

2017 Exhibition - What Our Visitors Thought

a round-up by Neil Scott

Early indications are that we have had a considerable increase in the number of visitors this year. This is particularly gratifying at a time when many photographers are turning their backs on the print as the final form of a photograph. Sadly too, a number of major salons and exhibitions have recently stopped accepting prints.

The exhibition was very well received, according to the 107 comments made in the Visitor Book. Indeed there were very few adverse comments, primarily regarding the usual perceived overuse (or even use) of Photoshop. A few people commented that they would like to see details of the prints - camera, lens, aperture etc. Also some would like to see the location or the reason for taking the picture. While this information might interest some people, the work involved would be enormous and time consuming. Our small team on the catalogue "subcommittee" has only two weeks to scan all 202 prints, assemble all text and adverts, design the layout, create and proof-read the PDFs before it all gets delivered to the printer. Our printers then turn the job round in about one week.

Commenting visitors by the 15 countries listed

Scotland	43
England	34
USA	7
Italy	6
Netherlands	4
Canada	3
Ireland	2
Australia	1
Wales	1
Czech Republic	1
China	1
Germany	1
Northern Ireland	1
Hawaii	1
France	1

Here is a selection of some of the comments:

VISITOR from	COMMENT
Derbyshire	I'm glad I am not a judge!
Fife	Another great exhibition - inspirational!
Olympia, USA	Very good show
Fettercairn	Excellent stuff. Horses - Wow!
The Hague, Netherlands	Loved it. Missed the location of the subjects on the catalogue
Bannockburn, Australia	Exceptional exhibition, highly recommended
England	Some stunning animal shots
Aberdeenshire	Amazing photography - so worth seeing
Lossiemouth	Excellent as usual - some stunning images
USA	Lovely
London	Arresting - well curated and beautiful building
Harpenden, Herts	Some excellent, some annoying (the big-eyed cod x3) and some repeats

Prague, Czech Republic	Not quite my bag, but very well done
Dorset	Thought-provoking, brilliant images
Florence, Italy	Notevole! (remarkable)
Hannah	Some fantastic photos on display made my trip magical
Netherlands	Disappointing - all glamour and kitsch!!
Italy	Enjoyable, thanks. Are you ever happy? (<i>refers to line above</i>)
Devon	Fascinating - wanted some more explanation (location in some instances)
Munich	Some enticing, some boring
Edinburgh	Another fine exhibition, a huge range. Diagonal labels difficult for me
Perthshire	Felt that the ratio of ordinary to extraordinary this year was weighted towards the ordinary. STILL a very enjoyable exhibition
Belfast	Brilliant Exhibition
Carlow, Ireland	Great talent on show. Very inspiring and relaxing
Sutton Coldfield, England	Great as always. Look forward to 2018
Vancouver, Canada	Great stuff
Hawaii	Brilliant!
Droitwich	Superb exhibition as always
Durham	Very high standard this year
Falkirk	Best images I have seen here in three years, well done
Ontario, Canada	As always superb
Glasgow (<i>lady visitor</i>)	If you are going to have soft porn, let's have some naked men as well as naked women (<i>there were in fact two images with naked men!</i>)
Glasgow	Lovely exhibition. We'll definitely come back next year
Brighton	Enjoyed it very much. We come every year
Italy	Well done, Great exhibition, thanks
Neilston	Excellent, different. Did not always agree with the judges
Edinburgh	Far too many Photoshopped. Why not hold an exhibition of "genuine" (non Photoshopped/Art) photos. That would show who had real talent
Edinburgh	The catalogue would benefit from some background info about the photos, how they were done, manipulated etc
Reading	I come every year to enjoy this and am not let down
Edinburgh	A lot of the work was too stylised or worked on to appeal to me
Edinburgh	Great exhibition - would like to see some more information on photos that were awarded some merit. Why did the judges pick them?
Hampshire	Helpful guy at entrance and great photos
Edinburgh	Would prefer fewer manipulated images and more information about what the photographer meant to show
Edinburgh	Always come, always frustrating (2015 excepted). Found only 16 that I really liked. Not to my taste
New Jersey USA	Very interesting art. I recommend fully
Durham	Very interesting variety of styles and images
Whitburn	Especially liked the humorous ones!
Colchester	"The Individualist" was my favourite, superb exhibition. Would love a section on how the photos were constructed
Italy	One of the first I have seen - as beautiful as I thought
Italy	Good Photoshop use
Shropshire	Far too many photos that showcased digital skills rather than the image themselves
Dumfries	Much good and very good. Some mystifying