

VIEWfinders

English-Speaking Photography Club of Brussels
Newsletter no. 175, May 2011

30.05.2011

Newsletter Deadline

18.05.2011
Next Meeting

Winners of the April Challenge "Transport"

CONGRATULATIONS!



1st prize and People's Choice: Jakob Thur



2nd prize: Penelope Duns



3rd prize: Bob Taylor

Images from Leuven



Constanze Veeh



Jez Cunningham



Pat Temmerman



Joris de Zutter



Graeme J. Dykes

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We look forward to seeing you all, old and new, at the British School of Brussels, Leuvensesteenweg 19, 3080 Tervuren. Doors open at 7.00 pm. For directions, feel free to contact Caroline Hendry at 067 876 469 or visit our homepage.



2 May Meeting Preview April Meeting Review

May Meeting Preview

Our speaker during the May meeting will be American art-photographer Stephen Sack.

Some 30 years ago, after graduating from university with a degree in economics and history, Stephen didn't like the path that life was taking him on, and he wanted to expand his horizons. Through a scholarship he had the opportunity to study in Brussels, where he felt immediately at home, and he has been living there ever since. He discovered that through photography he could satisfy his need to have a different vision on the world and understand it better.

April Meeting Review

There was a good turnout for the meeting which our President, Alun, opened with the traditional tour d'horizon and announcements. He announced to those present that the June 15th meeting would be devoted to members' portfolios during which those participating would be allocated a quarter of an hour in which to present some images of their choice. Members who wished to do so should contact David Van den Bunder.

Alun also encouraged the active participation of members in the activities of the club, asking in particular for ideas via the suggestion box and contributions to the newsletter – exhibitions seen, interesting books, photos, photographic tips, etc.. A lack of perfection in written English should not deter those who had items of interest to submit, the editorial team would make any corrections and other edits needed. Ideally items for publication should be sent in before the deadline for the next edition but any late submissions will be considered for the following edition.

In this connection, he reminded members that the current committee is coming to the end of its mandate and that the election for the 2011/2012 committee will shortly be held. The committee make-up will be the same only with the addition of a Web Site Co-ordinator

Over the years he has made countless photographic series that all have the same origin: imagination. Stephen can be described as an alchemist, philosopher and visual explorer in the way he lives and looks for inspiration for new series. He collects all kinds of objects, mostly old useless junk actually, which form the basis of his work. By looking how they have transformed and deteriorated over time, he tries to capture the essence of those objects.

For one of his series, Phantasmagoria, Stephen photographed ancient magic lantern slides under a special kind of light, taking us back to a long forgotten time and revealing otherwise invisible details. For another series, Florica Magica, he created his own herbarium and submerged flowers in various liquids after which he pressed them. In the resulting photos the flowers are completely different from their original form, yet still clearly recognisable, as if the image displays their soul.

At the meeting, Stephen will give an overview of his work, illustrate the

coherence of the many different series he has created over the years, and their method of creation.

Hope to see all of you there!

David



© Stephen Sack

for the new web site (more about this at the May meeting). All positions (see the last page of this Newsletter) are, in principle, open and volunteers are encouraged to stand.

Julia Zaffarano from the Channel Sales & Business Development Department of Nik Software GmbH was due to give a software demonstration of the Silver Efex Pro software package designed to provide full control of the process of the creation of professional black & white images. Her company had kindly offered a copy of this software package as first prize for the evening's Transport Challenge. Unfortunately, the formal demonstration could not take place due to a hardware compatibility problem outside her control, but she nevertheless introduced this and other Nik products and then gave further explanations during the break to a number of interested members.

We then went into the main business of the evening: the Transport Challenge. Forty-five digital images had been submitted and made into a slide show by Richard Sylvester (Club Secretary and resident Lightroom wizard) - as well as one print.

The variety of approach and overall quality of the submissions made for a stimulating evening, with something of interest for everybody. Numbers were

furiously scribbled down, crossed out and then replaced as personal preferences for the "Peoples' Choice" were being figured out.

The Judge of the Transport Challenge was Tom Lagast, an established teacher of photography and photographer working with major advertising agencies, magazines and also doing freelance work. He not only judged the challenge, he first gave an informative critique of each photo, sometimes making on-screen adjustments using Lightroom to illustrate his points, before showing his short list of twelve images from which he chose the prize winners, who were:

- 1st Prize: Ants struggling to carry a dead bee over a white surface taken by Jakob Thur where he had surprised them climbing up the wall of his bathroom in Sri Lanka;
- 2nd Prize: A dramatic black & white shot taken by Penny in the cabin of a steam locomotive in Wales capturing the moment of a break from stoking the boiler.
- 3rd Prize: An aeroplane silhouetted large against the moon taken by Robert Taylor through a 1,000mm wide aperture telescope.

...and the "peoples' Choice" also went to Jakob Thur, coinciding with the Judge's first choice.

Stephen

6 Questions For Neil Mayne

One of the more veteran members of Viewfinders – in all senses of the word – Neil had a long and varied career with a multi-national oil company, living and working at various times in The Netherlands, South Africa, UK, Italy and Belgium. His last position in Brussels was for a European trade organisation focussing on environmental legislation. Now almost fully retired he spends his time between city life in Brussels and rural Normandy.



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

After studying chemistry at London and Bristol a main attraction was the ability to continue playing around with chemicals to develop my own black and white film and prints. Seeing the print develop in an improvised dark room is a magical process.

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

With my wife and three daughters all being artists, art galleries are a frequent destination. The (un-posed) juxtaposition of art and the viewing public is a

digital, my preferred single choice would be the Canon G10.

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

I enjoy Viewfinders for a number of reasons. You can talk to people with a wide spectrum of backgrounds and nationalities, be exposed to different styles of photography, and talk about technical aspects without peoples' eyes glazing over! Oh, and the trips are also very special, which also help extend my knowledge of beer types available across Europe.



favourite theme, such as this one taken some years ago.

3) What genre of photography interests you most?

My biggest interest is so-called street photography: urban scenes with or without people, advertisements, graffiti, derelict buildings etc.

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

Although I have several, ranging from large film (6x6 cm) to small compact

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

- Don't hesitate to try out shooting from new angles, situations or lighting conditions: digital shots cost virtually nothing.
- Always review and delete the failed or boring images before sharing with friends and family!

Neil chose Pat Temmerman to be the next interviewee.

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6 Questions For... Upcoming Trips

Upcoming Trips

On May 22nd a trip is being organised to the Knokke International Photography Festival. This world-renowned festival showcases some of the world's best photography, from old-masters to contemporary-visionaries. The day trip will include a visit to the World Press Photo 2010 exhibition. For more information check out <http://www.fotofestival.be>.



Annemieke en de Smarties, Photo Hall 1933-1980

A visit to the Charleroi Photo Museum is also being organised for the 19th June. Information on this will be sent out soon but the website can be visited already at <http://www.museephotob.be>.

Simon

Annual Club Dinner

The annual Viewfinders' Club Dinner will be held on Saturday 18th June. A date that should be marked in red in members' diaries. More details, including location and price, will follow shortly.

Steve

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Club Trip
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Frédéric Chaubin and the Druzhba Sanatorium (Photo Courtesy of Caroline Scheyven)

Gallery Crawl

On a sunny Sunday afternoon on 10th April nine culture-seeking Viewfinders set out to discover what Brussels had to offer in the way of contemporary art exhibitions. They were amply rewarded with the "Luc Tuymans Retrospective" at the BOZAR and "CCCP Cosmic Communist Constructions Photographed" at the Taschen Gallery.

Although Luc Tuymans (1958 -) is Belgian, this was the first time a retrospective (now closed) was dedicated to him in his native country. He is a self-proclaimed historical painter who, despite as well as because of his sharp criticism of George Bush's politics, became famous primarily in America. The retrospective, in fact, was a collaboration between the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Tuymans paints mostly from Polaroids which he snaps from sources diverse as magazine pages and television screens. His colours are diluted with turpentine to make them muted. Rather than capture reality literally, Tuymans strives to create a context of intimate memory and critical analysis.

While the exhibition was a retrospective, it was also organised according to the themes on which the artist worked during different periods of his life. One after the other, rooms were dedicated to the horrors of concentration camps, the tragedy of cancer, the meddling of Belgium in the Congo and the hypocrisy of George Bush's doctrines.

All of the work was symbolic and in no way self-explanatory. The only sense to which it appealed was the intellect. Therefore, the guided tour we took was absolutely essential as well as marvellously enlightening.

For the architecture lover, instead, perhaps the most explosive exhibition in town is this one little room of photographs by Frederic Chaubin of Soviet architecture. Like Nervi, Saarinen and Niemeyer in the 60s, the Soviets were also creating fantastic, futuristic structures which defied all classical notions of what buildings were supposed to look like. The photos were taken in every part of the Soviet Union and its satellite countries. Even the Soviet embassy in Cuba was included. The exhibition is a must see voyage into the power of imagination. It's open until May 31.

http://www.taschen.com/pages/en/stores/19216.store_brussels.1.htm

Paula Cagli

On the Web

Photography isn't always fun-and-games. To get some of the most thought-inspiring and memorable images, photographers are often at the front line of civil unrest. No riot, demonstration or war is beyond bounds for them. Unfortunately, this often comes at a heavy price and on 21st of April, American photographer Chris Hondros and British journalist Tim Hetherington were killed whilst working in Misrata, Libya covering the on-going revolution there.

More information can be found on the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/13153093> and Chris's last photos can be seen at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-13154053>.

Simon



Rebel fighters carefully move into a building where they had trapped government loyalist troops during street fighting on Tripoli Street in downtown Misrata. Hondros was killed a short time after taking this series of photos. (Chris Hondros/Getty Images)

Club Exhibition

The club exhibition of the second sub-set of the "You Are Not Here" is still running at "Illème Acte" restaurant (Charles Hanssens, 6 (area Sablon).)

It runs until the end of May. Well worth a visit!

Steve

Cartoon Capers



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Leuven Day IV

Sunday, April 17th, saw a group of Viewfinders, partners and guests descend on Leuven. Thanks to the Photography and Weather gods we were able to enjoy a mostly sunny day and made our way to some of the nicer bits of town in an effort to find a fresh view of the city.

We met at the early-for-some hour of

lovely shot of one of our group on the lap of the Kotmadam.

Heading up Naamsestraat to see the exterior of Sint-Michiels church it seems that most everybody found something else to rivet his or her attention – including a large group of German tourists.

Eventually we entered the courtyard of



Pat Temmerman

10:00 at the Laduezeplein to kick the day off with shots of the Central University Library. Wending our way through some of the back streets we made our way to the Grote Markt where we captured shots of the Town Hall (question: was it really designed by somebody on acid and built by a guy on speed?), St. Peters and surrounding architecture. From there to the Oude Markt – sometimes referred to as the longest bar in the world – so we could have the opportunity to record a



Graeme J Dykes

the Asian studies building to photograph the Chinese celestial globe and surrounding buildings. It was fun to watch 8 photographers all trying to shoot the same object without getting into each other's way.

Emerging from the courtyard we continued down Naamsestraat. Living in Leuven for as long as I have, I tend to forget just how much there is to see and foolishly thought that the walk down Naamsestraat to the Begijnhof would be a pretty much straightforward thing. Nope. By this time the sun had come out and everything seemed to be just a wee bit more photogenic. Seems like it took a fair bit of time to get the group as far as the American College and then to the Grote Begijnhof.

We eventually made it to the Grote Begijnhof where everyone was left to their own devices trying to capture a unique shot without including all the tourists or fellow Viewfinders. After just about exhausting all the photographic possibilities we headed off to the Kruidtuin, the 2.2 hectare botanical garden and one of Leuven's best-kept secrets.

After we all had our fill of flowers, bushes and trees it was time for a refuelling stop and we were fortunate to find



enough room to accommodate all of us together at one of the watering holes on the Grote Markt. The phrase 'feeding frenzy' comes to mind.

Following lunch we again headed off on a rather circuitous route to St. Gertrude's Church and Abbey, and proceeded through the Klein Begijnhof and past some of the semi-dilapidated brewery warehouses for a spot on industrial photography before arriving at the Vaart. I noticed that the entourage soon had their fill of boat and canal photography so we headed back to the Laduezeplein and called it a day.

Pat Temmerman



Jez Cunningham



Constanze Veeh

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.

If you want to borrow these, please contact Alun in advance of the meeting.

Steve

Workshop News

Four places are still available for the third Joris Luyten Food Photography Workshop on 28th May. These will be allocated on a "first come first served" basis as and when the cost of participation (65€ per head) has been paid into the Viewfinders account.

Trevor Waldron has his 'Great Travel Photography' workshop scheduled for the week-end of 28 – 29 May at the Hotel Silken Berlaymont in Brussels. As usual he offers special discounts to Viewfinders' members. See www.aspect2i.co.uk or www.trevorwaldron.be for more details.

Details of Workshops run by Michel Chia on 29th May can be found on his web site (visit www.creatifimage.be). The club, together with Michael Chia, are planning to set up some darkroom workshops for those interested in more traditional B&W photographic production. The workshops will be held in the darkroom at the BSB, though dates and prices are still to be fixed (plan on shortly after the summer break), but if you are interested, please contact any committee member.

Steve

Featured On Youtube

Come visit me on youtube where I was interviewed under the auspices of the Fulbright Program about my photographic research on the fountains of Rome. The Fulbright Program is very prestigious in the academic world, so I was honoured to participate. I included several of my photos and even gave Viewfinders a plug!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKpSg3iT3ZI>

Paula Cagli

Upcoming Events

18 May 2011	Club Meeting	Fine art photography by Stephen Sack
22 May 2011	Club Trip	Knokke Photography Festival
15 June 2011	Club Meeting	AGM and Member's Portfolio Evening
18 June 2011	Club Dinner	Annual Club Dinner (details tbc)
19 June 2011	Club Trip	Charleroi Photography Museum (details tbc)
30 – 31 July	Club Weekend Trip	Wine tasting & walking trip in the German Ahtal

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

Viewfinders – Committee 2010/2011



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Ana



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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