



Exemplar: Joy Division by Kevin Cummins

at [Manchester Photographic Gallery](#) , Tarrif Street, Manchester

Reviewed by [Mark Iddon](#) January

33 Years ago, on 06 January 1979, **Kevin Cummins** spent the day photographing the legendary Manchester Band **Joy Division**. Many pictures from that snowy day in Manchester feature in this current exhibition alongside photos taken of the band, its members and associated images over a 3 year period from one of their first gigs performing as Warsaw in May 1977 to the memorial stone of the singer, Ian Curtis following his untimely death in May 1980.

The exhibition includes around 45 black and white images, on three floors of the gallery, that capture a range of aspects of the band from the intensity of their performances, to relaxed and contemplative stills during rehearsals to the well documented Hulme bridge photo. There are also images of the Factory Club in Hulme and the Russell Club in Manchester where they played early gigs and of an anxious audience queuing outside ***The Electric Circus***.

As well as the more iconic photographs of Ian where he looks a little moody and mysterious there is also the warm side where he shares a joke with Bernard Sumner, the Joy Division and New Order guitarist. Some images capture the slightly awkward robotic stage movements that were peculiar to Ian Curtis as he took on his stage persona and performed his work with total concentration sometimes in an almost trance like state.

Kevin Cummins studied photography in Salford and went on to become the chief photographer for the New Musical Express (NME) as well as make contributions to the major newspapers and had photographs exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery at the V&A.





Exhibition on from 06 January – 26 February 2012