



The Image – Monthly NEWSLETTER

The Abertawe Photographic Society –

Based near the heart of Swansea, Abertawe Photographic Society is an established, friendly and welcoming club, who's members both amateur and professional all share a common interest, in all aspects of photography.

Whether you are a complete beginner or a seasoned snapper, interested in digital techniques or 35mm film, there is a warm welcome by a likeminded group of people sharing in the search for the perfect image.

By sharing, not only our enthusiasm but also our skills, techniques and knowledge, we all grow as a club and by trying new things we all get the opportunity to stretch our boundaries. All members are encouraged to take part in club events.

The Society meets every Tuesday at:
Greenhill Community Centre
Chapel Street, Dyfatty,
Swansea.SA1 1NB.

This Month's Events: March

- 6th Hand In for Comp 2
- 13th Editing Images
- 20th 2nd Monthly Comp (Brian Coleman)
- 27th Studio Evening

Magnum

No, it's not the ice cream or the PI, its Magnum Photos, an international co-operative comprising of photographers who own and run the organisation. To become members they must undergo a rigorous process of self-selection in order to become full members. The Magnum photographers meet once a year, during the last weekend in June, in New York, Paris or London, to discuss Magnum's affairs.

Magnum was first established in 1947, and based on an idea by Robert Capa. The founding members were Robert Capa, David "Chim" Seymour, Henri Cartier-Bresson, George Rodger and William Vandivert, who were all photographers; Rita Vandivert and Maria Eisner were the founding members in Paris, 1947. However, Seymour, Cartier-Bresson and Rodger were all absent from the first and founding meeting. Robert Capa's idea was to establish a community of thought, a share human quality, a curiosity about what is going on in the world, a respect for what is going on and a desire to transcribe it visually.

It now has offices in New York City, Paris, London and Tokyo.

Magnum photographers have including many great and renowned photographers, including one of my favourites Ansel Adams, as well as Steve McCurry, Robert Capa, Yousuf Karsh, and Brian Duffy, etc.

Steve McCurry's famous image of a young Afghan girl. The young girl was located some years later by the National Geographic and photographed again as shown in the second photograph.



Ansel Adams and one of his many images of Yosemite National Park in the USA.



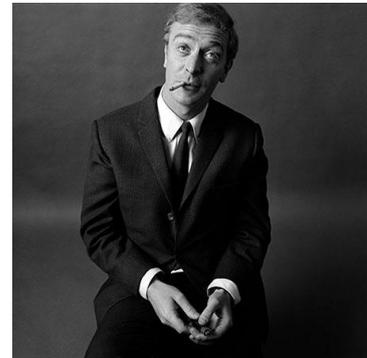
A Robert Capa photograph, believed to be the first photograph showing someone being shot, this was during the Spanish Civil War.



Yousuf Karsh mainly took portraits; this is of a young Fidel Castro. He took many images of World leaders, including Winston Churchill, Nikita Khrushchev and John Kennedy. He also photographed famous people such as Albert Einstein, Mother Teresa as well as famous Hollywood actors of the time.



Brian Duffy was famous during the 'Swinging 60s' mainly with photographs of famous, actors, pop stars, etc. This included the image here of Michael Caine.



There are many fascinating images in the Magnum galleries dating from around 1947 when Magnum was started through to the modern era. If you wish to take a look go to the Magnum web site at www.magnumphotos.com.

Hope you enjoy looking at some of the images as I did.

Metering Modes

If you are like me, your camera is probably stuck on the Evaluative (Matrix for Nikon) Metering mode, which is the default setting on most cameras. Choosing the mode to suit scene may be an aspect that we tend to ignore when taking a photograph, it's a mistake many of us make!

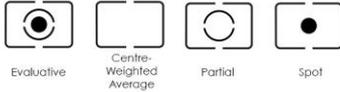
Let's begin by me explaining what metering is. I always believe that you need to understand the basics of anything before you go into explaining why, and is therefore vital to understand before you learn about your camera's individual metering modes. Metering, means taking a light reading,

just as you would with a light meter. A correctly exposed image is made up of three tones of light namely, the shadows, mid-tones, and highlights.

Your camera has an ingenious tool called a light meter that enables it to determine a correct exposure with a balance of shadows, mid-tones, and highlights. You'll see it at the bottom of the frame when you put your eye to the viewfinder. Therefore, through the use of your camera's light meter you can achieve greater creative control to slightly under/overexpose your image.

Your camera has a choice of modes; Canon has 4 modes and Nikon 3 modes, as shown on the chart below.

CANON METERING MODES



NIKON METERING MODES



So, with modern day DSLR cameras you have the ability to choose and adjust the metering mode, or how the camera measures the brightness of the subject. Metering works by assessing the amount of light available for a photograph, and then adjusting the exposure accordingly. Sometimes, however, your camera isn't intuitive enough to get the exposure right when using Program, Shutter Priority, or Aperture Priority modes. However, you the photographer have the ability to make manual adjustments to the metering mode. I'm not going to explain how to do this but simply suggest that you look at your camera's User Manual to know how to perform this, as all camera makes are different, and may vary between models. But I am going to explain the different modes available.

Evaluative (Canon), or Matrix (Nikon) Metering sets the metering automatically to suit the scene and subject of the photograph. The entire scene within the camera's viewfinder is used to assess the appropriate metering. This is the mode to use when you're not sure which mode the scene will require. This is actually a complex metering system whereby it splits the scene up into a series of zones. The overall exposure is based upon the camera evaluating each zone individually and averaging out the total light readings. After this the camera will determine the most suitable exposure. Its best used for scenes, and subjects, that have even lighting.

Centre-Weighted Metering as the name describes gives priority to the center portion of the photograph, but also takes the surrounding portions of the shot into consideration; therefore Canon will describe this as Centre-Weighted Average Metering. This mode is actually somewhere in between Evaluative and Partial Metering. You should use this mode when the subject is in the centre of the photograph to ensure that it is exposed correctly, and not affected by the exposure of the background, such bright light or sun. It is best used for general and portrait photography, where the central portion of the image is correctly exposed.

Spot Metering reads light from between 1-5 % of your scene. Some photographers use this mode more than any other, but it may be more challenging for you if you are just learning about your camera and metering.

It is particularly useful to use spot metering in conjunction with the exposure lock button and the center AF point selected. Aim the center point of your viewfinder at the subject or light source to meter from it. Lock in the exposure and recompose, then focus and shoot.

Spot metering mode is also good for portraits as it tends to get the correct skin tones. However, it is not recommended when shooting landscapes unless you are looking to obtain a silhouette image.

Partial Metering mode is mainly used by Canon cameras (not Nikon); it requires zooming in to your subject. The light meter in your camera will read the light from an area the size of 6-15 % of the center of the scene.

You may have to use the exposure lock button, which is mainly used in conjunction with Aperture or Shutter Priority mode. With this button held down, you lock in the exposure with Partial Metering and can recompose the shot by using either of the two modes, without the settings changing.

If the background is much brighter than the subject, is an ideal metering mode to use. For example, a person standing next to a window with bright sunlight shining through or a bird on the top of foliage.

Setting your camera to partial metering is the perfect solution to back lighting problems, as many photographers use to their advantage when creating stunning backlit portraits.

..... and finally

St Peter and Lucifer were at the gates admiring the clouds when the subject got onto photography. They couldn't agree whether Heaven or Hell had the best photographers so they decided to arrange a photo contest.

St Peter rubbed his hands with glee and Lucifer demanded to know why he was looking so smug. "Well," said St Peter, "in Heaven we have all the best photographers".

Lucifer slowly raised his head, grinned and replied "Ah, but we have all the judges..."

So that's where we get them from!!!
