

Paul Fowler
Wrecked in the Rain

Image on RPS Scotland Group
Facebook page



Dear Members

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from the RPS Scotland Team. We have continued our programme of activities during July with a superb talk on Deep Space Photography by Iain MacFadyen. This generated a lot of interest and Iain talked through the different types of set-up that can be used to capture images of both distant galaxies and objects and the local planets and moon. If anyone was fortunate to attend our Celebration of Distinctions back in April they will have had the opportunity to see Iain's successful Associate panel of Deep Space images, and there are two that have been included in our 2026 Annual Exhibition.

Also in July the Northern Group had a photo day out at Loch Fleet, organised by Martin Ross with help from Trish Roberts. Fortunately the weather stayed reasonable - a selection of images may be seen here

https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/loch_fleet_zine_pdf

Members of the Scotland Northern Group have also assisted in setting up and taking down the Documentary Group Awards Exhibition at Eden Court in Inverness.



We are social! On Facebook as RPS Scotland Group, you will need your membership number to join!

The next talk is Perpetually in Motion by Claire Carter, and award winning landscape and garden photographer, who will be talking about photography's fourth dimension. The talk is on Wednesday 19 August at 7.00pm, register through the web-site. As with all of our talks, this will be free to members. I would encourage you to register as, with the agreement of the presenter, we make a recording of the talk available for a short period only to members who register, so even if you can't make it you will have the chance to catch up at your leisure.

Mick Morley is hosting a Street Workshop at the Edinburgh Fringe on 12 August; there are two spaces still available. Sam has also organised a Camera and Coffee meet-up at Scone Place Horse Trials at the end of August - you will need to arrange your own entry to the event but if you are going along then please register on our web-site so we know how many members to expect.

I have no further news from RPS Headquarters on the roll-out of the Distinctions framework, possibly because staff have been taking their summer leave. However there is some news regarding the web-site and software - everyone recognises that the current set-up is 'creaking' badly. HQ are working to a completion date of November for the roll-out of new web software and one aspect, which has been seen as very important to the success is the migration of the current information onto the new platform. If November is not achieved then it is likely to be late January, as a result of leave and stand-downs over Christmas and the New Year period.

As always, we have several more events coming up in the rest of the year - talks, outings and Photoforums in particular so do visit the RPS Scotland web-site to keep up-to-date. Sam also posts updates and reminders on our Facebook page. Any questions, comments or suggestions then we are always keen to hear from you.

Finally, keep sending in your images for 'From Land' book project - we are well into the summer months so plenty of opportunity to get out and take some images.

Peter

Loxley Colour

We're delighted to share that Loxley Colour has extended its exclusive RPS Scotland member discount for a further 12 months. Even better, they've told us the code has been used many times since it was introduced, demonstrating the fantastic support our members have shown for Loxley. We'd like to thank everyone who has taken advantage of the offer, and our sincere thanks to the team at Loxley Colour for continuing to support RPS Scotland members with this generous discount. The exclusive 10% discount on photographic prints, fine art prints and mounted prints will now remain available until 31 August 2027.

Code: LOXLEYRPS10

Single use code

10% discount

Valid on prints, fine art prints and mounted prints.

Expires 31st Aug 2027

Please note that other Print companies are available and Loxley is not endorsed by The Royal Photographic Society.

Dear Members,

I hope you've all been enjoying the summer and finding plenty of opportunities to get out with your camera. It has been wonderful to meet so many of you at recent RPS Scotland events, and I'd like to thank everyone who has attended, volunteered or simply supported what we're doing across the region. The enthusiasm and sense of community at our events continues to remind me what makes RPS Scotland such a special place to be.

As we move into autumn, we have an exciting programme ahead, with something for photographers of every interest and experience level.

One event I'm particularly looking forward to is our Studio Portrait Workshop with Barrie Spence on Saturday 26 September. Barrie has very kindly negotiated an exclusive RPS Scotland member rate of just £225 per person, making this a fantastic opportunity to learn from one of Scotland's most respected portrait photographers. Limited to just eight participants, the workshop offers plenty of individual tuition covering studio lighting, posing, working with a professional model and editing techniques. I'd like to thank Barrie personally for his generosity and support in making this exclusive workshop available to our members.

Our Nocturne Weekend at Garvaul House in October is another event I'm really excited about. With exclusive use of Garvaul House, just fourteen photographers will enjoy a relaxed weekend of night-sky, landscape and wildlife photography in one of Scotland's finest dark sky locations. Led by Andrew Allan of Scotland's Night Sky, the weekend offers the chance to photograph the Milky Way—and perhaps even the Aurora Borealis if conditions are favourable—while also enjoying the spectacular Highland landscape during the day. More than that, it's an opportunity to spend time with fellow members, share ideas, learn from one another and simply enjoy photography together.

Alongside these highlights, we have plenty more to look forward to, including our Scone Palace Camera & Coffee, Photoforums and online presentations. Whether you're new to the Society or have been a member for many years, I hope you'll find something in the programme that inspires you to pick up your camera and join us.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of RPS Scotland. Every event succeeds because of the members who attend, encourage one another and help create such a welcoming community. I hope to see many of you over the coming months. Until then, enjoy your photography and happy shooting!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam', with a large, elegant loop at the start.

John Cleare's
Enduring Legacy
Celebrated in
Cleare Perspectives



On 3 August 2026, Scottish Mountaineering Press will publish *Cleare Perspectives*, the long-awaited autobiography and major photographic retrospective of John Cleare (1936–2024), one of Britain's most influential mountaineering photographers and an internationally renowned adventure photographer.

Spanning more than 600 beautifully illustrated pages and featuring over 300 photographs, *Cleare Perspectives* is far more than a coffee table book. It is the story of an extraordinary life, told in John's own words, alongside a remarkable photographic archive that documents more than six decades of adventure, exploration and visual storytelling.

John Cleare transformed the way adventure photography was made. At a time when photographing climbers in action was considered almost impossible, he pioneered techniques that placed him alongside the climbers themselves, often suspended on ropes to create images from within the climb. The result was a body of work that immersed viewers in the experience and fundamentally changed how mountaineering and exploration were photographed.

Although best known for his mountain photography, John's career was remarkably diverse. His work encompassed reportage, portraiture, documentary photography and filmmaking, always characterised by technical excellence and an instinctive ability to tell compelling human stories. His images appeared in books, magazines and exhibitions worldwide, while projects including *The Great Climb* (1967), the BBC's live broadcast of the ascent of the Old Man of Hoy, and his work on *The Eiger Sanction* with Clint Eastwood introduced millions of people to the world of climbing and exploration.

Completed shortly before his death in 2024, *Cleare Perspectives* brings together John's autobiography with a carefully curated selection of photographs chosen from his personal archive. Working closely with John during the final years of his life, the team at Scottish Mountaineering Press recorded interviews, refined the manuscript and helped shape what has become the definitive account of his life and work. Although John sadly did not live to see the finished publication, his voice, humour and passion remain at the heart of every page.

Earlier this month, representatives from the Royal Photographic Society met with Rob Lovell, Publisher and Chief Executive of Scottish Mountaineering Press, to discuss how the Society can help celebrate John's remarkable legacy. The meeting marked the beginning of what we hope will become an ongoing collaboration, with plans already being explored for a future online exhibition that will introduce John's work to an even wider audience.

As we celebrate the publication of *Cleare Perspectives*, we'd also love to hear from members who knew John personally, worked alongside him, attended one of his talks or workshops, or simply have memories of meeting him during his extraordinary career. Personal recollections, photographs and stories all help preserve the legacy of photographers whose work has shaped our medium, and Rob would be delighted to hear from anyone with a connection to John. If you have memories or photographs you'd be willing to share, please get in touch with RPS Scotland, and we'll be happy to pass them on.

Book Information

Cleare Perspectives

Author: John Cleare

Publisher: Scottish Mountaineering Press

Publication Date: 3 August 2026

Format: Hardback | 604 pages | Over 300 photographs

The book is available to pre-order from Scottish Mountaineering Press.

To learn more about the remarkable story behind the making of the book, read *From Archive to Autobiography: The Making of Cleare Perspectives* on the Scottish Mountaineering Press website.

John Cleare's photographs changed the way we see adventure. This publication ensures that his story—and the images that inspired generations of photographers—will continue to do so for many years to come.





‘When you think about it’ by Mick Morley

I’ve been fighting prostate cancer like so many. Surgery, followed by radiotherapy and now hormone treatment. Guess what’s on my mind every day. Dying.

Photography has helped me cope, especially during my six weeks of radiotherapy over Christmas. In between my daily radiotherapy I walked the streets of Aberdeen taking photos. And back in my room, there was editing to do. Many of my fellow patients weren’t well enough to go out. That was the worst bit. Seeing people really unwell and suffering.

Photography and my family has helped me carry on with a smile. As we get old we lose our confidence and feel more and more vulnerable. I’ve never felt more vulnerable, but I’m lucky enough to have been trained in the military and had a full career where resilience and positivity is key. I was also a mental health trainer at the end of my career and the tools I learnt helped me to stay mentally well. My degree in Psychology and Criminology has helped me notice and engage with people.

The point is that the photographer's mind is at the heart of seeing that moment on the street when it happens. The more diverse your experiences and knowledge, especially with people, the more likely you are to pre-empt their behaviour and get the shot. Today it's important for me to think of life positively and photograph it. My purpose in life is to experience it and live it to the full through photography. However, my photography shouldn't be everything and it shouldn't be stressful. It should help me stay happy and ensure my family have an enjoyable life with me when I'm older and even grumpier.



Cambodian mother with her child preparing bamboo trunks for cooking sticky rice

My wife and I had booked a holiday before I was diagnosed. We thought we'd have to cancel, but it gave us something to look forward to and something to focus on. We made it. These photos from Vietnam and Cambodia mean more to me than any I've taken. There were some restrictions as my wife is not a photographer and it was a very busy organised itinerary. I now find restrictions are a good thing. I would not want to be without my wife on holiday. I would not want to be without my children having fun at every opportunity. Not now.



Vietnamese mother teaches her daughter weaving

RPS has given me a platform to share my work and discover different ways to photograph this passion of mine. I completed the RPS survey. I'm hoping my contribution gets noticed. What do we all need? As a priority I believe RPS should focus on providing ways for us to use our photographs for the entertainment of others, members and non-members. In addition, provide opportunities for every photographer to gain access to assignments depending on their specialisations and capabilities.



Vietnamese Mother and daughter working as seamstresses

We're going to see our son in Australia soon. Finally, he has said he'd like to learn photography.

I'm looking forward to conducting my Street Photography workshop during the Fringe in Edinburgh on 12 August 2026.

I'd be delighted to see you at my photographic exhibition in Elgin Library, Moray, during the month of January 2027....for free!

STUDIO PORTRAIT
WORKSHOP WITH

BARRIE SPENCE

MQEP · FBIPP · FSWPP · ARPS ·
DPAGB · EFIAP

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY · STUDIO LIGHTING · EDITING



**SATURDAY 26
SEPTEMBER 2026**

9.30AM - 5PM

PAVILION PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO
BLACKBURN HOUSE - EAST PAVILION
REDHOUSE ROAD
SEAFIELD, BATHGATE
WEST LOTHIAN
EH47 7AQ

EXCLUSIVE RPS SCOTLAND MEMBER PRICE • £225 PER
PERSON (RRP £275) • MAXIMUM 8 PEOPLE

RPS SCOTLAND PRESENTS
MASTERING STUDIO PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY
WITH BARRIE SPENCE

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY • STUDIO LIGHTING • EDITING

SPEND THE DAY LEARNING FROM ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHERS.

BARRIE SPENCE IS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED PHOTOGRAPHER AND EDUCATOR WITH DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY. HOLDING DISTINCTIONS INCLUDING MQEP, FBIPP, FSWPP, ARPS, DPAGB AND EFIAP, BARRIE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT SHARING THE TECHNIQUES, KNOWLEDGE AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL THAT HAVE MADE HIS WORK INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED.

WHETHER YOU'RE NEW TO STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY OR LOOKING TO REFINE YOUR LIGHTING SKILLS, THIS WORKSHOP OFFERS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN IN A SMALL-GROUP ENVIRONMENT WITH PLENTY OF INDIVIDUAL GUIDANCE.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- STUDIO LIGHTING TECHNIQUES
- WORKING WITH A PROFESSIONAL MODEL
- CREATING BEAUTIFUL PORTRAIT LIGHTING
- UNDERSTANDING LIGHT QUALITY AND DIRECTION
- CAMERA SETTINGS THAT MATTER
- BARRIE'S EDITING WORKFLOW
- GUIDANCE THROUGHOUT THE DAY

DATE

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

VENUE

PAVILION PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO
SEAFIELD, WEST LoTHIAN

PLACES

STRICTLY LIMITED TO 8 PLACES

COST

£225 PER PERSON (RRP £275)

INCLUDES

- ✓ FULL DAY WORKSHOP
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL MODEL
- ✓ STUDIO LIGHTING DEMONSTRATIONS
- ✓ PRACTICAL SHOOTING SESSIONS
- ✓ EDITING TECHNIQUES AND WORKFLOW

BOOK EARLY

WITH ONLY 8 PLACES AVAILABLE, THIS EXCLUSIVE RPS SCOTLAND WORKSHOP IS EXPECTED TO SELL OUT QUICKLY.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE, PLEASE BOOK ONLINE.



The Whims of Street Photography – Edinburgh Fringe Walk

Wednesday 12 August | 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Following on from his highly successful Zoom presentation, The Whims of Street Photography, Michael Morley joins us for an evening of practical street photography in the heart of Edinburgh during the Fringe Festival.

If you missed Mick's Zoom presentation and would like a copy of the recording, please email me at scotlandevents@rps.org.

We're delighted that Mick has generously agreed to share his knowledge and experience with RPS Scotland members. Known for his engaging, down-to-earth teaching style and infectious enthusiasm for street photography, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn from someone who is passionate about helping others develop both their skills and confidence behind the camera.

With the city alive with performers, visitors and countless unscripted moments, this is the perfect opportunity to put Mick's ideas into practice. As you explore the streets together, he'll share his approach to seeing beyond the obvious, anticipating decisive moments, working with available light and creating images that tell compelling stories.

If you're feeling a little nervous about trying street photography, you're certainly not alone. Mick will provide plenty of guidance and encouragement throughout the evening, ensuring everyone feels supported and able to work at their own pace.

The evening will also include practical guidance on the legal and ethical aspects of street photography. Every participant will receive an exclusive Street Photography Legal Reference Guide to take away—a practical guide to help you photograph confidently and legally in public spaces.

Date: Wednesday 12 August

Time: 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Meeting Point: Scott Monument, Princes Street. Please arrive by 5.45 pm for a prompt 6.00 pm start.

This event is open to both RPS members and non-members. Everyone is welcome.

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended. Book Online at RPS Scotland

**Nocturne Weekend at Garvault House
2–4 October 2026**

Two nights. Fourteen photographers. **Exclusive use of Garvault House.** Endless stars. Escape to the heart of the Highlands for an unforgettable photography retreat in one of Scotland's finest dark sky locations.

With exclusive use of Garvault House, you'll share the weekend with just 14 photographers, giving you the time, space and personal guidance to develop your photography in a relaxed and inspiring environment.

Led by Andrew Allan – Scotland's Night Sky, you'll photograph beneath exceptionally dark skies with the opportunity to capture the Milky Way and, if conditions are on our side, the Aurora Borealis.

The experience doesn't stop when the sun comes up. During the day, you'll have plenty of opportunities to explore and photograph the stunning Highland surroundings, from dramatic landscapes and tranquil lochs to local wildlife, flora and fauna. Whether you're behind the camera or simply enjoying the peaceful setting, there's always something to discover. This isn't just a workshop—it's a chance to step away from everyday life, enjoy great food, relax in comfortable accommodation and spend time with like-minded photographers in a truly special location.

Your weekend includes:

Exclusive use of Garvault House

Two nights' accommodation

Dinner, bed & breakfast, afternoon tea and Saturday lunch

Expert tuition throughout the weekend

Night sky photography under exceptionally dark skies

Daytime landscape, wildlife and nature photography opportunities

A small-group experience with just 14 places available

Places are limited and bookings will close soon. Once the remaining rooms are allocated, no further places will be available.

If you've always wanted to experience Scotland's incredible dark skies—or simply enjoy a unique photography retreat in the Highlands—this is your opportunity.

Book your place today.

For further information, please contact Sam at scotlandevents@rps.org.

weekend

THE RPS

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

SCOTLAND

Nocturne

WHERE DARKNESS GLOWS: NIGHT SKY
PHOTOGRAPHY AT GARVAULT HOUSE

Andrew Allan - Scotland's Nightsky

FRIDAY 2ND AND
SATURDAY 3RD
OCTOBER

Garvault House
Hotel

Accommodation & Catering – Garvault House
Exclusive use of Garvault House for workshop attendees

Photographic Opportunities

- Chance to photograph the Milky Way under exceptionally dark Highland skies
- Potential for Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) during the stay
- Night sky photography guidance throughout the event
- Daytime photography opportunities including:
 - Local landscape
 - Flora and fauna
 - Wildlife

Room Options

- 2 x single rooms £255 per person for 2 nights
- 3 x double rooms £215 per person for 2 nights

The Stables: Has one shared bathroom

- 1x double room £215 per person for 2 nights
- 1 x twin room (partitioned) £255 per person for 2 nights

What's Included

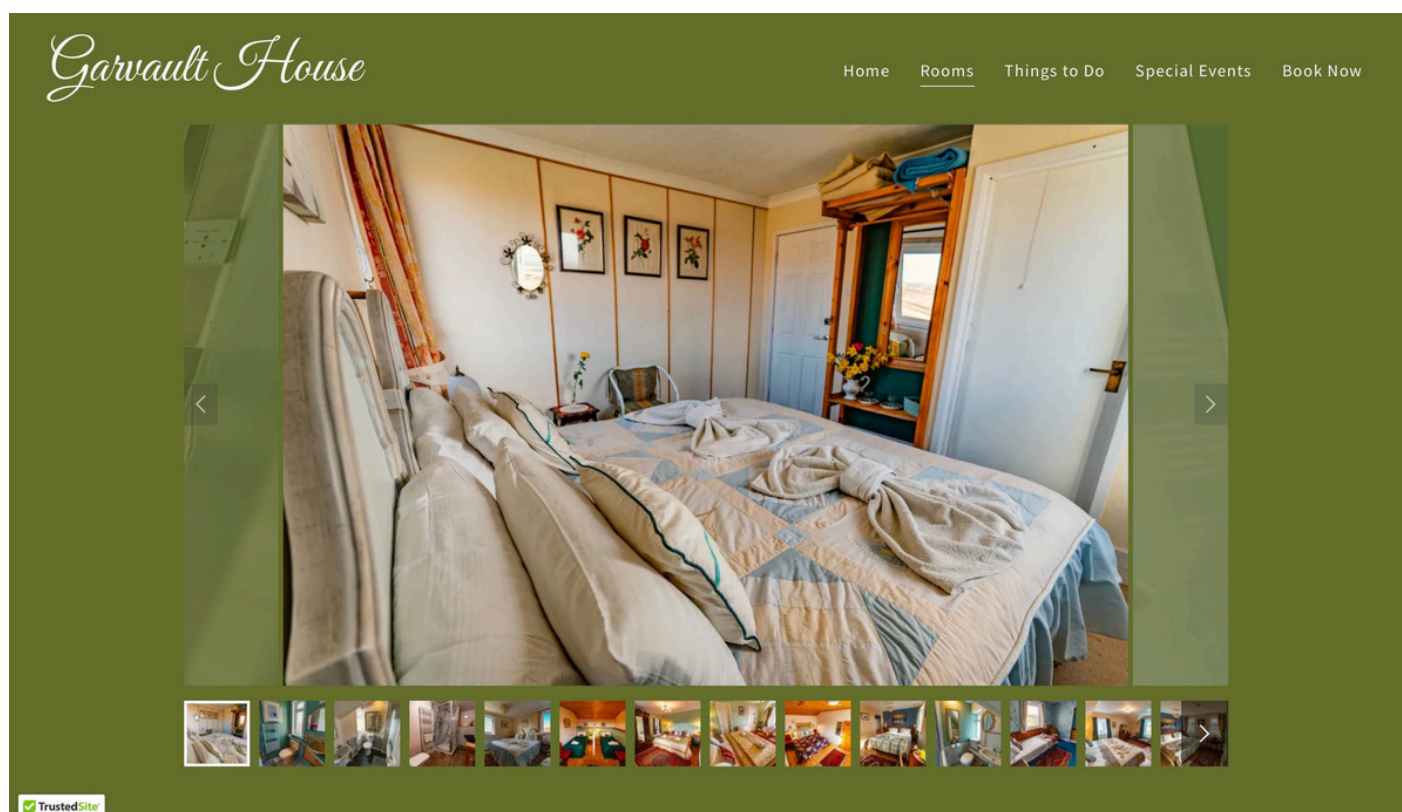
- Dinner, bed & breakfast
- Afternoon tea
- Light lunch on Saturday

Extras

Dog-friendly accommodation 🐾

For Information about Garvault house please visit

www.garvaulthouse.uk



For Information about Andrew Allan please visit

www.scotlandsnightsky.com



Meet. Shoot. Sip. – Camera & Coffee!

NOW BOOKABLE ONLINE AT RPS SCOTLAND EVENTS BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

It's a relaxed, informal, and a short event all about connecting with fellow photographers

🌐 One meet-up per month (weather permitting!)

📍 **Saturday 29 August Cross Country Horse Trials Scone Palace 10am-2pm -tickets available sconehorsetrials.com (NOTE: You can apply for media passes for the day as well)**

📍 **Friday 2nd October - Sunday 4th October Exclusive use of Garvaul House with Andrew Allan, Scotlands Nightsky, plus plenty of wildlife & landscape.**

📍 **November - To be decided**

📍 **Friday 11 December 10am - 2pm Edinburgh Festivities**

Why join us?

Meet fellow members and enthusiasts in a relaxed setting

Share stories, ideas, and inspiration

Explore new areas with your camera in hand

Enjoy coffee, food, and a welcoming atmosphere

👉 We'd love your suggestions!

Email Sam at scotlandevents@rps.org if you'd like Camera & Coffee to come to your area, or if you're happy to help host.



Wednesday 19 August 2026 7PM

CLAIRE CARTER

Perpetually in Motion Part 1.

I believe that landscape photographers have to be in tune with the fourth dimension - the passage of time. This talk illustrates all the forces of nature that create motion and change and discusses how they generate creative possibilities.

Bio

Claire is a working photographer and as such has had to have her fingers in many pies to earn a living, but her passions were always landscape and studio botanical subjects. For the last 15 years she has run workshops in the UK and abroad and is now focused on running these from her Highland home, which has licenced accommodation. Her website www.carterart.co.uk has her full CV but her successes include **LPOTY, SLPOTY, Scottish Nature Photography Awards and IGPOTY.**

**TBC - September - Peter and Trish
Roberts**



Wednesday 7 October 2026 7PM

DEAN ALLAN

My route into photography has been anything but conventional. Originally pursuing a career as a professional footballer, injury brought that ambition to an abrupt end at the age of 20. Undeterred, I redirected my energies into photography (my father was a Professional Photographer), spending three years at photographic college before beginning a professional career in London.

I served my apprenticeship assisting two leading fashion photographers before establishing myself in the world of fashion and advertising photography. Over the next twelve years or so I worked extensively in London, producing imagery for major brands and advertising campaigns. A growing passion for travel led me into a new chapter of my career, working with UK and international tour operators, airlines and travel organisations to create imagery for holiday brochures and travel publications around the world. It was during these 15 years that my love of landscapes and the natural world began to flourish.

Drawn increasingly towards wild places and the changing moods of light, I eventually made the decision to devote himself entirely to landscape photography. That decision has led to the creation of one of Scotland's leading landscape photography businesses.

Today, based in the Scottish Highlands, I lead up to 25 residential photography workshops each year across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, sharing not only my technical expertise but also my passion for creativity, observation and storytelling through the landscape. My work has earned numerous awards, including the current Scottish Seascape Photographer of the Year



Wednesday 25 November 2026 7PM

RICHARD HUNT-SMITH (AKA RICHFOTOGRAFI)

Richard is an Argyll-based photographer specialising in street and documentary photography, focusing on real, everyday moments as they unfold. He has been making one photograph every day since beginning a 365 project in February 2008, a discipline that has helped shape his instinctive and honest approach to storytelling through images.

Much of his work centres on the streets of Glasgow, capturing the humour, character and unpredictability of the people and places that make the city unique.

Alongside his personal projects, Richard has volunteered as a photographer with Homeless Project Scotland for the past four years, creating more than 1,000 images to support the charity's work and raise awareness of homelessness. His photography has documented the efforts of the street team, the night shelter and the experiences of rough sleepers, while also helping to build the charity's image library and public profile.

Organiser's note: While Richard has not requested this, his commitment to Homeless Project Scotland over the past four years has been remarkable. If you enjoy his presentation and would like to support the cause he has documented so extensively, donations to the charity are always appreciated, especially during the winter and Christmas period.

Website: www.richfotografi.com

Instagram: @richfotografi

To coincide with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival Edinburgh Photographic Society, are graciously hosting the start of our travelling exhibition.

From 8th August 2026



THE RPS
ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
SCOTLAND

Photographs that speak to one another.

A curated collection of photographs by members of the Royal Photographic Society Scotland Region.

Rather than arranged by subject or genre, these photographs are brought into dialogue through echoes of colour, light, shape, rhythm and atmosphere. Connections emerge, contrasts spark new perspectives, and meanings unfold in the spaces between images.

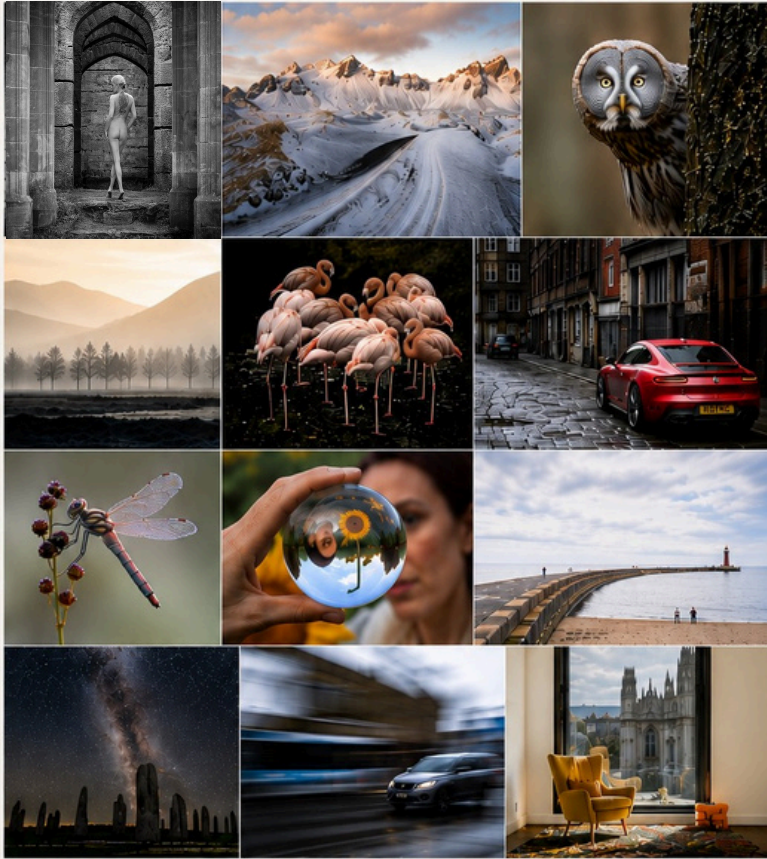
**No single story.
Countless conversations.**

RPS SCOTLAND

MEMBERS EXHIBITION 2026

PHOTOGRAPHS IN DIALOGUE

A curated collection of photographs by members of the Royal Photographic Society Scotland Region.





A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION
Bringing inspiring photography to venues across Scotland.



VISITING VENUES THROUGHOUT 2026 AND 2027
Check the website for the latest tour dates and locations.



CELEBRATING THE CREATIVITY AND VISION OF OUR MEMBERS
Supporting photographers and sharing diverse perspectives.



FIND OUT WHERE THE EXHIBITION IS NEXT
rps.org/scotland



#RPSScotland