

02.05.2011

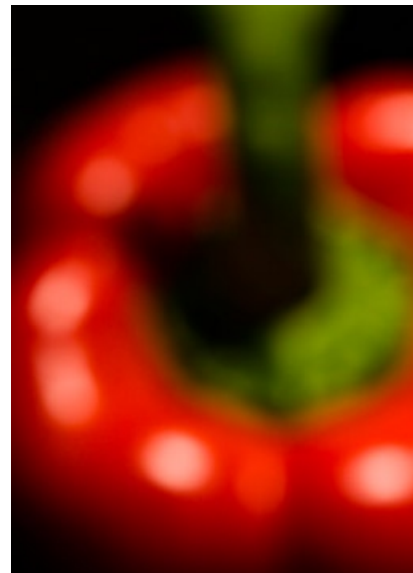
Newsletter Deadline

27.04.2011
Next Meeting

Pictures from the Food Photography Workshop



Richard Sylvester



Martin Schmid



Jeroen van Gent



Joanne Vanderleeuw



Joanne Vanderleeuw

Graham Ireland's favourite picture



2

April Meeting Preview March Meeting Review

April's meeting, on Wednesday the 27th, is to be devoted to the second challenge of the season: "Transport"

Usual rules apply, each member is allowed 2 entries either prints, slides or digital files. If the latter then they should be sent, preferably before 26th April, to the email address challenges@viewfinders.be. Sending your images in beforehand means that the crush for entries is avoided at the beginning of the meeting and the meeting can therefore begin on time. If absolutely necessary, entries can be brought to the meeting before 19:30 (not 20:00 as indicated in the rules). Later entries will not be accepted. Anyone intending to submit slides must give notice of this by 25th April so that a projector can be arranged.

Doors open at 19:00 for a prompt 20:00 start! Hope to see all of you there!

Simon

April Meeting Preview



March Meeting Review

Alun, the President, opened the meeting. He was delighted to see a very good turnout which reflected the quality of our guest speaker of the evening, Guido Sterkendries.

He recalled that the meeting was still boxed in by the strict time limits imposed by the BSB. The search was continuing for an alternative meeting venue, but nothing suitable had yet been found, despite the best efforts of several of the members of the Committee. Any new suggestions on this subject (or on any other, for that matter) would be welcome, either through direct contact with a Committee member, dropping something in the suggestion box or by e-mail at a later date.

In response to a plea for a bartender to cover the April, May and June meetings, Sylvia Dymond offered her services but needed assistance with the transport of the stock to and from those meetings.

After the announcements, Alun extended a warm welcome to Guido Sterkendries, the well-known photographer of the Amazon, its eco-system and its peoples who had previously held the May 2009 meeting spellbound with his images and the account of his life in the rain forest with its inhabitants. Since then, his reputation had spread widely and his "fully immersive" approach to his passion – the documentation and protection to what is left of the Amazon rain forest – had earned him the

nickname of "Tarzan" in the British press.

Before the break he introduced us to the images contained in his book "Pure Amazon." Although he is so passionate about this area, his images avoid the trap of idealising the native peoples he knows so well. He shows life in the Amazon - both animal and human – the way it is, bringing out the beauty and the drama through his amazing eye for image and light. This is



© David Van den Bunder

only possible through his total immersion in the environment and by meticulous preparation – and patience. On an expedition he takes some 500kg of photographic equipment with him, of which 60kg are just cameras and lenses. He has lived on a makeshift platform in the jungle tree-top canopy to obtain the light he needed and

then waited... and waited... for the shot he wanted - patient, but always ready to seize the unexpected moment. But there is more to his shots than just that. As he said "Without the spiritual contact between animals and myself I could not make these pictures" and also without the empathy and mutual respect between the native peoples and himself, the same would also be true.

During a longer than usual break he mixed and mingled with members and sold a considerable number of the English version of "Pure Amazon" which he signed and dedicated to those who bought them. The more I look through my copy of this book, the more hopeless any attempt to describe these photos and the photographer behind them becomes.

After the break, while the photos were shown again, he gave a preview of his project for a major book to be published in 2012 "Battle For Life" in which he would be developing these themes further. Again he emphasised the vital importance of preserving the bio diversity of the Amazon. Guido ended with a note of optimism, "The more things go wrong, the more people come together. That's my hope and why I do my work."

Steve

How to photograph food: Joris Luyten's workshop

Eight Viewfinders attended Joris Luyten's food photography workshop in Ekeren on the afternoon of Saturday, 2 April. In order to get us in the mood and to forget the beautiful weather outside, Joris started by presenting a slide show of some of his food photos. He emphasized that while proper lighting is very important, you don't need expensive lighting equipment to get good results. His photos were taken with the help of a small LED lamp that he designed himself. Dull soft uniform light from a softbox should be avoided, while preference should be given to back lighting in order to bring out the contrast and texture in the food. During the workshop, we used an inexpensive lamp from IKEA and a small mirror to reflect the light.



© Joanne Vanderleeuw



© Richard Sylvester

Joris provided various shooting tips for food photography: low ISO, choice of white balance (don't use a mixture of different light sources), aperture exposure mode, depth of field, exposure compensation, macro lens, background, and the necessity of using a tripod.

After that, we received advice for preparing and presenting the food along with some of the tools and props that are useful: scissors with sharp points, tweezers, toothpicks, vinegar for cleaning dishes, olive oil to create a shine, cold water spray, etc. For the presentation of the food, he emphasized the need to use fresh food and to keep it simple: start by positioning only a small amount of food on shallow plates. You can then add more food if desired to build up your creation.

Working in pairs and with Joris' helpful suggestions, we finally had our chance to create our own culinary masterpieces.

We could choose from a variety of colourful food that Joris provided, including sushi, salad, vegetables, fruit and desert. In order to create a visually appealing dish of food one should plan ahead and not just place food at random on the plate. It was a challenge to get everything positioned correctly from the lenses and tripod's point of view, including the background, without the toothpicks, lights and mirrors appearing in the image.

For me, two of the most important take home messages were the importance of lighting, especially back lighting, and don't put more food on your plate than you can shoot. Start with only a very small number of items on your plate. You can always add more food later but it is difficult to go back to remove food that doesn't fit with the other food on your plate.

Highly recommended. Bon appétit!

Richard Sylvester

Cartoon Capers



© 2011 Aaron Johnson, www.whattheduck.net

3

Workshop Review

On The Web

Cartoon Capers

On the Web



© Timothy Allen

The BBC has over the past few weeks been showing yet another of its fantastic Natural World documentaries. This time, however, the subject has not been some rare species found only in the remotest corner of the globe but, rather, a much more prevalent animal. Entitled 'The Human Planet', the series has looked at humankind in all its diversity from Inuit in the Arctic, to Tribesmen in the Gobi. Accompanying the producers was one very lucky photographer, Timothy Allen, who has produced a short film showing and talking about a selection of the images he made: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-12618167

Also worth a look is Timothy Allen's personal site: <http://humanplanet.com/timothyallen>

Simon (thanks to Pat Temmerman for the link)



© Steve Johns

If you've ever tried to take photos at night and have been disappointed at the results, then take a look at this video. Although more of an advertisement for a photographic company's night photography workshop there are some extremely interesting ideas shown that are definitely worth plagiarising. <http://www.on-sight.com/2011/02/17/night-photography-video/>

Simon (with thanks to Joris De Zutter for the link)

4 Club Trip

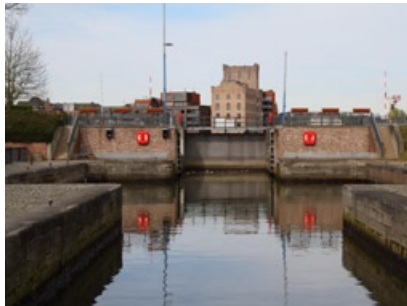
Visit to Ben Goosen's exhibition

An enjoyable sunny Sunday afternoon, a very nice little village by the Schelde river with its own small tourist port. What else can one ask for? How about a photo exhibition from a retired advertising director and a lifelong photographer who creates unique surrealistic photo compositions?

We all appreciated Ben's unique artistic talent in subjects, light and how to bring it all together in astonishing photos. Yet the most important experience is listening to Ben on how a photo starts with elements that catch his eye and how it all evolves over time, a journey that can take a couple of years, to his final result.

You may find Ben's work at:
<http://1x.com/artist/11099> and
<http://photo.net/photos/ben.goossens>

Giorgos Georgiannakis



The Ben Goossens exhibition was housed in the old Seamen's Mission church in "Klein Willebroek". Situated in the middle of a large area of industrialized waterways, this peaceful little village turned out to be a gem. After visiting Ben's exhibition – which was enthralling, as expected – we took a walk around the village (stopping of course for the traditional knees-under-a-table pause for refreshment). Very enjoyable, on a sunny spring Sunday.

As we were in the area, I proposed to go and look at some relics of the 19th century industry in the area – brick-making factories – so off we went. The area around Willebroek, on the banks of the Rupel river and the canal, has the nickname "Hel-leput" (Hell Hole) because of the plethora of brick making factories that sprung up there. Working conditions at that time were abominable: children working long hours, often outside with no shelter, moulding bricks individually by forcing damp clay into wooden boxes by hand, while adults dragged heavy carts around, loaded with wet bricks which were then fired in the huge kilns, making the people there work among the fumes in inhumanly high temperatures – hence the "hell hole". Today, most of these factories have gone, but a few are kept for posterity as museums. The workshops and drying sheds covering surprisingly large areas, of course in a state of extremely photogenic decay.

All in all, a very pleasant Sunday afternoon was had by all!

Alun



6 Questions For Graham Ireland

Australian by birth and by nature, Graham lived in a variety of locations around the world while following a Project management career. He settled in Belgium 28 years ago and is now retired.

Holidays in exotic locations has been a constant theme, and many photos resulted.

Graham joined viewfinders in 2001 and was a member of the club committee for 3 years.



1) *Let's begin at the beginning - how did you get started with photography?*

I caught the photography bug during my high school years. You know, those years when one's world is rapidly opening up before you and offering you a myriad of choices. My first camera was a Yashica twin lens reflex as I recall. Based on the Rolleiflex, it certainly had a pretty full range of knobs and dials from which to learn the mechanics and it was an affordable way to try to emulate the prevailing stars at the time. Tripod use came early. Further on when I started to travel further afield, I switched to a SLR (a Pentax Spotmatic) and that allowed the joys of interchangeable lens, no tripods etc. In parallel I was developing a strong interest in painting and sketching and the two pursuits together helped to start unravelling the mysteries of composition.

2) *Which of your pictures is your personal favourite? Can you tell us why?*

I have loads of favourite photos for all sorts of reasons but to help make the point of everything being valid, let me reproduce (on the front coloured page) an "image" I submitted to the "Blue" competition of December 2001. It was entitled something like "Lost in the woods (or where the heck am I?)" and it was a slightly different take on bluebells in the spring.

3) *What genre of photography interests you most?*

I think all genre have a rightful point of view in the spectrum of creativity. Ground-breaking photographers always hold the public's attention because of their novelty or superior expertise. Each in their own field, Henri Cartier-Bresson was one, as was Helmut Newton, James Nachtwey, Robert Mapplethorpe, Don McCullen and so on.

4) *If you had to pick just one camera to shoot with from now on, what would it be?*

I think in this digital age one really needs two camera kits. For dedicated photo outings one needs a full size SLR complete with macro & telephoto lens, tripod(s) and flashes and maybe even filters and so on. It amounts to a whole bag full of stuff. In addition, to grab those unexpected shots one comes across in daily life I feel one needs a sophisticated pocket camera. I took the Canon route and so for my full kit, (and after winning the lottery) I would opt for the latest iteration of a Canon EOS D1 or D5 or similar. I have been happy with its D20 cousin for several years now.

For the pocket camera I use a Canon SX200., although this is certainly an ever-changing market place offering smaller, faster, cleverer models. Technology seems to move faster these days – all one needs are a continual source of funds eh?

5) *Why do you enjoy Viewfinders? Tell us about the most interesting experience you had with the club.*

Viewfinders is a very long running club (around 16 years I believe) and it must have served hundreds and hundreds of English speaking visitors and residents in Brussels over the years. Knowing Trevor Waldron from a different life made the connection where I joined in mid 2001. And indeed I joined the committee in a new position of Programme Coordinator soon after to help share the load of finding interesting external speakers and so on. I very much enjoyed my time on committee and heartily recommend it to others. It puts you at the busy centre of the club with like-minded amateur photographers

(Amateur? I've seen at least 3 or 4 fellow members take the plunge and become full time or heavily part-time professional photographers over this period.)

Also in my time at the club I've also seen major transitions in the technology of photography. Photographic life used to centre on pushing the boundaries of B&W with darkroom tricks and techniques, and the joys of having Fujichrome Velvia 50 do your bidding on a dreamy landscape. Then in a few short years film was gone off the shelves, film camera bodies lay on shelves or in cupboards collecting dust and digital proved not to be a side issue. It was as recent as April 2004 when a few of us (Pat Temmerman, Alun Foster and Ian Whitney and I) put on a presentation to explain to Viewfinder members how digital photography worked and whether it might catch on and be able to do the things that film did.

I also remember a great weekend we did around Damme with landscape pro Charlie Waite where, amongst other things, he showed how to turn water into shimmering gold (by multiple identical shots of a slowly moving surface captured on the same film frame.). Great stuff to fire creative juices.

Yes interesting times and all the better for have passed through them with like-minded friends in Viewfinders.

6) *Any (photographic) advice you'd like to share with your fellow viewfinders?*

If you are new to serious photography, I feel the way to improve your game is

5 6 Questions For ... Upcoming Trips

go see exhibitions of experts, read up on the technology, take a course or two, go on club outings and watch/talk with others, then go experiment for yourself Everything (well almost everything) is valid !!! Enjoy your successes and learn something from your failures.

Graham Ireland nominated Neil Mayne for next interviewee.

Upcoming Trip De Haan/Ostend



A weekend trip to the Belgium coast is being organised for the weekend of 7 – 8 May. The plan is to visit the towns of Oostende and De Haan on the Saturday and Sunday respectively. Members, of course, have the choice of either going for both or one day only.

Ostend is a vibrant coastal town, with not only a busy international port but also a busy shopping area too. Like most of Belgium's coastal towns there isn't much remaining of the original 19th century architecture, having suffered badly during both World Wars. Occasional architectural jewels do remain however giving a glimpse of what must have been a beautiful Art Nouveau-styled town.

Other areas of interest in Ostend are the Napoleonic Fort located near the harbour, the James Ensor house in town and his grave in the little church to the west of town. Also, not far from the Ensor memorial is a well-preserved section of the WWII Atlantic Wall.

De Haan is a complete contrast to the modern concrete high-rise buildings and hustle and bustle of Ostend. Probably the best preserved of Belgium's coastal towns few buildings are over a couple of stories high and most are in a Belle Epoque style. There are even a couple of working windmills to complete the sedate atmosphere.

More details will follow shortly by email but be sure to watch the Viewfinders website too.

Simon

6 News

Upcoming Events Committee Contacts

Club Equipment

As announced at the start of March's meeting the club now has the following equipment now available to members for monthly loans:

- * Canon 300D camera
- * Canon negative scanner
- * HP flatbed scanner
- * ColorMunki screen and printer colour calibrator.

Requests for the loans should be made to the Club President in advance of the meetings when they were to be collected and they should be returned at the following meeting.

Steve

Workshop News

At the time of going to press there were still some places available for the third of Joris Luyten's Food Workshops to be held on 28th May. The cost is €65 per participant, the amount to be paid into the Viewfinders account before confirmation of the booking could be given.

Some places are also still available for the Michel Chia's Portrait Workshop to be held on 29th May (visit www.creatifimage.be).

Trevor Waldron is offering special discounts to Viewfinders members at his Workshops (visit www.trevorwaldron.com for more details)

Steve

Club Exhibition

The club exhibition of the second sub-set of the "You Are Not Here" is still running at "Illème Acte" restaurant. It runs until the end of May. Well worth a visit!

Steve

Upcoming Events

27 April 2011	Club Meeting	Challenge 'Transport': 2nd challenge of the season with 'Transport' as the theme.
7-8 May 2011	Club weekend Trip	Discovering the Belgian Coast: A weekend trip to the coastal towns of Ostend (Saturday) and De Haan (Sunday).
18 May 2011	Club Meeting	Fine art photography by Stephen Sack
15 June 2011	Club Meeting	AGM and more
30 – 31 July	Club Weekend Trip	Wine tasting & walking trip in the German Ahrtal A weekend of hiking, wine-tasting and photography in the German Ahrtal. Watch e-mail and the club site for details.

You can see the complete Club calendar on the web: <http://www.viewfinders.be/calendar>

Viewfinders – Committee 2010/2011



Alun



Steve



David



Ana



Richard



Caroline



Simon

Alun Foster	President	0496 572 402	alun@dafos.be
Steve Johns	Vice President	0476 552 108	steve_johns@me.com
David Van den Bunder	Programme Coordinator	02 269 67 22	dvdbunde@gmail.com
Ana Agundez Garcia	Treasurer	0486 378975	los_barruecos@hotmail.com
Richard Sylvester	Secretary	02 346 4916	richard.sylvester@skynet.be
Caroline Hendry	Membership Coordinator	067 876 469	caroline.hendry@mecar.be
Simon Pugh	Newsletter Editor	+31 6 10 80 89 88	simon@simonpugh.com
Constanze Veeh	Newsletter Production	0470 866 674	veeh@riekvanveeh.de

newsletter@viewfinders.be

www.viewfinders.be

Bank account: 310-1244075-39

Any items from members for publication are welcome. Images are particularly welcome, please send them in as jpgs, with no less than 1400 px on the long side, and minimal compression. Please be aware that, in accordance with the layout, some cropping may occur. Please send submissions to the newsletter to newsletter@viewfinders.be