

# INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2023 / VOL 1

THE **RPS**  
ROYAL  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY



**ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

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**Iconic silhouette: Alex, the TV Tower,  
piercing Berlin's skyline.**

The Fernsehturm Berlin, affectionately known as the Berlin TV Tower or simply "Alex," stands tall and proud in the heart of the German capital. This iconic landmark, located in the central Mitte district near Alexanderplatz, has not only dominated the city's skyline since its completion in 1969 but has also become a symbol of unity, technological prowess, and the resilience of the people of Berlin.

Constructed between 1965 and 1969 by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), the TV Tower was conceived as a showcase of East German engineering achievements during the height of the Cold War. Rising to a staggering height of 368 meters (1,207 feet), it holds the title of the tallest structure in Germany and remains one of the tallest towers in Europe.

The design of the TV Tower is instantly recognizable, featuring a sleek shaft topped by a distinctive sphere. The sphere, symbolic of a peaceful atom, houses a revolving restaurant and an observation deck, inviting visitors to experience breathtaking panoramic views of Berlin from a height of approximately 203 meters (666 feet).



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**Welcome – Willkommen – Bienvenu –  
Bienvenido – Benvenuto – 欢迎 –  
Welkom – Powitanie – Välkommen –  
Velkommen - いらっしゃいませ**

.... to everyone wherever you are in the world. You are all part of the Royal Photographic Society community.

**T**his first International Members newsletter aims to improve the communications with our members outside the UK. We aim to produce this quarterly as an online publication to bring you information that will help you to feel engaged and inspired.

In between we will send out an email to keep you up to date on meetings within the various groups of the RPS that might work for those in different time zones.

There is a wide variety of things that go on within the RPS that perhaps you are not always aware of. We will introduce you to opportunities to engage with meetings, projects, competitions, workshops, videos and general information.

If there is something you would like to see us cover then do email us at [international@rps.org](mailto:international@rps.org)




THE RPS ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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BECOME A MEMBER



# Join the RPS

Become a member

Get the RPS Journal, improve your photography, earn qualifications and more

Become a member >



AWARDS

### RPS Awards Talks: in conversation with Owen Harvey

Wednesday 29 November

Join us for a conversation between portrait photographer Owen Harvey and The Guardian's former Head of Photography Roger Tooth.



AWARDS

### RPS 2023 Awards

Announcing the recipients' of the 2023 Royal Photographic Society Awards.

Read about the individuals that are making significant contributions to both still and moving image.

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients.



EXHIBITION

### 'Only Human: Aneesa Dawoojee'

RPS Gallery | 16 September - 19 November

Aneesa Dawoojee's solo exhibition awarded after her success in the IPE163, showcases two bodies of work. *The Fighting Spirit of South London* and previously unseen work from her new series *March of the Humming Birds*.



FEATURE

### RPS Fellowship portrays women with secondary breast cancer


From the RPS Journal team

Jennifer Willis FRPS talks about her moving Fellowship portfolio of women living with incurable breast cancer in Northern Ireland.

The RPS is an educational charity committed to bringing photography to everyone. Founded when photography was in its infancy, today we are a world-leading photographic community.

#PhotographyForEveryone

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# International survey and focus groups

Thank you to all RPS International members who responded to our recent survey and those of you who came on the focus group Zoom meetings. We received some invaluable feedback, which has assisted us in developing a strategy and action plan to better serve our world wide web of members.

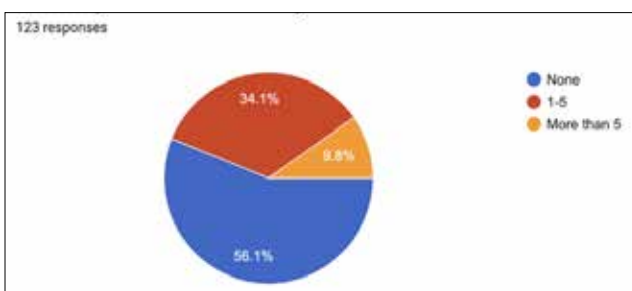
We thought you might be interested in knowing a few facts that we established from the survey.

There are 1231 International members: Approximately 12% of the overall RPS membership.

32% of you are not a member of a Special Interest Group (SIG); 21% felt that they have insufficient information about SIGs.

## Talks

How many RPS on-line talks have you attended in the last 12 months?

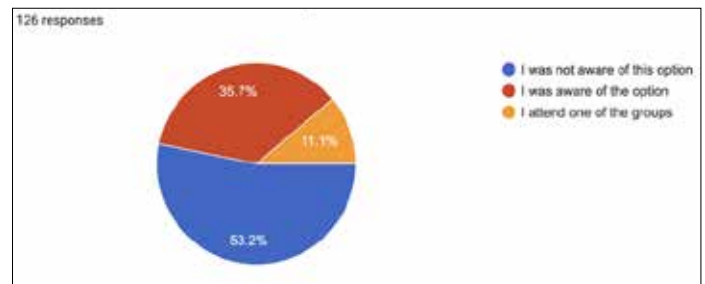


### Comments about talks:

- Appreciated in general, but would like to be able to download them – as time differences is a barrier, and English as a second language means need to review recording.
- Request for more international speakers

## e-Circles

Some of the Special Interest Groups run on-line discussion groups or circles, where members meet on Zoom to discuss their work. were you aware of these?



### Other Comments:

- Suggestions that RPS needs to decide – International Organisation or UK with a bit of outreach
- Some SIG magazines not sent to international members, some don't arrive, and RPS magazine sent surface mail which takes months to arrive.
- Some requests for electronic versions of RPS Journal and other SIG journals
- Need more special interest talks and speakers from outside UK.
- Renewing membership can be difficult – reminders late and phone not answered.
- Isolation is an issue.
- A significant desire for more contact with others.
- Cannot be part of regional FB groups.
- Specific international members communications would be useful.

We have now recruited a small team of volunteers - see The Team. Most of us are either international members currently or have lived outside the UK so have been an international member in the recent past.

In Jean's case she lives in Scotland and reckons suffers more or less the same issues as you do. We empathise with you and wish to improve your experience.

**Obviously, we need to establish a starting point so this is our intention....**

<b>This is what you told us</b>	<b>This is what we will do</b>
Improve communications	Produce a quarterly newsletter, with a bespoke email in between.
Record webinars	Meeting with all RPS groups to persuade them to do this.
View webinars	Start an Intl's private YouTube channel
Understand what's on	Ads within newsletter and emails
Know more about the Special Interest Groups	A 'getting to know you' series of clips on YouTube channel
Meet our country wide colleagues	In our e-Circles (peer to peer discussion groups) we are offering a range of GMT times so that we can suit members in any land. Start a Facebook group for Internationals.
Video RPS House and Exhibitions	Work with staff to deliver this
Working towards a Distinction	Organise an Advisory Day later in 2024
Improved web site	Develop our international web pages.
Share our images	Organise a worldwide photo day and supporting web gallery.

The greyed out text is where we have to work in conjunction with RPS House staff and to their timeline.

This publication is the start of good things to come. We are beavering away in the background to ensure we deliver on the '**This is what we will do**' list. So please communicate with us, tell us what you want, let us know

how we are making progress as we go along. *Contribute to this publication.* Deadline will be the first day of the month of publication – next one therefore is 1 February 2024.

# e-Circles

Would you like to make some virtual RPS friends?



For some RPS members attending face-to-face events is impossible, and feelings of isolation from peers can develop. If you recognise this why not consider making some virtual photographic buddies? Zoom meetings are now widely used to facilitate real time discussions as well as deliver lectures. Some of the workshops run by many of the special interest groups within the RPS are delivered entirely over zoom, some special interest groups run peer support groups or e-Circles by zoom, and our Talk-Walk-Talk programme will offer an option for members on Scottish Islands or outside UK who cannot attend the face-to-face component.

## e-Circles to make Friends and Influence People (and Develop your Photography) wherever in the World you live!

Peer learning groups involve colleagues learning from one-another, critically it is a reciprocal and non-hierarchical process, with all members contributing, and no member acting as tutor. Evaluation of peer learning groups in health care and in teaching has shown them to be effective in improving skills knowledge and attitudes.

Groups of photographers meeting to support one another in their efforts to improve often refer to their peer learning groups as circles, emphasizing the non-hierarchical aspect.

Both Digital Imaging and Landscape special interest groups run Zoom e-Circles, which have proved to be

helpful to members in developing their photography, building friendships and having fun! We have members from UK, Europe and as far away as Mauritius.

Our e-Circles are groups of between 6 and 10 photographers who meet monthly on Zoom. The sessions are chaired by a co-ordinator, a key principle is that every photographer is welcome to take part, and every photographer's views and experience are valuable.

Authors introduce their work, intentions, and explain what they need help with; members offer suggestions rather than advice, which are for the author to consider.

Of course, for many problems someone in the group will have more useful knowledge than others and this knowledge is shared, on the understanding that on another topic someone else will have a better insight.

Sometimes the group is unable to solve a problem immediately and may delegate a member to find more information.

We have three types of groups.

- A. e-Critique circles. In these group members share an image for detailed discussion;
- B. e-Processing circles. In these group members all work on a RAW file volunteered by one member and discuss different approaches to processing to achieve the volunteer's visualisation.
- C. e-Projects circle. In this group we discuss projects that members are working on.

In addition to the Zoom e-Circles the Visual Art Special interest group has several email circle, where members exchange images and comments by group email.

They already have a number of overseas members in their groups, and enjoy the variety that these different perspectives bring.

If you want to improve some aspect of your photography and are prepared to meet up with colleagues for constructive, honest giving and receiving of feedback why not consider joining one of our e-Circles?

### Interested?

Read more on the [Digital Imaging webpage](#) or [Landscape Group webpage](#) or [Visual Arts webpage](#)



## Images:

1. **Margaret Elliot** is a member of a Projects e-circle, she presented a series of images which she was producing for an exhibition of church interiors, following discussion she diversified her styles to include some intimate scenes including this:



2. **Jean Robson** – I am working on a project about water and showed a colour version of this to my group, they suggested a more contrasty monochrome version might work.



3. **Mark Sims**



Before: distracting second boat / blue boat a little too blue etc.



After: removed the first boat / tidied up the blue boat / tighter crop

# Talk-Walk-Talk

Why not try the Talk-Walk-Talk programme?

**T**he Talk-Walk-Talk Programme is a collaboration between the Digital Imaging and Landscape Special Interest Groups. Our aim is to provide opportunities for learning development and social interaction between members without the need for travelling large distances.



Photographers attend a talk, delivered via Zoom, aimed at stimulating ideas for photography within the project environment.

The talks aim to provide interest for photographers of all levels of experience, and a wide variety of subjects. The talk is recorded so that you can watch it whenever you wish.

WALKS take place over the following 6 weeks. In the UK these are lead by walk leaders, but for areas outside mainland UK we are offering members the opportunity to walk on your own, or with a buddy if you choose.

Those outside the UK will receive a special email in early January 2024 with information telling you how to book.

The final TALK sessions are where we meet together online over Zoom to share each others images and experiences.

We will offer a few different dates and times for these Zoom meetings to suit everyone around the world.

The next Talk-Walk-Talk opportunity will start in February and will be around the topic of Architecture and the Built Environment and will cover everything from archaeological sites to modern buildings, inside and out.

Interested? Have a look at <https://talkwalktalk.org>

## Architecture and Built Environment

**Zoom Talk Date and Time:**

19 February, 2024 - 19:30

**Bookings Open:** 8 January, 2024

**Bookings Close:** 12 February, 2024

**Presenter:** Mark Reeves FRPS

30+ UK walks. International members invited – see separate email information that will come to you late December.



The TALK with Mark will be recorded for those unable to make the live session.

**WALKs:** 20 February to 31 March 2024

**TALK discussion sessions:** during April

# AI is a hot topic!

Let us start with a strong statement: AI is not photography. It produces illustrations that many will see as photography and it already infiltrates the software we all use and some of our in-camera processes. We can hardly escape it, but where is the line? Is it when we generate additional pixels that were not there at the point of taking the shot. Or is it if we text generate (prompt) all or part of an image?

The RPS has a statement and guidelines about AI on it's AI hub here <https://rps.org/ai/> If you are interested then do take time to read it all but the top line statement says...

## THE RPS INTERIM AI PRINCIPLES

The RPS recognises that Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers photographers enhanced opportunities to support their practice through automated image processing, and for the creation of new photography. It also provides other creatives an opportunity to create non-photographic artwork, based on photographers' images.

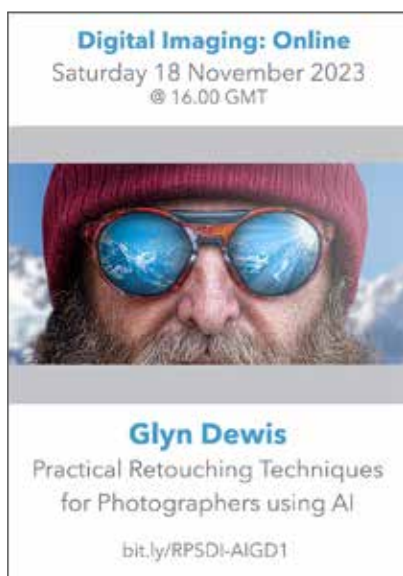
*The RPS believes images generated solely via AI are not photography as defined in its Royal Charter.*

However with Photoshop and other leading softwares embracing AI we may, as individuals, want to play and experiment to see what it has to offer us.

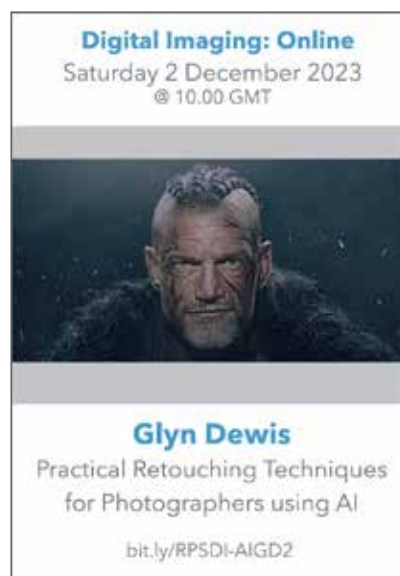
The Digital Imaging group (DI) have two up coming talks from Photoshop evangelist Glyn Dewis titled 'Practical Retouching Techniques for Photographers using AI'.

On 18 November at 16.00 GMT Glyn will be live presenting for an hour and showing us what is possible. This webinar will be recorded and run again on 2 December at 10.00 GMT; so the same content as the first meeting. Glyn will be live on both days to answer your questions.

It is being run twice with the aim of being a convenient time for the majority of our members around the world, whether you are ahead of the UK time zone or behind. If you cannot make either date or time then all is not lost. DI record all their webinars and everyone who registers gets a follow up email with a link to the recording. So you need never miss out on any DI promoted webinars. To book either event click on the links below.



[bit.ly/RPSDI-AIGD1](https://bit.ly/RPSDI-AIGD1)



[bit.ly/RPSDI-AIGD2](https://bit.ly/RPSDI-AIGD2)



The AI article that follows is being reproduced by kind permission of the Australian Chapter, David Williams and John Warren.

October 2023

RPS Victoria

Further to the subject of Ai

Goodday everyone!

I want to introduce you to my mate John Warren – a successful wedding and portrait photographer from Bentleigh in Victoria.

Like many, John was intrigued by Ai – and has a bit of good-natured mischief in him. John has graciously allowed me to share this rather ‘Puckish’ exercise with you all.

It started with this – swapping his own head with that of actors in well-known scenes (here John has become ‘Lt Dan’ from the famous movie ‘Forrest Gump’



## HOT TOPIC

But wait, there's more.

As voice prompts came in and it all moved way beyond simple photoshop cut & paste – John could make himself into cartoon caricatures as shown here:



But surely, even in our imaginations – we could suddenly travel further....John decided to visit the 'Burning Man' festival – even if it was just in his imagination (or rather more pointedly – the 'imagination' of Ai)

Ai – in fact – chose how to dress him – and applied what it had learnt about the human battle with body image – and made some slimming adjustments:



What fun! You say....travel with none of the dust and none of the discomfort of outside shared toilets.....

But, all fun aside, you have to run a business – and you just can't play all day....and what with covid – things were quiet on the business income side....

Then John was approached by an Italian fashion photographer regarding John acting as an agent for a selection of his work to be sold as décor. It was (as John would say I'm sure – 'A nice little earner')

## HOT TOPIC

So, here is the announcement:



**John Warren**  
31 May · 🧑

**BIG NEWS:**  
We are now the agent for top Italian Fashion Photographer - Alessandro Bertolini  
He is new to the Australian market and to social media  
We would appreciate you checking out his new website !!!



[ALESSANDROBERTOLINI.COM](http://ALESSANDROBERTOLINI.COM)

**Alessandro Bertolini - Italian Fashion Photographer**  
Fashion Art Prints A fusion of visionary photography and cutting-edge AI technol...



And one could quickly cross to his website to see beautiful fashion models:

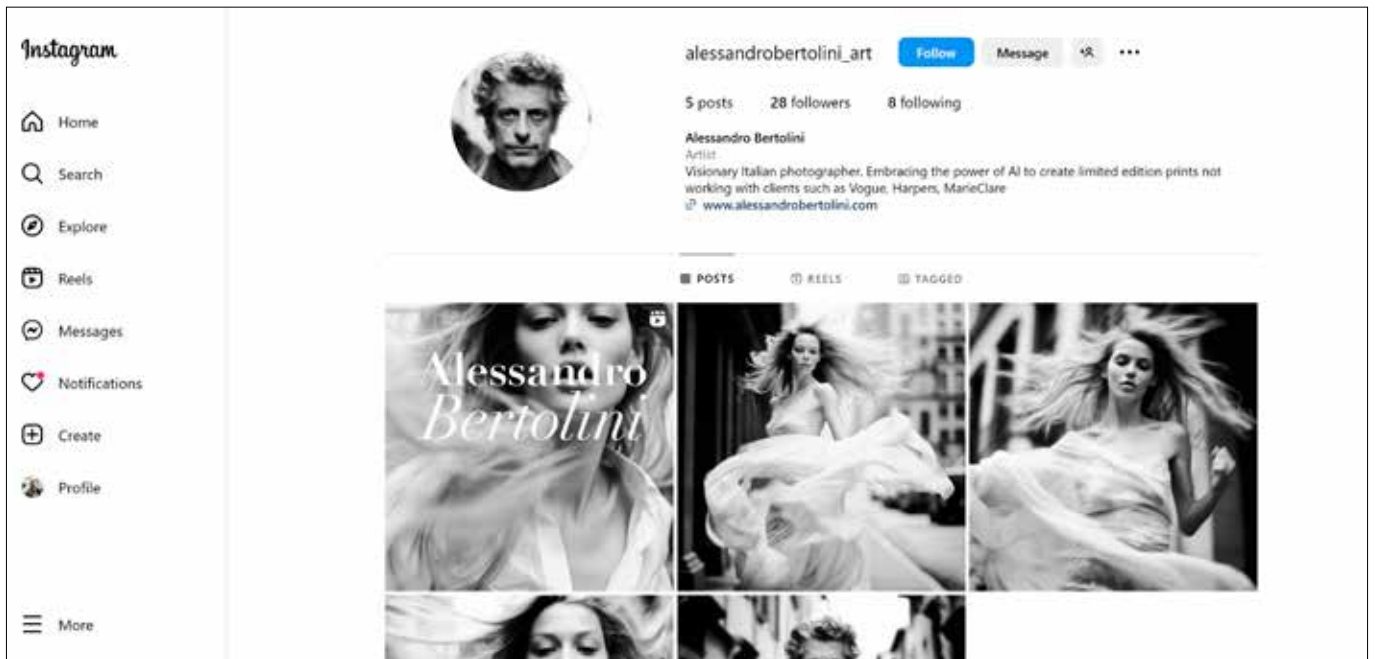


And the maestro himself – and learn all about him:



## HOT TOPIC

There was of course – a gallery full of lovely images to purchase as wall décor....



I mean – what lovely work!

Then John revealed the most important part:



John had intentionally created Allesandro Bertolini. The model pictured was an Ai experiment for John to see what could be done with movement. (\*I must point out here that this exercise took no money from anyone and went on for a week or two. John is as honest as the day is long and a 'thoroughly good chap' – even though he enjoys a 'stir')

And 'stir the pot' is exactly what John intended to point out:

**'We' can easily create a website.**

**'We' can easily put fake images in it by fake photographers that never existed**

**'We' can deceive – easily deceive people**

**'We' can put a payment system on the website and get people to pay for fakes**

The capability for fraud is enormous and far reaching. John used his professional capabilities to construct a fake world – imagine if he was serious?

As I've stated elsewhere, Ai (let's use the nice term: 'learns' – and now the real term 'pirates') other artists work for no payment to that artist or even credit to their original concept and artistic creation.

It's easy to be fatuous and say 'But it's fuuuunnn' and (of course the classic) 'It's not going away' or the highly offensive to most professionals 'You're missing the point – it's about creativity' (we already knew that which is why some of us are really good and others exceptional)

It's also why personal styles have defined artists for centuries – and yet now – someone with limited talent, skills and learning can conjure up a Margaret Burke-White, or a Robert Capa. A Norman Parkinson or an Edward Hopper.

Those same people can smile at the whimsy created for them in the style of Thomas Hart Benton – and they not only won't recognise it as such – but won't care two hoots – because suddenly it's become theirs. Created by words.

In the best possible scenarios – already talented people are working over these generated images or adding elements of their own to the base – to (in their words) 'Make it their own work'....

Much of this work is wonderful using Ai as a starting point – or to create aspects not within the reach of the person requesting the 'creation'.....This is often justified as 'Ai is just a tool'

Ai is 'just a tool' if you are able to get past the fact that the images it generates are 'learned' (I prefer 'harvested') from other people's work.

You can be absolutely assured that if I took an image from another photographer's website – and cropped it differently – I would NOT get away with calling it 'my creation'. The other photographer would be rightly incensed. Copyright would come into it. Plagiarism would feature highly.

And my reputation as a an artist who has to stoop to stealing someone else's work would be rightly sullied.

I hear a lot of people saying 'But the Ai cat is out of the bag!'

Yes it is....but it's not too late to bring some oversight, control and publishing regulation to it.

I've made many homage pictures over the years and NEVER hesitated to give credit to the influence of the original creator/artist. It's not only the decent thing to do – it's the right thing to do.

So, I want to see a proviso on all art – photography and otherwise – that states clearly that the resulting image has had Ai used in it's conception/ or it's components/ or it's entirety.

Many major photographic competitions around the world have dropped nature and landscape categories due to Ai.

Maybe it's time to acknowledge, recognize and reveal the genie – with a byline:

**'Created with the assistance of Ai from prompts dictated by.....(insert human artist name here)**

# RPS International Members Group

There is a new Facebook group for RPS international members.



We have started this group as we know, from the focus groups we held, that many of you would like to know if there are other RPS members living near you.

Due to GDPR rules we cannot provide you with the information directly but the Facebook gives you the opportunity to post an image and to tell us which country you are in and the town you live in.

Who knows you may find you have an RPS buddy close by - stranger things have happened.

***So why not join us today and start a conversation.***

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/352852560759757>



# RPS Special Interest Group Resources

Many of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) make much of their content free to everyone. In this section we will bring you some updates of interesting things you might wish to read or view.

You can access all Group's web pages via this link on the RPS web site [HERE](#)



## Groups

All members are welcome to join our specialist groups that concentrate more closely on particular areas of photography including Landscape, Documentary and more.

## VIDEOS

Many meetings are recorded. Here are a few links to a variety of different genres that might interest you.

**TRAVEL GROUP** - [https://rps.org/groups/travel/recent-travel-group-events/?\\_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==](https://rps.org/groups/travel/recent-travel-group-events/?_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==)

**AUDIO VISUAL** - [https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/making-an-av-sequence/?\\_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==](https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/making-an-av-sequence/?_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==)

**CONTEMPORARY** - [https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/contemporary-youtube/?\\_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==](https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/contemporary-youtube/?_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==)

## ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

**DOCUMENTARY** - [https://rps.org/groups/documentary/the-decisive-moment-the-quarterly-journal-of-the-documentary-group/?\\_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==](https://rps.org/groups/documentary/the-decisive-moment-the-quarterly-journal-of-the-documentary-group/?_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==)

**DIGITAL IMAGING** - [https://rps.org/groups/digital-imaging/di-publications/di-online/?\\_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==](https://rps.org/groups/digital-imaging/di-publications/di-online/?_cl=MTswOzE7SVJzUIB0bXl6dFFUujB6cVlybFIFRkM5aXQxdGhFaGhxYjhYeENnQXpaMEc3M0lyTUNwRIFqZThDUmRvZmE3TDsxLDMsNA==)

# Nature Group

The Nature group aims to bring together people with an interest in any aspect of natural history photography, and with any level of ability to display their work.

Group membership is approximately 900, largely from the UK but with members from all over the world. Members include well-known professional photographers, natural history authors, lecturers and those who are just starting out.

They also have a great choice of event recordings that are ideal for anyone to watch any time.

Go to <https://rps.org/groups/nature/> and scroll down to the 'Event Recordings' to view.

DI working with the Nature Group, also have a webinar on Saturday 25 November at 16.00 GMT.

## Alison Pollack 'From Macro to Micro: The Art of Fungi Photography'

The meeting will be recorded but to get the link for the recording you need to be registered for the event.

To book go to [bit.ly/RPSDIGOnline050](https://bit.ly/RPSDIGOnline050)



NOVEMBER  
25

**From Macro to Micro: The Art of Fungi Photography with Alison Pollack**  
By RPS - Digital Imaging Group

Free & paid tickets available

GET TICKETS

# Travel Group

The Travel Group is very active and welcomes all RPS members.

The Group was formed to promote the enjoyment of travel photography: of trying to capture the spirit of places we visit and sharing that through photography. All our activities have the development of the skills necessary to achieve this at their core.

The Group is at its liveliest and most effective when there is discussion involving a wide range of members.

All Travel group recordings can be found [HERE](#).

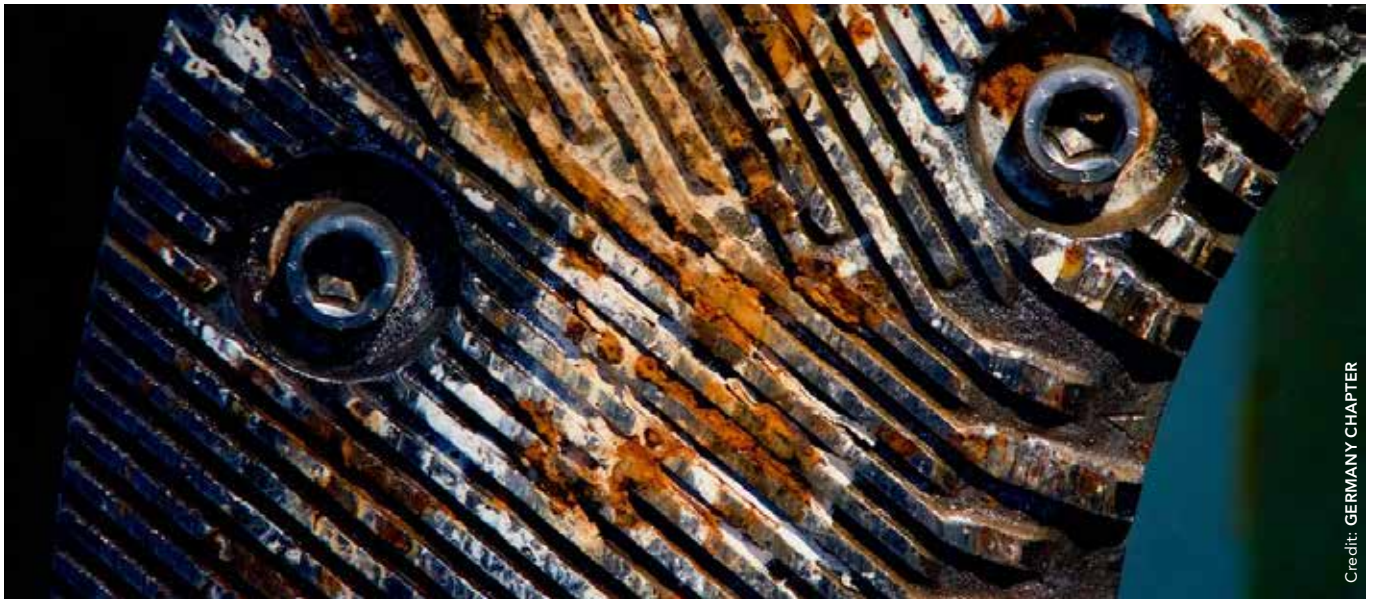
**RPS Travel Group**



The screenshot shows a booking interface with a landscape photo of the Namib Desert. On the right, there is a 'WORKSHOP' section with the number '19' and the title 'The Namib Desert - A Photographic Journey'. Below the photo, there is a 'GET TICKETS' button.

**The Namib Desert - A Photographic Journey**  
**Sunday, 19th November at 14.30 (GMT)**  
Malcolm MacGregor FRPS FRGS

to book go to: [www.rps.org/groups/travel](http://www.rps.org/groups/travel)



# Germany Chapter

The Germany Chapter, founded in 2009, offers its members a platform for joint activities in all areas of photography.

This includes the planning, organization, and realization of meetings, advisory days to gain distinction as well as collective exhibitions on various topics. Meetings are usually held in Dortmund, this being the most central area for a widely distributed membership.

The chapter currently has 36 members, most of whom come from Germany. The chapter is also home to RPS members from Denmark, Poland and Sweden. There are no chapters in these countries, so the members joined the German chapter.

The chapter publishes a quarterly eMagazine to report on its members' activities and photo projects.

Here is the link to the current issue:

[eMagazine Q3/23](#)





The chapter also organizes online talks, webinars and meetings.

The next **Annual General Meeting** will take place as a live event on November 18, 2023, in Dortmund. You can get all the details via the link below.

The chapter will also hold an online talk on "**The Beauty of Munich's Subway Architecture**" via Microsoft Teams on November 22, 2023. All details are also listed in the follow-up.

You can learn about other talks, meetings and activities on our [website](#).



[More about](#)



[More about](#)

If you have any further questions about the Germany Chapter or would like to find out about future chapter activities, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at the following e-mail address:

[germany@rps.org](mailto:germany@rps.org)



Credit: JOHN DOE LRPS

# The Team

The following volunteers form the support group who have been asked by the CEO, Dan Jones, to support international members. To help them to feel less isolated and more engaged with the RPS



Credit: JANET HAINES ARPS

**JANET HAINES ARPS** - [international@rps.org](mailto:international@rps.org)

I joined the RPS in 2003 when I aspired to try for my LRPS. Since then I have been a member of several committees, an LRPS panel assessor for a while, two years as an RPS Trustee, five years as the Benelux Chapter Organiser when I was living in the Netherlands, plus I am the Chair of the Digital Imaging Group.

My aim always is to make the RPS member experience as good as we possibly can wherever an individual lives in the world. For us all to get as much out of our photography and being part of a community of like-minded individuals, in which we inspire and help each other to progress in our chosen field of image making.



### JEAN ROBSON FRPS - [digmem@rps.org](mailto:digmem@rps.org)

On retiring from paid employment I finally had time to work on my photography skills, and have thoroughly enjoyed engaging with other RPS members to discuss work.

I am a firm believer in the value of listening to other photographers and picking up tips from those who work in genres totally outside my comfort zone!

### SYLVIE DOMERGUE

Lives in Madagascar and knows only too well how isolated an international member of the RPS can feel.

"When I discovered the Royal Photographic Society in 2019 as an international member, I knew that I had found my haven of peace and my home of artistic creation, within a team whose human values I admire, as well as the quality requirements, and the deep commitment to allow its members, wherever they are in the world, to participate in the great adventure that the art of photography represents in its different aspects."



### SIMON ELSY LRPS - [simon.g.elsy@gmail.com](mailto:simon.g.elsy@gmail.com)

I joined the RPS in 2016, whilst living in Sydney and was a member of the Australian Chapter. I supported the Chapter by writing various articles for their newsletter. I never attended the Chapter meetings as these were held in Melbourne which was impractical. I assisted the Chapter in transitioning to Zoom format meetings during the 2020 COVID period. Currently, now back in the UK, I am involved with the London Region which is extremely active, holding regular meetings and field trips in and around London. I am also a member of DIG, Nature, and Landscape SIG's.

In 2018, whilst in Sydney I was supported by the DIG group through mentoring, and submitting my LRPS panel which was a logistical challenge due to time differences and distance in physically submitting prints. Consequently, I am aware of the challenges that international members experience, which is why I assisting this initiative.

### CHRISTINE ETHERINGTON FRPS

I joined the RPS Scottish Region in 2014 where I attended advisory days, Photo forums and distinction advisory days. Intending to take my photographic hobby to the next level I gained my LRPS distinction in November 2014. Two years later I decided to try for my Associateship which I gained in 2016. In 2022 I was successful in gaining my fellowship in documentary.

All of this was made possible with the encouragement and support of the Royal Photographic Society. In 2018 I became the RPS Scottish Regional Treasurer until my emigration to New Zealand in 2021. Having the experience of gaining my fellowship whilst living in New Zealand I feel I am well placed to encourage international members.





**THE RPS**

**ROYAL  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY**