

Media Release

‘Portraits of Care’: New Wellbeing Project Brings Photography to Care Homes in Bristol to Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee

The Royal Photographic Society is delighted to announce a new photography project in partnership with Bristol Care Homes, Arts Council England, and the Quartet Community Foundation.

The RPS will work at four care homes across Bristol, employing professional artist, Colin Moody, to help care staff create unique and personal portraits of older people in their care. Through a series of workshops, the care teams will be encouraged to get creative with their storytelling, sharing the individual’s life history and their memories of Queen Elizabeth II.

The final 40 portraits will go on a public display at the Royal Photographic Society, Bristol, in June 2022 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee weekend. They will also be displayed at the participating care homes. Following the exhibition, the prints will be given to the participating individuals and their families.

The project will provide new creative skills, instil confidence, and encourage a more meaningful connection between care teams and residents. Furthermore, it aims to help older people share their personal histories, whilst expressing themselves in an artistic, safe, and enjoyable environment. ‘Portraits of Care’ emphasises the importance of the arts in building nurturing relationships and demonstrates the powerful impact that photography can have in improving personal wellbeing.

Evan Dawson, RPS CEO said: “Those living and working in care can face a wide range of challenges. The idea of this project is to help celebrate those people, giving them new skills, and helping them share each other’s stories. The Jubilee is something that we can all relate to, particularly those who have lived as long as Queen Elizabeth II. I’m really looking forward to finding out more about everyone involved, whilst also developing a new role for photography as a tool for storytelling in care settings.”

Colin Moody, Workshop Leader, said: “I’m excited to work with the RPS on a project that places wellbeing at the heart of the practice as well as producing work of value to further ambitions for what photography can be.”

The project demonstrates a new evidence-based approach to creative photography and draws on the Royal Photographic Society’s new transformative strategy, ‘Photography for Everyone’, specifically



the 'Photography for Wellbeing' strand that aims to support older people, carers, young carers, and those living with autism, dementia, and disabilities.

Queen Elizabeth II was the Royal Photographic Society's Patron for 67 years, from 1952 to 2019.

'Portraits of Care' is funded by the Let's Create Jubilee Fund by Arts Council England, a 5million investment to support voluntary and community organisations to deliver creative activity as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The project is also supported by the Quartet Community Foundation and West of England Creative Business Grants.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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ABOUT THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Royal Photographic Society (The RPS) is an educational charity with an international membership. Founded in 1853, when photography was in its infancy, the objective of the RPS is to make the art and science of photography more widely available and is committed to bringing photography to everyone. Today, the RPS is a world-leading photographic community, based in Bristol, UK, with a membership of over 10,000 photographers. The RPS aims to inspire people through its innovative exhibitions, its award-winning RPS Journal, and its highly respected awards and events. The RPS helps photographers create images through its educational programmes, qualifications, and its public initiatives; and it seeks to connect photographers through its UK and international regional hubs, and specialist groups. Membership is open to everyone.

#RoyalPhotographicSociety #PhotographyforEveryone

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