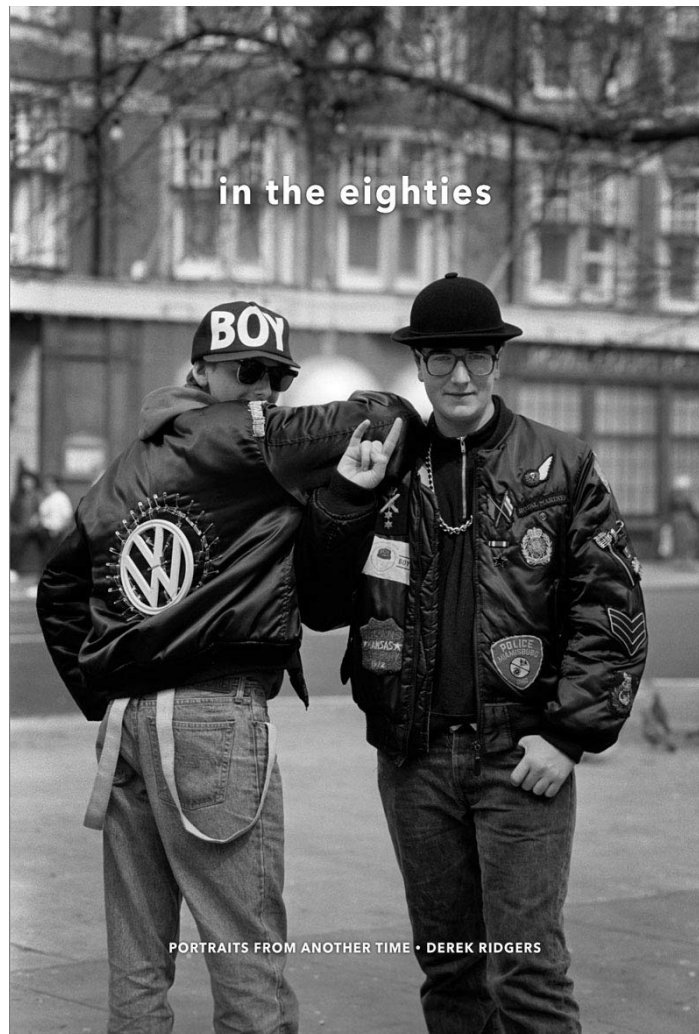


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In the Eighties: Portraits from Another Time

Description :

It was the best of times it was the worst of times. Maligned, misunderstood and fetishized the 1980s stands as the decade when post-modern life began in the west, and London was at the epicenter of this shift. An explosion of creativity took place against a backdrop of radical social change. London became a city of tribes. The vast youth culture categories of the preceding decades shattered into shards. It was the decade that sub-culture as a way of life reached its zenith before giving way to its inevitable scene surfing conclusion. Ridgers documented this cultural moment obsessively. Punks, post-punks, cyber-punks, gothic punks, mods, hard mods, Trojan skins, racist skins, ska, reggae, dub, early electronica, synth pop, acid house, happy hardcore, Blitz Kids, New Romantics, Hip-Hop, Rap, Electro, Break Beat, Techno, Rave — these were all sub-cultural spaces with scenes attached in London in the 1980s. Unlike now, subcultures in the 1980s were not casual playthings — they were a way of life for their participants. They inspired profound loyalty. They were a beautiful, a doomed flowering of the hope for a better world. Derek Ridger's exquisite street portrait photography has captured this creative decade beautifully.