

PAUL POLYDOROU



"Originating from Cyprus, I grew up in, and have always been based around London. I began making photographs in a kitchen-darkroom underneath the basement stairs in the late 1970s during my student days."

"I took a degree in humanities for which I wrote my final-year dissertation on American documentary photography of the 1930s. Much later I took a post-graduate diploma in Asian Arts. This provided me with the inspiration and grounding for later travel and photography in Asia."

“These portraits are of the indigenous tribal people from the Central Indian states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. These tribal people live outside mainstream Indian society. Each group has its own unique and fiercely protected lifestyle and rituals, but they share a belief in animism, honoring nature and ancestor spirits and adhering to annual rites based around agriculture and appeasing their tribal deities to ensure good health and prosperity.”



“Access to these tribal areas is strictly controlled and restricted; a permit is required to travel there. Accompanied by a local guide, I was able to visit and engage with people in their villages. Many of the encounters were with the elderly grandparents who remain at home during the day caring for the children while the parents work in the fields or hunt in the forest. Their faces show the years of past toil, yet they have retained their independence and dignity, proudly displaying their body markings and decorations.”