

## The Contemporary Group North meeting 16 May 2020 on Zoom

**Attendees:** Patricia Ruddle - Jim Souper - Graham Low - Wendy North - Morris Gregory - Mary Crowther - Adrian James - Lyn Newton - Andrew Hobbs - Celine Brown - Avijit Datta - Gary Morgan - Peter Bartlett



We had all assumed that as a consequence of lockdown our May meeting wouldn't take place until a week before when Jim Souper kindly offered to host a virtual meeting using Zoom. After a few hiccups we all responded to Jim's invitation and joined the meeting.

**Patricia Ruddle** opened the meeting by reminding us that the next one is scheduled for Saturday, 18 July at Clements Hall in York. Hopefully, by then we may be able to meet in person (subject, of course to social distancing rules).

**Morris Gregory** has suggested that we consider a collaborative project entitled *20:20 Vision* exploring how each of us sees this year. It was suggested that each contribution should consist of a combination of words and images with a view to producing a book. Options around either a physical book or a virtual publication (say, using *Issuu*) could be considered. Morris offered to coordinate the project and put the book together. He will write to Patricia with an outline.

Using the shared screen facility, **Adrian James** showed a series of images made during lockdown. Most of these were close up images of flowers using focus stacking technology. Included were a significant number of shots of tulips and it was suggested that it may be worth exploring John Blakemore's monochrome studies of tulips as an aid to developing the series.



Shortly before lockdown, **Lyn Newton** had visited Morocco and she showed us a series of images made in Fez and the "blue city", Chefchaouen. She had been attracted by the beautiful colours on display in these locations and included several semi abstract images using "in-camera" multiple exposures, small detail shots that help create a sense of place as well as street/architectural images often dominated by the colour blue.



**Celine Brown** has been busy during lockdown creating a collection of images of flowers from her home and garden mainly using a light box for illumination. She also showed three other short series of images. Two involving in camera movement of fences and woodland respectively and a third set of studies of shadows and textures from Haworth churchyard in West Yorkshire.



**Mary Crowther** provided a brief update on her involvement with the RPS Education Committee. In particular she referred to projects with the homeless in the North of England being developed collaboratively with outside partners but indicated these were unlikely to resume before June. She also referred to the success of the RPS on-line talks and workshops during lockdown and thought that this resource may be developed further following lockdown to provide increased access to a wider number of members across the U.K. and beyond.

**Andrew Hobbs** has been exploring *blipfoto* during the lockdown. He explained that the concept of the site is to create a personal photo journal, posting an image each day. Using the shared screen, Andrew demonstrated the site and showed his own images. He commented that one of the outcomes is that he is taking more images and using the camera in his phone more.



**Graham Low** has been enjoying the half-hour quarantine conversations between Magnum Photographers. At the start of the pandemic, Magnum paired a number of their members at random and asked them to record their conversation. The content is mixed, apparently but some are fascinating. <https://www.magnumphotos.com/theme/quarantine-conversations/>

Over the last few weeks, **Peter Bartlett** has been exploring the work of Stephen Shore, William Egglestone and others with a view to taking a new creative direction. Some weeks ago, Peter was invited by one of his Instagram contacts to take part in an online international exhibition, *Space Between Us*, organised by Artlink Hull. The exhibition runs until 3 July 2020 and proceeds of image sales are shared equally between the artists and the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The exhibition can be viewed here: <https://www.at87.co.uk>



Earlier in the discussions we had discussed the merits online publishing using *Issuu*. **Wendy North** showed a book she had published via *Issuu*. The book has been carefully edited to create a flow of different colours across the images. Interestingly, Wendy designed to book using the Book Module in Adobe Lightroom from which she created a PDF file which was used as the basis of the *Issuu* publication. Wendy's book can be viewed here: [https://issuu.com/wendynorth/docs/colours\\_blurb\\_140520\\_book](https://issuu.com/wendynorth/docs/colours_blurb_140520_book)



**Jim Souper** is working collaboratively with a number of other photographers to produce a book of landscape images based on trip to the Lake Maggiore area of Lombardy that included time spent in Switzerland. Jim showed us a PDF version of the book which he expects will be published online in addition to a small print run to produce a couple of copies for each participating photographer



This brought our virtual meeting, which we all agreed had been very successful, to a conclusion with everyone thanking Jim for facilitating it.