

IN FOCUS

Newsletter of the Lostwithiel U3A Photography Group

Don McCullin

Don McCullin is famous for his photojournalism work, especially between the years 1968 and 1984 when he worked as overseas correspondent for the Sunday Times magazine. His images are famous for their unflinching depiction of subjects, but also showing empathy and curiosity.

However, photojournalism or even war photography doesn't wholly define his work.



Many of us watched the BBC 4 documentary "Don McCullin: Looking for England". The programme following him as he revisited places, inner cities to seaside towns, that he had photographed over his 60 year career. I, for one, was amazed by how readily he was recognised and how people could talk about his images. Imagine taking photographs that have such an emotional impact that they are remembered years later.

Cornwall Heritage Trust

Calendar Competition - Photo Competition
"Special Places in Cornwall". Closing date 3rd August 2020.

<https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/2021-calendar/>

Heidi's photographic journey...

When I was a teenager I bought my first and last SLR – I had no idea how to use it, the internet with YouTube had not been invented, so I ended up selling it and transferred back to a point and shoot camera.

Move on 30 years and after three years of a digital point and shoot camera, I wanted to buy a DSLR and so decided that I would need lessons. Enter the South West Photography School.

One course led to another until I was persuaded to go for the Licentiate distinction of the Royal Photographic Society (LRPS). It took about 3 years to get my panel of ten pictures together, but I'm glad it took me that long as I feel I grew better and at a pace that suited me.

Unfortunately, I failed the first time around, only 2 of my photos needing to be retaken – easy! Two months later the LRPS was mine.

Now, thanks to the LRPS, I have been able to take my photography and join it with my enjoyment of art. First, I was using oil pastels to sketch out my ideas of what I wanted to photograph. It wasn't long before I was adding bits and pieces to the photos I printed out. Then I was ripping up photos and sticking them back together to make another piece of art. Sometimes, I print a photo onto art paper and use pastels or watercolour pens etc. to

Shooting these images he used the same type of chunky looking camera he has used for many years, film, hand held and processed by himself in stark monochrome using gelatine silver print. I find they have a deep emotional appeal.

He is one of my photography idols and so I was delighted when Marion forwarded an advertisement for an exhibition of his work, "Don McCullin: The Stillness of Life" that can be viewed online at hauserwirth.com until 30th September 2020.

In this exhibition many of the photographs are of the Somerset landscape that he has been coming back to regularly since he was an evacuee during World War 2. Don McCullin has for many years developed his own prints, however to add to the monochrome intensity of the images this time the pictures are specialist printed platinum-palladium prints.

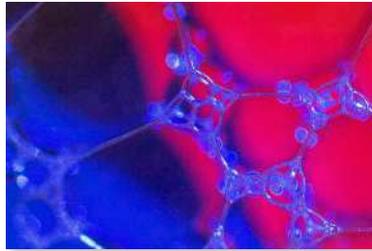


He says, "This work is therapeutic. I couldn't be happier than when I am standing out on a cold winter morning waiting for the right light, The platinum prints are the essence. They are as far as you as you can go with what I am trying to do and say."

Steph with a thank you to **Marion** for the exhibition information

colour over the print.

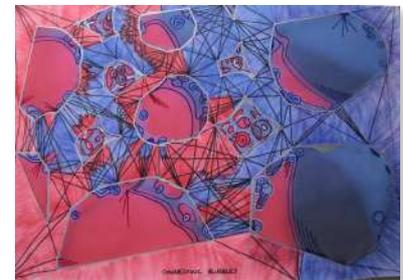
However, the base for the majority of my artwork is my photography. My brain seems to struggle to think ideas up from nothing – but, if I have a beginning, such as a photograph, then my imagination goes into orbit!



The photos show two different approaches.

The red and blue is a photo of bubbles over red and blue acetate.

The other is the same photo cut up and glued back down on white art paper – next I proceeded to paint the background the same blue and red and use felt tip pens to draw the lines connecting the bubbles. Finishing with a bit of silver pen as well.



The next is a photo of Venice; a reflection of one of their garbage boats!



I printed on art paper as an outline, colouring it in with watercolour pens and outlined with a thin black pen.



My husband thinks I'm mad, friends either love it, hate it, or don't understand!! As you know, I like to be a bit different, but when all is said and done, if I have made you stop and think, or even try something like this, I have done my job.

Thank you for reading - **Heidi**