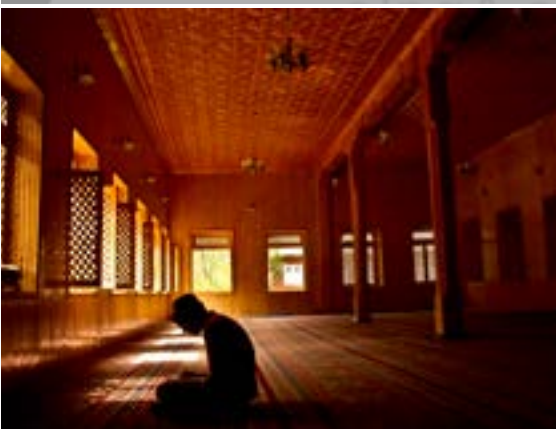




the photographic angle

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



THE FOUR ELEMENTS

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"We cannot conceive of matter being formed of nothing, since things require a seed to start from... Therefore, there is not anything which returns to nothing, but all things return dissolved into their elements."

William Shakespeare

The Ancient Greeks were the first to suggest that all matter is made up of four elements: earth, water, air and fire. This idea, which has also been described in ancient Hindu and Buddhist texts, has gone on to become the cornerstone of science, medicine and philosophy for over two thousand years. It was not until 1789, when Antoine Lavoisier published a list of 33 chemical elements, that the first periodic table dispelled this idea.

However, the images on display in this exhibition present the original Four Elements in all their glory. They successfully convey the life sustaining powers to be found in earth, water, air and fire and the importance of these elements for life on Earth.

Some of the images concentrate on the serenity and calmness that these elements can bring; the stillness of water on a calm day or the gentle breeze in a cloudy sky. Others focus more on the immense strength and destructive force that they can unleash; the violence of waves crashing against the shore or inherent dangers of playing with fire. Either way, our photographers have managed to capture the beauty, the strength and the resilience of the Four Elements.

Participating Photographers:

Sandra Angers-Blondin, Mahfuzul Hasan Bhuiyan, Paul Chapman, Samuel Ravi Choudbury, Liliana Danovaro, Katya Evdokimova, Leka Huie, Joerg Karrenbauer, Ameya Mathkar, Swapnali Mathkar, Richard Mills, Victor Hugo Casillas Romo, Ahmed Kamal Saifi, Alexey Samoylenko, Dalip Singh, Maurice Wilson, Andre Woodward, Faramarz Zareian.

PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Sandra Angers-Blondin

I am a graduate student in Biology and an amateur photographer from Québec, Canada. I have a passion for the natural world and the great outdoors and try to combine it with my job and my photographic work as often as I can. I love to travel and actually got into photography during a backpacking trip across Europe in 2009. My photos from a biodiversity field course in Madagascar have already been featured in TPA's "A beautiful world" exhibition.

However, it is the Great North that has at once captured my heart, directed my course of study and fuelled my photography. The work on display is the result of four summers of environmental fieldwork in Nunavik, a remote territory spanning over 500 000 km² (about twice the size of the U.K.) above the 55th parallel in Northern Quebec. It is sparsely inhabited but for the Inuit people that have roamed its hills for centuries. Now settled in 14 villages, they are struggling to keep a balance between tradition and modernity. Climate change has rendered this fight even more difficult by disturbing game patterns and altering the landscape. Nonetheless, Nunavik is by far the most pristine part of the province of Québec. The fresh air and silence make every trip there feel like a journey back in time, to the boundaries of the explored world.

Nunavik is a land of strong contrasts, where the Elements are equally unforgiving and awe-inspiring. With its vast stretches of pristine taïga and tundra, countless lakes and rivers, and ever-changing landscapes shaped by wind, ice and fire, Nunavik is a wild and spellbinding place constantly beckoning forward, northward...



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Mahfuzul Hasan Bhuiyan

I was born in Bangladesh and by profession I'm an Architect. I fell in love with photography in 1992 and realized that this was going to be my world. I am self-taught and learned photography through reading, experimenting and making mistakes! In 2007 I started to work with digital and it was this new technology that helped transform me from a photographer into an artist. After a lot of thinking and struggling, I concluded that what I really wanted to do was create images with life and not just capture photographs. I have continued to explore many different subject areas and styles as my vision has developed over the years.

Early on in my career I was told to focus on one area and become known for it, some suggested that I should choose landscapes and just stick with them. For me, however, that advice never rang true. I didn't want to choose one thing and I sincerely believe that you must do what feels right for you or you'll never be happy or successful.

I like my vision and subject to take priority when taking photographs and focus less on my equipment or the processes. I shoot using simple or natural light and carry just what I need. Photography, for me, is a way of life – and a fantastic one. If it is a “way of life” for you and you're passionate about it every moment of the day and find it's often in your dreams, as well. That's what it is for me – and more.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Paul Chapman

Paul is a photographer from Surrey who has been taking photographs on a more regular basis for 4 or 5 years. He delights in capturing pictures of the world around him with images that are typically bright, colourful and positive in content; the beauty of the natural world is a main focus for him.

Always searching for the next shot, Paul spots colourful and imaginative images in places where most people wouldn't think to look. He also makes use of techniques such as selective focus to create more artistic and abstract interpretations that are akin to works of modern art – another of Paul's passions. While Paul is keen to maximise the impact of his photos through post-processing techniques, the majority of his images on display in this exhibition are virtually straight out of camera – a contrast or saturation bump to emphasise colour are all that has been applied in most cases.

Nature photography is Paul's main interest, spawned from walking around the countryside where he lives in Surrey Heath, and as a result this exhibition suits him well. In particular a group of private angling lakes that are not open to the general public offer a more unique setting that is quieter and less disturbed than many public spaces. Here, he is able to capture the colour and essence of nature's flora and fauna. Event photography provides a more predictable and controlled environment in which to capture images and travel photography also offers opportunity for classic shots of sun and sea. Paul is prepared to forsake the holiday lie-ins in order to get that special shot of moon on water or a spectacular sunrise.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Samuel Ravi Choudbury

Samuel is currently studying medicine but took a year out to not only further his medical studies but to spend some quality time with his mother, who has always put her children first in life. It had been ten years since she last left Singapore or had any kind of holiday at all and so this collection of images follows her on her much needed life adventure!

The images submitted by Samuel capture some of the world's four elements in the most extreme of environments. His photographs show scenes of wildlife and sunsets across Antarctica, Norway and the US. Samuel pictures are truly remarkable and show a world which only the most intrepid of explorers would ever get to see.

These images are dedicated to his mother.



THE
FOUR
ELEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Liliana Danovaro

Travelling around the world gives me the opportunity to photograph a wide and fascinating array of people and places. Ancestral forests in China and Japan, oriental blessed fire rites, beautifully shaped rocks in Croatia, Turkey and Jordan, and ruins at the Dead Sea in Israel are a part of this collection. All of them are a glimpse into my travels and experiences and doing this is my passion.

Above all, sunrises and sunsets over waters are my favorite subjects. The same place changes every second, the sky mixes blues, reds, yellows, and oranges into different patterns, but all the while making a perfect scene. The sun rising or setting illuminates the waters transforming them into brilliant colors. The experience is divine and peaceful.

I have the joy of living in a place which faces the Rio de la Plata, so these moments of the day with my camera are completely unique; they seem to summarize what life is really all about: Being alive in a constant moving world, with new beginnings and endings, and always with different shades and colors.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Katya Evdokimova

Originally from Saint Petersburg, Russia, Katya Evdokimova is a professional photographer who lives and works in the UK and Europe. After earning her BA from University College London in 1999, she has since 2003 found herself captivated by and single-mindedly committed to the medium of photography. Self-taught, she has since had her work exhibited in multiple shows around the world including The Royal Photographic Society, 'Selected Images: 1854 – 2012' as part of Bristol Festival of Photography, solo exhibition at HayHill Gallery, Cork St in London, in 2009, at Musée de L'Elysée's, Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2007, and Cooper Union, New York. In 2006 her work was chosen for the cover of Dostoyevsky's Crime and Punishment as one of four Penguin Classics reprints that year.

Her photographs have been published in many publications such as British Journal of Photography, The Independent, DayFour, Light and Lens: Photography of the Digital Age by Focal Press, as well as being part of a permanent collection at Kyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Japan. She has been awarded multiple photographic awards, most recently winner at Photo Life's Image International, Canada, in 2010; Professional Photographer of the Year in Portrait category in 2006 by Professional Photography Magazine, UK; semi-finalist in the Hasselblad Masters Awards; and shortlisted for the Sony World Photography Awards in 2008.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Leka Huie

I am a Hong Kong native and am very interested in many different kinds of photography. During 90's I graduated in Creative Photography from Humber College, Toronto, Canada and within the same year I received the award for "Student of the Year" awarded by Professional Photographer of Ontario (PPO). I currently work as a commercial photographer in Hong Kong. My photography style for the theme "The Four Elements" focusses on colour and simplicity. I really love all the beautiful images that the world has to offer!



THE FOUR ELEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Joerg Karrenbauer

Joerg was born in South West Germany, but spent many years in France from the age of 16 onwards. He has always had a love for black and white photography which has fascinated him from an early age; he feels "It is the reduction to the essential content of an image".

His photography tends to focus on impressive landscapes, portraits and contemporary themes. Many of his images are photographed in the remote regions of Scotland, South West England, France, Norway, Cuba and Asia.

The images he has featured within "The Four Elements" exhibition were shot on the North French coast and are taken from a series of his "Seaside Moods". He says, "I love Normandy and her special moods. The mystic atmosphere here was accentuated with bulb exposure". This is a place which is special to Joerg and one which he visits yearly.



THE FOUR ELEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Ameya Mathkar

I am a mechanical engineer by profession and work with Lloyd's Register Asia. Photography is my passion. I am simple man who loves taking photographs and spending time with my family. I started photography around thirteen years ago and obtained my first recognition in 2008 after I began using my first digital SLR. Since then my photographs have been used for websites, calendars, group magazines, coffee table books and I have participated in many exhibitions.

I believe that art should always speak for itself. My photographs are commonly the results of multiple attempts with continual improvement and I am certain that the best one is yet to come. I feel there is always the potential for a good photograph in every moment of life that surrounds us. It may present itself as beautiful lighting, an expression on a face or quite simply as an object of interest. It is not important where we shoot, but it is important where we focus our camera, that makes the difference.

I found that each of the four elements presented their own challenges. Fire generally appears in a destructive form; however I wanted to display it as exactly the opposite. Therefore, I selected the Holi festival from India where people worship fire. I found wind the most difficult element to photograph as it is always an invisible form. I really like this and I decided to represent wind by showing the different effects which occur because of it, such as wind blowing through a spider's web. Water and earth may be the elements that are captured the most around the world. While photographing these elements, the challenge I found was to show something unique that the entire world would not have seen before and would find interesting.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Swapnali Mathkar

I am an amateur photographer and blog writer and it has been decades since I held my first camera, a click three model. It was magic for a nine year old at that time but it still amazes me now the way in which a scene can be transformed when I see it through the lens of my camera. I am constantly inspired to see how light can paint such beautiful images and so I keep creating photographs!

Over the years I have worked within the IT industry while spending many weekends exploring and capturing photographs. I have been the recipient of several awards in state level competitions held in India and a year ago I decided to take a break and dedicate some time to my hobby; so I participated in an exhibition which focused on portraying women in power. I have also recently published and edited two issues of the yearly magazine 'F-Fotocha' which is dedicated to the Art of Photography.

Over the years transitions in technology have unraveled before us and have progressed from point and shoot to SLR and from film to digital. Despite the ever evolving process of photography, my passion towards taking pictures has remained the same, if not increased. Hearing the soft, flowing water within a stream or listening to the "pin drop" silence of a frozen lake is like meditation. For me photography too is a transcendental experience.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Richard Mills

I'm a photographer still looking for a speciality. As a result, I'm more than happy to shoot pretty much anything. I can be found taking images of wildlife, still life, landscapes, seascapes, anything that moves (or doesn't). I particularly love shooting architecture and food, but have, over the last couple of years, also started taking an interest sporting events such as The London Marathon, Ride London & The London Triathlon, and I've been shooting Weddings since 2006.

The majority of my photos for this exhibition were shot on the North East coast (in places like Hull, Scarborough and Filey), although both Wales and the South coast feature too. The sea has always held a powerful fascination for me, and I can sit and watch the waves for hours. I love how unique every breaking wave is and relish the challenge of capturing the majesty & power of the sea in action.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Victor Hugo Casillas Romo

Victor focuses mainly on environmental, experimental, urban and Mexican culture subject matters and is considered to be one of the most influential environmental photographers of Mexico. He has specialised in photography for 26 years during which time he has won a remarkable amount of awards. He has excelled in photography contests, winning 51 in total, 20 of them internationally and also has 135 expositions, 30 of which are international.

Victor says that he feels his images Agua (water), Tierra (earth) and Aire (air) portray the poetic relation between humans and the environment and show a spiritual connection with nature. His pictures Fuego (fire) show urban artists that play with fire creating wonderful patterns with the different movements.

THE FOUR ELEMENTS



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Ahmed Kamal Saifi

Humanity is the pinnacle of creation – a constantly self-reflexive race of mortals who are setting the elemental stroke of creation in motion. We are creators too – but try as we might, our man made marvels cannot even compare to the simplistic genius of nature. What we can do, however, is document a slice of this genius in a medium we can reflect upon later.

Photography for me has never been a means to an end. It is the alpha and the omega of my existence. Funny, how your life calls and in one instance, your entire existence unravels and reshapes itself. Something similar happened to this New Delhi boy. I belong to a culturally rich Muslim background where the arts are celebrated instead of being condoned. Having dabbled in almost every aspect – painting, music and reading, photography was the one aspect that eluded me. All that changed the moment I looked through the viewfinder of an SLR camera three years ago. I did not merely see the world at the other end – I saw my life's calling. Since then it has been a journey of, highs and lows, learning and exploring and of hard work and rewards. I continue in the hope that one day I will learn enough to be able to pass on my knowledge to others so that they too can see the wonder I see in this particular art form.

The Four Elements is not just photographing the obvious. It is a celebration of our co-existence with natural forces. Oh, but what is man if not the product of earth, air, fire and water? The elemental forces of nature withhold a quiet beauty. On the one hand, it can rampage without mercy, on the other it can nurture, protect, and impregnate with life. The boy standing in the rain, the man with flaming lamps, the doll's severed head rolling in the earth, the frog reposing in the warm waters are instances of how the delicate coexistence pervades life as we know it. It depicts how we use the elements to nurture and destroy, to find peace and look for riotous inspiration - how we witness the balance between life and death.

THE FOUR ELEMENTS



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Alexey Samoylenko

What is the nature? Do we really understand the phenomena of life? And how do we appreciate it?

Unfortunately, human evolution has become very aggressive over the last 20 years, and seems it is now orientated around economic growth only. The estrangement between humans and their surroundings is now obvious and it drives us to hard conflict. As a result, humanity has totally changed the face of the planet.

Every year we find new animals and plants listed in the worldwide Red Data Book, but each year hundreds of plant or animal populations disappear from our planet with no hope of ever being restored. This is not a natural process. It's about human influence on the environment.

Indeed, my words are not new and furthermore they do not claim originality. My message is to warn humanity that nature is extremely adaptive, and it is constantly looking for new ways to evolve. I fear that humanity as a life form on this planet cannot be included in nature's plans.

Just look around and think differently! We still have a chance.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Dalip Singh

As a designer by profession I have a very hectic schedule which often leaves me little time to pursue my passion for photography. However, as you know, if you want something enough, you will find a way. I steal any spare moment I have and get out on to the streets with my camera, even in 46 degree heat! My inclination has always been towards photo journalism, I enjoy the informal nature of it. I also love to travel and find that photography is the best way for me to document all of the wonderful people and cultures that I come across.

To me photography has always been therapeutic; it's a way of life, a different world altogether or rather a transformational experience. It transports me to a different world where I am not a designer but a social commentator. These photographs capture the four elements of nature and how they are an integral part of our daily lives. The birds, the man, the fire, the smoke, the pond, the brick walls are all incomplete without the four elements. I have tried to keep my compositions as simple as possible and to also showcase the simplicity of life.



THE
FOUR
ELEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Maurice Wilson

I started photography as a hobby in 2007 at the tender age of 61 and don't really have a special type of picture that I want to take. Rather the reverse. I will take a picture of anything if it catches my eye. Being a late beginner I don't yet have the skills of really knowing the ability of my camera, so I tend to leave the setting on P and adjust the ISO according to the light. This has worked quite well for me up till now.

Photoshop really interests me. I colour correct my photos on the computer because what I see when I take the picture, rarely, if ever comes out on the screen. If I were to print without colour correction, I'm afraid my pictures would be dull and lifeless. That is why I also shoot in RAW format, as it allows for the maximum amount of detail to be captured by the camera and I can then tweak it to the best of my ability using Photoshop.

Being a member of my local camera club (North Manchester Camera Club) has been tremendously helpful to me. From day one I have received constructive criticism, which has pushed me from taking ordinary pictures to taking much better ones in my opinion.



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Andre Woodward

Andre Woodard is a 19 year old amateur photographer and graphic artist from Beaumont, Texas. His work has been printed in numerous magazines those of which include the Photographer's Forum Magazine, Shoot the Face and Resource Magazine. His work has also been included in exhibitions in the United States and Italy. He is currently enrolled in the photography program at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

Throughout his life the unnatural and surreal have always intrigued him. The surrealistic images he creates represent his imagination: "I use art to give my dreams life. I often include people in my conceptual images to relate what is real to what is not".

"Deities" is a collection of works submitted to the theme "The Four Elements". It is a re-investigation of the almighty idols of Greek mythology through his perspective. The god of upper air, music and light, and the tamer of animals are all Greek gods which are linked to nature and the world's elements. These photos glorify the power behind each and every one of the deities and also explore the meanings and significance of the Gods in a new way. They tell the story of their many beauties, abilities, and weaknesses.

"As a child, I was always drawn to the supernatural. I watched all the surrealistic animes (Japanese-style cartoons), wishing that I could somehow have the awesome powers that the characters in these shows had. That love for super-powers and surrealism has stuck with me ever since. Creating these unnatural images is my way of diving into a universe that I'd always dreamed to be in."



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILES

Faramarz Zareian

Faramarz's love of photography began as a child with his uncle's analogue SLR. As a young boy, he enjoyed capturing photographs and printing them in darkrooms.

Now 24 years old, he is addicted to photography and carries his camera wherever he goes. He is the proud winner of various competitions those of which include a competition which helped the children of India. He also received 4th place in an amateur photography magazine competition entitled "amateur photographer of the year 2013".

He has submitted some excellent images to the theme the 4 elements, but you can also see his images featured in the TPA exhibitions of 200 Faces and A Splash of Colour. The inspiration behind his works on show include the beautiful mountains of Asia, the countries of India and Nepal which mirror the beauty of nature, and the awe inspiring views of the Iran deserts. In each of his photographs, Faramaz tries to capture the scene from different viewpoints and believes that "real photography is to find and create the image within the natural surroundings in which we live".



THE FOUR ELEMENTS