

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ANGLE PROMOTES EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PHOTOGRAPHY BY STAGING EXHIBITIONS AND BY WORKING WITH PROFESSIONAL, STUDENT AND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS













MY COUNTRY

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children."

Theodore Roosevelt

The theme 'My Country' showcases a wide cross-section of photographic genres from portraiture, wildlife, landscape and architecture right through to street photography. All of the photographers that have been included have used these genres to capture and portray what their country means to them.

The brief was left open to interpretation. Many chose to shoot their place of birth, some their place of residence and others focused on an adopted country or somewhere they visit regularly. The vast majority of photographers chose to portray their country in a positive light, showing a strong sense of patriotism and emotional attachment to the place they call home. Some though chose to use the opportunity to question the nature of democracy and the tangible effects inequality.

Unsurprisingly, many artists wanted to celebrate the sense of national pride that comes from being born in or living in Great Britain. But other countries featured include Italy, Columbia, Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Sri Lanka, Iran, and Argentina.

The photographs showcase the people, wildlife, customs, monuments, landscapes, and the many symbols of national identity that make up a country and provide a strong sense of community and belonging for those who live there.

Participating Photographers: Martin Cox, Emanuel Moldovan, Louisa Stobbs, Sheila Haycox, Silvino Gonzalez Morales, Tony Shore, Mike Pearce, Alexey Samoylenko, Ajithaa Edirimane, Steve McDonald, Paul Smith, Susan Brown, Peter Kilminster, Nadia Nervo, Abby Rashman, Rebecca Cole, Adonis Stevenson, Anna Kadykova, Mario Gustavo Fiorucci, Amir Lavon, Daniel James, Nastasia Peteuil, Eleanor Bennett, Abdolrahman Hassani, Lynn Fotheringham, Roberto Baroni, Keith Britton.

Martin Cox

Martin Cox is an enthusiastic amateur photographer who has had a camera in his hand since the age of five.

His main photographic interests are landscapes and country scenes but he also enjoys capturing smaller details as well as the bigger picture. Living in the heart of England gives him many photographic opportunities and inspiration.



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Emanuel Moldovan

Emanuel Moldovan is from Romania, but currently resides in High Wycombe Bucks. He has a passion for travel photography and over the past 6 years he has been travelling around Europe gathering an impressive collection of pictures showing different cultures, instances of daily life and much more. He has been fascinated by the places he has seen and he tries to render his pictures as natural as possible and let the images speak for themselves.

The pictures included in this collection have all been taken in Transylvania-Romania and Emanuel has aimed to show a mixture of rural and urban, and traditional things. Some pictures depict



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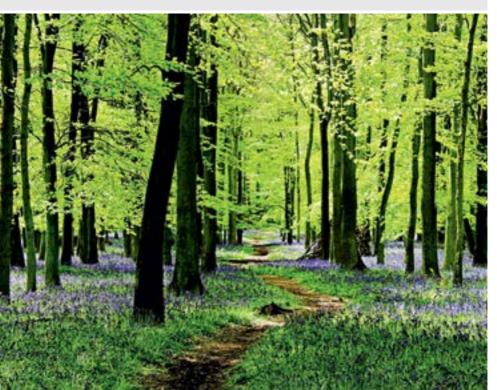
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Louisa Stobbs

Louisa Stobbs' photography is all about colour, light and texture. From panoramas to close-ups, the inspiration is in catching the beauty at any moment. Her passion for photography is in the art that she sees all around. She has always lived in the Chilterns and finds it a beautiful area to photograph, all year round - from snowy Ivinghoe Beacon, to spring in Ashridge's bluebell woods, vivid rape fields, summer farm crops and wonderful autumn colours in the beech woods.

Many of Louisa's photographs are taken in her beloved Argyll, where the incredible light and weather are a big influence. It's possible to experience hot sun, stormy clouds, teeming rain and fragile snow all in one day - at any time of the year! And she tries to capture all these moods.

Louisa describes herself as an outdoors photographer and her gorgeous tiny garden is a never-ending source of inspiration at any time of the year. Her passion for the countryside around her is paramount to her life, and she's at her most content being outdoors and engrossing herself in the amazing beauty of her country.



Sheila Haycox

Photography for Sheila started in the late 60's, but it wasn't until the late 80's that she joined a camera club. Since then, she has taken a great interest in producing prints for exhibitions and salons and has produced several photographic books from her travels to Cuba, Morocco, Tuscany, Slovenia and Scotland.

Sheila does presentations of her work in the form of prints and audio visuals and at present there are several large prints on display at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital under the banner of "Devon As I See It".



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Silvino Gonzalez Morales

Silvino Gonzalez Morales is a Colombian visual artist and designer currently living in Bogotá. He began his career as a photographer a bit later on in life. After struggling with a career in engineering he finally decided to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue his love for photography.

Right now Silvino's goal is to experiment with mixtures of analogical and digital techniques of representation, capture and printing of images; trying to find a personal way to express his vision and feelings about many topics.

His main photographic theme is the city: the landscape, the struggles, the stigmas, the inhabitants and the outsiders. Silvino lives in a city in which it is possible to see a mixture of many elements and defining factors; a destination for thousands of people running from 40 years of warfare, a place to live, to learn, to dream and also, where some do, sadly, suffer. It is a city full of people trying their best to build and rebuild their own dreams and lives. But above all of it is a city full of hope and hard work.



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Tony Shore

Tony Shore has lived in Devon for many years. Since his recent retirement, he has been able to spend more time on his photography, with subjects ranging from street to landscape in both black and white, and colour.

Tony enjoyed revisiting and selecting photographs for this exhibition, and he has chosen an eclectic mix of images to represent 'My Country'.



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Mike Pearce

Mike Pearce is an amateur photographer living in Bedfordshire. He has been taking photographs for as long as he can remember, capturing holidays, family outings and trips away. For years, his big passion has been walking and climbing in the mountains of Britain, The Alps, The Himalayas and Tanzania. A camera has always been with him and he has taken countless photographs of his travels.

For Mike, technical terms like F/stops, exposures, ISO numbers, rule of thirds and the like were mysteries that only professional photographers could handle. He simply pressed the button and hoped for the best. But that has all changed and he now sees the world in a different way when he looks at it through his camera lens. Landscape photography is what Mike enjoys the most and where he feels most comfortable. He has always loved and appreciated the outdoors and gains a sense of well-being and belonging when he is there, especially in the Lake District of Cumbria or by the sea in Cornwall.

He considers himself to be a cosmopolitan individual but as a man of Cheshire, he is also proud of his country, England, which is about as diverse as any nation can be. Encompassing culture, ethnicity, regional identity, religion, a varied landscape and much more. This diversity posed a serious challenge for Mike when trying to represent it in his photographs. His solution was to choose images of places that have a personal significance for him.



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Alexey Samoylenko

Ukrainian photographer Alexey Samoylenko specialises in landscape photography. However, this poignant collection of images is entitled 'War Conflict Begins' and captures the war conflict in Kharkov, the second-largest city of Ukraine. Kharkov is located in eastern Ukraine and the pro-Russian separatists were going to destabilize the situation there in early spring 2014. The situation in Kharkov could have been the same scenario as we see now in the Donbass area. However, the unrest that took place on 01.03.2014 was a crucial point in the history of Kharkov city.



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Ajithaa Edirimane

Ajithaa Edirimane is a lawyer by profession and a keen photographer. She is from Sri Lanka and currently resides in Colombo. She believes that photographs are moments in time that we can treasure. She particularly loves to capture the ever changing face of nature, places of historic significance, character in people's faces and details of abstract art.

Ajithaa relishes the opportunity to showcase the beauty, abundance and rich diversity of her country through her photographs. Sri Lanka is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean, just below the southern tip of India, separated by the Palk Strait. It is a tropical country with a land area of 67,000 kilometres and sunny weather throughout the year. Sri Lanka has a population of about 19 million people. She has attempted to portray the diversity of religions and ethnic groups, as well as Sri Lanka's natural beauty in the photographs that she submitted for this exhibition.



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Steve McDonald

Steve MacDonald's passion for photography began whilst living in Germany in the mid 1970's when he bought his first camera at an auction. Since then, Steve has travelled extensively, visiting over 77 countries to date. He uses a powerful Canon 5D Mark II digital camera.

In 2010, Steve was nominated by Insight Guides travel guides as their Travel Photographer of the Year. He successfully completed a commission in Tuscany in July 2011 for their latest guidebook.

In his photography, Steve aims to capture the essence of the places he visits, each observed from a very personal viewpoint. He tries to find new perspectives when shooting popular landmarks so that his images show the familiar in a new way.



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Paul Smith

Paul Smith's photographic life has developed over 50 years; from black and white film development in a 1960s university darkroom, to digital SLRs and photo editing software. However, the principles of good photography are little changed – just the technologies. Paul is a member of a local photographic club and continues to learn.

He finds inspiration for his photography from the world around him; he tries to capture and present subjects that have an emotional impact on him, often bright and/or strong scenes. Two particular interests that Paul has are clear from his choice of images: landscapes and aviation.

Most of the images in this exhibition were taken in RAW on a Nikon SLR (currently the D7100). His preferred lens for the last 5 years is a Nikon 18-200 zoom for Landscapes and a Nikon 80-400 for Aircraft and Wildlife. A smaller Canon G12 (RAW) camera sometime suffices.



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Susan Brown

Susan Brown's interest in photography has spanned over thirty years and has evolved from darkroom to digital. Her years in the darkroom were an important learning curve that has helped her to pre visualise in the digital age. Susan is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, and sits on both the Licentiate and Visual Art Panels. She is also a Member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen, a Member of Arena Group of Photographers, and part of an Art Co operative, ARTSIX, a multi-disciplinary group in the South Hams in Devon.

Susan exhibits widely both in the UK and overseas and her work has been published in several magazines and books.

Her images have been accepted into the Royal Photographic Society's International Exhibition, which tours the UK, for 3 consecutive years. She has also been accepted into the London Salon of Photography for three consecutive years as well as the Edinburgh International that coincides with the Edinburgh International Festival.

Susan specialises in long exposure work at the coast but her interests are wide ranging. She says: 'Some of my images encapsulate a moment in time. Others are ethereal, dreamlike and considered, so requiring planning and long time exposures to see beneath the 'seen' image.'





Peter Kilminster

Peter Kilminster's aim in his photography, is to try to shoot unposed, candid moments of life on the street. He has, for a long time, been interested in the great photographers who capture real life with their cameras.

Peter believes that the street photographer is focused on the 'everyday' because in the ordinary scenes of life, human values and virtues, human weaknesses and corruptions, enduring strengths of societies and their inherent fragility are revealed. We live in a time when change is rapid and documenting the 'now' is particularly important. He says: "The subject of street photography is also universally photographic – it is about light, shapes, shadows, lines, contrasts – the endless variety of visual relationships people create with the world they live in. Street photography produces and preserves unique moments in time, unique comings-together – of individuals, of interaction, of time and place."

There are many different types of street photos that can be captured, but Peter finds he gravitates towards more of a 'figure in the landscape' type of photo. He likes to find an exciting background and wait a while for an interesting person to become an actor on his found stage.

Peter will get out on the street as much as possible to search out interesting photos and hopefully learn more about both photography and human nature.



Nadia Nervo

Nadia Nervo is a London-based artist who received a Masters in Art Communication & Design from the Royal College of Art in 2003. Nadia uses photography, video and performance and works primarily on analogue formats. Her work focuses on collaboration, exploring the nature of the relationship between photographer and subject, alongside observer and viewer. The themes that are central to her work include gender, identity, femininity, beauty and movement.

The photographs seen in this exhibition are part of the series entitled 'Liberum'. The project explores how anyone can experience a sense of freedom and liberation through dance and movement, anywhere and at any time.

Nadia invites people to dance in public spaces in London, such as shopping centres, squares, underground stations, bridges, etc.; places where people go about their daily lives. The people chosen are not professionally trained dancers and dance to music listened to on their headphones.

Through their own favourite chosen piece of music, the subjects are invited to let go and let the music seep into their veins and their soul, allowing their bodies to move, in the form of dance that gives them a sense of freedom and a chance to lose themselves in the moment.



Abby Rashman

Abby Rashman is a fashion photographer and graphic designer based in Manchester. She has recently graduated from Leeds College of Art with a BA (Hons) in photography and is inspired by the works of Todd Hido and Bill Brandt. Her own work is predominantly focused on composition and scenery by telling a story via her photography.

The images selected for this catalogue feature a beautiful but haunting manor house situated in the heart of rural Yorkshire. Her family home lies amidst the unkempt remains of what once was, leaving behind an abandoned out house with overgrown grass and relics of the past. The aim of these images, according to Abby, was to present to people who are perhaps somewhat alien to this type, an exposé of the atmosphere surrounding such a historically rich building.



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Rebecca Cole

Rebecca Cole spends much of her time in the hills alone with her dog and likes nothing better than experiencing the early light on the hillside. When there is nobody about, she often gets a feeling that's quite difficult to put into words so she has named it 'The Planet Feeling'.

As she explains, this is not a regular occurrence. It usually happens when she is alone and usually when in the mountains. There are no people about and no significant human features on the landscape and she has the realisation that she is standing on a planet!

This place in the mountains feels as though it is a large, lonesome and wondrous place where she is really quite insignificant. 'The Planet Feeling' takes over and she feels very small but very happy. Then the feeling dissipates.

Rebecca believes that her photographs are about moments in time, moments with her surroundings, moments with nature. They're about feelings she would like to try and save. All of them come with a memory.



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Adonis Stevenson

Adonis Stevenson is a visual effects artist in the video games industry with a passion for photography. His interest in photography was piqued 10 years ago when he took a career break and spent a year travelling around the world with only a 3.2 megapixel compact camera to document his experiences. His photographic education has progressed a long way since then but as with all photographers, he is always learning. His two main areas of interest are portraits and urban exploration.

Living on the doorstep of such a vibrant and interesting city as London makes it a common setting for much of his photography and the majority of this set of images were taken there. The theme is "Loneliness and Decay in the City" and it is a series of photos of single people (or small groups) mixed with photos showing urban decay – Two things you don't expect to find in a modern metropolis such as London.



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Anna Kadykova

Anna Kadykova was born in Moscow, Russia in 1984. She graduated from the Russian State University of Humanities and for some time worked in advertising as a producer's assistant. Then she changed her life and decided to take photography more seriously. At the same time she joined the Russian school-studio "SHAR" on the faculty of animation direction and following her graduation she made her first animation film "The Mole at the Sea".

Since 2004 Anna has been working as an assistant to the famous animation director Ivan Maximov on his films as well as shooting independent photography projects.

The images included in this exhibition focus on the diversity that is presented by Russia and her people. Anna says: "Russia is very big, diverse, varicolored. We have fields, we have snow and we have people. Fields are wide, snow is cold and people are very different. A lot of people look tough, gloomy, and lonely. But you will never guess what is inside until you personally meet them and communicate for a long time. We have modern people living in big cities, using iphones and other devices. We have 'wild' people living in mountain villages, herding Yaks. The soul of some Russian man can be as wide as a broad field, no matter where he was born, where he was educated."



Mario Gustavo Fiorucci

Mario Fiorucci was born and lives in Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina. In 2008, when he bought his first digital SLR camera, he began to dabble in photography and became dedicated to nature photography. But he also likes to shoot street scenes, monochrome, travel and sports. His kit consists of a Canon 40D, a Canon 100-400 L lens and a tripod.

Mario loves nature photography as he believes it has a visual impact that none of the other genres have. His home town is depicted as a paradise for game animals like deer and others, but Mario tries to create an awareness of conservation through his images, which are taken exclusively in his place of residence. When a photographer takes a photo it stays forever, respecting the habitat and the life of the animals, without altering the environment.

In order to capture his nature images, Mario uses hides, camouflage, feeders and water containers to attract animals. He is also very careful when the photographing nests as it is important that his presence is not perceived.



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Amir Lavon

Amir Lavon is an Israeli photography teacher who graduated from P.C.K College with a qualification in photography and new media. He also graduated from Ohalo College in Kazarin as a teacher of English and Art for special needs children and is currently working as a teacher in the education system in Israel. He learned B/W print at creative photography school in TLV, Israel and is an active social photographer for newspapers, magazines and galleries, specialising in documentary photography.

Amir's artwork takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues. In his work, his main aim is to show the face of the simple man; the one who doesn't have his voice heard in the media or in any other way.

His mission is to tell the world their life story, to take their picture, give them their fair share of the media, to represent them in front of the world, to give them a voice, to show that we care, that their story is relevant to the world and above all to raise a question about the role of the media and art in representing not the values of rating, nor what is colorful and sublime, but the story of the simple man.



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Daniel James

Daniel James is a street photographer, working mainly out of Bristol. Having only been seriously shooting for 18 months, he is only beginning to discover his potential to express himself through the medium of photography. He has spent most of his life working with people, sometimes in very tough settings and situations, which has shaped the way he views the world. It has also instilled a desire to do something about the various issues that have troubled him. But it wasn't until he discovered street photography that he truly found his voice.

Daniel says: "My passion for street photography and photojournalism stems from the raw and uncontrived nature of candid moments within everyday life. My work focuses on extracting emotional and social discourse from the world around me. Working on the streets is incredibly challenging due to the ever changing surroundings. Everything is in a state of flux. The moments are so fleeting that it requires a very different eye, and a direct approach that I find incredibly exciting."

Drawing inspiration from photographers including William Klein, Paulo Pellegrin, Robert Capa, Don McCullin, and Elliot Erwitt; Daniel's unique commentary on society creates a blend of emotive realism, style and wit. The dominating themes throughout his work are consumerism, technology and loneliness, always with an emphasis on emotional content. Daniel chooses to use film as his sole medium due to the meditative nature of the slower process in imaging, and feels that the physical act of capturing light on film, complements his views on the way technology can lead to our increasing separation from the natural world.



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Nastasia Peteuil

Nastasia Peteuil found her passion for photography whilst studying for a bachelor degree in History. Always interested in journalism, she started to use photography to tell a story and illuminate issues she thought were newsworthy. She followed social demonstrations in the streets of France while teaching herself photography.

After her master's degree in writing journalism, she spent a year at UMass Amherst to take a photojournalism and a film course. She decided to start her career in journalism and photojournalism in Detroit, a city of so many untold stories. Since 2013, she has been living in the Motor City where she understands how a long-term story is this only way to show what is actually happening.

'My country' has allowed her to talk about Detroit, an American city which has received a huge amount of attention from the mainstream media for its fall, but less for its ability to get back up. She wants to underline the lack of diversity in images often seen from the city, the "ruin porn". Detroit works, lives and plays like any other city. It might not have many entertainment places, cultural events and choices like other cities. But it certainly has a heart.



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Eleanor Bennett

Eleanor Bennett is an acclaimed and internationally award-winning photographer and visual artist with a formidable body of work. She boasts a plethora of outstanding achievements, such as winning the CIWEM Young Environmental Photographer of the Year award in 2013 and first places with National Geographic and The World Photography Organisation to name only a few.

She has just finished a project of a series of interviews with historian Rosa Berland who has served as a curator at The Museum of Modern Art in New York, and who has worked with Christie's as well as the Guggenheim. Eleanor's work is also on the front cover of this year's anthology for the Austin Poetry Festival.

Her photography has been published in The Telegraph and The Guardian on multiple occasions, The British Journal of Psychiatry, Annals of Internal Medicine, British Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and as the front cover of books and magazines extensively throughout the world.



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U N T R Y

Abdolrahman Hassani

Rahman Hassani is an Iranian Kurdish photojournalist, artist and a graphic designer. Rahman started as a graphic designer and painter in Iran, Kurdistan. Since 2004, while based in Kurdistan, his photographs have reported the poverty and discrimination issues among Kurdish people in the Middle-East. At the moment he is studying a Master in Photojournalism of Documentary Photography at University of the Arts, London.



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Lynn Fotheringham

Lynn Fotheringham lives and work on a hill above Morecambe Bay, in North West England. She worked for many years as a wallpaper and textile designer which continues to influence her sense of colour and pattern.

Lynn Says: "The patterns, colours and atmosphere of Morecambe Bay change constantly. There is always a glimpse of something new to capture and share. This unique estuary is a visual gift and is pivotal to my photography. The weather, tide and people of the Bay are never still and my eyes search for pattern, texture and movement where ever I am."

Morecambe Bay is the largest area of tidal mudflats and sand in the UK; 120 sq miles of watery danger and mysterious beauty, of swirling sea birds, sinking sands and treacherous tides. The abstraction and activity of the bay is compulsive to watch and capture. There is much to record, as the tide continually churns new channels and patterns into the huge sands.

To the north, the bay is dominated by the mountains of Cumbria. This landscape often appears in Lynn's images, sometimes as a backdrop, sometimes as the main subject. She prefers to walk and record the lesser known edges of the Lake District rather than the well-known and much-loved views in the centre of the National Park.



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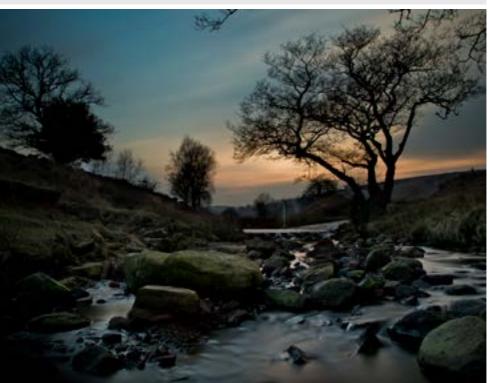
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Keith Britton

Keith Britton is a landscape photographer based in Hedon, East Yorkshire. He specialises in long exposure and reflections, with the movement of sky and water often being the focal point of his images. He has only being involved in "serious" photography for a relatively short time, but already has a huge bank of images. In 2013, he was shortlisted for the Larkin prize and previously for the BBC TV programme "show me the Monet".

Keith says, "In this selection I have focussed on a number of aspects of England and the UK which are important to me in my vision of my home country."

His images depict history, through the ruins of old buildings, often now an intrinsic part of their landscapes. They also feature upland landscapes, especially moorland, an almost uniquely British habitat type. He has photographed the both the maritime heritage of an island nation and the industrial heritage both recent and older, from a nation which led the world at the start of the industrial revolution. His selection also includes images of agricultural landscapes, both arable and pastoral.



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Roberto Baroni

Roberto Baroni lives in Piombino in Italy. He first started taking photographs in 1987 after teaching himself the rudiments of photography. By 1988, he had experienced success in numerous photography competitions throughout various regions of Italy. He has also contributed to the creation of a photobook published by the Province of Ascoli Piceno for distribution in schools and has participated in various photoshoots for magazines.

In 1990, Roberto had his first solo exhibition which led to a series of solo exhibitions and group exhibitions in Italy. In 2009, after taking a break from photography, Roberto enrolled in the National Federations and International FIAF and FIAP. He subsequently won 40 awards in international competitions.

In January 2012, his solo exhibition "La Via del Carbone" meaning "The Way of Coal" was exhibited at the Palais des Congrès in Strasbourg. It is the images from this exhibition that can be seen here today. Roberto describes "The Way of Coal" as a cultural event that brings to life the story of the ancient charcoal burners of Sassetta, their everyday life and work in the woods. In order to work the wood and produce fuel, the charcoal burners had to move their entire family into the woods for months on end. They lived in huts that they built with their own hands, and they hunted, and gathered the fruits of the forest. They had an immense respect for nature and handed down to future generations the values and ideals that unfortunately tend to disappear as time passes.

