

VIEWfinders

English-Speaking Photography Club of Brussels
Newsletter no. 180, November 2011

28.11.2011

Newsletter Deadline

16.11.2011

Next Meeting



Photos by Alun Foster (top row), Simon Pugh (middle left), Eva Winqvist (middle right and bottom row)

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www.viewfinders.be

Bank account: 310-1244075-39

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).



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October Meeting Review November Meeting Preview

October Meeting Review

Although this was only the second Viewfinders meeting held in the Swedish Church and Cultural Centre, it was already beginning to feel like home with members appreciating the ease of access and the facilities available. In particular, full use was made of the bar and ground floor space, both before the meeting and during the break and this gave members a great opportunity to mix, mingle and chat.

President Alun started the meeting with the usual announcements. He particularly highlighted the latest facilities which were being added to the new web site – self-managed members' galleries (requests to be made through the site contact form) and a "for sale" page (inputs to David Van den Bunder by e-mail). As always, the Committee encouraged everybody to make their views known and to provide ideas and suggestions, either through the suggestion box or direct to Committee members.

Contributions to the Newsletter were also solicited - articles, information on exhibitions, images would all be welcomed. The Newsletter, which was the flagship of the Club could only be as good as the contributions received. The deadline for the November edition was 31st October.



Photo by Richard Sylvester

He also requested those who had not already done so to pay their annual subscriptions for the 2011-2012 Season. Although the club was in a good financial situation, the Exhibition to be held in the Halles St Géry in 2012 would involve some expenditure and therefore the sooner all subscriptions were paid, the sooner budgets could be established. Alun was currently discussing possible themes for the exhibition with the administration of the Halles and more information would be provided in due course. He would also be calling for volunteers to organise and run the project as had been done for the 2009 "You are (not) Here" exhibition.

He reminded members that this season there would be two Challenges, the first of which "Anyscapes" would be held at the 20th December meeting. For more details see the October Newsletter.

Richard Sylvester, the organiser of the Mons Trip and Barbeque, presented his trip report and showed the photos he had made on that occasion. He was followed by Jeroen Van Gent, Caroline Hendry and Alun Foster.

The trip report on the Oostende/de Haan Trip was presented by its organiser, Joris De Zutter who presented his photos made then, as did Simon Pugh, Caroline Hendry, Sylvia Dymond, David Van den Bunder and Alun Foster.

It was fascinating to be able to compare different series of images taken of the same places and objects at the same

moments. The photographic eye, sensitivities and approach of each photographer was different and brought out often completely contrasting individual visions of these same things. This was particularly evident for the images of WW II relics taken at the Atlantikwal compound in Raversijde, Ostend. Some photographs were highly individualistic, capturing perceived atmosphere while others were more concrete documentary shots, while still others bent perspectives to create some highly original views.

All in all, the sets of images presented for both trips underlined both the creative stimulus which such events provide as well as the fun of being in a group of Viewfinders on the loose. If anyone has an idea for a new trip which he or she would like to organise, please don't be shy, let the Committee know. It will be glad to help with the organisation.

The first Member's Portfolio was presented by Jörg Jagger. He had selected his images (which included the Atlas Mountains, Tuscany, Spitzbergen, African Safari and dream sequences capturing momentary stasis within movement) for their impact, which was enhanced by a certain simplicity and colours. His portfolio was remarkable for very high levels of competence and creativity across a varied range of photographic disciplines.

Kevin Johnson, in his portfolio, took us through the photographic journey which he had begun some time before. In his presentation, he concentrated rather on the progression of what he was wanting to express through his images rather than focussing on individual images themselves. Specialising in landscape photography, he tried not to give a literal interpretation of what was there, but to show interfaces and experiences and to capture "the crucial moment". His portfolio was both an inspiration and an invitation to all of us not to settle into a rut but to set ourselves the permanent challenge of pushing back our personal boundaries.

Steve

November Meeting Preview

On Wednesday 16th of November Viewfinders has the pleasure of hosting Piet Van den Eynde. Piet is a Belgian freelance photographer specializing in travel portraiture. He's also an Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Certified Expert. He wrote two Dutch books on Adobe Lightroom and also writes English eBooks, such as 'The Power of Black & White in Adobe Lightroom and beyond' and his two-part eBook series 'Making Light' & 'Making Light 2' that demystify the wonderful opportunities of off camera flash. The eBooks are available through www.craftandvision.com. He contributes articles to photography magazines and gives training about digital photography, working with small flashes and post-processing.



In 2009, he threw his camera, a flash and an umbrella in his bicycle panniers and cycled 5000 miles through Turkey, Iran, India and Indonesia for a photography project called 'Portraits of Asia'.

Learn more about Piet on his blog www.morethanwords.be/blog

For Viewfinders, Piet will show some before and after images of the 'Portraits of Asia' series. He will discuss the preparation of the journey and will show you his favourite photography tools and techniques. His lecture will be illustrated with setup and behind the scenes shots, allowing you to see how certain images were made.

Melita

Trips

VF programme coordinator Melita Nad is organising a winter holiday to the Vosges in France this New Year.

Winter in the Vosges is a special time for gliding over snow and ice, with 300 km of prepared pistes for cross-country skiing or snowshoe rambling and 7 alpine ski resorts. Ventron is a charming little Vosgian village of 1000 residents which has managed to keep its authentic character, attracting visitors by its variety of landscapes and sites. In winter, Ventron shifts into a white Garden of Eden where visitors can enjoy downhill skiing on any of the numerous cross-country ski trails marked out to invite nature lovers in to the wonderful landscape. Snowshoes hikes are also possible.



Photo by Simon Pugh

Home description: Capacity for 8 people! Comfortable chalet (110m²), peacefully situated, surrounded through many scenic and broad views over the restful surroundings. A beautifully planned chalet situated in the middle of 'Ballon des Vosges' natural park ideal for nature lovers & relaxation.

Accommodation detail: Ground floor: Living room; double sofa bed, TV (satellite), fireplace. Kitchen; oven, microwave, dishwasher, washing machine. Bedroom 1; 2 x single bed. Bedroom 2; 2 x single bed. Bedroom 3; 2 x single bed. Bedroom 4; 2 x single bed. Bathroom 1; hip bath, washbasin. Bathroom 2; shower, washbasin, WC.

About the location:

Distance to Centre: 1km

Distance to Lake: 5km

Distance to Foods: 1km

Distance to Restaurants: 1km

Distance to Public Transport: 25km

Distance to Tourist Information: 1km

Proposed Program

Saturday 31st December

- o Departure Brussels 9:00 am, Driving time around 5 hours. I suggest carpooling with two cars.
- o Food shopping in Ventron.
- o New Year's Eve Party

Sunday 01st January

- o Visit the local food market in La Bresse.

Monday 2nd January - Friday 6th January

- o Skiing
- o Cross-country skiing
- o Snowshoe rambling
- o Skating
- o Sit by the fireside

The idea is to prepare breakfast and dinner in the chalet. Restaurants in the neighbourhood are available as backup.

Costs: The costs for the stay (excluding food and drinks) are 250 Euro per person. This splits into fixed costs of 200 Euro (stay, cleaning, bed-sheets and tax) and variable cost of 50 Euro (deposit and energy).

Please contact Melita at melita.brussels@gmail.com if you are interested to join the trip.

Melita

3 Trips

5 questions for...

5 questions for Piet Van den Eynde

For a change this month Viewfinders has asked November's guest speaker, Piet Van den Eynde the usual questions...

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

I actually started out with digital, buying a 2 megapixel Nikon Coolpix 950 point & shoot more than 10 years ago (it cost the same as a 16 megapixel D7000 DSLR costs now). I very quickly realised I missed training and took up a five year evening course at the Academy of Fine Arts where I lived. I learnt to work on film, developing and enlarging my own negatives. Then, about five years ago, I switched again to digital, when Nikon's first DSLRs became affordable.



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

The image of this family, taken in Lamayuru in North India is one of my favourites. Not in the least because I almost did not bring my camera along for that particular walk.

3) What genre of photography interests you most?

I like to travel to exotic places and make what I call 'environmental portraits'. Those are rather wide-angle portraits in which you see the person portrayed in his natural surroundings, whether that be his house or the place he works. I also use a lot of flash on location. I want my subjects to look their best and using flash - often with diffusers such as umbrellas and softboxes - is one way of doing that.

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

I absolutely love my Nikon D700. I prefer it over the bigger D3 line because it has a built-in flash, which I can use to trigger my Speedlights remotely, quickly and efficiently. Add the 16-35 F4 VR, the 85 mm 1.4 or 1.8, an SB-900 Speedlight and a Westcott Collapsible umbrella and I'm one happy camper!

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

Oh, I have lots, which I hope to pass on during my presentation, but if there's just one: don't buy too much gear at once. Buy one thing and get to know it inside out. I'm writing this from a trip in Italy. I had only one flash with me, no lightstands and no umbrellas: it forced me to be creative. I've used restaurant menus and paper napkins as lighting modifiers. Scarcity is the mother of invention!

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- On the web
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- Cartoon Capers
- Upcoming Events
- Committee Contacts

On the Web

Night Photography still manages to hold a mysterious fear over many photographers, it is often believed to be too difficult, complicated, technical and to some, a little scary. If you have ever asked any of the following questions, or are looking for advice on them – this web page could be for you:

- How to Photograph Star Trails?
- How to Photograph Landscapes at Night?
- Help with Night Photography Techniques
- What Settings do I use for Night Photography?
- Tips for Star Trail Photography

<http://availablelightimages.com/blog/night-photography/>

Pat Temmerman.

Club Equipment

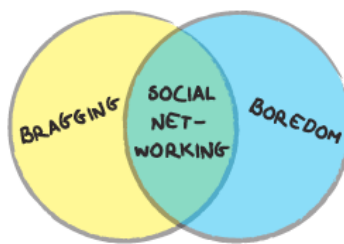
Viewfinders has the following equipment available to members for monthly loans:

- 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 are to be collected and they should be returned at the following meeting.

Cartoon Capers

What The Duck



© Aaron Johnson

Upcoming Events

16 November - Club Meeting: **Outside Speaker. Piet Van den Eynde.**

14 December - Club Meeting: **Challenge Evening: 'Anyscapes'. Anyscapes? Any ideas!** The judge will be Danny de Cock.

31 December – 6 January 2012 - Club Trip: **Week long trip to the Vosges area of France.** See article in this newsletter for further details.

18 January - Club Meeting: **Assignment 'Park Benches'.** Further details to be announced shortly.

15 February - Club Meeting: **Outside Speaker. Roy Robertson. President of the Royal Photographic Society.**

For more information about these events, please see the website: www.viewfinders.be

Viewfinders – Committee 2011/2012



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Steve



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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