

Photoforum Success in Nairn 2024

On Sunday 27 October the Northern Area of the Scottish Region hosted a highly successful and very enjoyable Photoforum in Nairn, with a total attendance of 24 people. Trish Roberts, the Northern Area Rep, welcomed 15 RPS members to the event, and also welcomed four non-members of the RPS from local camera clubs in Forres and Inverness. James and Hazel Frost provided expert oversight, assisted by Roy Robertson. Six members brought prints along to show, five brought digital images and two non-members showed enormous fortitude in also bringing prints into what they may have considered to be the lions' den of photographic expertise.

The images presented demonstrated a variety of subjects, some with potential for development as future projects, to almost complete panels, and successful distinctions. The variety of genres and techniques was impressive, although landscapes and visual art featured predominantly. Both James and Hazel brought along examples of their recent work, demonstrating the extremely high standard of photography that they have achieved, whilst Roy provided a selection of thought provoking images of dancers, taken on film, which showed remarkable in-camera and darkroom technique to capture and show movement as a series of abstract monochrome studies.

Attendees were given the opportunity to closely study print exhibits, and see how the use of different papers can affect the final image. Each digital image was shown multiple times allowing the audience to fully appreciate the work of the author. Audience members were 'invited' by James, who co-ordinated the running order, to individually discuss the work of another attendee; such assessment is essential to understanding one's own photographic output and is a key part of Photoforum participation. All panels generated interesting and lively discussions although, in the spirit of the event, both experts and audience members did not always share opinions as to what might constitute a 'good' image. It was really positive to see active participation by non-RPS members who all agreed that the event was an excellent introduction to the RPS Northern Area which increased their understanding of work that members produce, how the distinctions worked, and what are the benefits of joining. Much of this was due to the presence of James and Hazel who never tired of answering questions and explaining the finer points of the Society's approach to photographic work.

Overall, the Northern Area Photoforum achieved its aim of allowing photographers to spend time discussing any aspect of photography in a friendly and informal environment, free from the pressures associated with other RPS events. This success was due in no part to the dedication of James, Hazel and Roy to give up their time to join us in the Highlands of Scotland.



