



# Vignettes 138

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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## Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. We had an excellent day on Wednesday this week with Leigh Preston taking us through his world of photography accompanied by tips and tricks to help us improve our photography. The day was interspersed with a few coffee breaks, lunch and a session for those who brought along images for him to critique (not judge!) which brought added value to the day. Although 10.00am - 4.00pm seems long for a non 'hands on' type of presentation, Leigh's light touch and humour along with questions and answers during the talk seemed to make the time fly. I sensed that everyone got a lot out of the day and I'm sure we will do it again. Leigh has other presentations on specific photographic subjects and can take outdoor workshops too. As a Gloucester resident and highly qualified RPS member, we are lucky to have him on our doorstep. Leigh emailed me after the talk with a thought-provoking note:

- *Photography is a means of Expression, that's what 'seeing' pictures is all about. The final outcome, aim if you like, is to take pictures that make great prints for you wall. It's an opportunity to immerse yourself in something satisfying and creative.*
- *Learn your camera, your lighting and how to adjust your pictures in whatever software package you use. Learning to print is the next stage.*
- *SO - SEEING IMAGES*
- *Look beyond the 'souvenir' post-card, look past the obvious, seeing properly means 'involvement' and discovery.*
- *Make the most of chances that occur, or make the most of your ideas, to take & make enjoyable pictures, BUT make sure they are honest and have a sense of integrity.*
- *Put 'expression' above or before technical perfection/ technique. It is needed to some extent, but as long as it does not dictate and make your work staged and sterile.*
- *Avoid 'so called rules' by looking at visually effective design, by using picture space intuitively. This is 'visual' awareness, don't accept second best from yourself, either.*
- *Observe with a sense of truth and accuracy, remember what's important to you is usually your own personal response to what you witness, what you find and see in your own way, but don't 'force' a picture by expecting absolute perfection, just look at the world with a sense of wonder like you once did as a wide-eyed child.*
- *Make pictures that show an emphasis, but which are selective, simplified in such a way that what's not required isn't there - omit what you don't want in your image*
- *Think about geometry and perspective. Avoid visual monotony.*
- *Use humour, emotion, melancholy, joy etc to 'flavour' your pictures so that they mean something, and that they make the viewer feel something. Pictures should have a 'voice'.*
- *Think 'sideways' - at times overexpose for lighter pictures, make them darker to give them 'clout' and drama, use minimal depth of field, movement and take chances by using slow shutter speeds and nothing in focus.*
- *Finally DON'T PHOTOGRAPH WHAT SOMETHING IS, PHOTOGRAPH WHAT IT COULD BE.*

Leigh Preston

Finally, for those who couldn't make it, a copy of Leigh's presentation can be found at the end of this bulletin.

## Club Outing – Cotswolds Sculpture Park

From Jill:

*I have now confirmed with David that we will visit the Cotswolds Sculpture Park, Somerford Keynes GL7 6FE <https://cotswoldsculpturepark.co.uk>*

*on Tues 2 August at 5 - 7pm. The cost will be £5 a head, payable on the night (I will pay for you 😊!), and I have said we do not need the cafe to be open. Maybe we could suggest that people bring a drink and a snack if they like?*

Editor's note: "I will pay for you 😊!" Don't get excited – Jill owes Martyn a fiver!

## PAGB Newsletters

Paul's been in touch with the latest PAGB Newsletters:

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en308%201%20June%202022.pdf>

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en309%2015%20Jun.pdf>

## New Martin Fry Exhibition - 23rd June - 29th June

I've just received this notification from Martin Fry. If you are in Cheltenham, pop along to his latest exhibition with Martyn Dyrnott and Gerald Crittle. It's bound to be excellent.

## Bits N' Bobs

[Photography cheat sheets: camera reference guides for visual learners](#)

We might have posted this before but cheat sheets are a really useful series of quick guides to help you improve your photography. Check out the article and access to all the cheat sheets here:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/uk/tutorials/photography-cheat-sheets>

[Inspiring you to take better photos with your smartphone](#)

Mobiography is a leading go-to resource for those looking to make the most of the camera in your pocket – your smartphone. The aim of Mobiography.net and Mobiography Magazine is to showcase, teach and inspire others into taking better photos and has grown into one of the best

digital magazines and learning resources about mobile photography. Here's the website links including the amazing 2021 Mobiography awards. Some great images here.

<https://www.mobiography.net/>

<https://www.mobiography.net/awards/2021-awards-results/>

## **Photography Competitions**

### Powerful image on the effect of pollution wins at Siena Creative Photo Awards 2022

A Portuguese photographer has been crowned the winner at the 2022 edition of the Creative Photo Awards, The competition is a subsection of the Siena Awards - an international festival of visual arts run by Art Photo Travel which creates cultural initiatives that aim to spread, promote and enhance art. Catch the website here.

<https://creative.sienawards.com/about>

### Finalists of bird photography competition revealed

Bird Photographer of the Year is a massive annual photography contest in the birding calendar, and this year more than 20,000 images were entered from 115 countries around the world. Check out the latest info and some amazing images here:

<https://www.birdpoty.com/news/bpoty-2022-finalists-sneak-peak>

### The world's largest free photography competition

The CEWE Photo Award manages not only to reach and connect photo enthusiasts across the globe but also to showcase and celebrate earth's beauty. There's ten different categories for you to submit your greatest photos to, all under the slogan "Our world is beautiful". Here's more info:

<https://www.cewe.co.uk/cewe-photo-award.html>

## BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-61823812>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-61777386>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-61530561>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-61698298>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-61725492>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-61710938>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-61745017>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-61744666>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-61870261>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-61858800>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-61882722>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-61877991>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-61856975>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-61867536>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-61836701>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-61781505>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-61802116>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-61783493>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-61823463>

## Next Season's Club Competitions 2022 - 2023 - DPIs and Prints

	Competition Set & Open	Submission date	Judging night
<b>A</b>	Abstract + Open	03/10/22	31/10/22
<b>B</b>	Reflections + Open	31/10/22	05/12/22
<b>C</b>	Urban / Street photography + Open	05/12/22	16/01/23
<b>D</b>	Fog / steam / mist / smoke + Open	16/01/23	20/02/23
<b>E</b>	Multiple exposures + Open	27/02/23	27/03/23
<b>Annual</b>	2021-22 Annual competition	03 Apr 23	08May 23

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

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

### **Quote Of the Week**

*Photography deals exquisitely with appearances, but nothing is what it appears to be - Duane Michals*

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

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn ([thehoneys@btinternet.com](mailto:thehoneys@btinternet.com))

Mike ([mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com](mailto:mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com))



**The Photographic Academy  
introduces**

**“SEEING IMAGES & ALL ASPECTS OF  
DESIGN & PRINT”**

**With Leigh Preston**



Photography is a means of Expression, that's what 'seeing' pictures is all about. The final outcome , aim if you like , is to take pictures that make great prints for you wall. It's an opportunity to immerse yourself in something satisfying and creative.

Learn your camera, your lighting and how to adjust your pictures in whatever software package you use. Learning to print is the next stage.

## SO - SEEING IMAGES

Look beyond the 'souvenir' post-card, look past the obvious, seeing properly means 'involvement' and discovery.

Make the most of chances that occur, or make the most of your ideas, to take & make enjoyable pictures, BUT make sure they are honest and have a sense of integrity.





Put 'expression' above or before technical perfection/ technique. It is needed to some extent, but as long as it does not dictate and make your work staged and sterile.

Avoid 'so called rules' by looking at visually effective design, by using picture space intuitively. This is 'visual' awareness , don't accept second best from yourself, either.

Observe with a sense of truth and accuracy, remember what's important to you is usually your own personal response to what you witness, what you find and see in your own way, but don't 'force' a picture by expecting absolute perfection, just look at the world with a sense of wonder like you once did as a wide-eyed child.

Make pictures that show an emphasis, but which are selective, simplified in such a way that what's not required isn't there - omit what you don't want in your image

Think about geometry and perspective. Avoid visual monotony.



Use humour, emotion, melancholy, joy etc to 'flavour' your pictures so that they mean something , and that they make the viewer feel something. Pictures should have a 'voice'.

Think ' sideways' - at times overexpose for lighter pictures, make them darker to give them 'clout' and drama, use minimal depth of field, movement and take chances by using slow shutter speeds and nothing in focus.

Finally DON'T PHOTOGRAPH WHAT SOMETHING IS, PHOTOGRAPH WHAT IT COULD BE.

Leigh Preston



'Seeing' is the initial stage

Once an image is taken  
It can be adjusted &  
prepared for printing

The outcome is that  
'refined fine-art print'



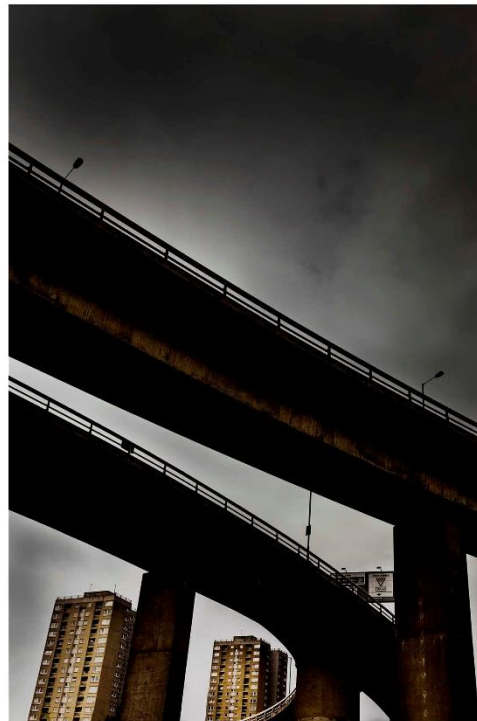
Background  
Environment  
Influences  
+ Intuition



'Not just looking'  
but 'seeing' &  
observation

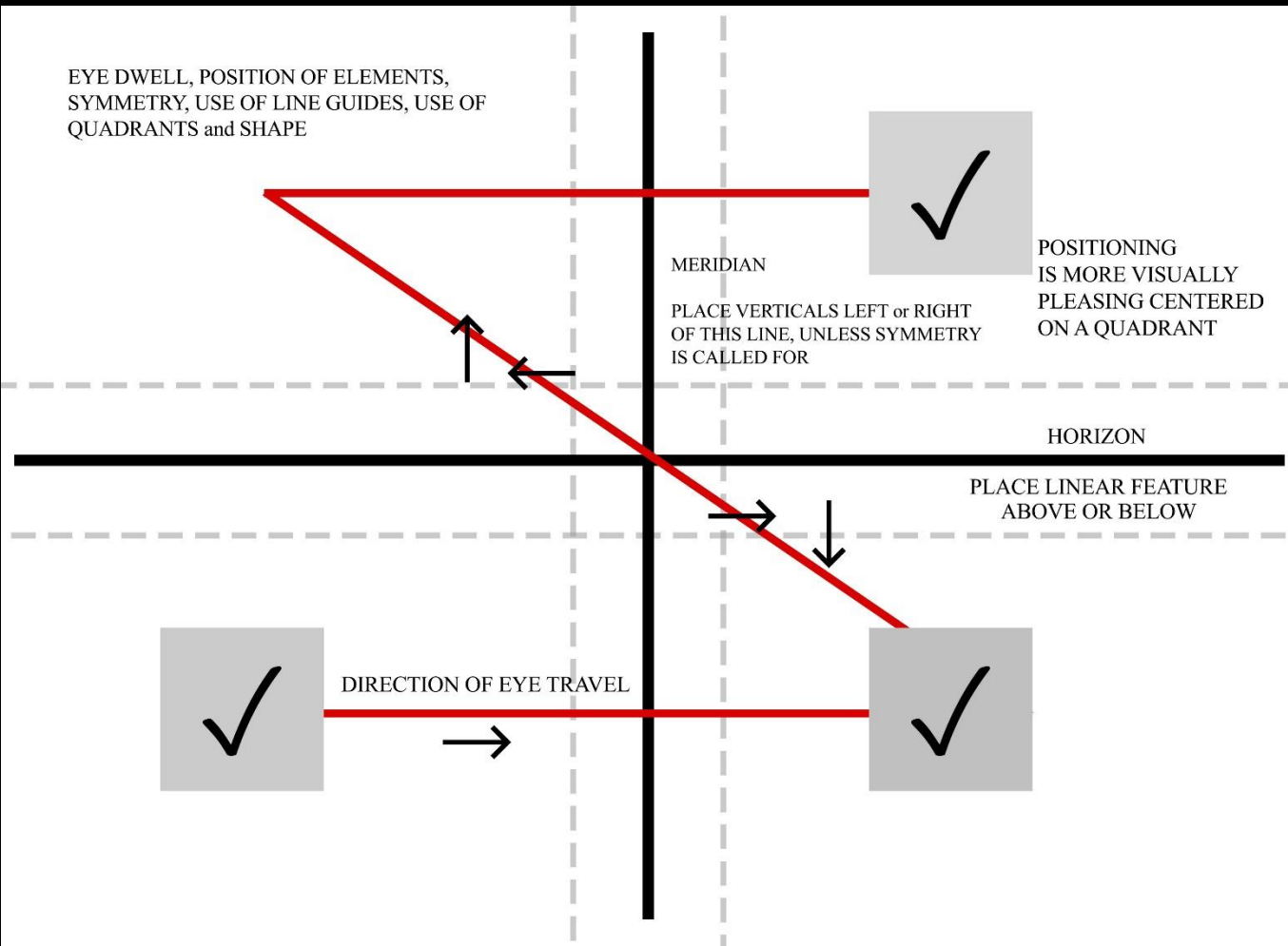


Example:  
Initial view  
&  
then 'Interpretation





EYE DWELL, POSITION OF ELEMENTS,  
SYMMETRY, USE OF LINE GUIDES, USE OF  
QUADRANTS and SHAPE









Linear Features

Geometry

Using Verticals, Horizontals  
&  
Diagonals

Also curved lines



## Seeing Pictures

Leigh Preston

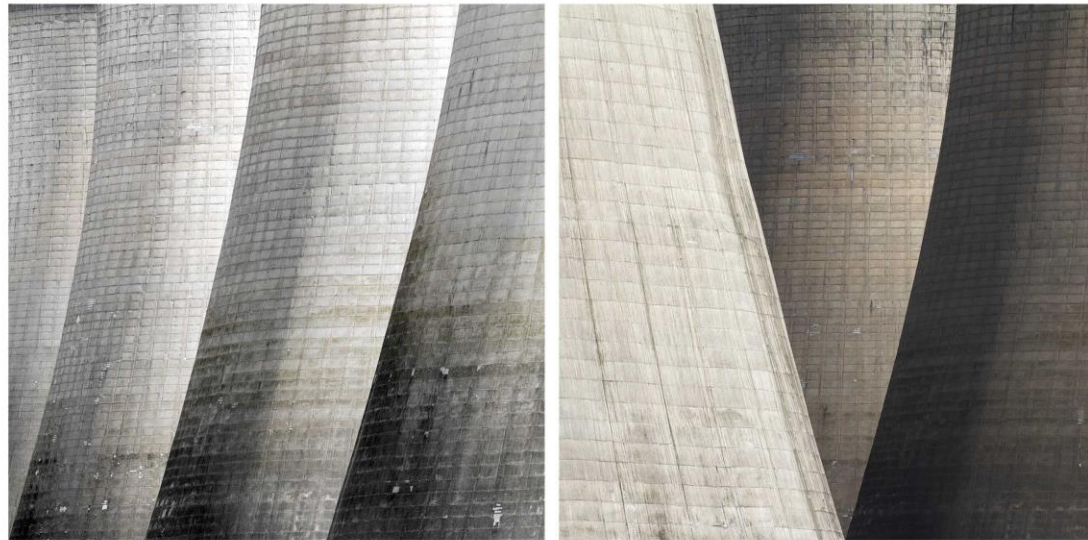


'Personal Vision'

Complexity  
&  
Chaos



Rhythm  
Recession  
Repetition







Personal Vision

Style

Character

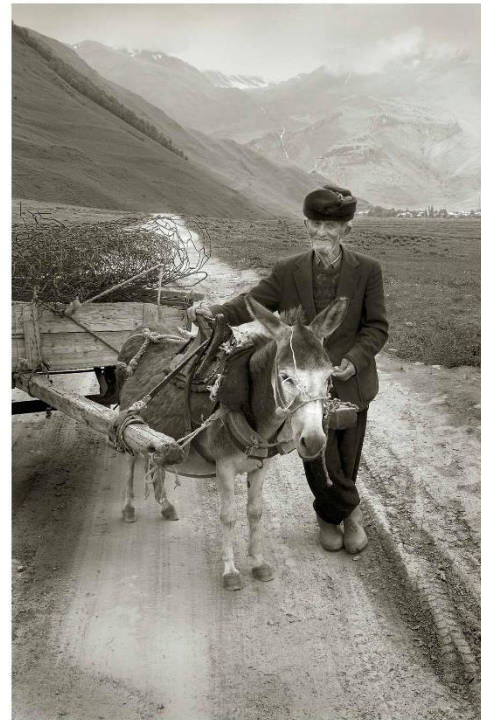
Timing

Rhythm

Abstraction



Sensitivity  
Involvement  
Emotion  
Character



Thinking 'Sideways'  
Avoiding being exact

Creative use of Shutter Speed  
&  
Exposure





Blocks of Colour

or

Monochrome Tone

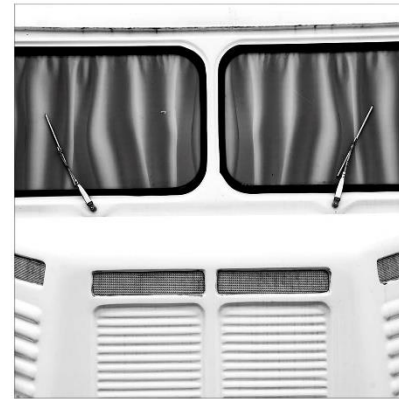
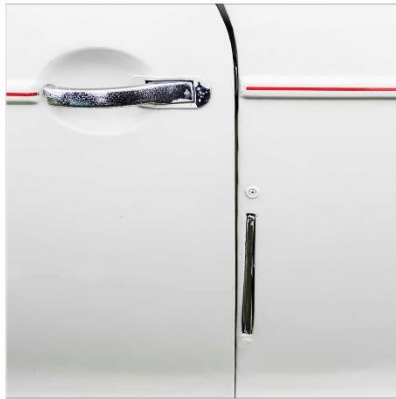
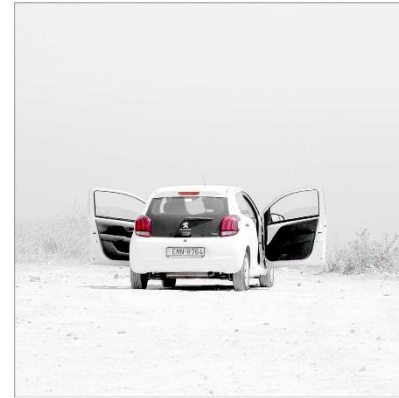




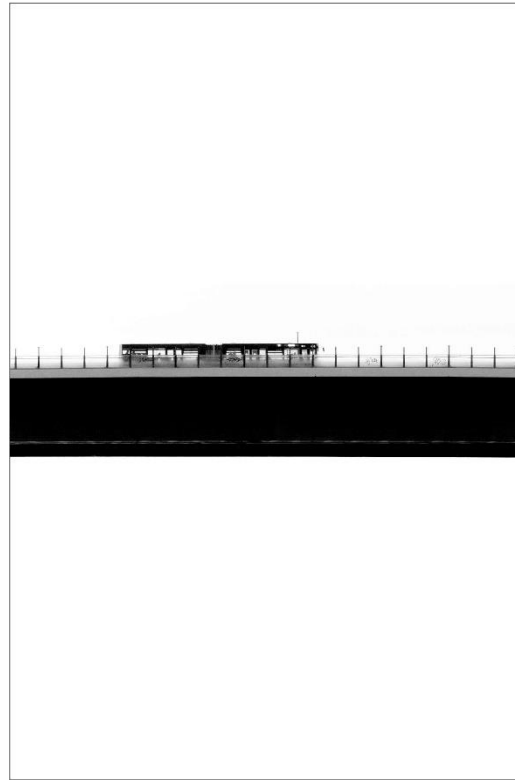
Don't always make  
'Souvenirs'



'Looking beyond the obvious'

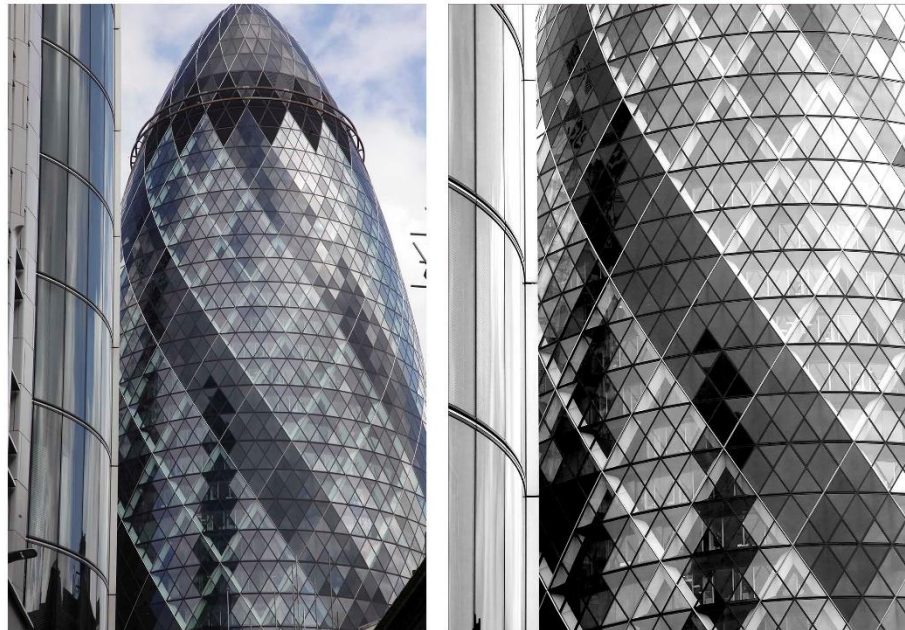


Minimalism  
&  
Negative Space



E.S.S.O.

Emphasis  
Selection  
Simplify  
Omit



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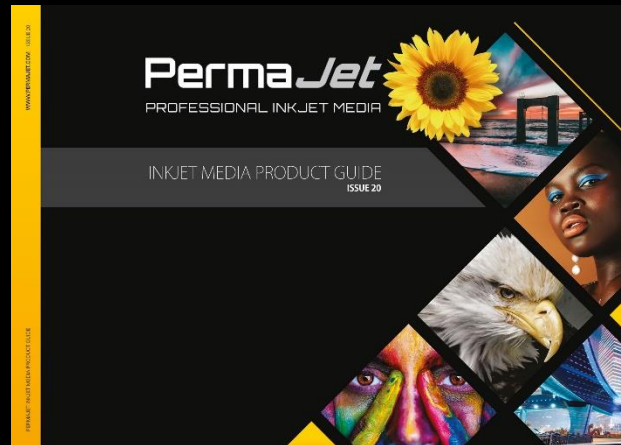


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At The Photographic Academy, we recognise the importance of the whole Digital workflow process.

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Visiting our Website:-

<https://www.thephotographicacademy.co.uk/>



**NEED FURTHER HELP AND ADVICE.....**

**Then please contact :**

**LOUISE HILL**

**TEL: 01789 739207**

**OR**

**EMAIL: [LOUISEH@PERMAJET.COM](mailto:LOUISEH@PERMAJET.COM)**



**All that remains for me to say is.....**

**Thank you for attending**

**&**

**Keep Well and Keep Safe!!!**