

# **Higher Vision**

## **20 November 2018 – 8 February 2019**

**Captions to images on display at the Scottish Parliament**

**Captions are arranged alphabetically by the first name of the photographer.**

## **Exhibition introduction**

The Scottish Parliament is delighted to host Higher Vision, an exhibition of photographic artwork celebrating outstanding talent from across Scotland. The photographers featured have completed the Scottish Qualifications Authority's Higher Photography course.

The images on display were produced as part of each candidate's course assessments and counted towards their final grades. The 26 photographers have each created a powerful collection of images; from landscapes to portraiture, and from abstracts to documentaries.

Selected by a curatorial panel including representatives of the Scottish Society for the History of Photography, The National Gallery of Scotland and Out of the Blue, as well as a student from Edinburgh College and the Parliament's official photographer, the images presented in the exhibition demonstrate creative and technical excellence.

In the 2018 Year of Young People, this exciting collection of images demonstrates the imagination, skill and resourcefulness of students from across Scotland.

The exhibition is open Monday – Saturday.

## **Exhibition acknowledgements**

An example of a candidate's work from each parliamentary region is presented in Studies in Photography, the journal of the Scottish Society for the History of Photography. Copies of the journal are available in the Scottish Parliament Shop.

As well as SSHoP, SQA and the Scottish Parliament, Higher Vision is supported by Triodos Bank, A&M Imaging, Scottish Council on Archives, National Trust for Scotland and National Galleries of Scotland.

## **Captions**

**Anais Bliault**

**Elgin Academy – Highlands & Islands**

**‘17’**

Exploring the genres Portraiture and Conceptualism, with inspiration from grunge and black and white photography, this collection of images depicts aspects of teenage life. Adolescence is an emotional time in everyone’s life where individuals are defining their own purpose and identity. I strived to capture this journey of emotions in a raw manner that highlights the truth of being a young adult in today’s world. The images portray a range of adolescent issues from first love and self-expression to darker themes such as mental health and bullying.

**Andy Desceras**

**Jordanhill School - Glasgow**

**'Neglect'**

Choosing 'neglect' as my theme gave me the opportunity to explore areas of Glasgow and Scotland that had not seen much love for years. I learned a lot about local history in places such as the former Jordanhill College campus and the Govan Dry Docks — both soon to be redeveloped. It was fun to get out of the classroom and do independent photography in different genres, such as still life and landscape. There is beauty to be found in abandoned sites, and photography allows it to be appreciated.

**Angus Dunkley**

**Stonelaw High School – Central Scotland**

**‘A Study of Horror’**

After becoming interested in photography, I realised that photographs don't always have to make the viewer feel happy, and that discomfort, fear and sadness are all emotions that we experience too, and can be elicited in a photograph. This made me think that creating a sinister or unsettling mood to evoke negative feelings might make my photographs more interesting. My collection explores this while enabling me to develop my skills both in capturing the images, and manipulating them in the digital dark room.

**Benedict Ray**

**Lomond School – West Scotland**

**‘Decay and Derelict’**

In this project, I took numerous shots of derelict buildings at two different locations, Cardross Seminary and Buchanan Castle. The aim of this project was to expose a hidden beauty in forgotten buildings and document it in an attempt to highlight their haunting elegance. The photos that feature areas of the Cardross Seminary create isolation and atmosphere that empathize the connotations surrounding abandoned buildings while shots including areas of Buchanan Castle form strong relations between the building and time, showing the extent of decay and overgrowth by nature.

**Cameron Ross**

**Balfron High School – Mid-Scotland and Fife**

**‘Glasgow at Night’**

I chose Glasgow at Night for two main reasons. The first is that I enjoy the challenge of shooting at night — the process of taking the photo is different and you can play with the lighting in the photos, whether using a flash gun or creating light trails from car headlights. The second is that I find the photos are more interesting due to the lighting and the vibrancy of the city at night. I am hoping to study architecture at university, so this project also gave me the opportunity to look at some of the stunning architecture in Glasgow.

**Carenza Dickens**

**Dollar Academy – Mid-Scotland and Fife**

**‘Beauty Pressure’**

In my project I decided to explore people’s insecurities about their appearance and how they feel pressured to use makeup and beauty products, as society’s view of ‘normal’ is distorted. By using studio setups and carefully manipulated colour, lighting and props I was able to mimic the airbrushed, ‘perfect’ images that we are exposed to in the media. I wanted to show the effects of the seemingly harmless advertising we see every day, by showing people in their obsession to cover their ‘imperfections’, our over-dependency on beauty products, and how we try to ‘fix’ something that occurs naturally.

**Emily Cumming**

**Kyle Academy – South Scotland**

**‘As others see us’**

My inspiration for this Folio came from the way Mental Health is negatively portrayed throughout the media — images of mental illnesses in information leaflets, adverts and helplines are similar, dull, lifeless and boring. I thought that a set of bright, bold and interesting images would provide a much-needed relief. This thought brought to life my plan and ideas, to which later formed my Higher Folio. I used multiple techniques, props and models with bright colours and exciting and unique ideas to form a quirky and uplifting take on mental health.

**Euan Garden**

**Webster's High School – North East Scotland**

**'Abstract Nature'**

My project was a theme of abstract nature where I would use shallow depth of field, effective composition and interesting lighting to create abstract images. These images I created mean a lot to me as they display my photography skills very well. They are special images that I will look back on, which inspires me to learn and adapt more. My work was inspired by two abstract photographers; Dan Baumbach, and Eliot Porter.

**Gemma Anderson**

**Falkirk high School – Central Scotland**

**‘Grandpa’**

The images I produced for this project mean a great deal to me. I was able to challenge myself in finding creative and innovative ways to portray the different aspects of my Grandpa’s hobby. The steep learning curve in photography on both a personal and creative level was a huge challenge, considering the intimate nature of the chosen subject. My work was inspired by my desire to immortalise the love my Grandpa has for fishing. I hope these photographs can be shared and passed down my future family’s generations as an everlasting legacy of my Grandpa.

**Georgia McLellan**

**Dalbeattie High School – South Scotland**

**‘The countryside in miniature’**

To me, the Higher photography course was all about developing my confidence behind the camera and exploring the world around me through a lens. I chose ‘The Countryside in Miniature’ because I wanted to try and show just how beautiful and delicate nature can be, using macro. I was inspired by photographers like Alberto Ghizzi Panizza. I did some basic research and looked at other photos for inspiration, but I mainly just wandered around looking for interesting things and letting nature inspire me.

**Gillian Love**

**Auchinleck Academy – South Scotland**

**‘The Projected Mind’**

I had the idea that these photographs would convey an emotion, create a setting, or even an unusual atmosphere, simply by using a projected image layered over a person. Modelling myself, I would carefully stand against my bedroom wall, and use a mirror to judge the composition, and pose whilst the timer on my camera counted down. While I have seen this technique done before, I wanted to challenge myself with creating my own version of portrait photographs, whilst thinking a bit outside of the box.

**Heather Osborne**

**Mearns Castle High School – West Scotland**

**‘Structures in Glasgow’**

I had a personal interest in photography before undertaking the Higher course, however this allowed me to develop my skills further after I took inspiration from photographers such as Joel Tjintjelaar and Ansel Adams — for example, the way Tjintjelaar uses long exposure for his architecture shots. I did some research and was eventually able to use this technique myself. My images mean a lot to me as they prove that I’m able to achieve the desired effect, even if it means having to revisit certain sites multiple times.

**Isla Jack**

**The Gordon Schools – North East Scotland**

**‘Animals’**

I have always adored animals of all shapes and sizes, colours and patterns. For my Higher Photography portfolio, I knew at once that I wanted to do it on my animals — my dogs, cats, pigs, chickens, horses and goats. Every single one of them has its own personality. I was inspired by several animal photographers, namely Ewan Cheyne (Mutley’s Snaps Pet Photography) from Falkirk who produces gorgeous, natural images of a wide range of animals. I tried to recreate many of his looks in my shoots from my own perspective, and I think that it really helped me to not just take photographs, but really enjoy doing it!

**Jazmin Myles**

**Blairgowrie High School – Mid-Scotland and Fife**

**'Natural World – Flowers'**

The images tell a story to the viewer; they start off with full blooms with a calming yet exciting colour scheme. As the images progress, the background colour changes and the images show flowers trapped inside various substances; ice, glass and plastic. This represents man's control over nature and how we don't always use it to nature's benefit. The images then show flowers being consumed by fire. The last two in the set are drained of colour and thus altered after man's intervention.

**Jennifer Fisher**

**Glasgow Clyde College – Glasgow**

**‘Light’**

I have always had a fascination with light photography, especially long exposures and the creative effects that can be achieved from them. I have attended Light Shows, and felt this was a great starting point for my Higher. Long exposures take time, thought and consideration to set up and take, but the rewards are priceless — a unique and sometimes unexpected result, which is what I love. Each one of these photos has fantastic colours and some interesting textures and shapes. My favourite is of the bridge at the Enchanted Forest — it was worth missing the bus home!

**Megan Leask**

**Dollar Academy – Mid-Scotland and Fife**

**‘Lonely Figures’**

In my images I wanted to portray not only loneliness and isolation but also its existence in company and other typically social situations — it’s very easy to feel lonely when not alone. I think this message is so relevant with the introduction of technology in society today and the lack of interaction it causes. These images each tell their own story through expression, lighting and composition which shows a broad range of situations that aren’t all typically lonely scenarios and hopefully raise awareness to be kind and inclusive to everyone.

**Mollie B Forsyth**

**Stromness Academy – Highlands and Islands**

**‘Colour amongst architecture’**

My project emanated from my reaction to colour, particularly amongst architecture. From a young age I have been hypersensitive to my surroundings. I’m interested in how colour can transform our perception of urban areas and uplift our mind-sets. I’ve aspired to capturing the exact moment where this feeling is provoked. Photography has helped me to understand the impact of the environment on people’s wellbeing, which is something I want to continue with my future studies.

**Neve McCrudden**

**St Ambrose High School – Central Scotland**

**'Feminine'**

I believe my twelve black and white portrait images of all female models explore challenges that typical women may face — the idea that society tells women they need to reach unrealistic beauty standards to be considered attractive and feel accepted. I believe that all forms of media including photography should have meaning behind them to inspire change and spark discussion. By using word art and props creatively I have addressed controversial topics that society often leaves unspoken to avoid uncomfortable conversations — 'Gender equality is a human fight, not a female fight'.

**Niamh Hamilton**

**Jordanhill School – Glasgow**

**‘A day at the stables’**

I have always had a strong interest in horses. Since I turned 10 I have gone to stables in Strathblane every Saturday where I help clean up, ride, tack up, groom and feed the horses. I have always admired the gracefulness of horses and just how captivating they can be. This had a big influence on the theme I chose for my portfolio, but from personal experience, I wanted to portray the not-so-glamorous, yet still enjoyable, aspects of working with horses.

**Poppy Dempster**

**Douglas Academy – West Scotland**

**‘The Human Impact’**

The theme of my project is the harm that we humans inflict on our environments and those who live in them. This subject produces photographs that are more than just nice to look at — they have a deeper and darker meaning. I am particularly interested in the damage littering can do to our planet and the urban problems that have arisen in recent years. I hope that when confronted by images that expose the wrongs we do our planet, we will become more conscious of our surroundings and our impact on them.

**Rebecca Littlewood**

**Montrose Academy – North East Scotland**

**'Caffeinated'**

For my project I researched marketing and advertising, particularly in the coffee industry, to explore how photography is used. My inspiration came from both my love of the beverage and the introduction of a new coffee machine into my place of work (it was also a plus that I got to drink the coffee after the shoots). I was able to capture different stages in the making of coffee, and produced final images that could be used for marketing and advertising as well as for decorative purposes.

**Robbie Fowler**

**George Heriot's School - Lothian**

**'Portraits of the People'**

I wanted to create a collection of portraits of different people, from different places and different professions, taking inspiration from photo-journalists such as Steve McCurry. When taking the photos, I felt it was important to connect with the subject, and this was done through the use of eye contact and the honest expressions used by the subjects. By getting the subjects comfortable with me, and spending time having a conversation with them before taking the photograph, I feel the viewer has a much more intimate experience when looking through the photo set.

**Rodger Shearer**

**West Lothian College – Lothian**

**‘Abandoned Industrial Landscape’**

For this project, I wanted to record some of the abandoned industrial sites in the West Lothian and Lanarkshire areas where I have grown up. So many of the sites I remembered were in fact often cleared and built on. For this reason, it became more important to me that these sites be recorded photographically while they still existed. I had thought about doing this as a monochrome project, but then I found that duotone worked well with the red colour reflecting the colours of shale, rust and brickwork.

**Sarah Brown**

**Balerno Community High School – Lothian**

**‘The Hidden World’**

I wanted to photograph details of the miniature ‘hidden world’ of our native plants and insects, and their amazing colours, patterns and form. I have always had an interest in mini-beasts and their habitats, and I find that macro photography is a way of capturing moments that would usually go unnoticed. Many aspects of this environment and the goings-on within it are too small or happen too fast for us to properly observe. By photographing them, I give people a better understanding and appreciation of it.

**Sheila Matheson**

**West Highland College UHI – Highlands and Islands**

**'People at work and play'**

I've always admired and been interested in both portrait and black and white photography, but with practically no experience of either, decided to incorporate both in a social documentary style for my project. I thought it would be challenging and increase my knowledge while learning about photography. I wanted to show the people of different ages living in our local communities, displaying their traditional and contemporary skills. Some are doing something traditional, others something more unusual or new to the area, but together these make rural Ross-shire what it is today.

**Vijay Chand**

**Bishopbriggs Academy – West Scotland**

**‘Conceptual Still Life’**

These photos were a chance to explore my own limitations and interests. I'd never committed to my creativity at this level before, and these photos will always serve as a reminder that having fun and following your passions is the most important principle of being successful. My inspirations were the photographers Terry Border and Slinkachu. I think their work is incredible, and the way they approach their photos is unique. Their work was refreshing and uplifted my spirits — not something I often felt when looking at other images.