

FP

FOCAL PLANE

AUCKLAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

MARCH 2003



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WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Hi everyone. Welcome to the March Edition of Focal Plane. I think I can safely say that we all had a great time last month at the AGM meeting, with a few changes. Thanks for the support that you all seem to show me for my efforts on the newsletter. I'm just happy I am allowed to keep my job.

We have a few things to get through this month on the FP. I would love to start by telling everyone the good news that Felicity Rogers will be gracing us with her presence a month earlier than expected. This is great news and I am sure we will all be looking forward to it at this months meeting.

We have some more from the world of photo news. I like to think that there are some interesting stories out there that you guys and gals would like to know about. Don't forget about the new photo trip that is coming up next month. Thanks to Alan Bilham for that. Hurry on over to page 4 for full details.

Dont forget that it is your newsletter as well, so if there is anything that you would like me to put in it, just let me know. That goes for anything that you have for sale or whatever. Till the meeting, hope you enjoy it.



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All the upcoming events at the club.

This month, we are proud to have a photographic magician in our midst. For those of you out there that are not familiar with Felicity Rogers, She can only be described as a digital photographer who takes her audience through the subconscious mind to an imaginary land of dreams and illusions. Through photography, digital manipulation and a sence magic, Felicity is able to produce photographs of pure surrealism, captivating us and taking up to places beyond our imagination.

Felicity first became interested in photography in 1996, Having gone from the darkroom to digital photography, and now progressing onto computer animation. Felicity has gained influence from her passion for surrealism. Playing on the notion that “the camera tells no lies”, “I experimented with the medium creating images of scenes that never really existed. My background as a magician also helped influence my style. Often I would incorporate visual illusions within my images by constructing little “stage sets” to photograph and blending negatives under the enlarger. The link between my Magic Act and Photography, is they both set out to transport the spectator to an imaginary world”.

In February 2000, Felicity went from the darkroom to the computer,

and has never looked back. Not only has the computer reduced the amount of time taken to complete a picture, but has also aided in creating smoother blends but also made buiding the picture



through layers easier. “My approach to photography is more like a painter who starts with a blank canvas. A large part of my time is spent visualising the image I want to create. Some concepts come to me as complete images in my imagination. Others are inspired by an interesting object I find, which I then build a picture around. For me, constructing a scene that doesn’t exist, is more of a creative challenge than recording just what the camera sees. My photography is very much about exploring the imagination. I hope that my images inspire others to seek out their own “Dreamscapes”.

Felicity’s talk will be titled “Through the Minds Eye”— Darkroom to Digital, and will be our guest at this months club meeting. Bring a friend and a plate.

FORWARD NOTICE

**After the huge success of the
photography trip to Waipu,
you would be mad to
miss this one.**

Auckland Photographic Society trip to:

Awhitu.

**South Head Manukau Hbr.
(2hrs Drive from Auckland)**

Date

**Saturday and Sunday the 12th &
13th April 2003**

Accommodation

**Presbyterian Church Camp Booked
(accommodates 40 people) \$10 per
person per night**

Contact

**Alan Bilham: E-Mail profedge@clear.net.nz
or Ph 8187994**

Free Health Screening for Some 9/11 Reporters

NEW YORK—Journalists who covered the terrorist attacks and their aftermath at the World Trade Center on 9/11/01 may be eligible for free, comprehensive health screening under a program sponsored by the U.S. Government.

The WTC Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program is intended to identify individuals with persistent WTC-related medical conditions, provide them with referrals for follow-up medical care, and educate rescue workers and other “essential personnel” about long-term health risks of exposure to hazardous materials at the site.

Journalists fall under the program’s “essential personnel” classification, says program outreach coordinator Diane Stein.

Journalists covering the 9/11 attack in New York “were covered with debris, inhaled massive amounts of unknown particles and are at health risk levels equal to that of rescue workers who are currently being screened,” says former NPPA president David Handschuh.

Handschuh was badly injured and covered in dust himself while on the scene photographing the towers as they collapsed. “We must make a strong

effort to insure that long term health needs of journalists who reported and photographed this horrible event are identified and insured,” he says.

So far, half of those screened in the program have shown symptoms of persistent lung, ear, nose, throat or mental health conditions related to the 9/11 event.

Because of limited funding, however, the screening program is concentrating on individuals who were most heavily exposed to hazards at the site. As a result, eligibility for screening is based upon “where you worked, when, and for how long,” Stein says. -- David Walker

Luc Delahaye’s “Taliban, 2001”



Few photographs over the past year have ignited as much debate as Luc Delahaye’s “Taliban, 2001.” The large-format panorama of the dead Talib soldier first raised eyebrows last fall when it

was exhibited at the New York Armory Show with a \$15,000 price tag. By itself, the image stuck out from the other art pieces and raised more questions than answers: Is it art, photojournalism, or both? Is it right to profit from the dead? Is the shot an authentic “found” scene or was it composed, in the manner of early war photographs by Roger Fenton or Felice Beato?

Although Delahaye’s work is often published in newspapers and magazines, the “History” exhibition, of which “Taliban, 2001” is a part, is being marketed exclusively as fine art. “History” will be on display at New York’s Ricco/Maresca Gallery through March 22, and made available as a limited-edition book by British publisher Chris Boot for \$1,000. Shown together with photographs of the Genoa riots, war crimes suspect Slobodan Milosevic and a ground zero memorial, all shot with the same emotional detachment, the “Taliban, 2001” picture begins to come into sharper focus. PDN asked several experts from the field to comment on the photo and exhibition. The primary reaction was ambivalence.

New York Times photographer Chester Higgins found the pictures “morbid, unpeaceful and disturbing,” though he appreciates how they “put a face on

human suffering and pain.” Fine-art professor Finbarr Barry Flood says “Taliban, 2001” serves as a symbol for “the entire massed ranks of the defeated,” but it betrays “a peculiarly ethnocentric rendering of history.” Author and photo editor Peter Howe calls Delahaye a “magnificent photographer,” but believes that, as photojournalism, the work should be available to a larger audience than wealthy art collectors. Independent curator, author and editor Miles Barth says his only disappointment was not seeing more on the walls: “It’s not easy to get a good sense of History with only 12 prints.”.

TOP WEB LINKS

Those of you who missed out on the trip to Whatipu, should check out what you missed. Several images have been loaded up onto the APS website. Check it out.

www.aps.net.nz/site_pages/whatipu.htm

Another decent site to check out is the World Photo Press website. There will be an exhibition coming up in a couple of months down in Wellington. It would be great to go along to that.

<http://www.worldpressphoto.nl/index.jsp>

Just a few things to get through this month.

Committee Members

First off, just to make it official, here is a list of the committee members since a few have changed since last months AGM meeting.

Patron...Jack Sprosen
 President...Peter Merrick
 Secretary...Robert Jaques
 Treasurer...Peter Patten
 Hostess...Norma Pettit
 Slide Convenor...Terry Bowyer
 Print Convenor...Alan Bilham
 Editor...Terry Bowyer
 Webmaster...Alka Krisson
 Promotions...Jane Malone
 Librarian...Bev Kaho

Overdue Fees

Just a reminder to some of you out there (including myself), that this years fees are overdue and need to be paid. They can be paid either at the club next week or posted to Peter Patten at 51 Karaka Street, Takapuna, North Shore City.

Next Month

Remember that next month will be the Lines, Curves and Patterns club night. This is a change of course from this month because of our visit from Felicity Rogers.

Thanks Daphne

As we all know, Daphne has stopped being the club secretary and has handed over the reigns to Robert Jaques. She was given a great send off at last months AGM meeting. We all wish her well in everything she is able to do now that she has more spare time on her hands. Good on ya Daphne.



Exhibitions

Just to finish off, there is an exhibition from the 'Edu Col' Tertiary College Photography Exhibition. BNZ Foyer, Level 3, Aotea Centre in the city. Until the 26th April.



**AUCKLAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
SINCE 1883**

Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month 7.30pm

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