



THE **RPS**

ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

CONTEMPORARY
GROUP

Members' Showcase

A Contemporary Group North Activity

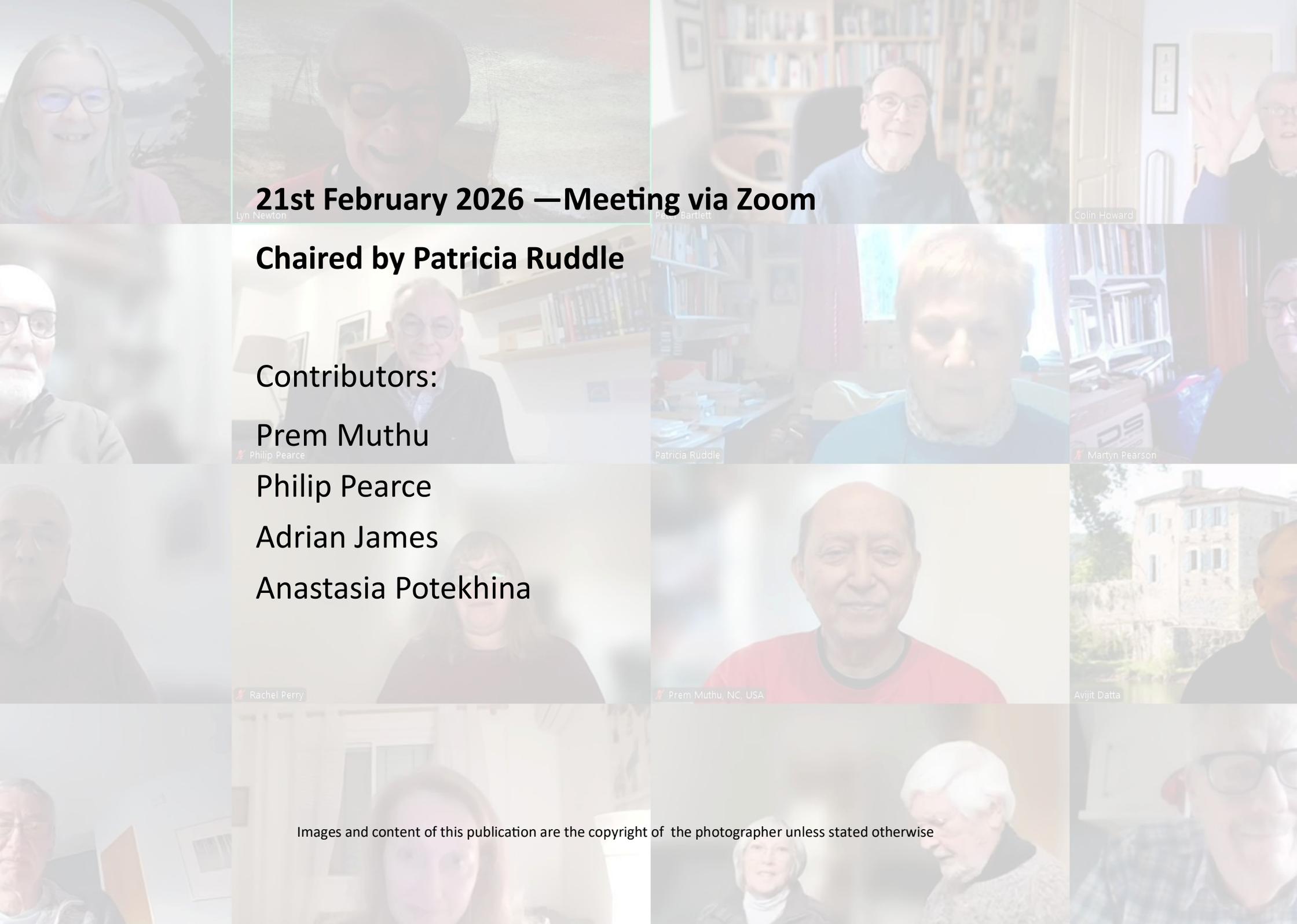
Issue 29

February 2026

Members' Showcase

provides a platform for contributors to our monthly meetings to display the work they have shared.

Contributors have curated their own images and provided the accompanying text making this a collaborative group venture.



21st February 2026 — Meeting via Zoom

Chaired by Patricia Ruddle

Contributors:

Prem Muthu

Philip Pearce

Adrian James

Anastasia Potekhina

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Prem Muthu Impermanence

This body of work emerged from helplessness. The COVID-19 pandemic took the young before their stories unfolded, and I carry a quiet guilt for surviving while they did not. I watched a generation's light dim before me.

I created these metaphoric art images to understand and accept impermanence. Through mourning, I began to see impermanence not as punishment but as law. Grief reshaped into awareness.

Everything arrives already leaning toward departure. In honouring what fades, I honour those lost.

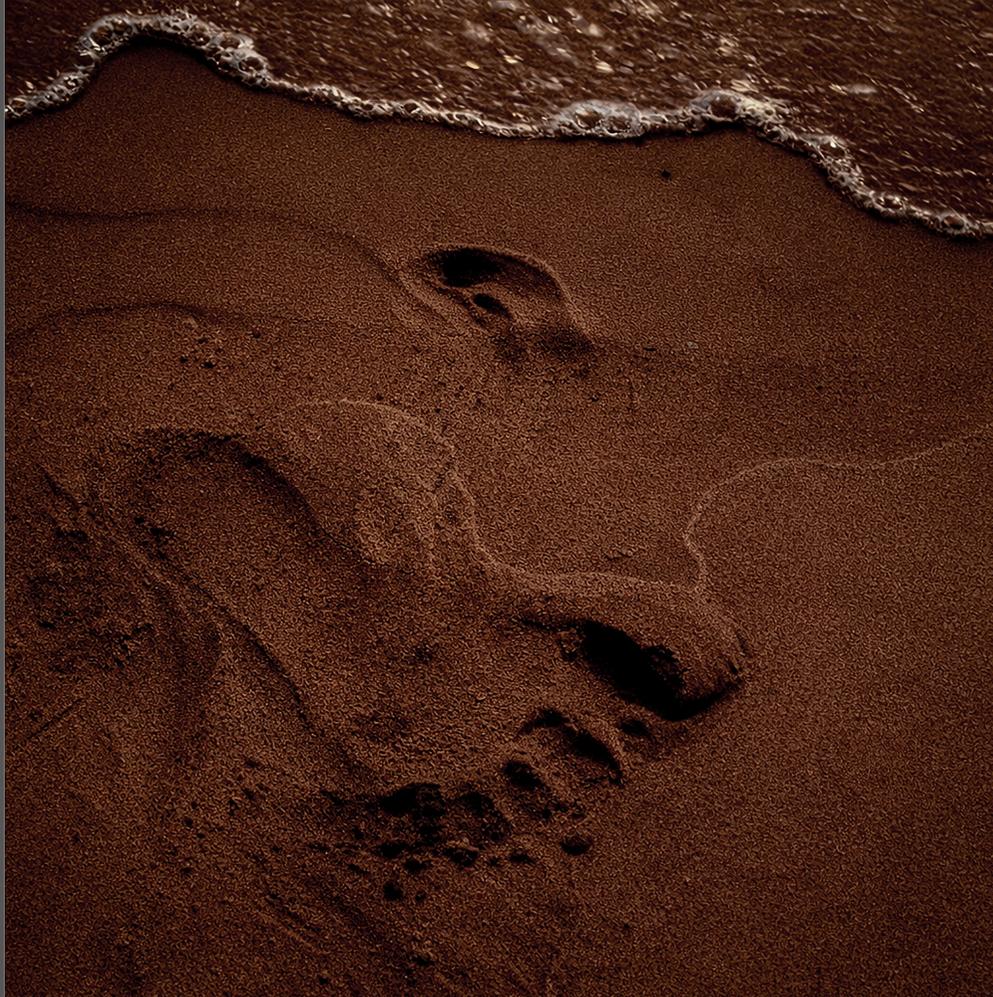
Impermanence is no longer cruelty alone—it is truth, and within that truth, I find quieter peace.



Seedhead dew drops



©Cairn Kovalam Sunset



Beach footprint



Peaches



Broken Hearts



Orb weaver spide—damaged web



Broken Pot



Candle Holder smoke



Dandelion shedding



Wasps



Bird's nest



Tree Shadow



Puddle



Stairway—decaying
balusters



Ice Spike



Empty Chairs—Snow Park



Cloud Formation



Oak leaves on drain



Sapling tool— leaf



Hour glass and conch shell



Cobweb

Philip Pearce

Philip presented the genesis and development of his project, 'IndustrialArt EN'. The initial idea arose from his exhibition 'Industrial Transformation' in early 2023.



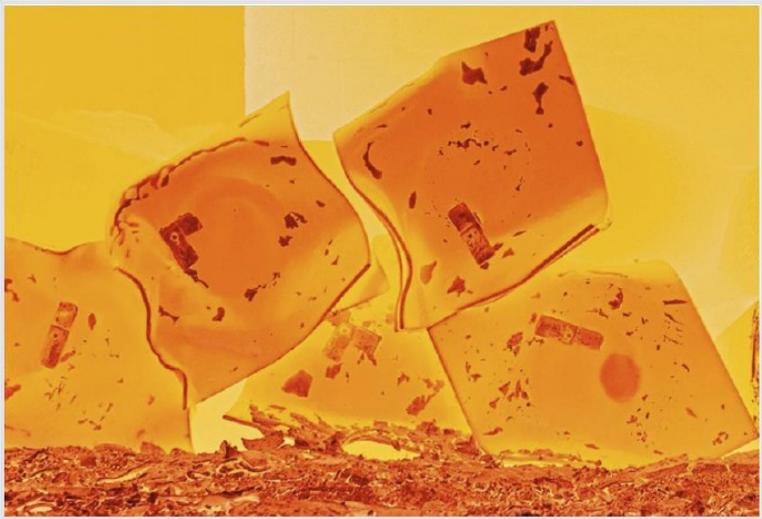
The beginning – the genesis of the idea came from my exhibition Industrial Transformation in 2023



He explained how the concept for the new exhibition was developed and how several photo shoots, such as this one at the Lohmann Steel Company in Witten, were conducted very early on.



Photoshooting at
Lohmann Steel Company in Witten



He then outlined how establishing contact with the companies and museums was far more time-consuming and complex than originally anticipated.



How did I get in touch with the companies?

- Economic Development Agency of the Ennepe-Ruhr District
- Fellow Artists
- Business owners who used their contacts for me
- Internet research on companies in the surrounding area that might be suitable
- Contact companies by email and letter, or simply by phone

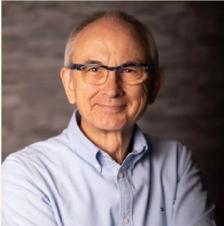


How did I get in touch with the museums?

- My own network
- Contact facilitated by the cultural office of the Ennepe-Ruhr district
- Contact facilitated by the cultural office of the town Witten
- Personal telephone contact



How can I get other artists involved in the project and what artistic role can they assume ?

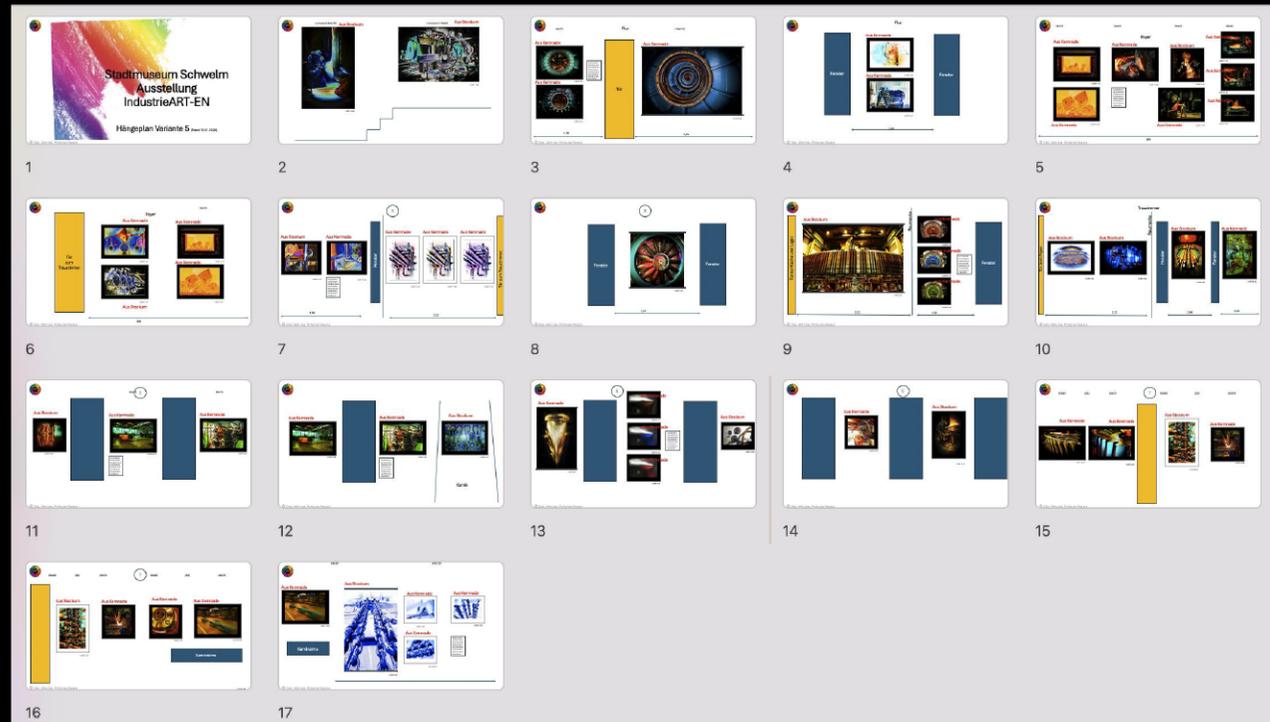
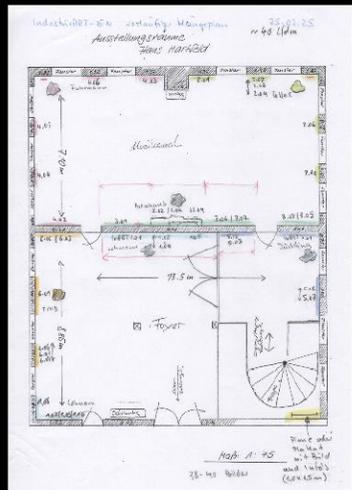
		
<p>Philip Ian Pearce Fotokunst Witten</p>	<p>Vasilij Plotnikov Bildhauerei Schwarzhofen</p>	<p>Achim Brodde Fotografie/Digitalisierung Witten</p>

Finance was another major question – public funding bodies would only fund exhibitions with three artists from two cities. Thus a sculptor and a media artist were also included in the art project.



The planning and curation of the exhibition hanging in museums?

Town Museum House Martfeld in Schwelm



Curating the exhibition involved planning the hanging of the images and the placement of the sculptures based on floor plans for the three museums: Museum Haus Kemnade, Museum Haus Martfeld, and Museum Zeche Nachtigall in Witten.

Project promotion included flyers published by the artists and the museums and posts on the art project's Instagram account to announce the exhibition in advance. Roll-up banners at the exhibition gave more information about the project and the artists.



Website, advertising, flyers for the exhibition

IndustrieART-EN
anders denken – anders sehen

Schauen Sie mit den Augen eines Künstlers hinter die Tore von Unternehmen aus dem Ennepe-Ruhr-Kreis. Erleben Sie eine ungewöhnliche Interpretation von Industrie, Tradition, Innovation und Handwerkskunst.

Philip Ian Pearce – Fotokünstler
Vasilij Plotnikov – Bildhauer
Achim Brodde – Fotograf/Digitalisierung

www.industriart-en.de

Zur Ausstellungseröffnung sind Sie und Ihre Begleitung herzlich eingeladen

Hattingen 11.10.2025 – 04.01.2026 Eröffnung: Samstag, 11.10.2025, 15:00 Uhr	Schwelm 25.01.2026 – 17.05.2026 Eröffnung: Sonntag, 25.01.2026, 11:00 Uhr	Witten 30.05.2026 – 13.09.2026 Eröffnung: Samstag, 30.05.2026, 14:00 Uhr
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Kulturhistorisches Museum
Haus Kemnade
An der Kemnade 10
45527 Hattingen

StadtMuseum Schwelm
Haus Martfeld 1
58332 Schwelm

LWL - Museum
Zeche Nachdall
Nachdallstraße 35
58452 Witten

Wir bedanken und belohnen Fördermittelgeber, Sponsor und Unterstützer, ohne die die Realisierung dieses Projektes nicht möglich gewesen wäre!

BOCHUM

IndustrieART-EN
Einladung zur Ausstellungseröffnung
Kulturhistorisches Museum
Haus Kemnade

Samstag
11.10.25
15 Uhr

Kulturhistorisches Museum Haus Kemnade
An der Kemnade 10
45527 Hattingen
Telefon 02324 30268
kemnade@bochum.de
www.bochum.de
Kulturvereine und Kulturhistorische Museen

Öffnungszeiten
Mai – Oktober: Di – So 12 bis 18 Uhr
November – April: Di – Sa 11 bis 17 Uhr

IndustrieART-EN zeigt den Blick auf die industrielle Fertigungsprozesse unserer Zeit. Sie sind die ersten, die in den Kulturhistorischen Museen...

Die Ausstellung IndustrieART-EN zeigt den Blick auf die industrielle Fertigungsprozesse unserer Zeit. Sie sind die ersten, die in den Kulturhistorischen Museen...

Die Künstler Philip Ian Pearce, Vasilij Plotnikov und Achim Brodde sind mit ihrem Projekt die Frage nach dem Zusammenhang von Industrie, Tradition, Innovation und Handwerkskunst.

Die Ausstellung kann besucht werden im Zeitraum
11. Oktober 2025 – 4. Januar 2026

Weitere Informationen unter:
www.industriart-en.de

IndustrieART-EN

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Philip Ian Pearce
Vasilij Plotnikov
Achim Brodde

25.1.26 - 17.5.26

Haus Martfeld
58332 Schwelm

Öffnungszeiten der Ausstellung:
25.1. bis 17.5.2026
14-tägig Sa & So 12 bis 17 Uhr
u. n. Vereinbarung
Tel. 02336 8746926/814438

@industriart_en
www.industriart-en.de

IndustrieART-EN
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Weitere Informationen unter:
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Exhibition opening at Museum Haus Kemnade in October 2025 and Museum Haus Martfeld in January 2026.



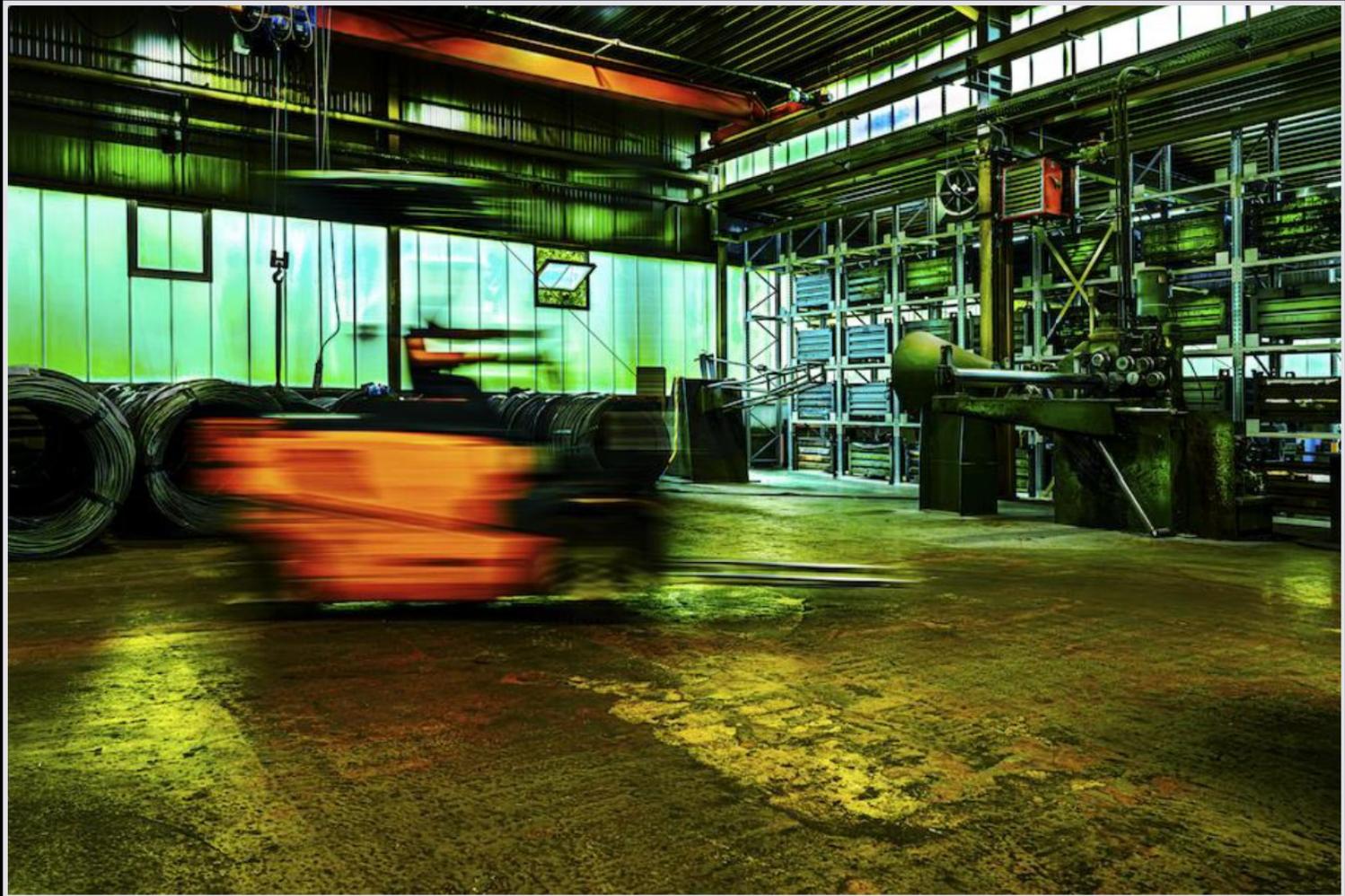
Exhibition opening at Museum House Kemnade 11. October 2025

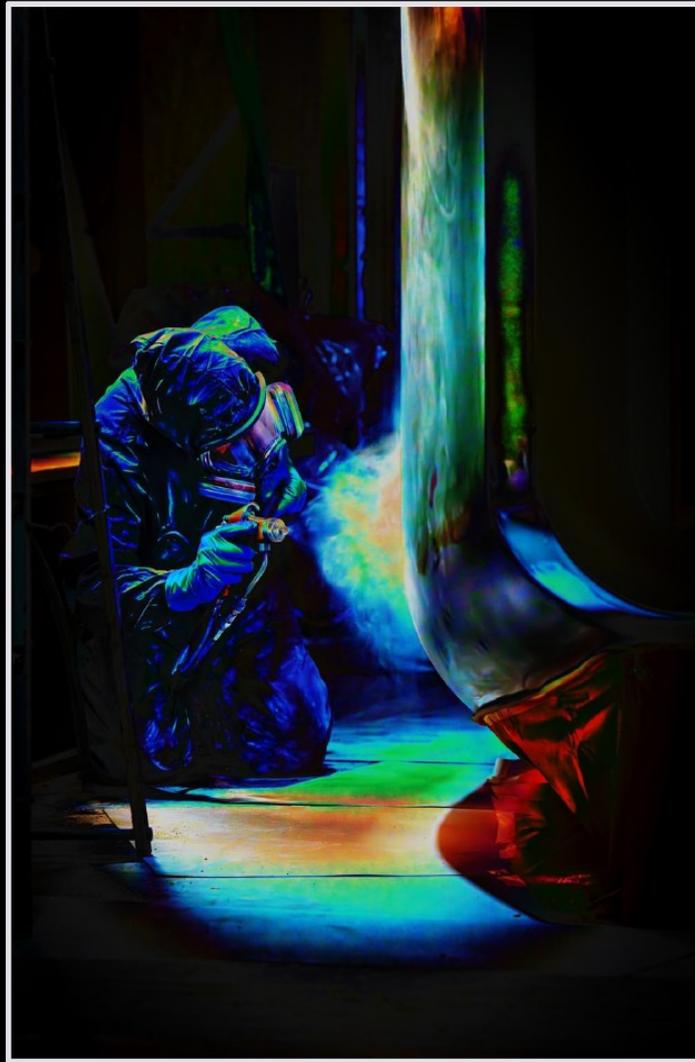


Exhibition opening at Museum House Martfeld 25. Jan. 2026



Philip reported that the media response was very positive, with reports in local newspapers, on a local radio station, and on the online platforms of several towns in the Ennepe-Ruhr district.





Adrian L. James ARPS

I hesitated about sharing street photographs at the contemporary group meeting because I was uncertain about whether such images are really part of this genre. In the end, I was persuaded the images I shared could be defined as contemporary because they are not just images *of* people, they are, in essence, images *about* people.

I don't think this is true of all street photography though. At its heart, street photography capturing what Henri Cartier-Bresson called 'the decisive moment', does not necessarily involve or focus on people. When it does there are various ways in which it can be done, including taking carefully composed street portraits, or finding an interesting backdrop and waiting for the right passer-by to complete the image the photographer is trying to create.



Family Outing

As with all genres, what street photography means can vary widely. When I was a teenager, I was brought up in Margate, and I spent a lot of time observing holidaymakers enjoying the seaside. I think it is this early experience of people-watching that has underpinned and informed my recent interest in and approach to street photography. For me, it is all about capturing images that tell stories about the people in them and encourage us to get in touch with their humanity - the intention is to make images that enable the viewer to connect with people in them as subjects, not objects, and to try to capture human environments and emotions with which we can identify.

It is widely accepted that colour in an image can distract the viewer's eye from the subject, so I have converted most of my images from colour to black and white in order to enhance the stories they tell. However, in some cases I have not done so because the colours in an image can also make a powerful contribution to the story or give added meaning or impact to the context in which the image was taken.

In making these images, I have struggled with a range of ethical issues, some of which remain unresolved. Street portraits address many of these issues directly. However, whilst they can be compelling and human, and are taken with the subject's consent, they often lack the spontaneity and candour that can come with capturing the decisive moment. Most of these images were taken discretely or covertly, either using a zoom lens in a setting where taking photographs was unexceptional or using a camera without appearing to be doing so. I leave it for others to decide whether this is ethical or not, and there is always a risk of being spotted, which may then be evident in the image! What I hope these images do, however, is to draw the viewer in, to invite them to explore what the people in them are experiencing, and to reflect on what the image says to them about what it is to be human.

Feeling Blue





Conversation killer



Happy Families



Friends reunited



King of the Road



Me and my dog



Lighting up



The Onlooker



Protest



Window shopping

Dartington Trust



Taking the takings



Stepping out



Enjoying the sea air



Spreading the word



Where's mine?

Anastasia Potekhina FRPS













Contemporary Group North Activity Group Meetings

Saturday	21/03/26	12.00 GMT	Clements Hall, York
Saturday	18/04/26	13.00 BST	Online
Saturday	16/05/26	12.00 BST	Clements Hall, York
Saturday	20/06/26	13.00 BST	Online
Summer Break			
Saturday	19/09/26	12.00 BST	Clements Hall, York
Saturday	17/10/26	13.00 BST	Online
Saturday	21/11/26	12.00 GMT	Clements Hall, York
Saturday	12/12/26	13.00 GMT	Online