



Posing poultry, a twirling princess and teenage ennui

Winners of the Society's International Print Exhibition 157 explain what it takes to be a finalist



**LEMON BLUE MODERN GAME
BANTAM PULLET**

Tamara Staples, USA

PRETTYCHICKEN.COM

The Lemon Blue Modern Game Bantam Pullet is part of a larger series collected in *The Magnificent Chicken* (Chronicle Books, 2013). My favourite uncle, Ron Simpson, a breeder of heritage chickens, has been raising and showing chickens at poultry shows since childhood. Ron shared his unusual hobby with me and I was immediately smitten with it.

I began travelling to poultry shows, setting up a little studio and selecting chickens from each breed to photograph. Even after 20 years of doing this, I have not come close to photographing all the breeds.

Photography has always been a part of my life. I'm fortunate to work both as a commercial photographer in New York City, and also as an artist. I've had 22 gallery shows in the US, and my work has been featured internationally in magazines and on television.

WINNER
BRONZE
AWARD
£250

**LOCAL FAMILY,
NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

Damien Wootten, UK

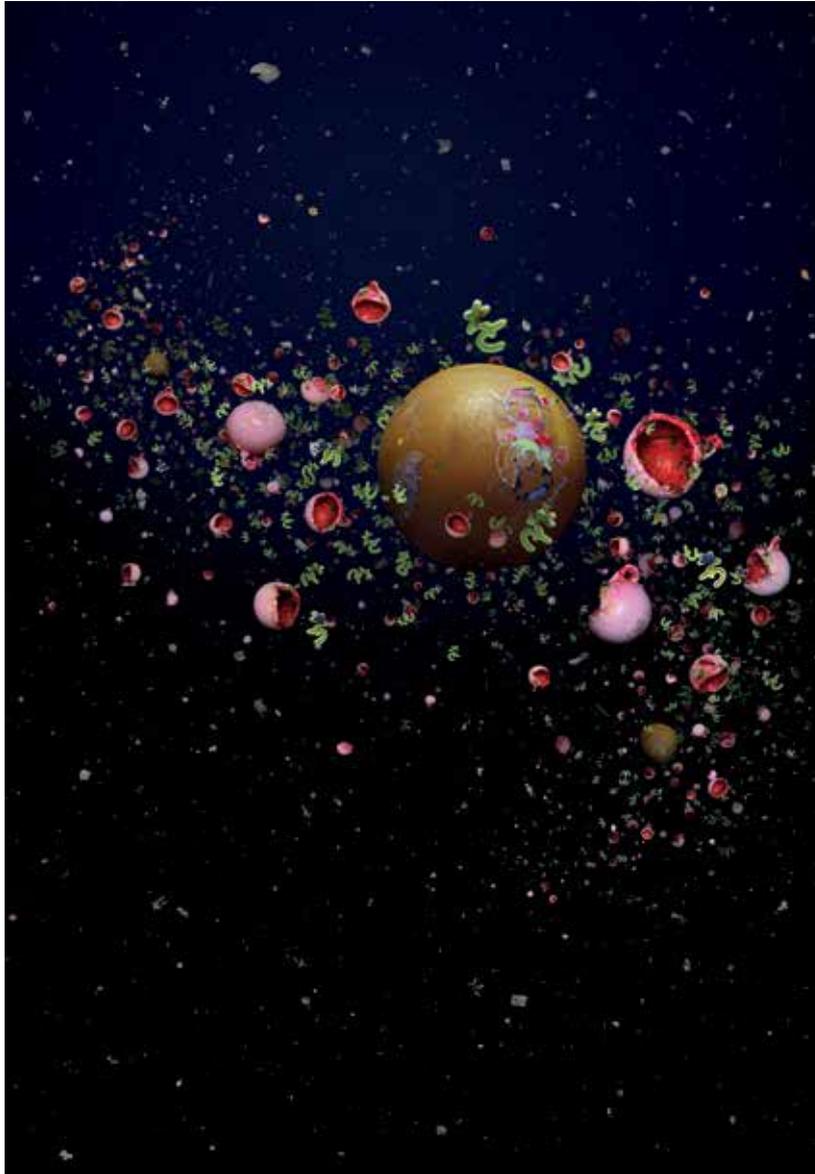
DAMIENWOOTTEN.COM

This image is from a recent body of work called *Coastal Retreats*. The project involved revisiting and photographing specific locations on the north-east coast of England. Most of the images that make up this series were taken in and around Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, a former mining and fishing village in Northumberland. This is a location I often photograph, walking the

same route around the headland and over the rocks – which is where this scene of the family unexpectedly presented itself.

I'm 46 and live in Gateshead, where I work as a photography-based artist and lecturer, and as a commercial photographer. I have a first-class honours degree in photography from Northumbria University and an MA in photography from Sunderland University. I'm fascinated by photography's ability to record ordinary things and to translate them into something extraordinary.





WINNER
SILVER
AWARD
£500

SHOAL: 30.41N 157.51E

Mandy Barker ARPS, UK

MANDY-BARKER.COM

This image was taken while on a scientific research expedition to examine marine plastic debris as a result of the devastating Japanese tsunami of 2011.

Plastic micro-particles and objects retrieved at the grid reference point in the title of this piece were photographed on board the 72-foot yacht on which we sailed from Japan to Hawaii in June 2012.

The whole experience of taking photographs on the edge of a typhoon at sea,

with the accompanying nausea, bruising and cramped conditions, was testing. But being able to record at source from such a location has underpinned my ongoing work.

I have always been interested in photography that portrays under-represented issues. The image aims to stimulate an emotional response in the viewer by combining a contradiction between the initial aesthetic attraction and the subsequent message of awareness.

WINNER
GOLD
AWARD
£1,000



**MENINA, 2008,
FROM THE SERIES
UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

Jacqueline Roberts, Germany

JACQUELINEROBERTS.COM

Menina was taken on Christmas Day 2008. My daughter, Malen, was four at the time, and when I saw her twirling round in her princess dress, she reminded me of the Infanta Margarita as portrayed by Velázquez in his masterpiece *Las Meninas*.

That moment triggered the series *Under the Influence*, a tribute to the work of the Old Masters. I grew up in Paris and was lucky enough to live close to many of the city's museums. I was fascinated at the sight of these masters' works, all seeing, interpreting and presenting the world in different ways.

All those paintings I saw in my youth continue to feed my imagination. I wanted to pass on my passion for art to my children, so this series is also a way to introduce them to our cultural heritage.

I am self-taught and I work with large-format cameras, mainly using early photographic processes. I like to make photographs that are precious to the people I portray.



UNDER-30s
WINNER
GOLD
AWARD
£1,000

**MARTYN, SEAN AND JACOB,
2013**

William Lakin, UK

WILLIAMLAKIN.COM

I met these three boys in Great Yarmouth on a cold Saturday morning in March 2013 while photographing my project *Florida Club*. I asked if I could photograph them as I felt they represent

a transformative age group and reflect the changing identity of the town. Once a booming holiday resort, Great Yarmouth and others like it have lost popularity and are struggling to adapt and reinvent themselves, only adding to the decline. Such circumstances bring

into question what the future holds for the British holiday resort, and for young people like Martyn, Sean and Jacob.

I am 22 and have recently graduated from Middlesex University in London. My work explores human-altered landscapes and the decisions and lifestyles of those who inhabit them.

SEE THESE AMAZING IMAGES AND MORE

From more than 300 shortlisted images, 100 have been selected for exhibition



The International Print Exhibition 157 will be touring throughout 2014 and 2015, at the locations below

▶ **Until 28 August**

Berkeley Gallery,
Greenwich Heritage
Centre, London

▶ **6 September –
8 November**

Aberystwyth Arts
Centre, Wales

▶ **22 November –
10 January 2015**

Banbury Museum & Art
Gallery, near Oxford

▶ **16 January –
15 February**

Royal Albert Hall, London

▶ **14 March – 10 May**

Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

▶ **4 – 30 June**

Waterfront Hall, Belfast
(part of Belfast Photo
Festival)

GET THE CATALOGUE

A full-colour, 80-page
exhibition catalogue,
containing all 100
selected images from
the exhibition as well
as the selectors'
comments, is available
to buy from The
Royal Photographic
Society shop

rps.org/shop

Train Surfing by
Marco Casino

Kevin with Toby
and Ben by Harry
Borden

Riding the Bus by
Richard Gunn

**For enquiries
about RPS
exhibitions,
contact
Lesley Goode
01225 325 720
exhibitions@
rps.org**



'HONEST WORK OUTSHINES IMAGES THAT CHASE THE CURRENT FASHIONS'

Chairman of selectors Dr Tim Rudman FRPS on a tough but fair selection process



“The RPS International Print Exhibition is unlike many on the salon circuit in that it embraces all genres and disciplines and ignores current fads. Each work is examined by each selector as often and for as long as they choose. This puts ‘slow burners’ on an equal footing to instant-impact entries. That made for a considerable undertaking: this year 1,727 photographers submitted some 6,600 digital images, with shortlisted entries provided as prints for final selection.

Inevitably, there will be differences of opinion. This is as it should be: there will

always be work in our sweet spots, just as there should be work that takes us out of our comfort zone.

There is no magic formula for submitting, but entrants should remember that work is considered at length and up close. Poorly produced work stands out as much as strong work; honest work outshines images that chase current fashions; and statements are not always necessary, but if they are they should have the ring of truth. My congratulations go to all those selected and my encouragement to those who didn't quite make it this year.

THE SELECTORS

This year's exhibition was selected by Anne McNeill of Impressions Gallery, documentary photographer Jordi Ruiz Cirera, Prof Paul Seawright of Belfast School of Art at the University of Ulster, chairman Dr Tim Rudman FRPS and Marc Aspland FRPS of *The Times*.