**Southwest Contemporary Group Report 2022**

**(for the 2023 Annual Meeting)**

The Southwest Contemporary Group once again met three times during the year. The first of these meetings was via Zoom but thereafter we moved back to holding meetings in person. As usual our photography has captured a wide range of subjects, thereby illustrating the fact that Contemporary Photography is all embracing.

So, what have our images been about? We looked at Dartmoor (in many different ways), local shops, shipping containers, the contrast between ways in which estate agents and travel agents view Gran Canaria, infra-red images of woods and of boundaries, sets of pictures that were 'all the same but different’, analogue monochrome prints taken in large format, analogue images taken on historic cameras, gardens, images from pinhole cameras, pictures containing circles, prisons and a family history. In doing so we used prints, AV and books. Whatever the medium or technique, we did it! We also looked at the physical prints from two successful Distinction Panels which we had previously only been able to view on-line.

I am aware that many people are puzzled or confused by Contemporary Photography and have never come across a convincing description of definition. In short, it is photography *about* things rather than *of* things. In Contemporary Photography the photographs illustrate something which lies beyond the actual images themselves and which is intangible and not open to direct illustration. Contemporary Photography is a visual metaphor, a visual realisation of something that is non-visual. Anyone interested in a fuller explanation should visit the Contemporary Photography Special Interest Group section of the RPS website where they can find an article on this very subject produced within the Southwest Region last year. <https://rps.org/news/groups/contemporary/2022/march/understanding-contemporary-photography/>

We meet again in March.

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