

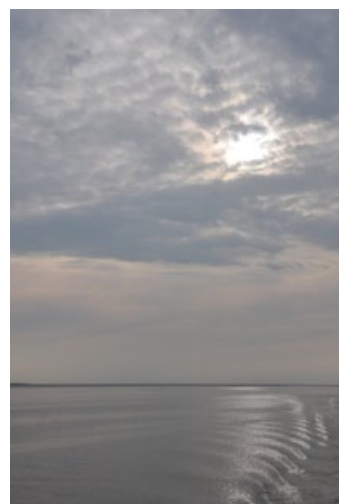
30.1.2012

Newsletter Deadline

18.1.2012

Next Meeting

## "Anyscape" Challenge Winners



Photos by Eva Arko (top), Graeme Dykes (bottom left) and Frank Bawden (bottom right)

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[www.viewfinders.be](http://www.viewfinders.be)

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We look forward to seeing you all, old and new, at the Swedish Church and Cultural Centre (35 avenue des Gaulois, 1040 Brussels, tel. 02.387.25.19), next to the Merode metro station (metro lines 1 & 5, trams 81 & 83, buses 22, 27, 61, 80).



# 2

## January Meeting Preview December Meeting Review

### December Meeting Review

It was clear that the Christmas and New Year spirit had already taken an early hold on Viewfinders. Members turned up early (!) for the last club evening of 2011, for the most part laden with all sorts of goodies for our Christmas party which – lubricated by the jovial presence of Lårsa (the Pastor of our meeting place) behind the bar – was already well under way by the time that we all went up to the first floor to start the meeting.

Alun, our President opened the meeting with his usual series of announcements. He particularly encouraged members to take an active part in the activities of the club during the coming year, for example by making suggestions for and volunteering to organise activities/trips, etc.. The Committee would, of course, provide whatever assistance and support which might be needed. He also gave a last reminder to those who had still to pay their 30€ annual subscription to do so as soon as possible, particularly because the exhibition to be held at the end of the year would involve some expenditure. The account number was in the newsletter (do not forget to mention your name when making the payment).

The Editor of the Newsletter would very much appreciate submissions from members: exhibitions, book reviews, picture appreciations... Those for whom the mother tongue is not English need not worry, the editing process would get rid of any linguistic glitches before publication. Contributions should be sent to: [newsletter@viewfinders.be](mailto:newsletter@viewfinders.be).

January and February will be interesting months. The first club meeting of the New Year will be taken up with the Assignment on the theme of "Park Benches" and a "Ten-minute Tech Tip", while the main feature of the February meeting will be a presentation on the Royal Photographic Society given by its President, Roy Robertson, Hon FRPS. This will be followed on Saturday February 18th by a RPS Distinctions Advisory Day (in part sponsored by Viewfinders) during which public advice will be given to prospective candidates for the Licentiate, Associateship and Fellowship Distinctions. The event is open to non-member observers and is, in fact, a day-long tutorial on images and their presentation. Viewfinders are encouraged to attend. For more information, see the Viewfinders web site or contact me (late registrations will be accepted, depending on the space available at the time).

Closing his announcements, Alun again encouraged members to provide submissions for the "Park Benches" Assignment.

The main business of the evening was the "Anyscapes" Challenge, judged by Danny de Cock. He did not have an easy task. Thirty members submitted a total of some 58 images and because some of these were brought in at the last minute, Richard Sylvester (our Club Secretary and resident Lightroom wizard) was still inputting them until the very last minute. As a result, Danny discovered the submissions only during the first their showing. His framework concept for the judging was based on the fact that "anyscapes" were in fact the eye-scapes of the individual photographers who were the seers making images captured through their lenses.

With this in mind we settled down to two slide shows of all the entries in random order before taking a 45 minute break during which they played continuously to allow members to vote for the "People's Choice" while Danny prepared his evaluation. At the same time the Christmas Party continued in full swing on the ground floor, toasting Lårsa and sending the occasional beer to Danny on the floor above.

After the break Danny ran through the slide show, providing a general and instructive overview as well as detailed comment on a dozen or so images which had particularly struck him. In this, and especially in his analysis of the winning images, he brought out the importance of how those who look at it see the end product of what has been seen and captured by the photographer.



Club President Alun Foster and challenge judge Danny de Cock congratulate the challenge winner Eva Arko (Photo by David Van den Bunder)

### Challenge Results:

First Prize: Eva Arko with a mountain lake view providing perfect symmetry through reflection which became even more interesting when rotated through various viewing angles.

Second Prize: Graeme Dykes with an ethereal, almost geometric architectural vision presenting a delicate repetition of colours.

Third Prize: Frank Bawden with a perfect monochrome composition of a sea/skyscape (in portrait format) which gave a feeling of endlessness.

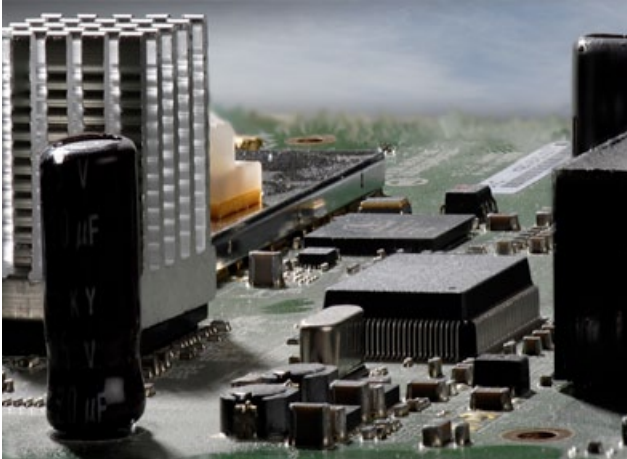
People's Choice: Bob Taylor with a disturbing "cityscape" made up of assembled and juxtaposed computer components. The runners-up for the People's Choice were Rick Barfoot and Ana Agundez Garcia.

The prizes having been presented and the judge thanked, Alun closed the last Viewfinders meeting of 2011 at which over 45 people had been present, including seven new members. The Party continued on the ground floor!!!

Steve

# 3

## Trips Exhibitions



The Anyscapes Challenge: People's Choice winner photo by Bob Taylor

### January Meeting Preview

They are ubiquitous artefacts of street furniture. They are to be found in every city, every park and dotted throughout the countryside. They offer a point to meet or a place to rest, an opportunity to admire a view or to catch up with friends. But more often than not, they are quite simply, well, overlooked. So for January we're turning the spotlight, and asking you to turn your lens and imagination, on to the humble park bench. Provide us with up to 5 images and we'll make a slideshow to showcase them. Remember, this is not a 'Challenge' so there aren't any prizes, just an opportunity to flex your creative muscles and have your images shown to, and undoubtedly commented on by, the ever-discerning Viewfinders audience.

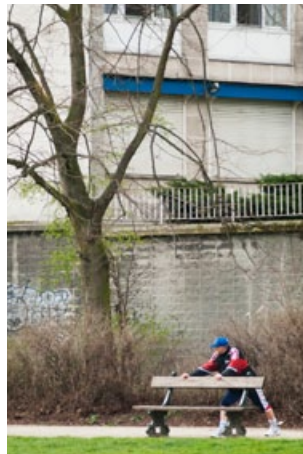


Photo by Simon Pugh

The Park Benches Assignment will be preceded by an Introduction to Nik Software Plugins. Richard Sylvester will explain the different plugins that are available along with the use of U Point Technology for setting control points to do localized edits.

*Simon*

### Trips

Presently there are no Viewfinders trip planned but if you'd like to organise one, maybe a daytrip to your favourite location in or around Brussels or a weekend away to the city of your dreams, then please do not hesitate to take up contact with a member of the Viewfinders committee for more help and assistance.

*Simon*

### Exhibitions



Photo by Mario Marino

Up until the end of this month there is an exhibition of 10 photographers' work relating to "Africa" being held in the Young Gallery located in the Hotel Conrad on Avenue Louise. The works on show are an eclectic mix of contemporary, classic and vintage images from famous and upcoming talents.

Go to [www.youngphotogallery.com](http://www.youngphotogallery.com) for more information.

*Simon*

Currently showing at the Antwerp Photo Museum, alongside the permanent collection of images and photographic artefacts, are three exhibitions with the loose theme of fashion. The first is by German photographer Peter Lindbergh (born Peter Brodbeck – another prolific photographer with this name is a member of Viewfinders!).



Photo by Frank Philippi

The internationally acclaimed Lindbergh has over the years photographed the likes of Linda Evangelista and Kate Moss, and the images on show in this exhibition are from the 'Berlin' series taken for Vogue magazine in 2009. The second exhibition shows images from the Belgian photographer Frank Philippi and offer a vintage look at life, love and fashion in the 1950's. The third exhibition are a set of images taken from the New York based art and fashion magazine, Visionaire. For more details check out [www.fotomuseum.be](http://www.fotomuseum.be).

*Simon*

The exhibition Cy Twombly. Photographs 1951-2010 in the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels, starting on 1 February, will present more than 100 dry prints, generated from Polaroid photographs. Snapping photographs with his Polaroid camera since his student days, Cy Twombly did not make available to the public his photographic material until the 90s. From still-life images of flowers and brushes, snap shots of his studio and museums interiors, details from his paintings to views of ancient temples and atmospheric landscapes, the ethereal and delicate photographs reveal the themes that have nourished the artist's paintings, drawings, sculptures and graphic art. For practical details of the exhibition, go to [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

*Patricia*

# 4

6 Questions for...

## 6 questions for Graeme Dykes

Originally from a small village in Scotland, I have come to Belgium by way of university education in Manchester and Nottingham and work in Cambridge and Uppsala, Sweden. Now, I have been living in Antwerp and working for Galapagos NV in Mechelen for almost 7 years. Photography is still a relatively new interest for me and I have been attending Viewfinders for only a couple of years.



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

For many years I have simply taken holiday snaps. I started with a Kodak disc 3500 and moved onto an Olympus compact camera. A very trusting friend loaned me his SLR and I started to get more interested.

While in Sweden, I bought my first SLR (Minolta Dynax 5) and tried some black and white printing and developing - just the job for a chemist like myself!

My education and profession have developed my analytical skills but left my creativity lacking. I have looked for ways to rectify this and so far photography is proving the most enjoyable. As for my creativity, the jury is still out!



### 2) Which of your pictures is your personal favourite? Can you tell us why you like it?

I suppose I should say that my recent prize-winning landscape is my favourite! Of course this was a very recent image and I would say that this alternative landscape has held my interest for the past 10 years since it was taken. The image is taken between Christmas and New Year at Bexhill-on-Sea on the South Coast of England. I don't pretend that it is perfect but I like the shapes and the shadows. I suddenly felt that it might be possible for me to take something more than holiday snaps, something worth hanging on the wall (and so it does, in my apartment).

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

To be honest, I am a fairly simple-minded individual and so not so keen on the more abstract images. I much prefer more traditional landscapes and portraits. Most of the time, I try to combine my travels with my photography. I have yet to master the skills of capturing portraits. This is something I would like to improve further.

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

I have not really tried a variety of cameras. I am too easily distracted by new technology so I have made a promise to myself to limit my photographic equipment while I learn the Art. I can only say that I enjoy using my Sony A350 and so far, its capabilities exceed my own, having said that, the bulk of any DSLR is a nuisance so I keep my Nikon S4000 on hand. I did look at a hybrid like the Sony NEX series but a big lens with a small body seemed hard to balance.

### 5) Why do you enjoy Viewfinders?

It is clear that a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make it all run smoothly. Without a doubt, Viewfinders is one of the most welcoming and friendly clubs which I have attended. Everyone seems happy to share their experiences and knowledge - I got a crash course on setting up my speedlight during the break at a recent meeting! It is possible, even for a novice like myself, to actively participate in the club activities. I get a thrill to see some of my pictures being published in the newsletter. To have an image as part of the "You're not here" exhibition was fantastic. The group outings are also fun and I hope to attend more of these in 2012.



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

The simplest thing I would say is always keep a camera to hand (even if it is just a camera phone).

One day in Manchester, I witnessed the bombing of the Arndale shopping centre, first hand. For some reason, I reached for my trusty compact before making speedy exit!

# 5

On the Web  
For Sale

## On the Web

This professional has an interesting approach to anyscapes:  
<http://www.carlwarner.com/warner.html>

*Bob Taylor*

Thinking about upgrading your camera? Finding that the fastest shutter speed you have just not fast enough? Then help is at hand from those extremely clever guys at MIT in Massachusetts, USA. They have succeeded in making a camera that takes a trillion frames a second. Yes you read that right – a trillion frames a second. To find out how they did it surf along to <http://youtu.be/EtsXgODHMWk>.

*Simon*



Photos by Brendan Barnes (top left), Simon Pugh (top right) and Steve Johns (bottom)



Eve Arnold, one of the world's most outstanding photojournalists died on January 4th aged 99. In 1951, Arnold became the first female photographer admitted to the prestigious Magnum photographic co-operative. For an overview of her outstanding work visit the Magnum website at [www.magnumphotos.com/evearnold](http://www.magnumphotos.com/evearnold)

*Simon*

A new website has been set up specifically dedicated to the Ask Tim Grey eNewsletter. This site will surely grow over time, but in the meantime it serves as a great way for photographers to sign up to receive this free (and excellent, if I do say so myself) resource.

If you've found the Ask Tim Grey eNewsletter to be helpful, how about helping to ensure its success by sharing it with every photographer you know? And what better way than to point them to this new online resource?

Point your browser to the website: [www.asktimgrey.com](http://www.asktimgrey.com)

*Jez Cunningham*

Fancy a coffee table book presenting your favourite photos? With Blurb, you can make your own photo book, whether a personalised wedding album, cookbook, or travel photo book. Blurb ensures bookstore-quality printing and binding, and a range of options from hardcover photo books to paperbacks in various sizes. For inspiration, why not first browse through the books created by blurb customers in the 'book store' part of the web page: [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com)

If you have ecommendations for other book-making websites or companies, you can share them with your fellow viewfinders by sending an e-mail to [newsletter@viewfinders.be](mailto:newsletter@viewfinders.be)

*Patricia*

## For Sale

Steve Johns has the following equipment for sale:

- CANON EOS 40D Body (SN 14307272) plus a CANON EF-S 17-85mm f/4-5.6 IS USM lens with hood (SN 4112919223).
  - o Cost new was €1050, but on sale at €400.
- CANON EF 100mm f/2.8 Macro USM lens (SN 56900652) with lens hood and tripod ring extras.
  - o New price €593 but asking only €300.
- SIGMA DC 18-200mm F3.5-6.3 OS USM lens (SN 1275363) lens hood included.
  - o New price € 345 but yours for only €200.

The above prices are for separate sale but if all three items are bought as one lot, I will either give a € 100 discount or add a brand new Lowepro Classified 140 AW street reporter camera shoulder bag for free (at the choice of the person buying). The new prices indicated for the lenses are the current prices at PCH, rue du Midi, Brussels. All are in excellent condition. If you are interested in any (or all) of this then please contact Steve Johns by e-mail only at [steve\\_johns@me.com](mailto:steve_johns@me.com).

*Steve*



