

# INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2024



THE **RPS**  
ROYAL  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY

**ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

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**COVER PHOTO**

**SOMDUTT PRASAD**

**The Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher  
(Ceyx Erithaca)**

I took this picture in August, in the Western Ghats of India during the monsoon, which is the nesting season for this small bird.

It is about 5 inches in size. Resplendent in its vivid plumage of deep blues, striking oranges, and rich yellows, it is captured with a frog clutched in its beak as it perches momentarily to survey it's surroundings before flying into it's nest with precious food for it's chicks.

The bird's large, expressive eyes reveal an intelligent gaze, indicative of its keen awareness of the environment. The rain-soaked atmosphere lends a shimmer to its feathers, enhancing the striking contrast against the vibrant backdrop of monsoon foliage.

This fleeting moment of primal beauty encapsulates the cycle of life in India's monsoon-soaked wilderness.

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**THE RPS**  
ROYAL  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY

**International members world wide web**



**Welcome – Willkommen – Bienvenu –  
Bienvenido – Benvenuto – 欢迎 –  
Welkom – Powitanie – Välkommen –  
Velkommen - いらっしゃいませ**

.... to everyone wherever you are in the world. You are all part of the Royal  
Photographic Society community.

## Welcome to your RPS international members' quarterly newsletter.

**T**he idea of this online publication is to engage more with our international members around the world. To achieve this, we have a small group of volunteers to support you and communicate with you regarding projects, competitions, or meetings that international members may wish to attend.

Knowing you are all in different time zones, we look for meetings held online or recorded so you can watch the videos in your own time. We also create unique projects for our international members, such as the recent Solstice Challenge.

### Meet the team

**Janet Haines (UK)** – Editor & liaison [international@rps.org](mailto:international@rps.org)

**Sylvie Domergue (Madagascar)** – Distinctions [sylvieft@gmail.com](mailto:sylvieft@gmail.com)

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**Chris Renk (Germany)** – Newsletter layout [germany@rps.org](mailto:germany@rps.org)

Please feel free to contact any individual if you wish to contribute, have new ideas or wish to ask a question. We are not RPS staff, so we cannot help you with membership queries. For membership queries, please get in touch with [membership@rps.org](mailto:membership@rps.org)

The volunteer team brings a wide variety of skills and experience of the RPS with several personally understanding the challenge of being an international member. We aim to make you feel part of the RPS community and not so isolated. Like everything in life – the more you engage, the more you will get out of your RPS membership.

For example, perhaps there are other RPS members living fairly near to you – why not use the 'Reach Out' section of the newsletter to say who you are and that you'd like to meet others in your area? Or maybe you will travel abroad and enjoy meeting RPS members to show you their town. Again, you can 'Reach Out' by telling us where you are going, the dates and how other members can contact you.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and that you will attend some of the meetings we are promoting in this publication online.

**Enjoy your photography**  
**The International Volunteer Support Team.**



1. The Arctic pack ice

# JOURNEY TO THE ARCTIC PACK ICE CAPTURING POLAR BEARS BEYOND 80 DEGREES LATITUDE

by Somdutt Prasad EPSA, BPSA, AFIAP, EFIP



Credit: SOMDUTT PRASAD

Somdutt Prasad, an accomplished photographer with a passion for capturing the raw beauty of nature, invites you on a journey beyond 80 degrees latitude in this issue.

The pinnacle of his journey was photographing polar bears on the pack ice, capturing their tender interactions amidst the stark, breathtaking Arctic landscape.

**A**s our plane touched down in Longyearbyen, the northernmost settlement in the world, the sense of adventure and the anticipation of witnessing one of nature's most majestic apex predators—polar bears—started to build within me.

Longyearbyen, the largest settlement and the administrative centre of Svalbard, is located on the archipelago of the same name in the Arctic Ocean north of Norway.

A desolate yet stunningly beautiful environment, it boasts a mix of barren tundra and glacier-covered mountains, creating a

stark and pristine landscape that is a visual feast for a photographer.

Our vessel for this incredible journey was the M/S Origo, a sturdy and dependable ship specially designed to navigate the icy waters of the Arctic.

Known for its resilience and robust build, the Origo promises a safe passage through the glacier-laden waters north of 80 degrees latitude.

As a group of enthusiastic photographers, we boarded the ship, cameras in hand and spirits high, eager to capture the elusive polar bear in its natural habitat.

## MEMBERS PHOTO PROJECTS



Credit: SOMDUTT PRASAD



### 2. Voyage route, purple oval marks the area where we saw the bears on the pack ice

Setting sail from Longyearbyen, the Origo sailed north through the icy waters.

With its ethereal beauty, the Arctic landscape offered endless photographic opportunities right from the start.

Massive glacier fronts, serene fjords, and the occasional sight of a curious seal popping its head above the water were just a few of the sights we encountered as we made our way northward.

We explored the fjords for four days, sighting bears, seals, walruses and various birds.

We then headed North towards the pack ice at the edge of the Arctic Ice Cap.

Beyond the mystical line of 80 degrees latitude, we encountered the stunning sight of a polar bear mother and her cub, elegantly perched on the pack ice (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The mother exuded a sense of power and grace with her cream-coloured fur blending with the ice.

Her cub, a smaller, fluffier version, was equally captivating with its light-hearted curiosity and playful antics.





#### 4. Mama Bear sniffs the air

For over four hours, our cameras whirred incessantly as we captured every moment of their interaction. The mother bear watched her surroundings while the cub, unbothered by our distant presence, engaged in a playful dance with the ice. It was endearing to watch the young cub frolic, occasionally slipping on the ice, only to be gently nudged back onto its feet by its mother.

The bond between them was palpable, a beautiful display of maternal care and the naivety of youth in one of the planet's harshest environments (Figures 3 to 6). A pod of Beluga whales showed up, with the bears observing them curiously (Figure 7).

The natural light, enhanced by the reflective white surface of the ice, created perfect conditions for photography. Modern cameras and lenses are weather-sealed and robust, so the occasional drizzle or light snowfall did not present a problem. Temperatures were around -5 degrees C, which thankfully did not cause problems with cameras and batteries functioning.

Exposure had to be adjusted carefully because of the overwhelming white in our frames, so checking the histogram as I shot was very useful.



6. Cub snuggling under mum



Credit: SOMDUTT PRASAD

Capturing the interaction between the mother and cub required patience and a keen eye. Every so often, the cub would make a bounding leap towards an imaginary goal, only to return, nuzzling into its mother for warmth and reassurance.

There was a playfulness in their movement that was magical to witness—a stark reminder that even in the frozen expanse of the Arctic, life thrived in its unique, enduring way.

## MEMBERS PHOTO PROJECTS

### 3. Bear Hug ▶

Among the images that stood out, one particularly memorable capture was the cub hugging its mother, their noses touching in what seemed to be a tender moment of connection.

The shot, framed against the endless ice and the soft glow of Arctic daylight, encapsulated the essence of familial bond and survival amid stark solitude.





Credit: SOMDUTT PRASAD

## MEMBERS PHOTO PROJECTS



Credit: SOMDUTT PRASAD



8. High key image of cub in the snow

The cub's fur glistened as the sun shone, creating a soft, almost halo-like effect around its tiny frame.

The white fur on white snow encouraged some experimentation with high-key imaging (Figure 8).

Meanwhile, the mother's more textured coat provided a stark, striking contrast against the smoothness of the ice, adding depth and character to our shots.

Our group remained spellbound throughout those hours, silently capturing every blink, breath, and playful gesture.

The experience was about photographing and witnessing a moment of life that few can observe first-hand.

It deeply resonated with us, underscoring the importance of preserving such majestic creatures and their habitat.

### 5. Cub frolicking with mother



Credit: SOMDUTT PRASAD



7. Bears watching Belugas

As the M/S Origo slowly navigated back towards Longyearbyen, our memory cards filled with thousands of images, there was a shared sense of accomplishment and reverence among the group. We were not just photographers but storytellers entrusted with sharing the incredible stories of the Arctic and its inhabitants with the world.





Credit: SOMDUTT PRASAD

The journey had been more than a photographic expedition; it was a voyage into a pristine, fragile world of unparalleled beauty and strength. Capturing the playful interaction of the polar bear mother and her cub remains the highlight of the trip, a stark reminder of the enduring wonder that still exists in remote corners of our planet. This experience has enriched my portfolio and deepened my commitment to showcasing the delicate balance of nature and the urgent need to protect it.

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Kolkata, India



AUTUMN ON THE LAKE ROB KERSHAW ARPS

## THE SWISS CH.apter

Overseas Chapters have been a feature of the RPS for many years, but the Swiss CH.apter is fairly new on the scene, having been formed in October 2012.

**A**lthough Switzerland is a relatively small country it is divided into four linguistic and cultural areas. Because of its mountains, travel often takes more time and money, which does affect attendance at meetings. There are only 32 registered RPS members here of whom around half are active participants. We have a mix of nationalities represented from British and Swiss to American, Finnish, German, Dutch, and South African. We also have a member living in the US. As you might imagine, in an international country, members come and go as their jobs or lives change.



MEN'S CHOIR BEAT SUTTER

There is a wide spectrum of abilities and photographic interests within the membership which includes, 2 Hon Fellows, 2 Fellows, 5 Associates and 4 Licentiates. Members range from full-time professional photographers to novices.

There are landscape and portrait photographers, and street specialists. Some shoot nature and others the people that they see around them. Some have won many international prizes and others had major international exhibitions. Others have commercially produced photography books to their names or held solo exhibitions or had work published in various magazines. Many simply work at making better photographs. What we have in common is something approaching an obsession to see the world and represent it; to make images about our subjects rather than simply images of things, not always easy!

The CH.apter runs a number of regular activities such as workshops, which have included Street Photography, Landscape, Photobooks and Portraiture. Days out to either take photographs as a group or to visit one of the many photo exhibitions or photo festivals around the country. A recent meeting was to visit a professional photo lab, Printolino, in Lucerne. We also welcome local photographers to our meetings.

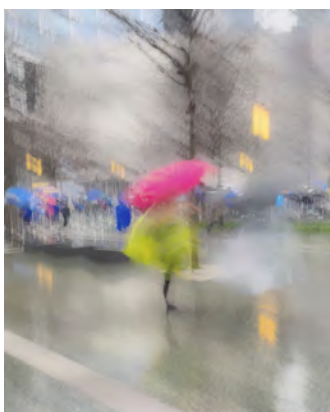
So far we have had three CH.apter exhibitions. First a joint show with the Japanese Chapter which opened in Tokyo in the presence of the Swiss Ambassador and also toured to Nagasaki and Shimoseki, the writer was fortunate to be able to attend the opening during a business trip. The second at the Dow Chemical HQ in Switzerland on the theme Sustainability and a third exhibition was held in the Nidau Gallery in Switzerland. A CH.apter publication 6x6 also featured members work. We have held seven Distinction Advisory Days which have been most helpful and have resulted in successful distinctions submissions.

Perhaps the most enduring activity is our monthly e-circle which has been running since the CH.apter started. This is a great forum for exchanging views on our personal photography and it is interesting not only to comment on submitted images, receive feedback on your own work but also to see the variety of opinions on all the submissions. The images presented in this article are from the enthusiasts in the e-circle, whose monthly contributions are the lifeblood of the CH.apter.



More information about the CH.apter can be found on the RPS website:

<https://rps.org/chapters/switzerland/>



Finally, photography has brought a diverse group of enthusiasts together but the CH.apter is also about meeting new people, making new friends and enriching our lives in Switzerland.

**Rob Kershaw PhD ARPS**  
Organiser Swiss CH.apter.

# PHOTOGRAPHING CLOSE TO HOME

**Astrid Preisz, Graz, Austria**

Photographing close to home can unlock a world of inspiration, often overlooked in the rush to explore far-flung destinations. Astrid invites us to rediscover the familiar through her lens. In a country known for its iconic landscapes, Astrid finds beauty in the everyday near her home.

Her journey teaches us that, even in the most well-trodden places, new wonders will always be found if only we take the time to look.

**W**hen they hear Austria, many people have preconceived ideas like the Sound of Music, Sisi, pointy mountains, dirndls and "Lederhosen", Wiener Schnitzel and apple strudel (which admittedly can be very tasty!), and grumpy waiters.

All clichés aside, Austria has many different things to offer photographers... not necessarily all close to my home and not necessarily inspiring to me as a photographer. For some years now, apart from a few trips abroad, I've been photographing almost exclusively in the areas close to my home in Graz. All the streams, rocks, bushes and trees seem to have become close friends.

And as much as I love these places, more than once my curious and inquisitive mind wonders: is there anything left out there that can inspire me? It's natural that these questions arise when travelling to new places and the excitement of new discoveries seem to offer so much more.

Still, I keep walking through the woods close to home, sitting by the river, watching the water

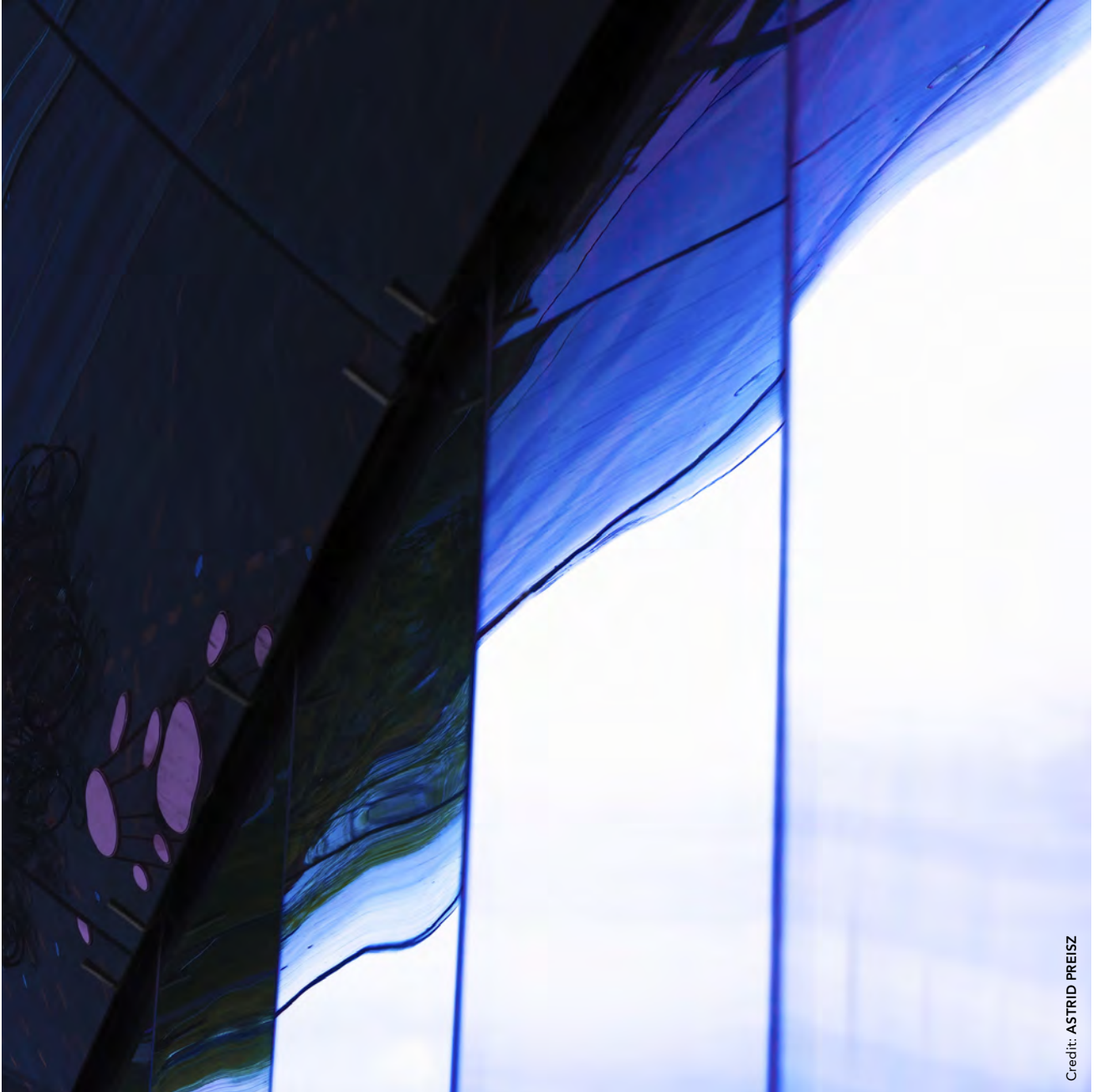
in the many small streams and discovering things I've never seen before.

Some time ago, I went for a walk with my camera. I had no plans. These walks are the best. I end up where my feet take me – without thinking. I kept walking and found this little marsh not far from home that I had never seen before. How could I have missed it? I've lived here for over 30 years!

It had been raining every day for weeks. The rain had stopped, but the air was damp and fragrant. The place was so lush with all the different shades of green that I felt as if I could take it in with all my senses. I could hear the buzzing of the insects and the singing of the birds.

I could not only see the blaze of colour, but also taste it and feel it on my skin. I could smell the damp earth, the fresh grass, and the flowers.

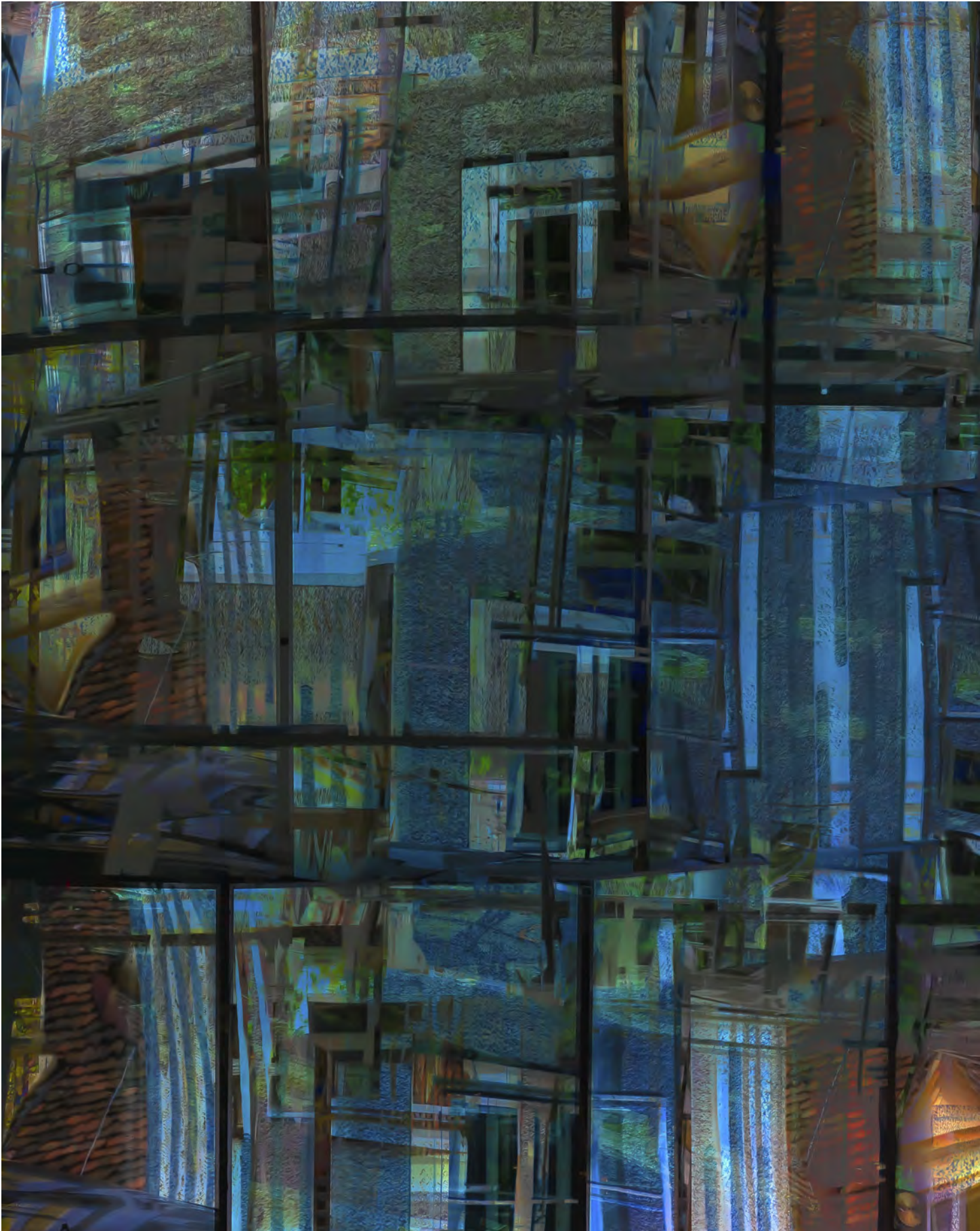
There was nothing spectacular, no grand vistas, not even exceptional light, but I was still overwhelmed by the beauty and atmosphere of this place.

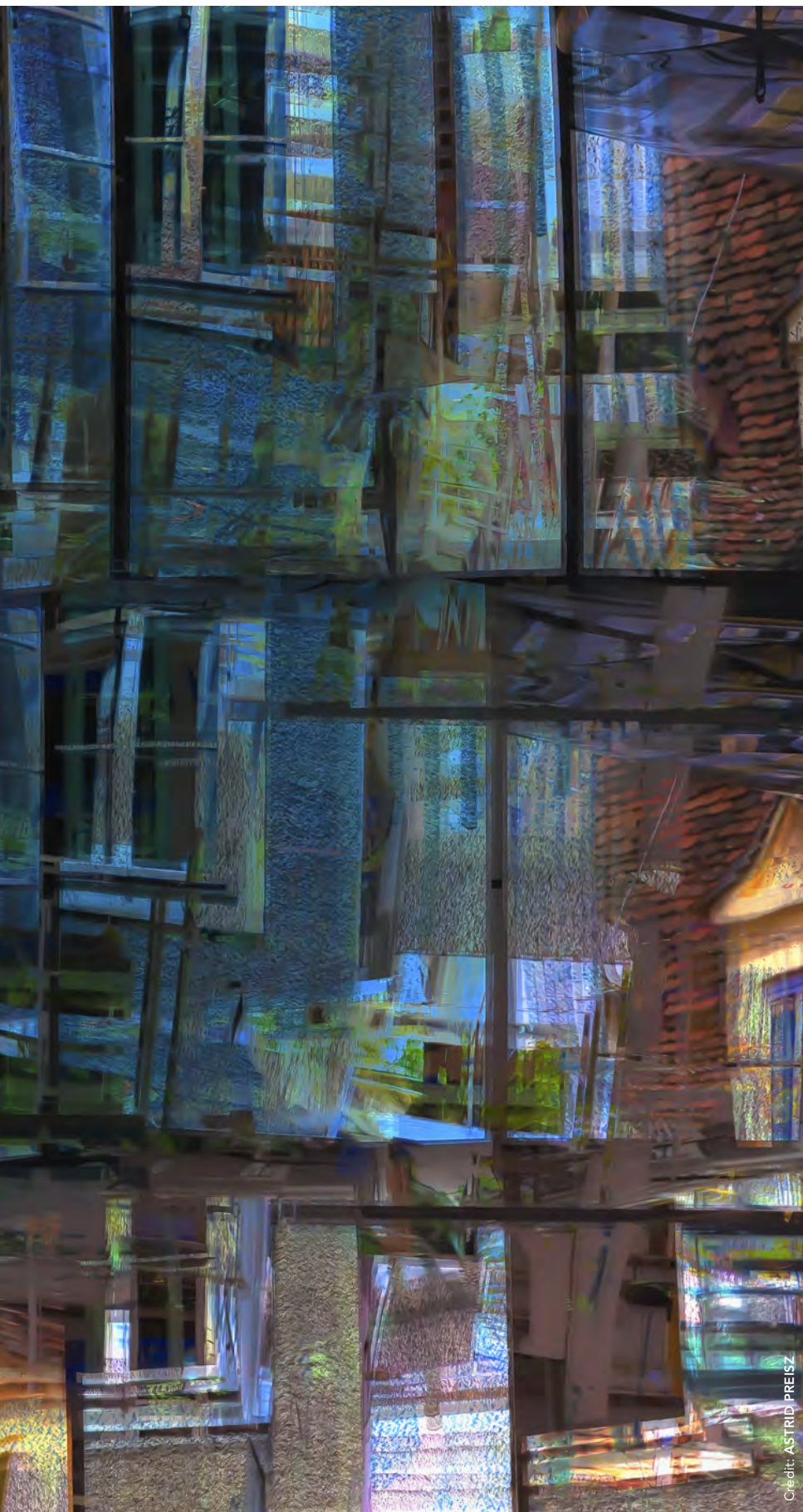


Credit: ASTRID PREISZ



Friendly Alien





◀ City in a mirror

It was a quiet beauty that made me feel a part of it, and I stayed there for a long time to take it all in – slowly finding my way and trying not to disturb the harmony.

It was a while before I remembered my camera and decided to take some photos. I even felt a little reluctant. How was I going to capture the emotional and physical impact this place had on me in a photo?

In the end, I did take a few photos. They mean a lot to me. When I look at the images now, I don't just look with my eyes. They bring back all the feelings.

I learned a lot during the times of restraint when COVID forced us to stay at home. I learned that a lot of the confinement was in my head. I learned that the wonders are out there if I am willing to be found by them.

Credit: ASTRID PREISZ

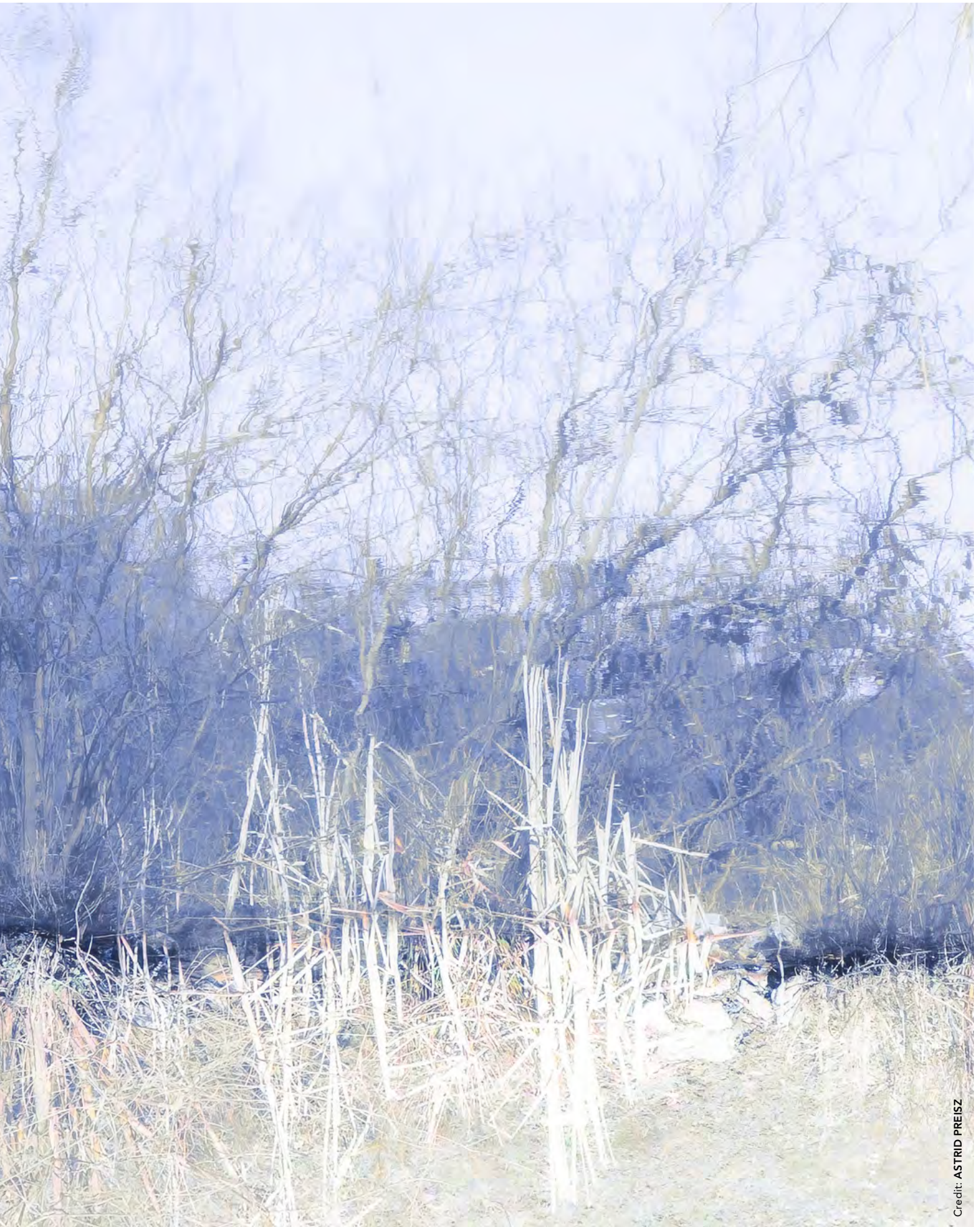
## MY HOME

Fading into the  
landscape ►



So, while I have started travelling again, I'm getting a lot of joy from photographing just outside my front door. I wander through the woods and get lost in the reflections in the water of a small pond nearby. I am enthralled by the architecture of our Museum of Modern Art and love exploring the narrow streets of the historic city centre.





Credit: ASTRID PREISZ





Credit: ASTRID PREISZ

◀ Winged Creatures

Yes, Austria has some iconic places that are known all over the world, like the Alps in Tyrol, historic towns and picturesque places like Hallstatt.

But, in the end, what I love most about photographing my home, is that I find the beauty and inspiration in the things I've known for decades - and finally can really see them.



# TALK-WALK-TALK WOODLAND PHOTOGRAPHY

To learn how to take the best images possible in Woodlands,  
you join the online presentation

**"TALK from Paul Mitchell on 23 September at 19.30 BST".**

You then go out and do a Woodland WALK in October

Then there are 3 different dates and times to choose from in November for  
the follow-up **TALK** at which you enjoy other's images and select one or  
two to go into the eZine

**24 October at 19.30 London time**

**6 November at 14.00 GMT**

**12 November at 09.00 GMT**

When you book your TALK feedback session (above dates), you also book  
for Paul's online TALK.

This project comprises 3 elements, and you are committing to joining all 3.

**BOOKINGS OPEN on 19 August [go HERE](#)**

BOOKINGS OPEN on 19 August [go HERE](#)



The TALK-WALK-TALK programme returns with  
**Woodlands**

**Special arrangements for UK island and international members**


- \* online **TALK** with Paul Mitchell FRPS - 23 September at 19.30 BST with hints and tips on how to get the best shots in woodlands
- \* **WALKs** you do on your own before the end of October
- \* online **TALKs** to enjoy and discuss each others images choice of 3 different dates and times to suit all time zones

To book your place go to <http://talkwalktalk.org/solo-walks/219>

A T-W-T Woodlands eZine will be produced in December.

**We hope you will join us in this project, as it means you will be part of the RPS-wide community of photographers who will engage with this program.**

# RPS EVENTS



SEPTEMBER  
12


**A Talk of Two Halves, with Eddie Hyde FRPS**

Free & paid tickets available

GET TICKETS

**First Half: Mastering Shutter Speed for Creative Storytelling**  
**Second Half: A Year-Round Approach to Landscape Photography**

<https://events.rps.org/en/a-talk-of-two-halves-with-eddie-hyde-frps-5a2NN25Zvzq/overview>



AUGUST  
31


**Urban Hymns with Leigh Preston FRPS**  
By RPS - Digital Imaging Group

Free & paid tickets available

GET TICKETS

This new project from Leigh Preston is about Urban Landscape – some of which is abstract, some of it based around Liverpool

<https://events.rps.org/en/urban-hymns-with-leigh-preston-frps-5a2NN24BjxC/overview>



OCTOBER  
5

**The Joy Of Printing with Kevin Raber**  
By RPS - Digital Imaging Group

Free & paid tickets available

GET TICKETS

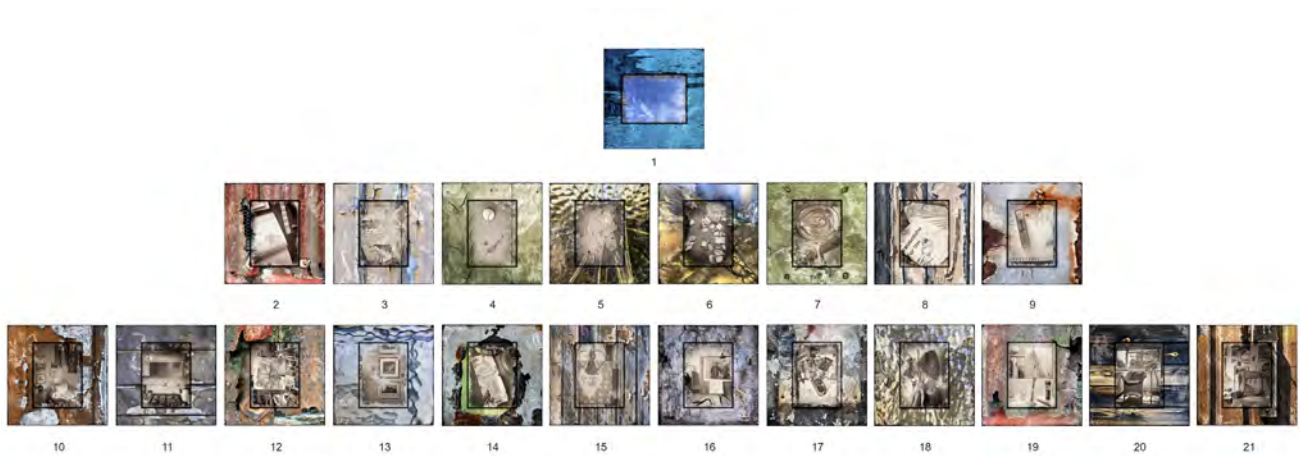
**The Joy Of Printing**

<https://events.rps.org/en/the-joy-of-printing-with-kevin-raber-5a2NN25pONB/overview>

## OTHER EVENTS

### Zoom Talk: Fellowship: My RPS Distinction Experience, by Viveca Koh FRPS FIPF

- On Tuesday 10th September at 8pm Amsterdam time we are hosting an online presentation, "Fellowship: My RPS Distinction Experience, by Viveca Koh FRPS FIPF where she will discuss her two RPS Fellowships. Viveca hopes that sharing her experiences as both assessor and assessee will help others who are also on the same photographic path.
- It will go on for about an hour, including Q&A afterwards. The Zoom is free and will not be recorded.
- The Unofficial Peer support group meet online monthly and discuss each others images as individuals work towards their Fellowships. We are a small friendly group and not an official RPS initiative.
- To join please register with an email to Carol Olerud FRPS: [carol@merxmollis.nl](mailto:carol@merxmollis.nl) to receive the link. This will be sent out to you by email, a few days prior the presentation.

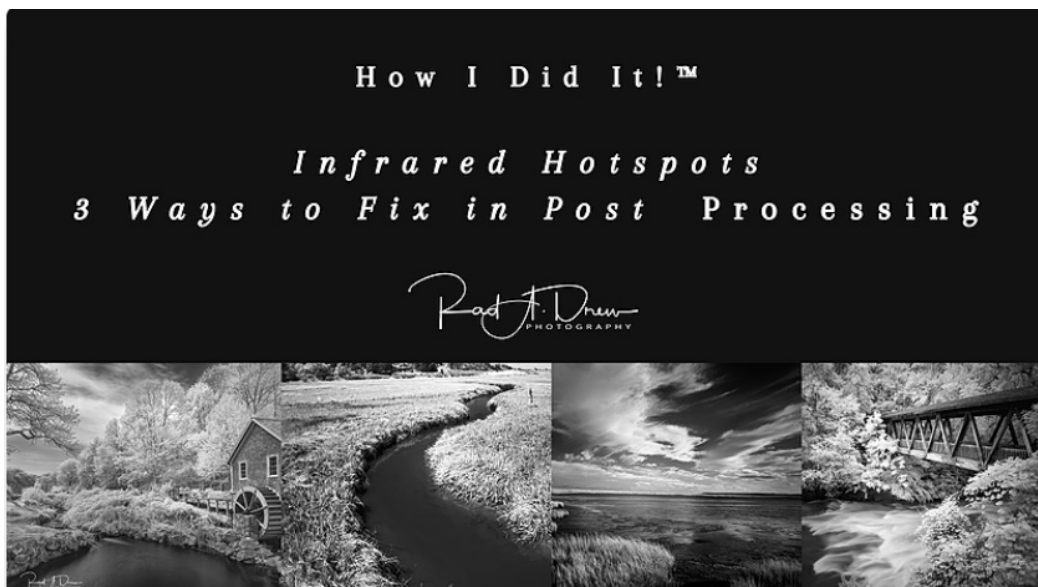


Contemporary Fellowship Distinction Panel – May 2024 © Viveca Koh FRPS FIPF

[www.vivecakhphotography.com](http://www.vivecakhphotography.com)

## RESOURCES

American photographer Rad Drew recently gave a webinar for the Digital Imaging Group about IR photography with your iPhone. As a follow-up he is offering us some free and paid for online tutorials. This is part of his new online learning site where he shares video tutorials on various topics.



One of the free ones is **How I Did It!™ Infrared Hotspots; 3 Ways to Fix in Post Processing**. Rad thought it would be of interest to our members as it offers some ways to deal with IR Hotspots that can occur when doing infrared photography with the iPhone.



There are two other tutorials posted at the moment that might also be of interest to our members who are exploring mobile photography. Rad created the discount code – **RPS15** – to provide 15% OFF for RPS members on the tutorials currently available as well as anything he posts in the future.

Here is a list of what is currently available, including the FREE IR Hotspot tutorial mentioned above.

- [How I Did It!™ Infrared Hotspots; Three Ways to Fix in Post Processing \(FREE\)](#)
- [How I Did It!™ Getting the Most and Best From Your iPhone Camera](#)
- [How I Did It!™ SnapSeed Masking Demystified!](#)

# CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS PUBLICATIONS

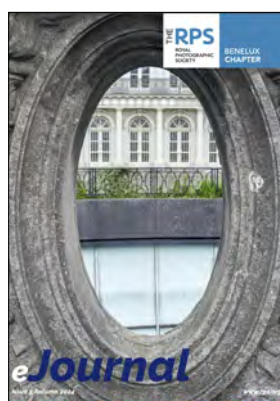
Every month or quarter, the Royal Photographic Society's chapters and special interest groups publish documentation on their activities, events, and photo projects. This section provides a selection of publications and links to their online locations.



## GERMANY CHAPTER eMAGAZINE

2nd Quarter 2024

<https://rps.org/news/chapters/germany/2024/emagazine-q2-2024/>



## BENELUX CHAPTER EJOURNAL

Issue 5 Autumn

<https://rps.org/news/chapters/benelux/2024/ejournal-issue-5-autumn-2024/>



## VISUAL ARTS MAGAZINE

Summer 2024

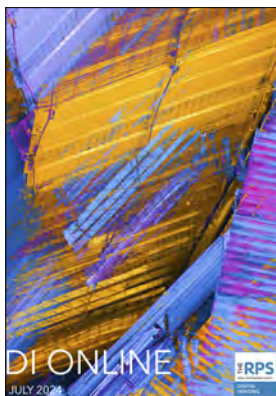
[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/vam\\_164\\_summer24online](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/vam_164_summer24online)



## RPS LANDSCAPE MAGAZINE

Spring 24

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/rps\\_landscape\\_iissue\\_13\\_for\\_issuu](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/rps_landscape_iissue_13_for_issuu)



## DIGITAL IMAGING GROUP

July 2024

[https://issuu.com/digweb/docs/mjc\\_new\\_template\\_for\\_july\\_jh\\_18th](https://issuu.com/digweb/docs/mjc_new_template_for_july_jh_18th)



## RPS WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY

March 2024

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/wspoty\\_2023\\_catalogue](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/wspoty_2023_catalogue)



## REACH OUT

In this section we invite members who would like to make contact with other RPS members in their area to 'reach out' to them by providing a little information about yourself and your email address for contact.

We suggest you say the town you are in or very near to, your name and email address.  
You could use this section for when you are visiting other countries as well.

Email [international@rps.org](mailto:international@rps.org) if you wish to have an entry in the next newsletter.

**Eve Milner —**

Bonjour! I will be in the city of **Bordeaux** from **September 13th - October 12th 2024** and would love to meet any local RPS members while I'm there. Please email [evemilner51@gmail.com](mailto:evemilner51@gmail.com).

**Candia Peterson —**

I live in the Catskills of Upstate New York and would love to make contact with other RPS members in the locality. Anyone from New York City, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to the South and New Hampshire, Vermont and Western Massachusetts to the North do feel free to email me on [candia.peterson@gmail.com](mailto:candia.peterson@gmail.com)

**Kaiyu Lu —**

I live in Beijing and would like to meet other RPS members in the area. I welcome anyone visiting Beijing to contact me, and I will show them some of the sights.

My wife and I are visiting **Italy** from **Sep. 23 to Oct.15**, and we will be driving around the country. We will have two days in Florence (Sep. 29 and 30) and three days in Naples (Oct. 6,7 and 8). Finally, we have six days in Rome (Oct. 9-14). Meeting RPS friends is always happy but hopefully not faze their daily lives,

So, if you are an Italian member who has time to meet up with me, that would be great. Get in touch via email to [luky06@163.com](mailto:luky06@163.com)

# WHAT IS A RPS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) AND WHY WOULD YOU JOIN ONE?

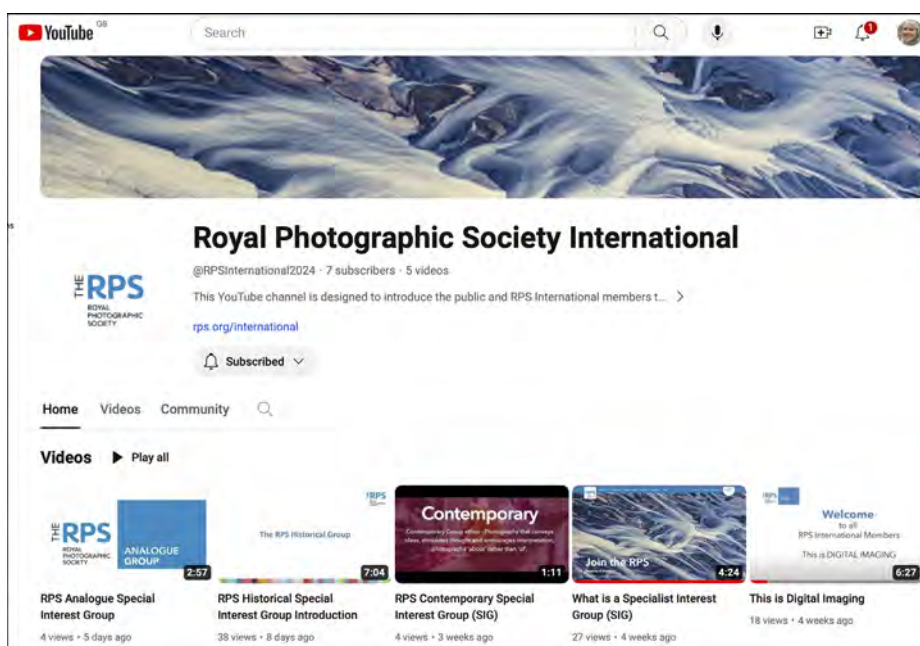
Members elect to join groups and these are an optional extra to membership of the RPS.

Often they are based on a specific genre or aspect of photography that individuals closely align themselves with. The easy ones to identify with are Landscape, Nature, Travel etc and the less obvious might include Women in Photography or Digital Imaging as examples. At the end of this text is a list of all the various groups, a link to their web page, and a short statement about their purpose.

Each group is funded by a small annual subscription and sometimes additional fees for talks, workshops or specific activities. Because they are run exclusively by volunteers, who do not charge for the work they do to organise the various programmes, costs are kept to a minimum and what can be gained from membership represents amazing value for individuals. The staff team at RPS House run workshops, Distinctions, produce The Journal, and organise exhibitions; the life blood of the RPS is via the community groups.

Through community group membership you can engage with a wider variety of opportunities, gain inspiration, work closely with other RPS members. All groups are now considering how they can make more available to international members by recording meetings or putting them on at varying times.

It is worth following the links to the various web pages to see for yourself what each SIG offers. A few of them have even made short videos for the benefit of international members, which you can find [HERE](#)



## Schedule of Special Interest Groups

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### **Analogue.** <https://rps.org/groups/analogue/>

To foster community among enthusiasts and a practitioners in analogue photography; facilitating skill sharing, resource exchange, and collaborative projects; to promote appreciation for traditional photographic techniques and processes; and advocate for the continued relevance of analogue techniques in modern photography practice.

### **Archaeology & Heritage.** <https://rps.org/groups/archaeology-heritage/>

To facilitate collaboration among photographers and archaeologists, promoting best practices in the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of photographic records of archaeological sites, artefacts, and cultural heritage; and to contribute to public awareness and education about the use of photography in these fields.

### **Audio Visual.** <https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/>

To explore, discuss, and promote various forms of temporal (time-based) art, including video, film, sound, and multiple-media performances and presentations; to foster collaboration among artists, researchers, and enthusiasts; and to advance techniques, theories, and appreciation for time- based artistic expressions across diverse audio and visual disciplines.

### **Creative Eye.** <https://rps.org/groups/creative-eye/>

To inspire, educate, and connect photographers exploring innovative and artistic approaches; we provide a platform for sharing ideas, techniques, and critiques, fostering a supportive community that encourages experimentation and pushes boundaries in visual storytelling and expression.

### **Contemporary.** <https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/>

To provide a forum for the encouragement and representation of its members in the pursuit of the production of coherent bodies of photographic work that “convey ideas, stimulate thought and encourage interpretation; photographs about rather than of.

### **Digital Imaging.** <https://rps.org/groups/digital-imaging/>

To facilitate learning, collaboration, and advancement within the realm of image-making in which digital photography is the principal medium; we provides a platform for discussing new technologies, sharing techniques, critiquing work, and exploring the evolving landscape of digital imaging, enhancing skills and fostering creativity.

### **Documentary.** <https://rps.org/groups/documentary/>

Documentary photography seeks to capture and present truthful narratives through visual storytelling; we support photographers dedicated to documenting social issues, cultures, and historical events, fostering discussion, education, and advocacy to promote understanding, empathy, and social change through the power of documentary imagery.

### Schedule of Special Interest Groups

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#### **Historical.** <https://rps.org/groups/historical/>

To act as a forum for photographic history, from the early nineteenth century to the present day; to promote knowledge of the history of photography and to encourage the preservation of photographs, photographic equipment and documents relating to the history of photography.

#### **Imaging Science.** <https://rps.org/groups/imaging-science/>

To provide a forum for the exploration and understanding of the science behind photography and other imaging systems; we facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration among scientists, engineers, and practitioners to discuss and drive progress in research, development, and real-world applications of imaging systems.

#### **Landscape.** <https://rps.org/groups/landscape/>

To encourage the art and practice of landscape photography and advance the skills of those photographers working in this genre; and to spread understanding and enable development of these techniques through practical use and collaboration.

#### **Medical.** <https://rps.org/groups/medical/>

To promote the use and advancement of imaging in all branches of medical and allied sciences to support medical developments, patient-care, medical education, research and publications.

#### **Nature.** <https://rps.org/groups/nature/>

We seek to celebrate, conserve, and share the beauty and wonder of the natural world through photography; we foster a community of photographers passionate about wildlife, landscapes, and ecosystems, promoting environmental awareness, education, and appreciation through reliable and accurate images, visual storytelling and advocacy.

#### **Travel.** <https://rps.org/groups/travel/>

To promote the enjoyment of photography that captures the spirit of a place; and to encourage and support the development of the skills necessary to achieve this ambition.

#### **Visual Art.** <https://rps.org/groups/visual-art/>

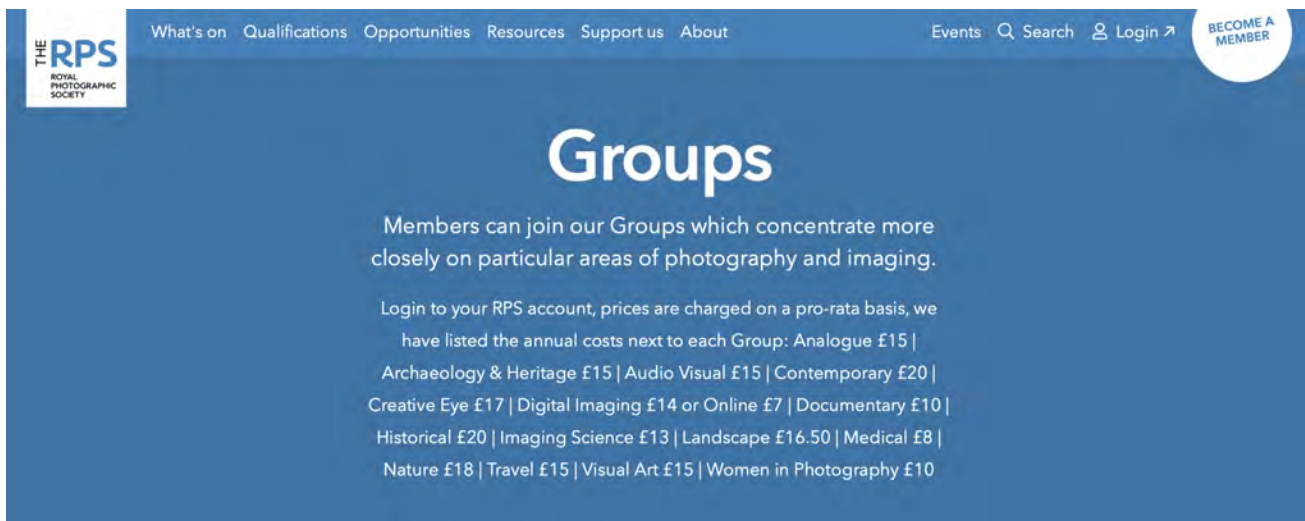
To support and encourage all types and styles of photography that shows evidence of a personal vision or style which conveys a sense of design, emotion, mood or some meaning which encourages the viewer to look beyond the subject.

#### **Women in Photography.** <https://rps.org/groups/women-in-photography/>

We are not a genre! We facilitate the celebration, education and collaboration of female and female-identifying photographers. We are the discussion that drives a greater awareness of the importance of women photographers past, present and future.



**Subscription fees vary but as you can read none are very expensive and represent excellent value for money.**



THE RPS ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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BECOME A MEMBER

# Groups

Members can join our Groups which concentrate more closely on particular areas of photography and imaging.

Login to your RPS account, prices are charged on a pro-rata basis, we have listed the annual costs next to each Group: Analogue £15 | Archaeology & Heritage £15 | Audio Visual £15 | Contemporary £20 | Creative Eye £17 | Digital Imaging £14 or Online £7 | Documentary £10 | Historical £20 | Imaging Science £13 | Landscape £16.50 | Medical £8 | Nature £18 | Travel £15 | Visual Art £15 | Women in Photography £10

To **join a SIG** first go to the top right hand corner of the [www.rps.org](http://www.rps.org) web page and click 'Login'. Once you are logged in you will see a screen that says 'Welcome' and your name. Next to this is a blue link that says 'Join a Specialist Group' – click on this and you find a list of all SIGs. You simply check the box next to any/all you wish to join. If you have any difficulties with this process then email [membership@rps.org](mailto:membership@rps.org) for assistance.

# The Team



**JANET HAINES ARPS** — [international@rps.org](mailto:international@rps.org)

I joined the RPS in 2003 when I aspired to try for my LRPS. Since then I have been a member of several committees, an LRPS panel assessor for a while, two years as an RPS Trustee, five years as the Benelux Chapter Organiser when I was living in the Netherlands, plus I am the Chair of the Digital Imaging Group.

My aim always is to make the RPS member experience as good as we possibly can wherever an individual lives in the world. For us all to get as much out of our photography and being part of a community of like-minded individuals, in which we inspire and help each other to progress in our chosen field of image making.

**CHRIS RENK** — [germany@rps.org](mailto:germany@rps.org)

I joined the RPS in 2013 while living in the UK. After relocating back to Germany, the German Chapter asked me to join their Group and participate in their activities. In 2015, I became the Chapter Organizer and kept the role since then. Additionally, I took on the role of Web administrator and editor of the chapter's publications. In 2015, the Chapter published its first magazine, the "Chapter Newsletter." At this time, the newsletter was published irregularly. In 2021, we started publishing our magazine quarterly and called it "eMagazine."

From 2020 onwards, the chapter and I expanded our involvement in the RPS's online education program. We conducted a diverse range of online talks and workshops, broadening our reach and impact. Supporting the international members by providing this newsletter is also first-line support to the German Chapter members!



**SOMDUTT PRASAD** — [somprasad@gmail.com](mailto:somprasad@gmail.com)

I joined the RPS in 2022 and regret not having done so earlier! As a busy medical specialist for two decades in the UK and then another decade back in India, photography took a back seat to my profession as an ophthalmologist. The Covid pandemic was a time of refocusing and re-evaluation. I decided to spend more time on my hobby and thus started entering some competitions.

This helped me appreciate the nuances of photography and as my understanding of photography increased, I began to take an interest in various societies, including the RPS, The PSA (Photographic Society of America) and FIP (Federation of Indian Photography). I have always believed that if you learn something from an organization's activities, you should try to contribute something back to the organisation. So I volunteered for this position. International members often feel isolated from the main activities in the UK and I hope this newsletter will help the worldwide membership build bridges amongst ourselves and with UK members.

**SYLVIE DOMERGUE** — [sylvieft@gmail.com](mailto:sylvieft@gmail.com)

Lives in Madagascar and knows only too well how isolated an international member of the RPS can feel.

"When I discovered the Royal Photographic Society in 2019 as an international member, I knew that I had found my haven of peace and my home of artistic creation, within a team whose human values I admire, as well as the quality requirements, and the deep commitment to allow its members, wherever they are in the world, to participate in the great adventure that the art of photography represents in its different aspects."



**SIMON ELSY LRPS** — [simon.g.elsy@gmail.com](mailto:simon.g.elsy@gmail.com)

I joined the RPS in 2016, whilst living in Sydney and was a member of the Australian Chapter. I supported the Chapter by writing various articles for their newsletter. I never attended the Chapter meetings as these were held in Melbourne which was impractical. I assisted the Chapter in transitioning to Zoom format meetings during the 2020 COVID period. Currently, now back in the UK, I am involved with the London Region which is extremely active, holding regular meetings and field trips in and around London. I am also a member of DIG, Nature, and Landscape SIG's.

In 2018, whilst in Sydney I was supported by the DIG group through mentoring, and submitting my LRPS panel which was a logistical challenge due to time differences and distance in physically submitting prints. Consequently, I am aware of the challenges that international members experience, which is why I assisting this initiative.

**CHRISTINE ETHERINGTON FRPS** — [christineeltherington18@gmail.com](mailto:christineeltherington18@gmail.com)

I joined the RPS Scottish Region in 2014 where I attended advisory days, Photo forums and distinction advisory days. Intending to take my photographic hobby to the next level I gained my LRPS distinction in November 2014. Two years later I decided to try for my Associateship which I gained in 2016. In 2022 I was successful in gaining my fellowship in documentary.

All of this was made possible with the encouragement and support of the Royal Photographic Society. In 2018 I became the RPS Scottish Regional Treasurer until my emigration to New Zealand in 2021. Having the experience of gaining my fellowship whilst living in New Zealand I feel I am well placed to encourage international members.





# THE RPS

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