

Forest of Galtres Camera Club

Monday 13th November

The Last 3 Years – Richard Egan FRPS DPAGB

The last three years has seen a major change in the focus of Richard Egan's photography from landscape to the female form. In January 2016, he came along with one of his favourite models, Jaime-Nicole Raynor-Joyce, to give a workshop in photographic portraiture. Amongst others, Jaime was the subject of many of the images shown on Monday evening. Here was someone able to withstand sometimes cold and uncomfortable surroundings to create a stunning image captured through Richard's lens. An image of Jaime on the bottom section of Whitby pier on a very cold and grey day was a case in point or maybe when she was photographed amongst the dramatic landscape of Brimham Rocks.



Richard always spends time considering the potential of any environment including the impact of available light whether indoors or out. Venues included The Temple of the Four Winds at Castle Howard, Scampston Hall, Guy's Cliffe House in Warwickshire, a disused mine, The Grand Hotel in York, the Marmion Tower, West Tanfield as well as specialist studio

locations. Some interiors were majestic while other could be described as rustic or relics of a past age.



It is very important to Richard that he had a good working relationship with the subject of his photographs and that he is clear in his mind before a shoot begins that he knows what he wants to achieve. Richard's aim for his outdoor work is to contrast the very smooth pale skin of his model against the texture of the environment. Key points to remember when photographing models was to ensure the light caught the eye of the subject, and that the nose fell within the cheek outline. He rarely uses anything but natural light even indoors preferring the effect of light through a window. He took many photographs with models using a length of voile to create soft and ephemeral effects. Models were invariably on tiptoe and Richard stressed how important it was for the model to create triangular forms with her body which would create a more striking image. Dark nail polish is a no-no. He advised how important it is for the model herself or himself to be happy with results. And apparently, a supply of baby wipes is useful so that the model can keep clean feet for the different photographs! Most of his work in sepia or monochrome.

One particularly set of photographs was achieved because of Jaime's inspiration to create images based on the four elements of water, fire, earth and air. Together with a makeup specialist four striking images were created, one of which is included below.

Many thanks to Richard for sharing his knowledge and skills with everyone. His fee for the evening, as always, goes to Yorkshire Cancer Research.