

Hi folks

2019 heralds a period of change for our Contemporary Group. Some of us are leaving the committee (see my appeal in this issue...) and new hands will continue the good work.

We also look forward to our first event and AGM to be held at the new RPS HQ in Bristol. We are pleased to announce that we have persuaded Chris Steel-Perkins as our speaker.

You will need to book attendance on-line via the Group page on the RPS website – more details appear later in this issue.

The Contemporary Group within the RPS exists for and behalf of its members and we welcome feedback and participation from you all. Articles and reports of your work and exhibitions, books etc. and ideas for advice from our more experienced members will all be useful contributions to future issues of Concept.

Peter Ellis  
Deputy Chair

## e-newsletter

**April 2019**

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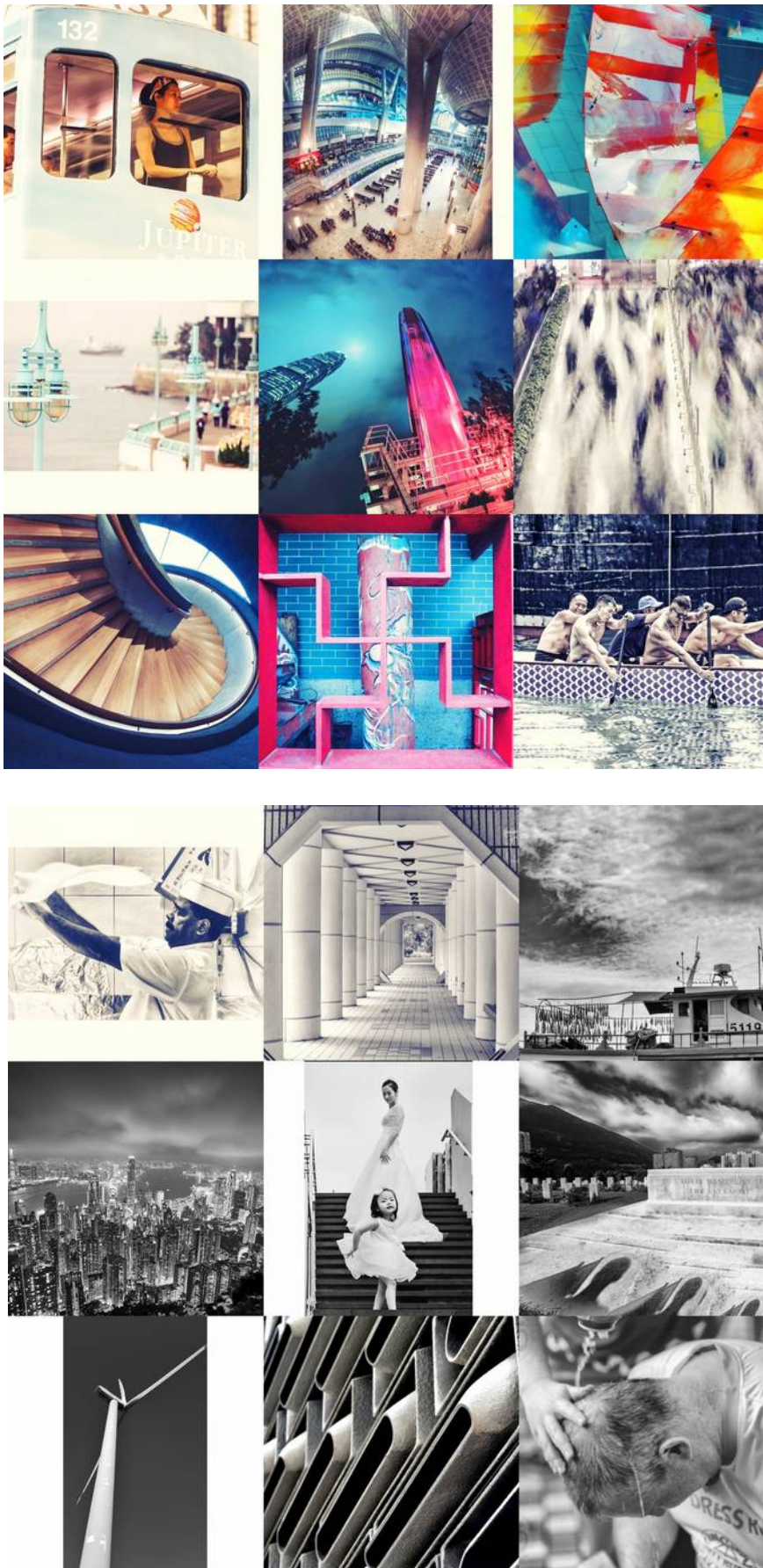
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*Preferred format for submissions  
to Concept:  
Images as jpegs (approx 1Mb)  
Text as Word files  
Thank you.*



# Two Collages of Hong Kong by Avijit Myoshin Datta

see North report for more details



## Martin Parr 'Only Human' Exhibition

Martin Parr's photographs are appearing everywhere this year, with his idents on BBC TV and his latest wide-ranging retrospective 'Only Human' at the National Portrait Gallery, London which runs until 27 May. 'Only Human' includes his BBC idents, portraits of people from around the world and particularly his beach photography and observations of Britishness; a series of projects that investigate British identity today, including new works on the social scene in Britain in the aftermath of the EU referendum. It is interesting to note that these images show little indications of any impending separation from the EU; we carry on as before. This is a very large exhibition, with a themed cafe and several of the rooms painted in vibrant wall colours to match the strong colours traditionally seen in Parr's work. See <https://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/only-human-martin-parr/exhibition/>

The Martin Parr Foundation in Bristol, which is directly opposite RPS House, holds regular talks and exhibitions and has many of Parr's books for sale.

Brian Steptoe FRPS





## A message from Peter Ellis, Temporary Editor

Unfortunately due to ill health I have to stand down from this temporary position as well as other jobs within the committee. We therefore urgently need someone to take over the task of Concept Editor on a permanent basis.

This is a great opportunity for someone younger (<60!...) to help introduce the membership to the wider world of photography as befits the Group's ethos of promoting work that is meaningful and 'About' something. You would be working with Ken Holland who is responsible for the layout of the newsletter.

Concept is the Contemporary Group bi-monthly newsletter and is primarily concerned with members activities and work. It should contain newsworthy items as detailed below. It should in no way be a "Lite" version of our excellent Journal. Besides an introductory editorial Concept should contain;

- Reports from Contemporary regional sub-groups

- Reports from individual members relating to personal work/projects

- Notice of group and members exhibitions/events followed by reviews of such

- Notice of appropriate workshops and seminars (not necessarily RPS based) eg from LIP/IPSE

- Notice and reviews of Photo Festivals (eg PhotoEast, Forum, Brighton Biennale...)

- Link to the Group Instagram account with mention of notable additions

- Continue the 'Who's Who' feature

- News and notices from the Committee

Any new ideas along these lines would also be welcome. The team should solicit contributions from the membership and maintain a watching brief on the wider world of Contemporary photography.

The team will be responsible for collating and writing the newsletter copy and the design and layout of the articles. The resulting pdf will then be distributed to the group membership via the RPS broadcast system. The design may be changed to reflect the change of 'management'!

If you are interested in taking on this position then please contact any of the following;

Peter Ellis - [wordspicsltd@gmail.com](mailto:wordspicsltd@gmail.com)

Ken Holland - [kenholland@lowenna.co.uk](mailto:kenholland@lowenna.co.uk)

Paul Ashley - [paultheashley@gmail.com](mailto:paultheashley@gmail.com)



## Call for Journal proof reader

We are looking for a proof reader for the *RPS Contemporary Photography* journal. Ann Crabbe has been our proof reader for many years, but she has now stepped down.

The ideal person would have experience of proof reading, may have been trained in proof reading, or may be a member of the Society for Editors and Proof Readers – we have no fixed criteria other than good English, a good eye for detail, and a good understanding of writing for publication.

Sadly, like all our posts it is unpaid! The Journal is published quarterly, so the work is not onerous. If you would like to know more, or are willing to offer your services, please contact me.

Paul Ashley

Editor, Contemporary Photography Journal

[paultheashley@gmail.com](mailto:paultheashley@gmail.com)



## AGM and Chris Steele-Perkins

The 2019 AGM will take place on Saturday 12th October 2019 at RPS House in Bristol.

It will be followed after lunch by a talk from Chris Steele-Perkins.

The AGM will be at 10.30 am and there will be light refreshments available from 10.00 am.

Lunch will be at noon and at 1.30pm Chris Steele-Perkins will give a talk followed by a Q&A session.

Following the AGM up to lunch and after the afternoon talk, there will be opportunities for Contemporary Group members to display work.

The event will close at 4.00 p.m.

Chris Steele-Perkins' talk is separate to the AGM and booking must be made through the RPS website. Group members will not be required to pay a fee but non-Group members and non-RPS members will be charged.

This day is a chance to see the new RPS HQ building and to experience a talk by the very well-known and respected Magnum photographer. Maybe also visit the adjacent Martin Parr Foundation.

Full directions to RPS House are on the RPS website.



## Contemporary North Meeting Saturday 19th January 2019

The latest meeting of Contemporary North was held at Clements Hall, York on Saturday 19th January 2019. As usual, members offered a wide range of images and interests for discussion.

We were lucky enough to have 13 people present work, some DPI's, some books and one AV.

We spent our time travelling around the world. We had Avijit talk about Hong Kong. Avijit had taken us through the wild side of Hong Kong and returned to the Hong Kong we all know. We looked at the architecture of the materialistic state and he was introduced to many Buddhist temples around Hong Kong and the Philippines. We did wonder whether Avijit took all of the thirteen thousand Temples and we were very pleased he only showed a few of them.

We also spent time in India, on a journey back to Celine's family routes. The journey was inspiring as well as informative. The essence of the trip was truly captured by Celine and the comment "Connection with a deeper level" summed up a great presentation.

Lyn visited China and showed the alternative view, a view of village life, no children, the old still working and basic food. She also showed images of Music and dancing, group exercise and the local culture. The interesting message the images gives us was these pictures could have been taken fifty years ago and you may not see anything different except the young people have moved to the towns where the money is.

Bringing the meeting back home three of the members Jane, Christine and Pat went to Bridlington and Hornsea as a photo exercise. We saw interesting images summed up by seeing of a ride, Mr Whippy, railings and a fire engine. Images that reminded you of Martin Parr and his beach photography, quaint English seaside.

After seeing the East Coast we went on a journey with Graham to the Sculpture park in Wakefield. The images provided an alternative view of the sculptures and how they interacted within the environment. Some of the members of the group were so encouraged by the images they are thinking about seeing the sculptures themselves. A quote by Peter summed up the imagery "great Interaction between the objects".

Wendy then took us down a canal on a dull overcast day with a presentation "A Grey walk on a Grey Day." This didn't spoil the show, we were provided with a journey carefully illustrated with music, "nature's wonderland in the winter". We found the AV presentation enhanced the images and then went on to discuss whether a book should be produced.

Rachel then took us through a presentation about "Water Towers in Yorkshire". The images taken over a four year period captured the style of Becher school of photography. The images depicted water towers across the county and to add a personal touch each of the images had additional selected colouring. The images worked well and provided an insight to the architects and their design styles.

After tea break we looked at some printed work. We had a presentation by Peter who talked about

- Commercialisation and Society



- Manchester Market
- So this is Christmas (<http://www.blurb.co.uk/b/9208265-so-this-is-christmas>)

The book on Christmas cleverly summed up Christmas in the modern age.

We also had an interesting piece of art work by Christine. The work started of as an out of date Instant film and the image was transferred to paper via a scanner. The images were full of interesting tones and created a lot of conversation.

And finally Christine presented an interesting collection of Photo books.

A very informative and enlightening session helped by our projectionist Wendy.

And a final note from our visitor Howard Fisher: "You have a super group of people, friendly, creative and obviously enthusiastic, guided of course by yourself. We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon."

Report by Robert Harris



Visitors



Photobooks





Christine



Peter



Peter





## Contemporary North West Meeting Report 2nd March 2019

Four members attended: Alan Cameron, Frank Balaam, Ken Rowlatt and Brian Williams. Apologies had been received from Nigel Richards, Richard Barrett, John Corbett and Romney Tansley.

Frank brought along his book on Sarasota where he has been holidaying for the last 20 or more years. He explained that he was dissatisfied with it because he wasn't sure what story he was trying to tell. There was a wide ranging discussion about the town and Frank's style. He explained that Sarasota is an extremely wealthy town on the Gulf coast of Florida. The city centre is very modern and expensive with high end shops and hugely expensive apartments. There's a beautiful beach but all along it are apartment blocks and hotels which obstruct the view from the road. Not far inland the highways have many strip malls and trailer parks abound. Discussion entered around possible themes for the book; people, deprivation and riches, day-to-day life and monochrome or colour were all discussed. Frank is now going to go home, review his work and decide how next to proceed.

Ken brought some prints that had done well in competition. This was in response to John Corbett's suggestion that we bring older prints for discussion. This theme can be carried over to the May meeting.

Alan undertook to talk to Patricia Ruddle about the possibility of having a join meeting with the Yorkshire Group.

The next meeting will be Saturday 11th May as Alan will be away the previous weekend. Alan will put Ken in touch with Romney who has no car. Ken can pick him up at Bury tram station for future meetings.

Alan Cameron



The Contemporary North subgroup on display at the Yorkshire Region AGM, 6 April 2019  
Wendy North, Patricia Ann Ruddle, Avijit Datta

