

concept

abstraction image conceptualisation notion thought
impression theory view conception idea hypothesis

THE **RPS**
ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

CONTEMPORARY
GROUP

e-newsletter

The RPS Photobook Exhibition was held at the Impressions Gallery this month and proved to be a very successful day.

This month we have an interview with Mike Mills ARPS. His panel appeared in the September Issue of the RPS Journal. For anyone considering entering the Conceptual and Contemporary category, the *Assessor's View* (Douglas May FRPS), had many useful pointers as what makes a successful panel.



Framed
© Mike Mills ARPS

Anna Goodchild gives readers an interesting viewpoint on the result of the EU Referendum. Anna is an active member of the SW Contemporary Group.

We are again heading for Christmas and the New Year. The next issue of Concept will be in January. I wish all our members a good Christmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to receiving some interesting material for 2017.

Christine Pinnington LRPS
Editor



Along the A66 (UK's answer to Route 66)
© Graham Hodgson FRPS
See October Issue SWC Group Report

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RPS Distinction Days

Interview with Mike Mills ARPS

Mike Mills is an overseas member living in Norway and recently gained his ARPS Distinction. His successful panel featured the Norwegian Opera and Ballet Building and can be seen in the September issue of the RPS Journal.

Originally from Shadoxhurst, near Ashford in Kent, his love of travel and youthful curiosity eventually took him to Norway where he settled and still lives.

As a photographer do you have a personal statement about your work?

OK, the most difficult question first! So much of other photographers acclaimed work is still a mystery to me, I hope to be able to understand more in time and then be able to make personal statement. For me photography is a fantastic hobby becoming a lifestyle that embraces family, friends, travel, nature, adventure and the sharing of good experiences by showing my work. I hope the passion is passed on to the viewer.

You describe yourself as a 'late bloomer' in photography – what motivated you initially?

Some 5 years ago several friends and colleagues in the creative line of work, who only knew of my graphic design work had seen some of my 'snaps' and were very encouraging. This co-incided with a gradually approaching retirement, work tapering off and more time to fill with a meaningful activity.

Have other photographers influenced your work?

Undoubtedly. I have been aware of 'The Greats' for many years, but discover inspiring photographers every week. I love the work of Michael Kenna, Bruce Percy, and this very week I discovered (online) the work of Hugh Milsom. Other favorites include Nick Brandt, who exhibited in Oslo a month ago and Elliot Erwit.

What sort of equipment do you work with?

I have just upgraded my Fuji X-T1 to a Fuji X-T2, with 14 mm, 23mm lens and the 18-135 zoom (my regular walk about lens which I have with me almost every day). Portability is a key issue, and it has to take some knocks, I am a bit heavy handed with gear. Lightroom is my choice of software and occasionally Photoshop.

Do you think that your background in graphic design influences your approach?

Definitely, I often feel that I am designing my images. I subscribe to 'less is more' and have a thing about diagonals.

Your ARPS submission took 2 years, was this a demanding process?

Enjoyable is the adjective of choice, I took my time photographing at one of my favorite places. Choosing to leave out images that did not fit into the panel was demanding.

The Norwegian National Opera and Ballet building is a stunning building and you captured it beautifully. Are there other buildings that you would like to photograph in a similar style?

I think the building and the environment around would decide the style, but maybe The Pyramids at Giza. (On a quiet day 4000 years ago?)

Do you think that the Norwegian light is beneficial when capturing these types of images?

Well Norway is famous for its clean light, although we also get occasional winter periods in Oslo with low temperatures, no wind and air pollution. The Opera building's elevated location by the fjord allows for great light most of the time. Having said that I missed the challenge of thick fog and torrential downpour and clear skies can be a bit boring.

What influenced your decision to enter the work in the Conceptual and Contemporary category?

I find the categories in the RPS distinctions to be somewhat flexible, I think my panel could also have qualified for the travel category, possibly others?

Is there any advice you would give to other photographers thinking about submitting an ARPS panel?

Online advice was excellent, I was seriously impressed with the quality and time obviously used on the 20 or so images I sent for evaluation. Had I lived in the UK I would definitely go for an advisory day! I was fortunate to be present during the evaluation at Bath, as the C & C category was available during a period I normally try to visit the UK. The RPS journal also showcases work at all levels of distinction, so - observe, read, digest.

You have already had many successes in international competitions, is this something you will continue?

Many successes? - A couple of medals and several acceptances. Yes I am a competitive person and will compete in the future internationally. I have also submitted to the Lens Culture Competitions on several occasions, no winners yet but encouraging and they provide critical reviewer feedback.

Your website has a good mix of genres; landscape, people, sport, travel. Do you have a personal preference?

I love travelling in the great outdoors and embrace being alone in my own bubble or with other photographers, my own form of 'mindfulness'.

Your plan is to develop your 365 project into a book. Are photo-books something you might produce more of in the future?

Yes, the 365 book has been produced for family and friends and I have a plan to make books from a road-trip this summer to the Lofoten Islands in Norway and a trip this autumn to Southern Italy. These will be more in the style of visual diaries.

Living overseas, what motivated you to join the RPS?

It felt good to have a connection with the old country, I have no regrets, the standards are high and I feel I have a lot to look forward to.

Is photography as active in Norway as it is in the UK?

Yes standards and activity in Norway are high, there are some really great photographers here especially nature/landscape. Check out Audun Rikardsen, Pål Hermansen

How has being a member of the RPS benefited your work?

In every way!

What is the next project on your photographic to do list?

Time to leave the comfort zone I think, several projects are in the start phase, very different from the Opera building, decay, rust and bad weather come to mind. I wish that I was more comfortable with street photography as well, but I find invading peoples personal zones a problem, so tend to shoot from a safe distance with the zoom.

Thank you Mike, and good luck with your photography

Mike Mills was in conversation with the Editor, Christine Pinnington.

To see more of Mike's work

www.mikemills.no

www.lensculture.com/competitions



Left: Oslo Fjord, Midsummer Night
Below: Dungeness
Images © Mike Mills ARPS

The RPS International Photobook Exhibition came to the Impressions Gallery in Bradford on 12th November. The 25 short-listed photobooks (submitted from a total of 155 from 23 countries) were on show. The Exhibition moved from London where it took place at the Espacio Gallery, as part of East London Photomonth, during 18-23 October.

The Impressions Gallery proved an excellent space to exhibit contemporary photography and is situated in the new City Park in the heart of Bradford city centre. The Gallery has an international reputation and its mission is to show photography that gets you looking, thinking and talking.

The exhibition drew in over 60 visitors and many commented on the inspiration they had gained from seeing the books. Several visitors made enquiries as to when the next RPS exhibition will be held and expressed an interest in entering.

Visitors also had the opportunity to visit the exhibition 'Planet Yorkshire' a survey exhibition of work by Peter Mitchell, showing at the gallery until December 3rd.



Image © Brian Crossland LRPS



Image © Patricia Ruddle ARPS

Our thanks go to the Impressions Gallery for hosting the event and to the gallery staff for their help on the day. Thanks also go to Avril Harris ARPS for the huge task of getting the exhibition from London to Bradford and returning it the next day and to the team of RPS members for helping set up, take down and meet and greet during the day.

A full version of the catalogue can be viewed on

www.issuu.com

<http://www.impressions-gallery.com>



Patricia Ruddle in conversation with one of the visitors. Anne McNeill, Director of the Impressions Gallery, can be seen in the background

Anna Goodchild

Selfies with Headlines

Anna is an active member of the South West Contemporary Group. With BAs in modern languages and history and an MA on the 20th Century History of Art, Architecture and Design, Anna is currently following an OCA photography course. In one of her current assignments, she chose to examine the EU Referendum in the UK on 23rd June 2016 and the awareness of its outcome as reflected in the international press. The work was presented as a leporello book. Anna wrote a poem which outlines the project:

24th June 2016 Selfies with Headlines

*Flick'r, Facebook, Friends, photostreams,
ephemeral traces, layers of history,
East to West,
North and South;
curiosity,
collaboration,
opinions given taken;
windows on lives hidden, exposed;
Places blanked, devoured, proposed,
ties
where each knot leaves
two ends
Looking for another;
when untied,
the thread cannot forget that knot*



Australia, Adelaide. 138°East

The Australian: "Britain's future on a knife edge."

Curiosity brought me to the confluence of digital imaging technology and social networking.

What headlines were people all over the world waking up to as the sun kissed those lines of longitude on 24th June 2016?

On that specific day in the UK, after almost six months of media bombardment on the subject of the EU Referendum, people woke up to the choice of the enfranchised.

I asked friends, friends-of-friends and total strangers plucked from the www, to post these selfies with newspaper headlines on Facebook, Whatsapp and in emails.

I was really surprised to have so many respondents and looked forward to getting the selfies. The instructions were relatively simple: I wanted one selfie of the person holding their chosen national newspaper in which both the name of the newspaper and the headline were clearly legible. As more than half the countries were not English speaking, I also had to ask the participants to translate the headlines. I used the Facebook page to encourage and thank the participants to get the selfies. A model release form acted as a contract between me and the respondents.

In the next ten years, we are probably not going to have physical newspapers as we know them. Headlines are going to be created and illustrated by communities of people who will decide what is worth disseminating.





USA, Vero Beach, Florida: 80° West

The Wall Street Journal
 "After months of rowdy 'Brexit' debate, Britain votes."



Iceland, Mosfellsbaer: 21° West

Morgunblaðið:
 No headline but the main article is about an environmentally friendly cowboy film.



Colombia, Bogota: 74° West

El Tiempo: " Against the world, the government and Farc seal the silence of the guns."



Brazil, Salvador: 38° West

a critica: " Shepherd's family dies in an accident."



Finland, Oulu: 25° East

Kaleva: Advertising: 1: "Explore Kalajokki"
 2. "NYT: Fill your dreams so that you do not have regrets in your rocking chair."



Turkey, Ankara : 32° East

Hürriyet (Independence) "The choice is yours: Erdogan's referendum proposal echoed in the EU."



Canada, Carstairs, Alberta: 114° West

National Post: " Polls point to 'Remain'."



USA, Washington, DC 77° West

The Washington Post: " Britons brace: 'Leave' vote strong."



Zimbabwe, Harare: 31° East

Zimbabwe Independent: "Mugabe's office abets corruption."



Swaziland, Mbabane: 31° East

Times of Swaziland: "Teachers vow to hold vigil at govt offices."



All images are reproduced from the pages of Anna Goodchild's book and may not be reproduced in any form without permission from the author.

About the Book

The originality of this work lies in its presentation: how it opens as a leporello book emulating a map which opens vertically and then unfolds laterally; how we feel the tracing paper used; how we interact with the ribbon and magnets which hold it together.

The map element reflect the map of the world: the first page you open is that of the Japanese respondent as he would have been the first to wake up to the 24th June. The key or legend of the book is at the back – only once you have gone through the book are you given the tools to interpret what you have seen, if you need such tools.

I have used tracing paper to reflect the layers of history, the cultural traces running through the book and the ephemeral quality of news and newspapers. The viewer can also surround him/herself with the globe of pages and have an inside view through the tracing paper.

The idea of the ribbon which holds the book together derives from the philosophy of Tim Ingold contained in "The life of lines". This centres on the fact that once a knot is tied, its make up changes so that when it is untied, its shape is never the same again – it cannot forget that it once was tied in a certain manner. This is just like the political, social and historical ties which existed before and after Brexit.

The other original aspect of this book is that the pages are held together by magnets, the force of which reminds us of those invisible ties, historical and cultural, which pull and hold people together.

Apart from all that, the headlines make very amusing and insightful reading in terms of what national papers hold important enough to put on the front page.

Anna Goodchild 2016

<https://mylandscape2016.wordpress.com/category/assignments/assignment-2>

Photographers wanted for Sky Arts programme 'Master of Photography'.

Many of you may have watched the programme Master of Photography on Sky Arts - a search to find Europe's best photographer. 12 photographers were each given an assignment, their images judged, and each week one left the competition. The judges were Oliviero Toscani, Rut Blees Luxemburg and Simon Frederick.

The programme is now looking for photographers for the next series. All you have to do is submit a portfolio of 5 images from a set of genres and a 2min video to be considered. To enter and for more information, or if you missed the series and want to catch up go to www.masterofphotography.tv

Vacancy

Editor Contemporary Photography

The Quarterly Journal of the Royal Photographic Society's Contemporary Group

After 6 successful years our current editor has decided to step down after the Spring 2017 issue.

**An opportunity now arises for a new editor to take our Journal forward
and propose new ideas.**

With support from the Journal Editorial Committee, this is a prestigious and rewarding position within our group. We are looking for an editor who is able to uncover less well-known contemporary photographers working in all genres, particularly across the span ranging from personal documentary to art photography. The Journal's aim is to provide articles with a value and purpose, mainly seeking such contacts within and outside the RPS and often outside the UK. Researching to identify such potential contributors would therefore be a key activity. The Journal also has an important role in the encouragement of new members to the Group.

Contemporary Photography is a quarterly well respected journal which encompasses the ethos of the Contemporary Group – photography that conveys ideas, stimulates thought and encourages interpretation; photographs 'about' rather than 'of'. All Contemporary Group members receive printed Group Journals, giving them a permanence. As well as the current circulation through the RPS, the Journal is currently featured on issuu.com where it has a worldwide following particularly in North and South America, and in Eastern and Western Europe, with an on-line readership of up to 3000 per issue and over 370 named followers.

If you are interested in becoming the new editor and would like to discuss this in more detail please contact:

Avril Harris ARPS, Chair Contemporary Group

avrilharris@blueyonder.co.uk

Tel: 07990 976 390

BBC Documentary - Appeal for Pictures

The BBC are inviting viewers to contribute to a BBC4 documentary *Smile: The Nation's Family Album* which will tell the story of life in Britain from the 1950s to the present day. The producers are looking for family snaps taken ideally by three generations of each family – on cameras from Box Brownies to Polaroids, Kodak Instamatics to the latest digital technology.

The programme will be shown as part to the Britain in Focus season celebrating British Photography.

bbc.co.uk/familyalbum

What's On

Hania Farrell at the National Portrait Gallery

The Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize
17 November 2016 - 26 February 2017

National Portrait Gallery,
St Martin's Place,
WC2H 0HE, London, UK

Two of Hania's recent photographs are featured in two prestigious "rival" portraiture exhibitions opening this week: the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize (one of the most prestigious open submission photography prizes) and Portrait Salon (the established response to the Prize, exhibiting the best images rejected from it).

The Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize is the leading international competition celebrating and promoting the very best in contemporary portrait photography from around the world. The exhibition opens November 17th, featuring Hania's recent piece Helix (from the series: Helix) and is amongst the 58 portraits included in The Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2016.

<http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/twppp-2016/exhibition.php>

5th December 2016 The Contemporary Group North West

19:30 - 22:00
Days Inn Charnock Richard Services
Jct 27-28 M6 Northbound
Chorley, Lancs
United Kingdom
PR7 5LR

Contact: Alan Cameron
email: alan.cameron@me.com
tel: 07825 271344

(Please note the date as the room is not available the previous week.)

FRPS and ARPS Conceptual & Contemporary Photography - Print & Images for Screen Sub- missions Assessment

19 April 2017

<http://www.rps.org/distinctions/events>
Tel:01225 325733

Deadline for contributions for inclusion in the January Issue is 20th January 2017.

News, reports, reviews, publicity, profiles, images, in fact anything of interest in the contemporary world. If you have any contributions you would like to have included, please email to:

photopinni@btinternet.com

Christine Pinnington LRPS
Editor, concept
The e-newsletter of the RPS Contemporary Group

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