

Subject: Snapshot - No.70
From: "Evan Dawson" <evan@rps.org>
Sent: 04/03/2022 17:16:40
To:

Dear RPS Trustees, staff, volunteers and friends

This week started off with two half-day training sessions at RPS House for all trustees and staff. They had been initiated by Mervyn Mitchell, as part of our new commitment to make the organisation significantly more inclusive and welcoming - and led by highly experienced facilitator Sereena Abbassi (formerly head of culture and inclusion for Saatchi Global) who had been introduced to us by Sally. We covered a lot of ground together, discussing different barriers people face in engaging with the RPS, and the various hidden aspects of our own identities and backgrounds that can have an influence on how we interact with each other. It was fascinating and challenging, and I'm really grateful to everyone who took part for approaching the sessions with such generosity. The feedback I've had since has been really positive. This work is an important part of our wider work on Inclusion, which you can read about [here](#). Thanks also to Matt for helping organise the days so well, and I look forward to meeting with everyone next week and discussing what changes we might start to make as a result.

Together with Simon Hill, we welcomed Martin Baynes to RPS House on Tuesday morning, to discuss the relationship between BIPP and the RPS, and the potential for future collaborations. As part of that meeting, we also had a call with Isabelle Doran, the (relatively) new CEO of the AOP. Our three organisations are partnering on the new Chartered Photographer initiative, which is still with the Privy Council for approval.

As you may have seen, we put out a statement on the horrific situation in Ukraine, in consultation with staff and trustees. You can read it [here](#). As you will see it includes images that we were sent (via RPS member Ian Simpson) by Ukrainian photographer Serhiy Mykhalchuk. Thanks to everyone for your support with this.

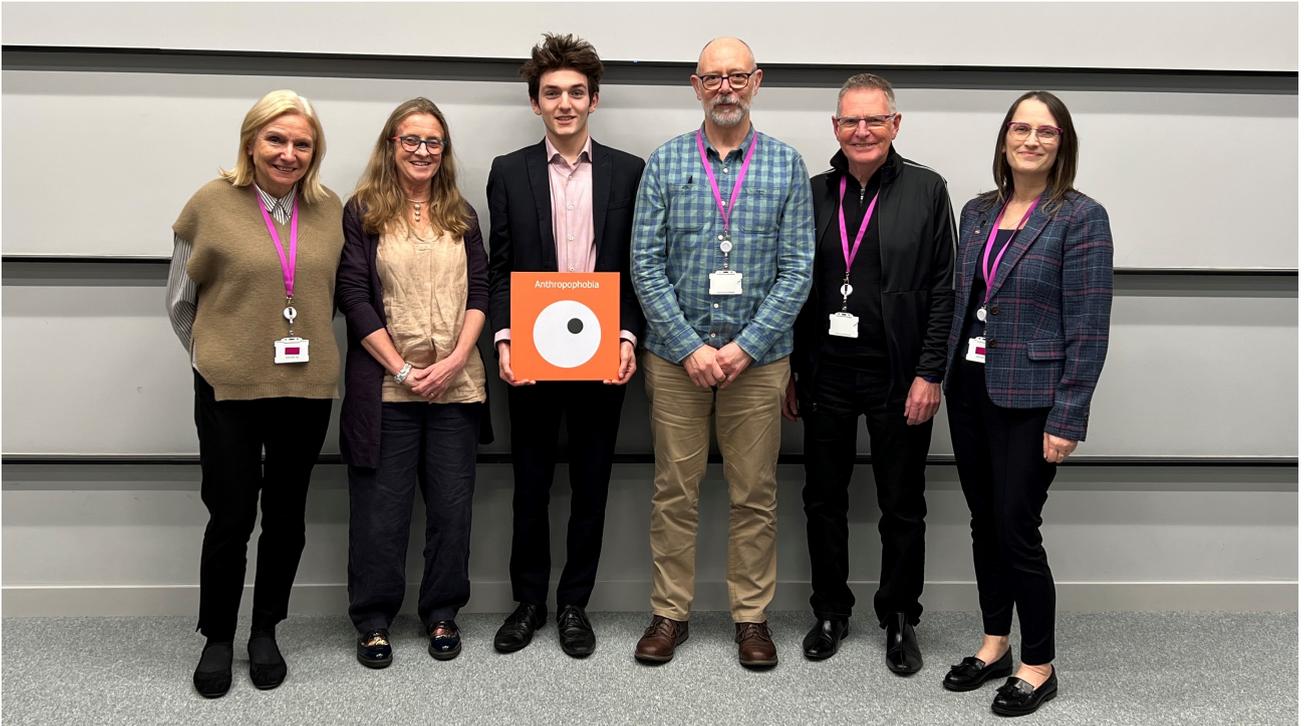
It was wonderful to have Distinctions assessment take place again this week, live in the RPS building for the first time since I joined the RPS. Andy has more details:

It's been a very busy week but a very rewarding one. On Wednesday and Thursday, we had our very first face to face assessments in nearly two years. It was great to see panel members back in Bristol. Over the two days we had some inspirational bodies of work in print and digital. We also had a book submission by Ben Lockey who is 17 and we were all pleased when he was awarded his Licentiate (photo below).

All of this would not happen without the amazing support and dedication of our panel members and chair, who were Viveca Koh FRPS, Nigel Plant ARPS, Steve Boyle ARPS, Linda Wevill FRPS and the chair Hazel Frost FRPS. The team here and all the applicants are extremely grateful for what you do on behalf of the RPS.

Also this week, a real team effort from the RPS and its members who put together 8 images that are on display at RPS Bristol, all this was done in 8 days, from selection, to members sending their work, printing, mounting and display, just shows what can be achieved when we all pull together. The display is just before you walk into the auditorium (see photo). We selected a range of photos to represent all levels and genres, and the feedback has been fantastic, so a big thank you to Anna Lohmann LRPS, Colin Beaton ARPS, Diana Buzoianu ARPS, Jay Hallsworth LRPS, Dr David Bird FRPS, Terry Mullen LRPS, Dr Charles Ashton FRPS Matt Jacobs FRPS. We are now looking for the next 8 to be featured later this year.

And if that was not enough, we have just announced for the very first time, any member with the relevant distinction can now apply to become a panel member, which is very exciting and we are looking forward to receiving applications
- <https://rps.org/about/jobs/> closing date 31st March 2022



There have been lots of moving parts to the ongoing CRM project this week, with several meetings. Lots of you are working very hard on this, including complicated work on data migration and website integration, and detailed aspects of payment mechanisms and budgeting. It is much appreciated. Kate will shortly be writing to all volunteers about how to get involved in the testing stages, so that we all feel consulted and up to speed before things go live in June.

This morning I had a great online conversation with Judy and David Hicks from the London region, who are so busy on behalf of our members in the capital, leading regular photo walks, group meetings, discussions, exhibitions and projects. Take a look at their rich timetable [here](#).

If you are interested in joining the board of trustees, the deadline for applications is fast approaching on 7 March. Details here: <https://rps.org/about/jobs/>

Another deadline that same day is to make nominations for this year's RPS Awards: <https://rps.org/about/awards/awards-categories/> Please do take a look at the available categories and make a nomination this weekend!

Tracy writes:

To mark International Women's Day on 8 March, the RPS Women in Photography group has created an exciting and inspiring programme of celebratory events for March. They include a week of talks from prominent and internationally renowned women photographers, the publication of the second issue of the groups WE ARE magazine, a call out for women photographers to submit their images for an online exhibition SELFIES and the launch of the new and innovative RPS Women In Photography Bursary for female photography graduates. To follow the events throughout the month and to learn more about the group follow @rpswomeninphoto <https://rps.org/news/bristol/2022/february/international-women-s-day/>

As you may remember, our wellbeing donations campaign was successful. One lady made a particularly generous contribution, and has given me permission to share her words with you:

Hi Evan,

I have just sent another donation so please earmark it for your 'Photography and Well-being' campaign. I know it is still a drop in the ocean but I truly believe a project such as this could change young people's lives for the better.

I have had some major unexpected health issues over the last 2 years but my camera was a constant in my life every week. The images I took may not be very worthy but it gave me a focus every week, if even for a few hours, away from my own problems. I would hope that this would be the same for others who find themselves in short or long-term challenging situations.

On Monday Alison Webber ran the second session of her current series of photography and autism workshops, which are going really well so far. She reports that the group, as a whole, is very motivated and delighted to have a chance to take part. One of the participants sent her an email on Tuesday which read:

"Thank you for the notes from yesterday's session. It was another interesting and informative session and great to see everyone's photos. It was nice to have a project, usually I go out to take pictures of whatever I fancy but having to concentrate on shadows made me look at things "in a different light". I also found it very helpful to hear such positive feedback with ideas that I wouldn't have thought of."

If you're in the Bristol area, please come to join us this Sunday for some really unique events, including talks about the Generations project, and hands-on workshops for children and families led by Elise.

<https://rps.org/news/bristol/2022/february/rps-open-day-generations-talks/>

If you're not sure who anyone is named above, the names of all staff are all online here:

<https://rps.org/about/staff/>

I hope you're enjoying my weekly *Snapshots*. Please do send me anything you'd like me to share. I would be grateful if chairs and ROs could circulate this to their group members, if appropriate - and if you are receiving this indirectly, do drop me a line if you'd like me to add your email to the circulation list.

As usual, please do keep in touch, and do let us know if you'd like to discuss anything.

Happy weekending!

Evan

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