

Herefordshire  
Photographic  
Society

Newsletter | Issue 5  
Summer 2021

# SNAPSHOT

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## *What's In Store*

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For all those lovers of colour photography, this month we're going to put all that colour to the test - literally! Colour vs Black and White, why not try out our challenge? You might be pleasantly surprised with the results and put black and white back on your menu. If you're still not convinced then we have an interesting section all about colour ratios and the impact that this can have on our images. There's also a new book review - and we couldn't leave you without writing about our visit to Veronika Lavy's Exhibition. Lots to get through in this edition so we hope you enjoy it.....

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## *The Colour vs B&W Test*

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In today's technological world it's not that difficult to switch your colour photographs into black and white ones using post processing software. But for some, black and white photography is the medium chosen in order to focus the viewer on the subject matter of a photograph and not (it is said) the distractions that colour can bring with it. Texture, shape, mood, simplicity -

all of these words describe why black and white can, potentially, be more expressive than colour in some situations - but it is, of course, a personal thing.

Our Book Review this month takes a look at two books both by the same author, Michael Freeman, because he delves deeper into this interesting



subject.

**So, which do you prefer - B&W photo or the Colour one?**

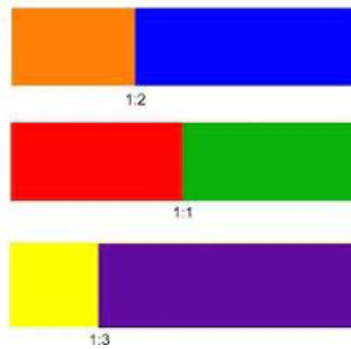
**The Colour vs B&W Challenge for you:** take photos (in colour and B&W) of a landscape, a portrait, a still life and a texture, and view them on your PC monitor (as opposed to in-camera). Be honest here - which medium do you think brings out the best in each of these photographic subjects. Let us know your thoughts!

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### *CCT*

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CCT, or Classic Colour Theory, takes a look at colour proportions and the impact that these colour relationships can have on our photographs.



\*"J. W von Goethe (a German Poet and playwright) was the first to assign values to hues. According to classic colour theory, colours harmonise most completely with each other when their

areas are in inverse proportion to their relative brightness. As proposed by Goethe, red and green are equally bright, so combine 1:1, orange is twice as bright as blue and so their ideal combination is 1:2, whilst yellow and violet are also extremes with ideal combined proportions of 1:3" (Freeman, M 2007 P121)\*

\*(Freeman, M *The Photographer's Eye*, 10th Anniversary Edition, ILEX 2007, London) (We'll be taking a closer look at Michael Freeman's book in our review later on in this newsletter).

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### *The Exhibition*

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On Friday 18th June a few club members made the journey to Hay-on-Wye's Thru The Lens Gallery to see Veronika Lavey's new exhibition "Emergence". It was a fascinating visit and the exhibition contained some incredible images. If you weren't able to make the exhibition it's well worth visiting Veronika's webpage at : <https://www.veronikalavey.com>

Here you'll find all the images displayed at Hay-on-Wye's gallery together with many more. If you start by opening the 'About' tab on the front page, Veronika provides you with background information which outlines her creative journey to this point in her career. Remember that Veronika will be visiting the Club in Autumn so please check our events page for more information!

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## The Book Review

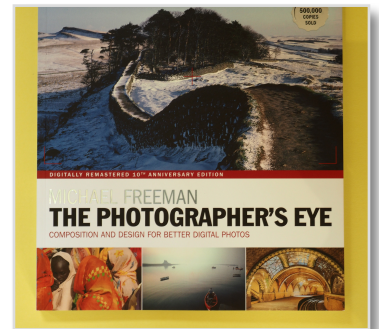
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Well, we promised you a book review - and this month Amanda is going to provide us with a couple of very interesting finds by the same author. Amanda, over to you.....

### **The Photographer's Eye (Composition and Design for Better Digital Photos),**

Freeman, M *The Photographer's Eye*, (Composition and Design for Better Digital Photos) 10th Anniversary Edition, ILEX 2007, London

As someone who is relatively new to photography it's not often that I find an author who takes you straight to the heart of photographic Frame Dynamics in Chapter 1 of their book! Complex as this sounds Michael Freeman (a very successful documentary and travel photographer) takes the reader on a very organised, colourful, six chapter, fully illustrated journey, explaining subject matter such as Design Basics, Composition with Light and Colour to Post-Production in a methodical yet comprehensible way. In Chapter 5, 'Intent' (P140) in the section entitled, "Clear or Ambiguous" he asks 'How obvious should an image be?' Images provide examples that support both sides to his question with the author continuing that "The dilemma, then, is that clarity packs a punch and so is a goal of photojournalism, but more ambiguous images that are slower to read are more likely to absorb more attention - and last longer, in other words." The whole book contains amazing photographic examples for the reader to digest alongside Michael's clear and concise narrative. It is also, I think a book that you can dip in and out of too. From my point of view I would give this book 5\* and I think it's well worth a read.



From the same author:-

### **Black & White Photography (The Timeless Art of Monochrome)**

Freeman, M *Black & White Photography* (The Timeless Art of Monochrome) ILEX 2017, London

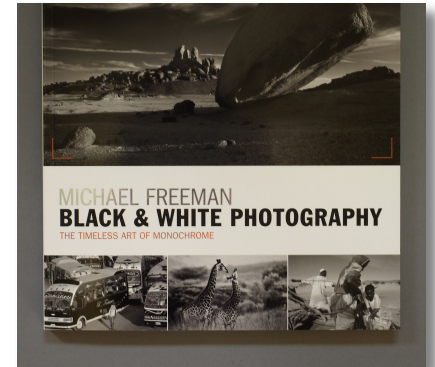
This book certainly is "your one-stop resource for everything monochrome" and contains just three chapters, "The Black & White Tradition, Digital Monochrome and Creative Choice". In his introduction Michael states that "What I will attempt in this book

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is to jolt black and white out of its normally complacent position, and in this I'm helped by the completely changed circumstances of digital photography." (P6) He goes on to explain, in Chapter 1 , "More fundamental than the 'how' of shooting monochrome is 'why' and 'when'." (P9)



Again the author provides the reader with many excellent photographs to illustrate his concepts which are outlined in step by step instructions within each chapter. Since I've started reading his book even I've begun to experiment more with black and white photography instead of always turning to colour as my first preference. Personally I enjoy Michael Freeman's style because I find it clear and concise. If nothing else his photographs are well worth a closer look. This is another book that I would recommend.

Both Paperbacks featured here are priced at £19.99p

Amanda Apps (Editor, Newsletter).

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## *NEXT TIME*

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Autumn will be upon us! Amongst other things, we'll be exploring ideas to help you capture those warm Autumn colours together with a glance at still life photography too!