

DISTINCTIONS

EXEMPTION SPECIAL

FEATURE SPONSORED BY



WHAT ARE DISTINCTIONS?

Distinctions are standards of achievement recognised throughout the world

LRPS Applicants need to show good photographic competence in five key areas

ARPS Evidence of a creative ability and personal style, plus complete control of the technical aspects of photography

FRPS Our highest Distinction is given for excellence and a distinguished ability in photography



Alberto Alicata

ARPS

MOTIVATION

It's an honour for me, and a significant recognition, to receive my ARPS from such an important and long-running association – a great advantage for a young photographer like myself.

APPROACH

I spend a lot of time looking around me to find inspiration. I like to catch a certain moment and then try to explain its beauty through photography. Often my creativity is influenced by my state of mind at that time. Photography is the most powerful tool I have to express and realise what's in my head.

INFLUENCE

The Italian photographers that have most influenced me include Gian Paolo Barbieri and Mustafa Sabbagh. I attended their workshops last March. I have also found inspiration in the work of Guy Bourdin, David LaChapelle and Gregory Crewdson. A good photograph should reveal something new in the viewer. The viewer has to feel enriched.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

I would like to do a campaign for a top clothing brand, but I'd also like the opportunity to do an exhibition in New York or Paris. Not bad, right?



Qualified successes

The Society supports great new work from international photography students

In July, the Society was pleased to award Exemptions to 22 photographers from Italy and the UK. Exemptions are available to members and non-members who have received a recognised qualification in the last 10 years. This means that successful candidates can be awarded an LRPS or ARPS Distinction without having to submit a portfolio.

Here we take a look at the work of some recent Exemption successes, including students from St George's Academy, Lincolnshire, and Scuola Romana di Fotografia e Cinema in Rome. As with all Distinctions, these individuals showcase a huge variety of approaches and subject matter in photography, and reveal the high

quality of photography being cultivated in educational institutions around the world. The Society looks to further support this great work by continuing to offer Exemptions to recent graduates.

You too may be eligible for an Exemption. If you have received a photographic qualification in the last 10 years, visit the Society website to see the full list of recognised qualifications. If you qualify, the next step is to make an application. You can download the application form from the Society website below.

To find out if you are eligible for an Exemption, and to download an application form, go to rps.org/distinctions/exemptions



Alessandra Egidi

LRPS

MOTIVATION

Since I started the Scuola Romana di Fotografia e Cinema in Rome, I have followed the Society with great interest. This year, after completing my studies, I was determined to try to get my LRPS. So it was a great personal satisfaction to get recognition at Associate.

APPROACH

I am an introverted person and I always prefer personal projects. They give me a lot of freedom to express a given concept, theme or emotion without limits.

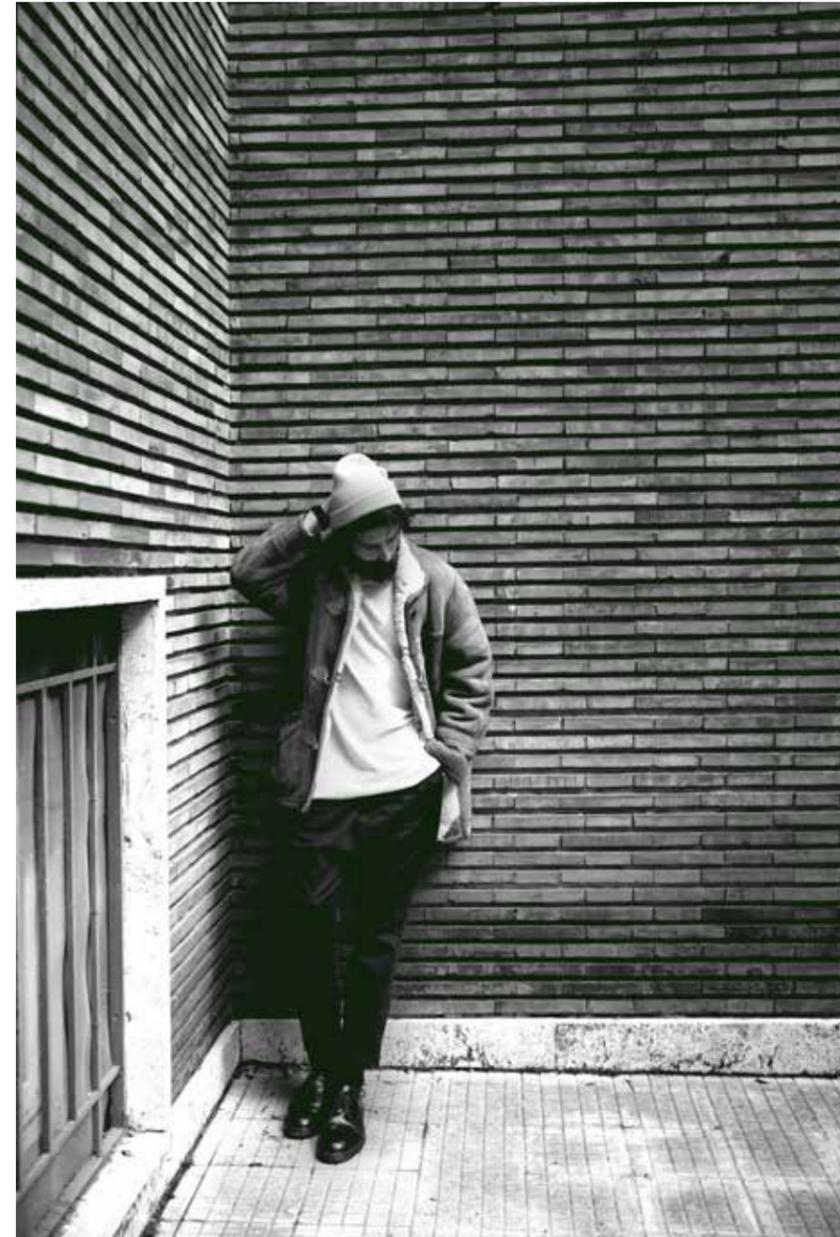
INFLUENCE

My father and his work

inspired me to become a photographer. He worked in police science and was involved in cases related to crimes and attacks. He documented all this and secretly kept some shots. That I wasn't allowed to see them made me curious.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

My dream photography assignment would be to receive the order to leave for an unknown destination to photograph landscapes that I've never seen before.



Ludovica Arcero

LRPS

MOTIVATION

In this age, everyone can become a photographer, but I wanted to be an exceptional photographer. The Royal Photographic

Society allows me to improve my work. To be evaluated by this important society is an honour.

APPROACH

I spend every day getting to know people, their life stories and experiences. I listen to them through my photography, disappearing behind the camera. This is

what happens when you are a good photographer – you become invisible, allowing the subject to reveal themselves as they would in front of a mirror.

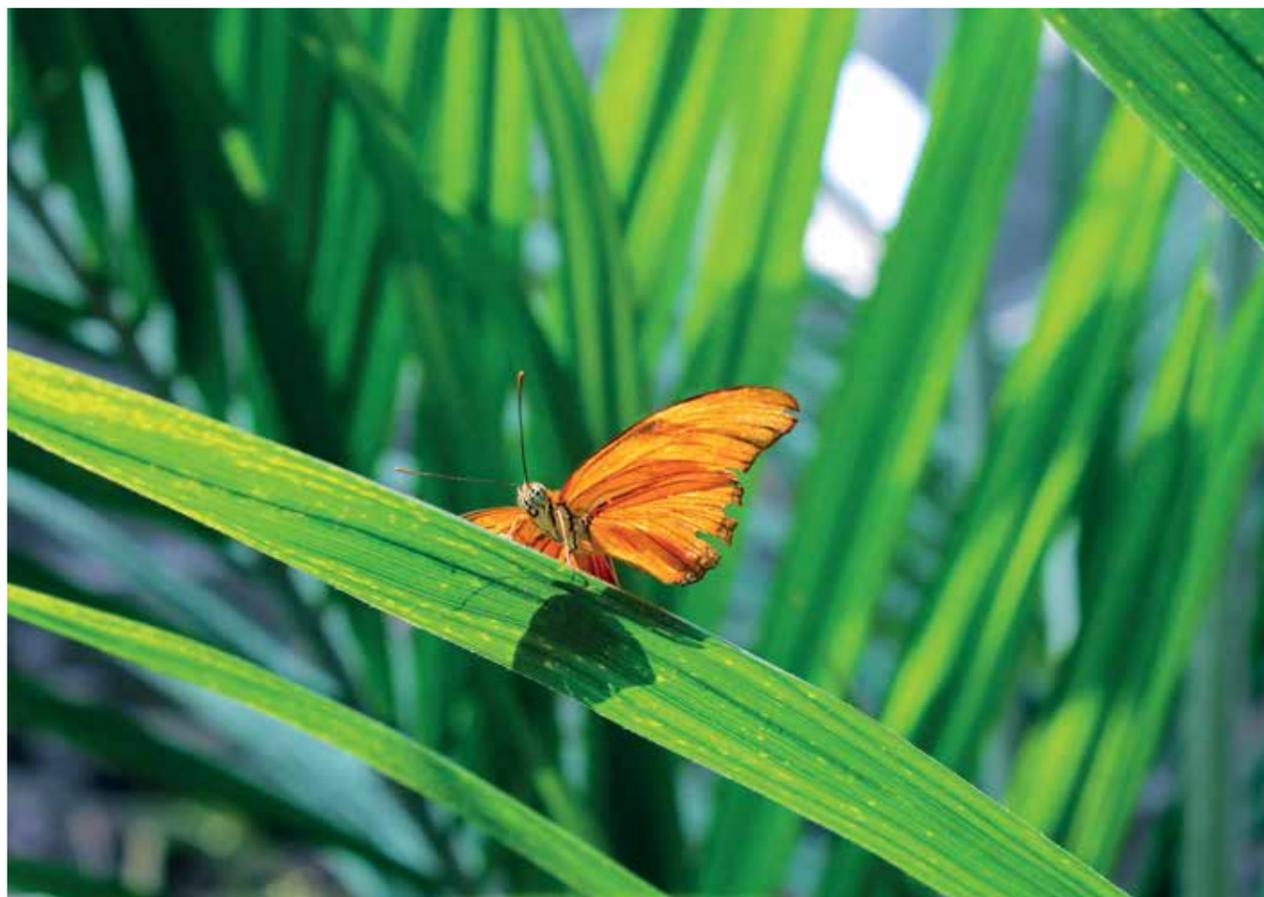
INFLUENCE

Tim Walker, Paolo Roversi, William Klein, Ferdinando Scianna, Brassai, Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott,

Tom Munro, Sarah Moon, Edward Weston and Michal Pudelka really inspire me every day.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

I'd love to work on my photography every day of my life. This is my only dream. Well, if *Vogue* would give me the cover, I'd be ready to consider it ...



Annabelle Bristow

LRPS

MOTIVATION

The Royal Photographic Society is a very prestigious organisation so I wanted to be associated with them.

APPROACH

When I'm producing a straight, realistic image I'll make the photograph as clear and detailed as I can. If I am being more creative, I may manipulate the image to make it appear surreal.

INFLUENCE

Nick Knight is very creative with his photography and a lot of his work is so off the

wall. I find photography by Carl Warner incredibly creative, especially his work with food photography because it's very unusual. I'm also influenced by Clive Nichols' photographs of the natural world.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

I would love to do a project underwater, focusing on sea life, particularly around coral reefs. Hopefully, as well as allowing me to get some great pictures, it would help bring the plight of coral reefs more to the public's attention – particularly if I could manipulate these photos to produce some disturbing images that would emphasise the amount of damage that is being done to the coral reefs by pollution.



COURSES TAKEN

▶ Alberto Alicata, Ludovica Arcero, Alessandra Egidi, Giacomo Fierro and Federica Spadafora graduated from III Master at Scuola Romana di Fotografia e Cinema

▶ Harry Beresford, Annabelle Bristow, Will Smith and Reba Stringfellow graduated from BTEC Extended Diploma in Photography at St George's Academy

Harry Beresford

LRPS

MOTIVATION

It was an opportunity I simply couldn't pass up. My application to The Royal

Photographic Society allowed me to join a group where we all showcase our own expression and view on life through our photographs. We all share a common interest, and that was something I wanted to be a part of.

APPROACH

I would describe my approach to photography as inventive, as I aim to create my own image rather than copy and recreate others' work. I want to create images that no-one would think of doing. I work outside the box as often as I can because it allows me to create something new that hasn't been seen before.

INFLUENCE

With the photography I have

done so far, I wouldn't necessarily say photographers have influenced me, as I like to make my own creations. However, I do admire Bryan Adams' photography. I think that's mainly because not only is he a fantastic photographer, he is also one of my favourite musicians. Combining two interests of mine together: I have to admire that.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

My dream project would combine photography with one of my other passions, either music or sport. It would be so much fun, as I would capture sport or music in a way that no other photographer has done before.





Reba Stringfellow

LRPS

MOTIVATION

I wanted to be recognised as an established photographer, but will also take inspiration and tips from *The Journal*.

APPROACH

I enjoy creating new ideas with Photoshop, therefore I'd describe my style as unique. I'd also say that my

photos are quite dramatic. To me a good photograph should be thought provoking, it should linger in the minds of the viewers.

INFLUENCE

My favourite photographer is Mr Toledano because of the strong emotions he creates using his photos. One of my favourite

collections by him is *A New Kind of Beauty* which is about people with extreme plastic surgery and how beauty is defined.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

I would love to do a shoot which investigates people's opinions and beliefs, something along the lines of Mr Toledano's work.



Giacomo Fierro

LRPS

MOTIVATION

I chose to apply for a Licentiate as a goal to set myself, and to hear the opinion of an international organisation on the quality of my work.

APPROACH

The only adjective I want to give my photography is spontaneous. Every image I take comes from a need to talk about something.

INFLUENCE

There isn't a photographer who has influenced my way of photographing. I take photographs from what I feel and want my images to reflect more and more the way I see things.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

I'd work on personal projects but, having to choose, the assignment of my dreams would be a commission in the music industry.

Will Smith

LRPS

MOTIVATION

I have a strong passion for photography and wish to pursue a career in the fine arts, so it just made sense to immerse myself into a prestigious organisation such as The Royal Photographic Society.

APPROACH

I would say that my approach to photography is to keep it as modern as possible, but meanwhile maintaining a link to the past. A combination of two different worlds: combining modern, digital technology with the honest, vintage feel of the past.

INFLUENCE

I became a photographer through watching films. I would watch movies and pause them on a single shot, and somehow that shot alone was able to tell a story. This led to taking photographs of my own. I have since come to love the work of Jeremy Cowart, whose portraiture has a definitive sense of style. Similarly, I cannot overlook the creative work of Man Ray.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

I think that my dream project would be an underwater shoot. I would like to capture photographs of places that cannot be so easily seen. Either that, or working as director of photography on films.



Federica Spadafora

LRPS

MOTIVATION

I applied for a Distinction because I think it's a very important acknowledgement. I am pretty sure that I'll move away from Italy, so the Licentiate is a good point to start my international career.

APPROACH

I like imaginary scenarios, dreamy atmospheres – something really conceptual.

A melancholy note has always characterised my shots and is present in all my work. In my opinion, a good photograph should inspire the observer

and should stimulate their mind.

INFLUENCE

Ever since I was a child I have had a strong attraction to photography. I remember playing with my mum's analogue camera or sometimes with my grandfather's Polaroid. I am strongly influenced by Japanese photographers, such as Daido Moriyama and Tokihiro Sato, as well as other photographers such as Huang Xiaoliang, Bill Beckley, Sophie Calle, Jeff Wall and Anna Gaskell.

DREAM ASSIGNMENT

I'd really like to shoot conceptual images that create a connection with the viewer. And the art gallery seems to me an important touchpoint.

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Get ahead

Andy Moore LRPS on how an Exemption can be a step toward the coveted Fellowship



A Distinction may provide the key to unlock new creative and professional opportunities

THE SOCIETY'S Distinctions Manager Andy Moore explains how Exemptions work and what the benefits might be for you.

Does having a relevant qualification guarantee an Exemption?

Yes! If your course is on the list and you can provide the evidence required, which is a copy of the certificate or a letter stating your award, then just complete a simple form and that's it.

Do applicants have to show their work or simply prove that they have a relevant qualification?

Anyone who applies does not need to show us their work as part of the process, but we would like to show more examples of images from Exemptions on the website. So from time to time we do ask for examples, but this is to promote Exemption and is not part of the application process.

Is a Distinction the same whether you received it via an Exemption or through the traditional route?

For Licentiate, it's exactly the

same. For Associate, the only difference is the certificate – we do not add which category, as we would if you were awarded it through the traditional route.

If someone with a relevant degree at 2:1 or above was awarded an LRPS through the traditional route, could they then use their degree to get an ARPS?

The simple answer is yes.

What are the benefits of being awarded a Distinction through the Exemption process?

We recognise good quality student work can be very different to the work our Panels require and the exemption route provides a different way to secure a distinction using work that has already been examined. To assist students, the Society is waiving the application fee until 2016.



Andy Moore LRPS
is the Society's
Distinctions Manager

EXPERT ADVICE

Turn to our member guide on page 707 to find dates for Advisory Days, where you can gain expert advice on your portfolio