



# DAVENTRY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



## Ralph Gibson :: The Photo Book

Ralph Gibson talked to Ted Forbes The Art of Photography

Ralph Gibson is one of the great living photographers today. His new book, *Refractions 2* will be released this summer. I got a chance to sit down with Ralph recently at Brilliant Graphics in Exton, PA who is printing *Refractions 2*. We talked about many subjects including the importance of photo books and the body of work they represent to the artist.

Ralph Gibson is an American art photographer best known for his photographic books. His images often incorporate fragments with erotic and mysterious undertones, building narrative meaning through contextualisation and surreal juxtaposition. Ralph Gibson studied photography while in the US Navy and then at the San Francisco Art Institute. He began his professional career as an assistant to Dorothea Lange and went on to work with Robert Frank on two films. Gibson has maintained a lifelong fascination with books and book-making.



Since the appearance in 1970 of *THE SOMNAMBULIST*, his work has been steadily impelled towards the printed page. To date he has produced over 40 monographs, his most current projects being "State of the Axe" published by Yale University Press in Fall of 2008 and "NUDE" by Taschen (2009). His photographs are included in over one hundred and fifty museum collections around the world, and have appeared in hundreds of exhibitions. Gibson has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1973, 1975, 1986), a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (D.A.A.D.) Exchange, Berlin (1977), a New York State Council of the Arts (C.A.P.S.) fellowship (1977), and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1985). The Rencontres d'Arles festival presented his work in 1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1989 and 1994.

His book "Syntax" received a mention for the Rencontres d'Arles Book Award in 1983. He was decorated as an Officier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1986) and appointed, Commandeur de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2005) by the French government. His awards include: Leica Medal of Excellence Award (1988), "150 Years of Photography" Award, Photographic Society of Japan (1989), a Grande Medaille de la Ville d'Arles (1994) and the Lucie Award for lifetime achievement (2008). Gibson also received an honorary doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of Maryland (1991), and a second honorary doctorate from the Ohio Wesleyan University (1998). He has worked exclusively with the Leica for almost 50 years. Gibson currently lives in New York and travels frequently to Europe and Brazil.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)



Having begun his a c c l a i m e d photographic career as an apprentice to the great documentarians Dorothea Lange and Robert Frank, Ralph Gibson is known for his highly distinctive vision in still photography. By intensifying contrast and emphasising the grain of the film in his prints, Gibson concentrates on the minute details: the edge of a café table, the arc of a hip, the glint of a fork. Gibson's works are both formally vigorous and eternally evocative. His photographs are in major private and public collections

worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Bibliotheque Nationale.

Source: [Weston Gallery](#)

*Have a look at these YouTube video's and marvel at Gibson's self belief. What he expresses is quite true, believe in yourself and your work, do it your way.*

[Ralph Gibson :: The Photo Book - YouTube](#)

[Ralph Gibson: On Being An Artist - YouTube](#)



## Urban Exploration Photography

Urbex is a subfield of architecture photography, which takes many different forms. Mostly, it is about exploring the urban habitat and the countless exciting places within it.

This usually involves entering abandoned buildings such as old factories, derelict residences or other urban ruins. The aim is to document the building's state of decay. It is all about examining what happens to these buildings after the former inhabitants are long gone and how nature reclaims these places step by step. All sorts of oddities can be found in these places, from antique furniture to old machines.

**Although it is a lot of fun and really exciting to delve into the history of an abandoned place, it can also be really dangerous. Rotten structures, mould or asbestos are only some of the risks that you face when you enter a derelict building. The most dangerous part about it is that in some cases, it is illegal and you can be prosecuted for trespassing when you enter a place without the permission of the owner.**

## Photographer Jan Stel



Photographer Jan Stel was born in the Netherlands in 1970, and describes himself as a self-taught fine art photographer and Photoshop artist. We discovered his work on [Behance](#), and found that in his youth, he used to spray graffiti murals in the suburbs of Amsterdam and at home he painted detailed drawings and realistic illustrations. The analogue photo gear from his father was the start of his interest for photography, and inspired him to develop his own creative style. Jan Stel's photography is made with pure natural light. No flashlights or studio-lamps are used.

Nor does Jan use HDR or other automatic presets. "Photoshop is used to brush the photographed brackets into a sort of light painting, similar in a way old doka-masters and painters do." says Jan. "The works are toned to extend the atmosphere."

He started the Abandoned & Forgotten project back in 1998, and it has taken him to many giant structures like craft businesses. Here he finds things like old machinery, beaten up cars, and he's even explored castles.



## Industrial Night Photography

**Industrial Estate At Night is a photograph by Robert Brook**

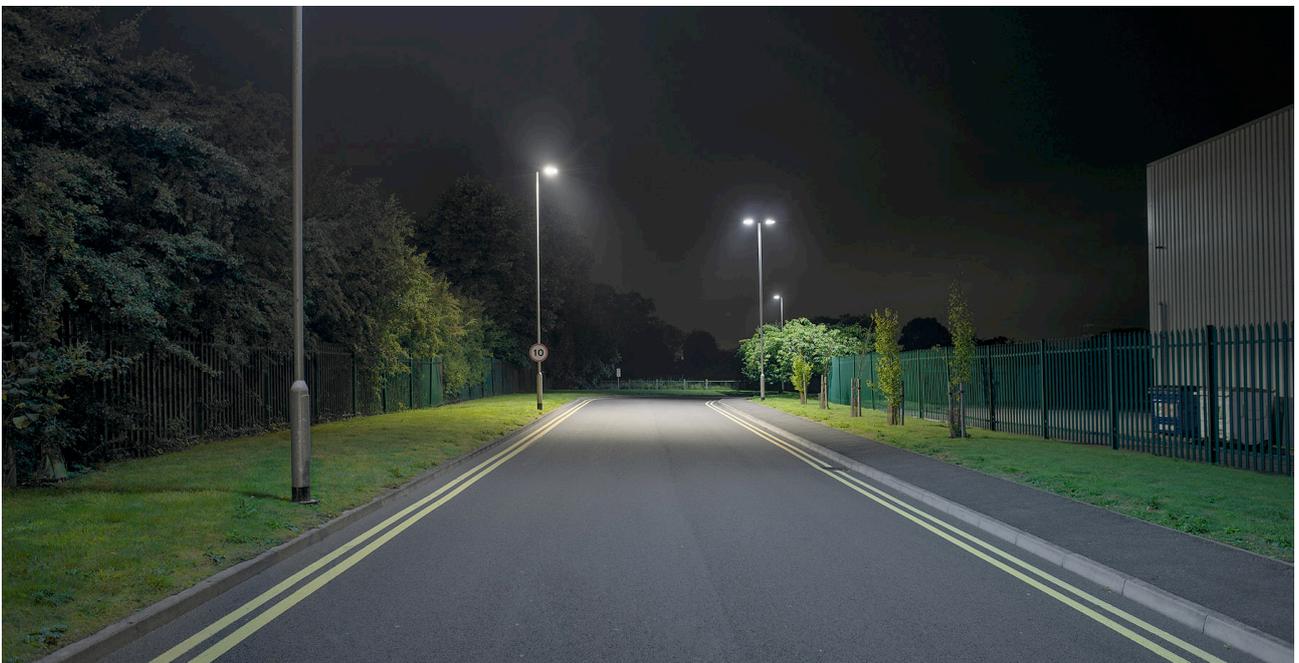
The first time I did any outdoors night photography was back in the summer of 1989 in the fringes of East London. I was experimenting with a high resolution technical film using a medium format camera. I had intended dusk, but the light continued to fall, and it became night. There wasn't much to see where I was: just rows of sodium lights and then nothing, except the sound of the Thames. It struck me that you don't need much when you are photographing at night.

During the 1990s I found myself visiting areas of heavy industry, trying to negotiate the conflicting demands of corporate PR and the press, at a time that there was a demand, sometimes rather simplistic, for stories and images of environmental damage, as well positive views. Often I found myself working at night, and for this project I have visited many of the same areas, now with a more low-key approach, taking in ordinary streets and urban areas, trading estates, fragments of infrastructure and occasional industry.



In 2002 I created a website called 'UK Nights' (a Yahoo Pick of the Day) which incorporated some of the early work together with pictures of London at night by John May. I shot in

square format black and white, and it was not until I went wholly digital in 2010 that I began to work mainly in colour, and it was at this point that I started the current site, although after three major revisions, the latest in 2018, it now has a very different look.



[Night Photography by Robert Brook](#)



**DPS members will not want to miss this bargain**

Leica is set to make 10 gold Leica M10 cameras available in honour of the coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, and each is expected to cost around \$50,000.



**Bob presenting Colin With the  
Peter Cosentino Trophy  
Congratulations to Colin**

We had another outstanding year for entries, The standard was high with some interesting and original work.

***Don't forget, we want to feature your work in DPS news***

***If you have an interesting project then share it***

## MK Gallery - Vivian Maier: Anthology

11 June - 25 September 2022

Vivian Maier (1926-2009) has only recently been revealed as one of the most significant photographers of the 20th century. She was a professional nanny in New York and Chicago for over 40 years but took hundreds of thousands of photographs, which were found when her belongings went to auction in 2007.

[Vivian Maier: Anthology review – the attentive, intimate images behind the myth | Photography | The Guardian](#)

# DPS what's on JULY 2022

## **5th July Members Evening - Walk around Abington Park, Northampton.**

This will be a practical session within the boundaries of the park.

Meet at 6.30pm outside the entrance to the museum.

## **12th July - Competition (Print): Theme A local Village.**

Judge: Derek Larkin.

A digital copy of entries to be uploaded to Photoentry by 1st July.

Prints to be submitted by 7.15pm on the night.

## **19th July - Members Evening.**

**Bob Holt and Bee Jackson** - a Cyanotype practical session - all equipment will be provided.

## **26th July - Guest Speaker -Andrew Gagg** - First steps in Audio Visual.

Andrew will be joining us via Zoom.

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