



Vignettes 125

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. An excellent turnout on Monday, the best we've had for a while with over 30 of us attending to see Angela Rendell present her thoughts and displayed images on mono printing. I posted a review for Angela as it's a talk which she is still developing and followed it up with some suggested amendments. Here's the review:

We were delighted to have Angela Rendell, AFIAP talk to our club on Monday 14th March on the subject of printing, particularly in mono. Her talk was split into two halves with the first half dealing with how she got into photography and the skills she has picked up on her journey to receiving an AFIAP distinction. This included a strong recommendation to review your images again as you gain experience and confidence to see whether there's a "picture in picture" or perhaps a more powerful image in mono, all of which she demonstrated to good effect. The second half of Angela's talk looked into the nitty gritty of papers, mounts, printing and mounting equipment as she focussed on dispelling the fear that's it's all too expensive.

It's rare that we have speakers who are prepared to go the extra mile in brining prints and print display stands as Angela did to help demonstrate her skills, ably assisted by her daughter Kate - herself an experienced photographer and speaker particularly on drones. Angela was able to demonstrate the importance of double mounting, choice of papers and their effect, mount board colour and choice of printer and inks to minimise cost.

All in all it was an excellent evening with many tips and tricks laid bare to get us all printing with confidence. As an end note, Angela comes from an artistic background (hence AFIAP) which, as she explained in her talk, creates the desire to have your own carefully mounted prints as a tangible, tactile, manifestation of one's hard work rather than the, so disposable, DPI which can disappear at the touch of a button with nothing to show for it. All good advice and an excellent evening.

It was also good to hear Angela's advice some of which we have been extolling over the last few weeks as good practice although I did see a couple of light grey mounted images (not black though!). Must have a word with her about that. As she said, don't always listen to a judge - it's only his/her opinion! All in all a good night.

Here are two of Angela's images:



Next Week – Nick Jenkins

Next week we have Nick Jenkins talking to us on landscape photography. Like Angela, and Heidi a few weeks ago, Nick is not a Zoomer so, finally, it will be good to see him after so many Covid related cancellations. He emailed today just to confirm next week and to provide a bit of background:

Hi Martyn. I have been a self-employed photographer for about 18 years and have led photography workshops/holidays for 'Light & Land', HF Holidays, and Tatra Photography Holidays as well as several others, around both the UK, Iceland and parts of Europe. I cover a range of subjects from nature to construction to seascapes and landscapes. It is however landscapes that really appeal and hopefully this will come across when I show my work next week. Please feel free to ask any questions as I take your members through my work. By the way, I am an ARPS and an AWPf. Look forward to seeing you next week. Here's my web site:

<http://www.freespiritimages.com/>

Magnum Photos Sale

It didn't seem that long ago that John H, Mike and I tripped up to Compton Verney to see the Magnum Photo 70th Anniversary exhibition - a truly great day. Nice to see terrific images that wouldn't win anything in a club competition(!) but then that's not what Magnum is all about. Anyway, for all you fans of the Magnum Photos Agency, 2022 sees it celebrate its 75th anniversary. As a result it's launching a series of three square print sales that will, for the first time, allow collectors to build a triptych of images over the course of the year. The first sale of the year, "Precedents", invites participating photographers and estates to search their personal archives for images that signal the start of something new. A literal beginning, or a moment when everything changed. This could bring the early career of the photographer to light, showing how things were at the start, or it could be a photo that started something, prompted a thought or a journey. For this sale, Magnum photographers will be donating 50% of their proceeds from the sale to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These proceeds will help fund the ICRC's humanitarian mission to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance in Ukraine as well as other fragile contexts. Here's a link to its website and sale:

<https://www.magnumphotos.com/shop/>

<https://www.magnumphotos.com/newsroom/precedents-magnum-square-print-sale-75th-anniversary-year/>

Photography Competitions/Awards

The World Nature Photography Awards 2021 (WNPA)

The World Nature Photography Awards 2021 (WNPA) has recently revealed its winners – and the grand prize went to US photographer, Amos Nachoum, for his breath taking underwater image of a leopard seal that appears to be either communicating or about to chomp on a poor gentoo penguin.

This edition of the WNPA saw entries from 20 different countries across 6 continents, and an open call has been announced for entries to the 2022 edition of the awards, with early bird entry fees now offered until 31 March 2022. Here's a link to the excellent website:

<https://www.worldnaturephotographyawards.com/>

The 2022 Hasselblad Foundation Awards - Dayanita Singh

Dayanita Singh is the first photographer of South Asian descent to be awarded Hasselblad's prestigious \$200,000 prize. The Hasselblad Foundation has just awarded its biggest prize ever to Indian photographer Dayanita Singh. Regarded as one of the world's top photography honors, the Hasselblad Prize recognizes the major achievements of a single photographer who has made pioneering achievements in photography, who inspires a younger generation and has worked on internationally significant projects. Here's a link to the foundation and her website:

<https://www.hasselbladfoundation.org/wp/hasselblad-award-winner-2022/>

<https://dayanitasingh.net/>

RSPCA Young Photographer Awards

Got any budding young photographers in your friends or family group? Whether he/she is an experienced photographer or a keen beginner, has entered before or not sure where to start, they are in the right place!! The aim of the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is to encourage an interest in photography and an appreciation and understanding of all the amazing animals around us. It's open to anyone aged 18 or under and all that is required is for the entrant to enjoy the process and get creative. Incredibly, the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is now in its 31st year. In that time, it's grown to become an exciting and high-profile competition. Its panel of judges includes TV's Chris Packham, and winning entries often make it into national media. It's an opportunity not to miss.

With a range of subject and age categories to enter, there's a chance for everyone to get involved. Awards are given for every category and then the judges crown the overall RSPCA Young Photographer 2022. Entries open on the 4th May and here's a link to the RSPCA Website and competition:

<https://young.rspca.org.uk/ypa/home>

PAGB Newsletter

The latest PAGB e-news has arrived:

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en303%2019%20Mar.pdf>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60699864>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60661075>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-60660476>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-60641176>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-60694448>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-60692544>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3gx7vrvy05o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-60648513>

By the way if you enjoyed the above article (94448) about photographer Heidi Alexander and her images of Stockport, you might like to have a look at her website, some great images:

<https://heidialexanderphotography.com/>

Cheltenham International Salon of Photography (CISP)

I had a crack at the CISP last year for the first time and managed one acceptance. Some members have been a lot more successful over the years. I thought I would have another go this year. As some of you will know there are restrictions as to what processing you can do for the Travel and Nature/Wildlife Sections the relevant rules being as follows (but do read the rules):

Nature

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural. Adding a vignette or blurring the background during processing is not allowed.....

No modification that changes the truth of a Nature image is allowed. Images may be cropped but no other technique that removes, adds or moves any part of the image is allowed. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise and lens flare are allowed.

Complete conversion of colour images to greyscale monochrome is allowed. Partial conversion, toning and infrared captures or conversions are not allowed.

Travel

Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All images must look natural

I've never been absolutely clear from the rules as to precisely what processing is allowed so I emailed the font of all knowledge, Martin Fry:

Hi Martin. Can I trouble you with a CISP question as I think you're the best, most experienced person to ask. It relates to permitted processing in the Nature and Travel Sections (which have broadly similar restrictions). I "get" all the restrictions re fiddling and diddling etc. Not a problem. However in both sections it's not clear to me from the guidance whether I'm permitted to selectively darken or lighten part of an image? I'm not adding, moving, removing or replacing anything. However cropping, sharpening and

perhaps saturation is, I'm pretty certain, permitted in both Sections as part of normal processing. It's just the selective lightening/darkening point which I'm not clear on. I note also in Travel it refers to "...restoration of the appearance of the original scene" as being permitted. Might this permit lightening/darkening?

Incisive as ever Martin responded:

*Fine to Lighten or Darken. So, I've come to the conclusion (as least for the moment) that, coming from the other end of the telescope, any form of processing is allowed so long as you don't add, move, remove or replace anything. It's what the guidance says you can't do rather than what it says you can is where you should focus your attention. But do note the rule in Nature that..... *Adding a vignette or blurring the background during processing is not allowed*, and the general guidance in that section that the image must look natural.*

Remember that, if your wonderful image gets a gold star, you'll probably be asked to provide the RAW file. I'm sure there's more questions - e.g. is straightening a distorted perspective in processing "moving" something? Hey ho. Here's the CISP rules:

<https://cheltenhamcameraclub.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CISP-2022-Salon-Rules-Regulations.pdf>

Internal Competitions

Subject	Competition	Submission Date	Judging Date
Water (in all its forms)	A	September 27 th , 2021	October 25 th , 2021
Architecture	B	November 8 th , 2021	December 6 th , 2021
Sunrise, sunset	C	December 6 th , 2021	January 17 th , 2022
Coastal	D	January 17 th , 2022	February 14 th , 2022
Winter	E	February 28 th , 2022	March 28 th , 2022
Farming in the Cotswolds	Pitchers Trophy (annual Competition)	April 11 th , 2022	May 9 th , 2022
Various	Annual Competitions	April 11 th , 2022	May 9 th , 2022

The Dropbox link is now up and running and is featured on every Comp submission page, along with as a News item - here is the link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

Quote of the Week

Which of my photographs is my favourite? The one I'm going to take tomorrow - Imogen Cunningham

That's it for this week. Catch up next week.

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)

Appendix 1: Club Face to Face (F2F) Meetings - Covid Measures

The easing of Covid restrictions over the summer as part of the Covid roadmap has made physical club meetings a practical proposition and Watermoor Parish are now permitting hire of their hall facility again. To enable this and to satisfy their insurers there are a number of things that hirers have to provide to gain approval for hire. After some consideration, below is a summary of the club's approach to enable meetings to take place within the requirements. We will aim to put the relevant docs on the website if members want to have a look.

Clearly members will need to make their own judgements in light of their individual circumstances, but it is hoped that the pragmatic approach taken allows the club to recommence face to face club (F2F) nights as per the season's programme in an enjoyable manner. As always with these things this is subject to any changes in guidance. Please get in touch with me, or other committee members, if you have any issues arising. Many thanks. Stephen

Watermoor Church Hall Hire Covid Measures

Our activities must remain consistent with government guidelines at the time of the event. The requirements from the hall involve some element of cleaning by the club before and after the evening's programme.

Emphasis will be on precautions taken and as such the club:

(i) advises that anyone feeling unwell or having been notified for quarantine under Track and trace or NHS App or as a result of travelling requirements should not attend club meetings.

(ii) will ensure that seating, social distancing and ventilation are consistent with government guidelines.

(iii) request that members bring personal crockery/cutlery for any refreshments - some disposable items will be made available. We will not utilise hall crockery, just the kettle/boiler as appropriate.

(iv) suggest members consider continuing to use facemasks during meetings when appropriate.

Club Approach

1. The club will provide hand sanitiser for members use on entrance and exit from the hall.

- 1. The hall has QR posters displayed for members who wish to utilise the NHS app.*
- 2. In accordance with general "Health and Safety" good practice, a log will be kept of attendees on a F2F club night in case of the need for evacuation from premises which facilitates a roll call.*
- 3. Access to kitchen facilities will be restricted to reduce contacts and users will sanitise hands before and after use of kettle etc. It is noted that no cleaning of switches is to take place*

(for safety) therefore the emphasis is on sanitising hands before and after any such operations, ensuring hands are dry.

4. *Access to W/C's is restricted to one person at a time under the hall guidelines. Members should sanitise hands on entry and exit. At the end of evening contact points are wiped down as part of the exit process.*
5. *The club will use readily available Covid appropriate cleaning materials in the form of spray /paper towel and/or sanitising wipes to facilitate cleaning and provide bags to remove used material from the hall on completion.*
6. *Hard contact points e.g. door handles/locks, window handles/locks will be wiped on first contact when being operated and on final use when closed prior to exit.*
7. *The club anticipate utilising a restricted number of members on a given night to clean and handle equipment/chairs etc. thus reducing the number of potential contacts.*
8. *Those members should sanitise hands before commencing any handling, using spray/wipes to clean contact points when moving /setting up chairs etc. On completion of set up handling, members should sanitise hands again before commencing the actual event.*
9. *It is assumed that club materials in the locked storage may also be potentially contaminated and therefore contact points should be wiped before handling and on replacing in store.*

Although it all sounds a bit complicated, I hope that we will soon get into the swing of things in managing what we do to minimise impacts. Do get in contact if you have any queries. Stephen.