023) *Taylor Wessing Photographic Prize*. London (catalogue), p. 52.
Arieli, Karni (2023). *Eye Mama: Poetic Truths of Home and Motherhood*. Düsseldorf: teNeues, p.207, p.219.
Howarth, Sophie (2022). *The Mindful Photographer*. London: Thames and Hudson, pp. 106-08.
National Portrait Gallery (2021) *Taylor Wessing Photographic Prize*. London (catalogue).
Sng, Paul, ed. (2021). *This Separated Isle*. Bristol: Policy Press (catalogue).
National Portrait Gallery (2019) *Taylor Wessing Photographic Prize*. London (catalogue).
Open Eye (2019) *Kinship*. Liverpool: Open Eye Gallery (catalogue).
Hilary Wood (2019) *209 Women*, Bluecoat Press, p. 63.
Sng, Paul, ed. (2018) *Invisible Britain: Portraits of Hope and Resilience*. Bristol: Policy Press.
Hoxton Mini Press (2018) *East London Photo Stories*. London: Hoxton Mini Press, pp. 44-67.
British Journal of Photography (2017) *Portrait of Britain 17*. London: 1854 Media.
Banksy, *Wall and Piece*, (2006) Century.

Selected Awards and Grants

2023	Arts Council England DYCP Grant
2023	Ampersand / Photoworks Shortlist
2021	Arts Council Project Grant
2019,21, 23	Taylor Wessing, National Portrait Gallery
2016,17	Portrait of Britain, British Journal of Photography

Jenny Lewis CV (continued)

Selected Talks, Lectures and Workshops

Barbican, Falmouth University, Glastonbury Festival, Latitude Festival, London College of Communication, National Portrait Gallery, Oxford Brookes, Ravensbourne University London, The Photographers' Gallery, University of Central Lancashire, University of Edinburgh, UCA Farnham and University of Manchester.

Podcasts and Documentaries

The Sound of Photography	2026
Exposed Negative	2025
Behind the Scenes of 100 Years	2021
A Small Voice	2019
Full Bleed: Mini Doc	2016

Recent Press

Nicolaides, Constantia (2024) "Reframing Narratives: Women in Portraiture" NPG, London, December

Rogers, Fiona (2022) "Jenny Lewis", *Firecracker*.

Wipplinger-Penz, Andrea (2022) "One Hundred Years" (8-page feature), *Woman / Austria*, November.

Hwan, An Young (2022) "Jenny Lewis: One Day Young" (11-page feature), *WWD Korea*, May.

Angelos, Ayla (2021) "Jenny Lewis: Portraits of a Community", *It's Nice That*, 20 April.

McLaughlin, Aimee (2021) "One Hundred Years Celebrates a Community", *Creative Review*, 10 April.

Arcolaci, Alessia (2021) "0-100 Years in Portraits", *Vanity Fair Italy*, 10 April.

Milroy Maher, Daniel (2021) "Hackney Community Challenges Prejudices", *BJP*, 9 April.

Mitchell, Margaret (2021) "Behind the Portrait of Renee 100 Years", *The Story Portrait*, September.

Burnham, Aidrian (2021) "100 years of portraits of a community age 0-100", *Buildhollywood*, September.

L'œil de la Photographie (2021), "One Hundred Years", *L'œil de la Photographie / France*, September.

Birch, Sarah (2021) "One Hundred Years: Book Review", *Hackney Citizen*, 3 June.

Campbell, Olivia (2021) "One Community 100 Intimate Portraits", *Independent*, 24 April.

Wheeler, Kathleen (2021) "One Hundred Years: Capturing Age in Portraits", *Happifull*, 17 August.

Jenny Lewis CV (continued)

The Gentle Author (2021) "100 Years in the Eastend", *Spitalfields Life*, 16 May.
Cowen, Katy (2021) "Inspiration One Hundred Years", *Creative Boom*, April.
Brigitte (2021) "Photo project shows beauty of all ages", *Brigitte / Germany*, 22 April.
Hodges, Travis (2019) "Turning Point", *Loupe*.
Smyth, Diane (2017) "Hackney Studios", *British Journal of Photography*, 6 April.
Miquet, Lisa (2017) "Artists/ Makers of London", *Konbini / France*, 4 April.
Oxely, Mathew (2017) "East London creatives and their spaces", *World Photography Organisation*, March.
Segalov, Michael (2017) "Jenny Lewis", *Huck*, 28 March.
Watson, Lara (2017) "Hackney Studios" (7-page feature), *Oh Comely*, April.
Forte, Bianca (2017) "Inside London's creative spaces", *Port*, 16 April.
Coomes, Phil (2016) "Hackney Studios", *BBC*, 1 December.
The Gentle Author (2016) "Artists and Makers", *Spitalfields Life*, November.
Fischer, Barbara (2016) "One Day Young" *Welt derFrau / Germany*, May.
The Gentle Author (2016) "One Day Young", *Spitalfields Life*, January.
Lewis, Jenny (2016) "Hackney, I Lost You", *The Guardian*, 28 January.
Seymour, Tom (2015) "The first few hours of life." *BBC*, 3 December.
Hawkins, Alexander (2015), "Hackney Studios", *It's Nice That*, 10 November.
Hughes, Barry (2015) "Misconceptions of a male gaze", *SMBH*, September.
Bernardini, Ilaria (2015) "The Night of the Revolution" (6-page feature), *Donna / Italy*, July.
McCoy, Sarah (2015) "One Day Young" (8-page feature), *Oh Comely*, July.
Next (2015) "Day Dot" (4-page feature), *Next / New Zealand*, May.
Spectrum (2015) "One Day Young" *Sunday Times*, May.
Bird in Flight (2015) "One Day Young", *Bird in Flight / Ukraine*, April.
Rustin, Susanna (2015) "One Day Young", *Guardian*, 14 March.
Davies, Lucy (2015) "What does new motherhood look like?", *Telegraph*, 9 March.
Soho House (2015) "One Day Young" (3-page feature), *Soho House Quarterly*, March.
Davies, Lucy (2014) "Arrival Lounge" (4-page feature), *Stella*, June.
Yoo, Alice (2014) "One Day Young Portraits", *My Modern Met / U.S.*, 3 March.
Nido (2014) "One Day Young (cover and 9-page feature)", *Nido / Germany*, April.

Selected Commissions and Editorial Clients

Banksy, Barclays, ID, Nick Cave, Crafts Magazine, Elle Decoration, EMI, Bella Freud, Grazia, Guardian, Kerrang, The Telegraph, The Times, WaterAid, Dazed, Sleaze Nation, Vi Laser, Guardian Labs, The Pool, No Child Left Behind Campaign, Tatty Devine, N.M.E., Little Brown Book Group, Penguin, Ace Hotel, Time Out, Atlantic Records, Random House, Sothebys, Orion Publishing, Red Magazine, DFA Records, American Embassy, Ace Hotel, Time Warner Books, Save the Children, Art Pass, Sleaze Nation, Vintage Books, Shelter, Shoreditch Trust, Stern, Stik, Universal Music Group, Vogue.

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