

## RPS Central Contemporary / Documentary Group, July 2023

We had a small group meeting on Wednesday 12th July, which I missed the first part of, due to delayed trains. Cliff ably chaired the meeting on my behalf until I arrived - thanks very much to him for holding the fort. Everyone present shared some work, and then there were discussions about a forthcoming group book, and a potential meet-up - more about those later in the email.

Paul Reynolds presented photographs taken in **Kolkata's Dharukia railway colony**, where people are living on and beside an active railway line. While understanding that there can be ethical issues when photographing people experiencing poverty in India, Paul presented the images in a caring and considerate way, and explained the cooperation and welcome he had had from the people involved.

Margaret Beardsmore presented a selection of images showing '**How Mood affects Image Taking**'.

"I have taken these images during three times of sadness:

2014 Waiting for my mother to die

2020 Coming out of lockdown but the fear of lockdown was still present.

2022 After the death of a good friend.

I am intrigued as to why when there is great sadness in my life I feel the need to express it in photographs - very different photographs to what I normally take. My intention of what I wanted to express was very strong.

Is it possible to get that strong intention into my day to day photography life?"





Carol Olerud presented photographs of Tzintzuntzan, Michoacan, Mexico.

**Día de Muertos, 1st-2nd November 2022**

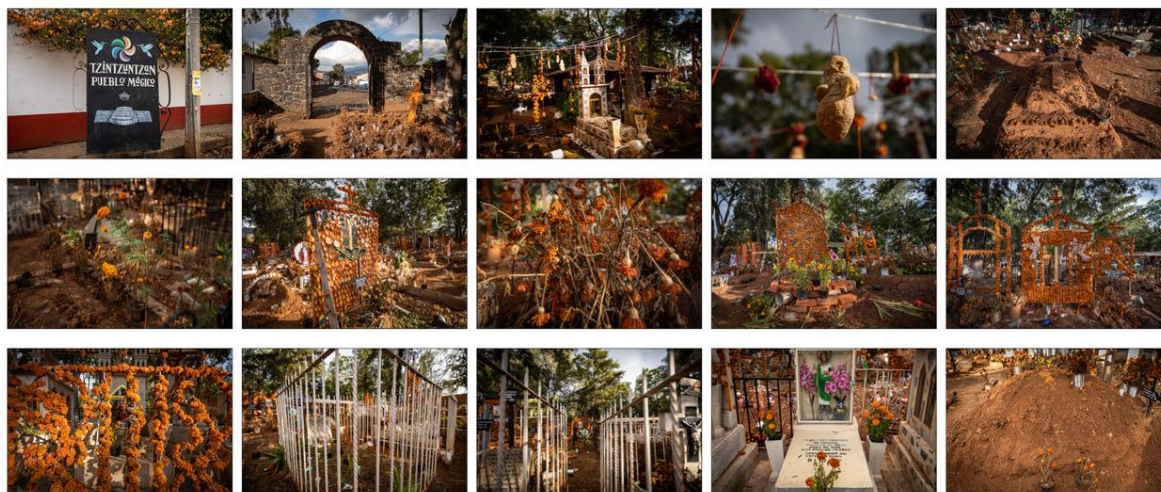
"During my trip to Mexico in November-December 2022, I was lucky to visit the Panteón in Tzintzuntzan.

The cemetery. Día de Muertos had just been celebrated on 1st-2nd November 2022 and the remains were clearly left to be seen.

It was incredible! Only once a year do they tidy up and a few days later, re-decorate with fresh marigold flowers, creating altars for the beloved deceased.

Their lives are celebrated. I had a short time to capture the scenes. These photos are an impression of what I saw.”

There is more to see on her website: <https://carololerud.com/tzintzuntzan-michoacan-mexico>



2022 Día de Muertos, Tzintzuntzan, Michoacán, Mexico ©Carol Olerud FRPS



Linda Marshall showed the culmination of her several months of work with a sculptor, being a book of her photographs of his work, his work space, and his work methods. Discussion focused on how the book reflected her aesthetic at least as much as his.

Cliff McFarlane shared a series of photographs observing people and their emotions when they're engaged in their own activities and thoughts.





Steff Hutchinson briefly shared some as yet unedited photographs from the residential trip she had just led to Snowdonia, once again using the panoramic facility on a mobile phone.

And so onto those all-important details I promised you at the beginning about a second shared book for the group:

We are suggesting that to follow up on the first book, 'Introducing...', we this time take the title, "**On Reflection**". This can be interpreted by each member in any way they choose.

We will use the same format as in book 1: pages are **210mm square**, and each member will have **6 pages in total**, one for text about the photographer and / or their project, and five for images.

The deadline for submission of images and text will be the **end of October**. I am happy to layout the pages, and as with book 1, we will make it available to all via ISSUU online, accessible from the RPS website. Those who wish to purchase printed copies of the book can do so, but there will be no compulsion to do this. The price will be determined by how many people want a copy at the time of publishing. The last book cost us about £17 each including postage.

A **group visit to Avoncroft Museum** of buildings (near to Bromsgrove) has been proposed, with the best dates looking like **Saturday 30th Sep or Sunday 1st Oct**. The museum is open from 10am to 4pm both days, and tickets are £12.50, or £10.50 for those over 65. This would be reduced slightly if we were to get enough of us, but that requires gathering 15 interested people.

<https://avoncroft.org.uk/>

All the best,

Steff

For further details of the Central Contemporary/Documentary Group meetings please contact [info@steffhutchinson.co.uk](mailto:info@steffhutchinson.co.uk)