



LANDSCAPE GROUP

Invitation to join a postal print circle

Many of us – if not all of us – who join the RPS do so because we wish to improve our own photography. There are different avenues for pursuing this such as attending workshops, working towards distinctions, meeting with and learning from other members and sharing images in order to receive constructive criticism. As regards the latter, within the Landscape Group we currently have a critiquing page on facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RPSLandscapeGroup>) and online galleries on the RPS website at <http://rps.org/main-gallery>.

We are now in a position to introduce critiquing circles (using postal portfolios) for people who prefer to work with printed images.

Postal portfolios have a long history going back to the darkroom days but they still have their place, so the group is proposing to establish one - or several – if there is sufficient interest. Members of a circle will be able to tweak the format used for their particular group but, at start-up, a tried and tested format is proposed. Landscape Group member David Fiddes has managed a print circle for the RPS Visual Art group for several years and below describes how it can operate.

Pouches containing A4 prints in cover-sheets of folded A3 paper are circulated around the members of the group via the postal system. This is cost-effective as the postage onto the next member is currently £2.90. When fully operational the pouch will contain four folders. The first contains named but empty cover-sheets. You insert a print into your cover and fill in information on the front page that will inform and assist the others when critiquing – concept, location, time, weather, camera control, processing and printing details etc. These prints will compose the critique set for the next round so no comments are made on these in this round.

The second folder is the prints that were collected in the last round and these are for members to comment on (by writing on the three remaining sides of the cover-sheet).

The third folder has the prints from the previous round so that members can read the views of their colleagues.

The fourth folder is prints that have completed their journey and you remove your own print and cover-sheet to file away when you receive the folder.

When you have completed everything you pack the pouch, change the address label and post it onto the next member. You also need to confirm onward postage and that everything is in order to the circle secretary. This was formerly by pre-printed postcards but nowadays it is generally by email. For fun, this communication is used by many circles to let the secretary know which were the top three prints in your estimation so that a simple rating system can be applied.

It takes a while for the pouch to get round so two pouches generally circulate in circles of up to 8 members and three for 9 – 12 members. More than 12 members is not recommended.

If you would like to be part of a Landscape Group print circle, please contact David who has volunteered to organise the first one:

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