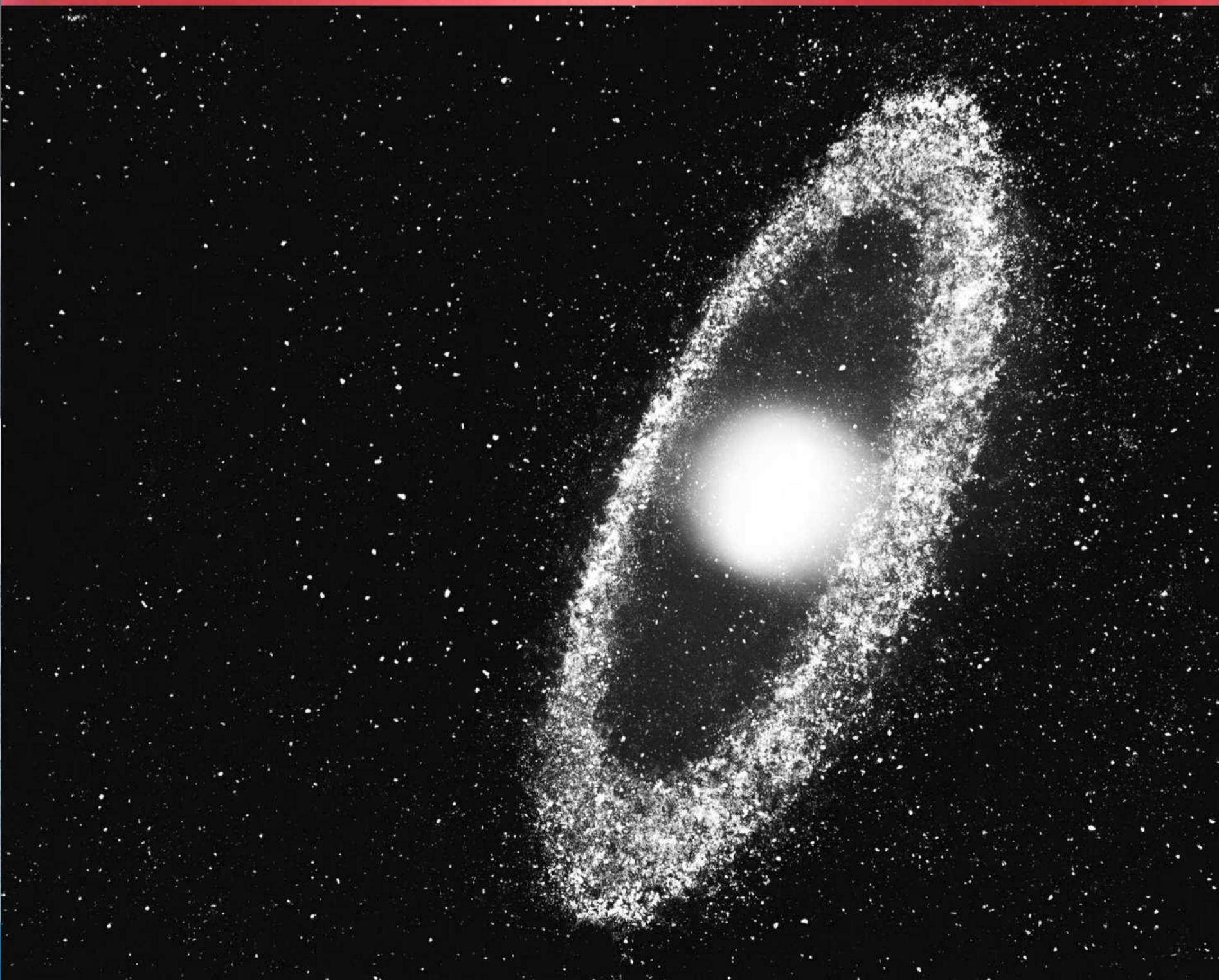


A POCKET SIZED INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAITURE & PEOPLE
LANDSCAPE & PLACES
DOCUMENTARY & NARRATIVE
STILL LIFE & CONSTRUCTED REALITY
ABSTRACT & EXPRESSIONISTIC

STREET LEVEL PHOTOWORKS



PORTRAITURE & PEOPLE

A portrait is a representation of someone and its origins can be traced back through human history to prehistoric cave drawings. A portrait usually aims to represent not just a visible likeness but also the social status, mood, interests and personality of the subject. The invention of photography and the popularisation of affordable camera equipment made it possible for more people to access inexpensive portraits. The increase in smart phones, social media and the selfie phenomena means that images of people are more common and circulated more than at any other time in history.



Arpita Shah, *Tudong*, 2013.

Arpita Shah: *Purdah – The Sacred Cloth* is a series of portraits of women from the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu communities living in Scotland, who practice the tradition of head covering or veiling. It offers an example of a beautifully shot series of portraits shot in a studio.

Try making 2 different portraits of someone you are spending this lockdown period with - one portrait in your home, using a plain background and a single source of light, and one on location. In each one try to represent different aspects of their character, profession, hobbies or social status.



Margaret Mitchell, *Leah in the Backcourt*, 2016.

Margaret Mitchell: *In This Place* is an intimate documentary series which traces the lives of the family of the photographer's late sister. It offers a broader commentary on environment, opportunity and social inequality. The portraits represent a powerful example of environmental portraiture.

LANDSCAPE & PLACES

There are many differing ideas about what makes a landscape photograph. Traditionally landscape photographs have been inspired and influenced by traditional western landscape painting with images that present the landscape as a natural and tranquil environment. Some photographers choose to photograph other subjects such as the city, and even the human body and interior spaces can be described as landscapes, creating interesting vistas through the skilled use of light, lens, point of view and aperture. These expand the idea of what a landscape can be.



Iain Sarjeant, *Mayfield*, Edinburgh, 2013.

Iain Sarjeant: *Out of the Ordinary* is a series of colour works of everyday Scotland in both urban and rural places that bear the hallmarks of human intervention. These are dynamic landscapes, constantly being altered, and part of the fascination for Iain is the element of chance involved - stumbling upon scenes that we may walk past every day and which often look very different the following month, day or even hour.

Try to shoot 2 different landscape images, one traditional with lots of nature and one that shows a quirky view of the city.

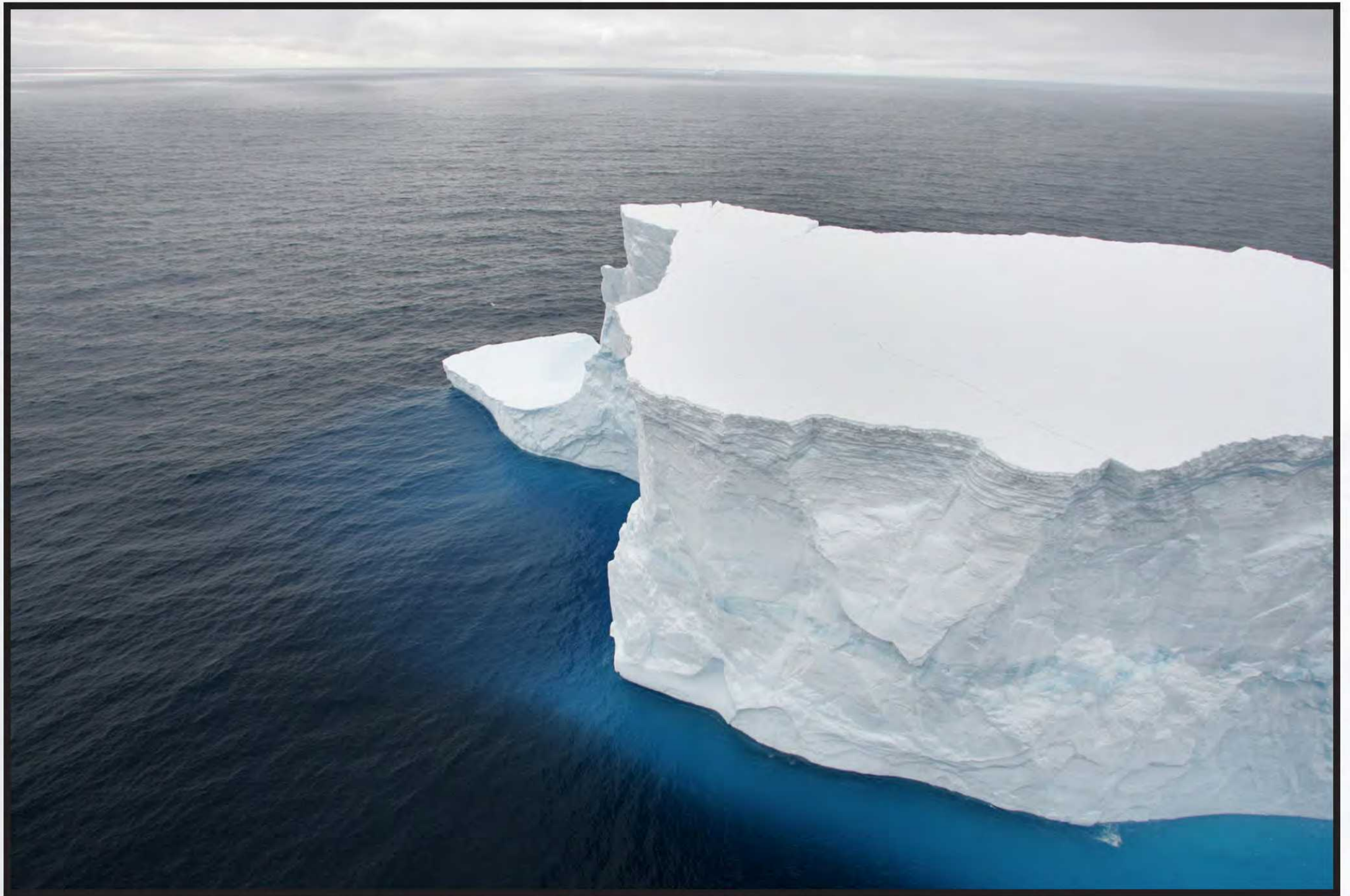


Martin Hunter, *Clyde Car*, 2014.

Martin Hunter: In the series *Forth & Clyde*, Hunter searches off the beaten track along the canal route that links the River Forth and the River Clyde, intersecting with the pathways along the River Kelvin, places left behind by recession and over-run by nature. It captures an interzone between past and present, the dereliction of industry and the reclamation of nature.

DOCUMENTARY & NARRATIVE

Documentary photography usually refers to a popular form of photography used to chronicle events or environments relevant to history as well as everyday life. Often, the context where a documentary photograph is seen will influence the way it is understood - today it can be as common to see a documentary photograph in an art gallery as it is in a newspaper. Debate around the reliability of the photograph as a truthful document is as old as the medium itself and many photographers explore and question the idea of documentary as truth through their work.



Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert, *Icebergs and brash ice in the Southern Ocean, off coast of Antarctica*, 2005.

Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert is a Scottish photographer who is part of **#EverydayClimateChange**, a collective Instagram account involving 20 photographers from 6 continents who document the causes, effects, and solutions to climate change. A great example of contemporary campaigning documentary photography which originated on and is conducted through the internet.

List 3 different roles you think documentary images play in society today.



Oscar Marzaroli, Boys in High Heels, Gorbals, 1963.

Oscar Marzaroli is one of Scotland's most notable documentary photographers, whose images of Glasgow from the 1960s through to the 1980s captured a period of enormous change. This image captures boys playing in the street when there were fewer cars on the road and it was safer to do so and in a time before the internet and computer games when streetgames were more popular.

STILL LIFE / CONSTRUCTED PHOTOGRAPHY

Still life is a genre of photography mainly used for representing objects, traditionally drawing on inspiration from early paintings. Objects are chosen for their symbolic references as well as thematic relevance. Still Life photography has expanded beyond the studio and the crafted study of light and form into more complex, constructed environments. Constructed images vary from a classic still life and can involve an assortment of objects, multiple images and the use of several mediums in the construction of imaginary scenes that are then presented as a single image.



Kotryna Ula Kiliulyte, *Kotryna Is From Lithuania*, 2013.

Kotryna Ula Kiliulyte: *Away Home* deals with themes of cultural identity through food. Each picture represents the food traditionally made in different countries of people who have moved to Scotland to live and work, people that Kotryna knows. The photographs were carefully constructed taking inspiration from 17th century Dutch still life paintings, and they are meant to evoke a sense of belonging for that place called home.

Create a traditional still life image using objects that reflect an aspect of your character or cultural background.

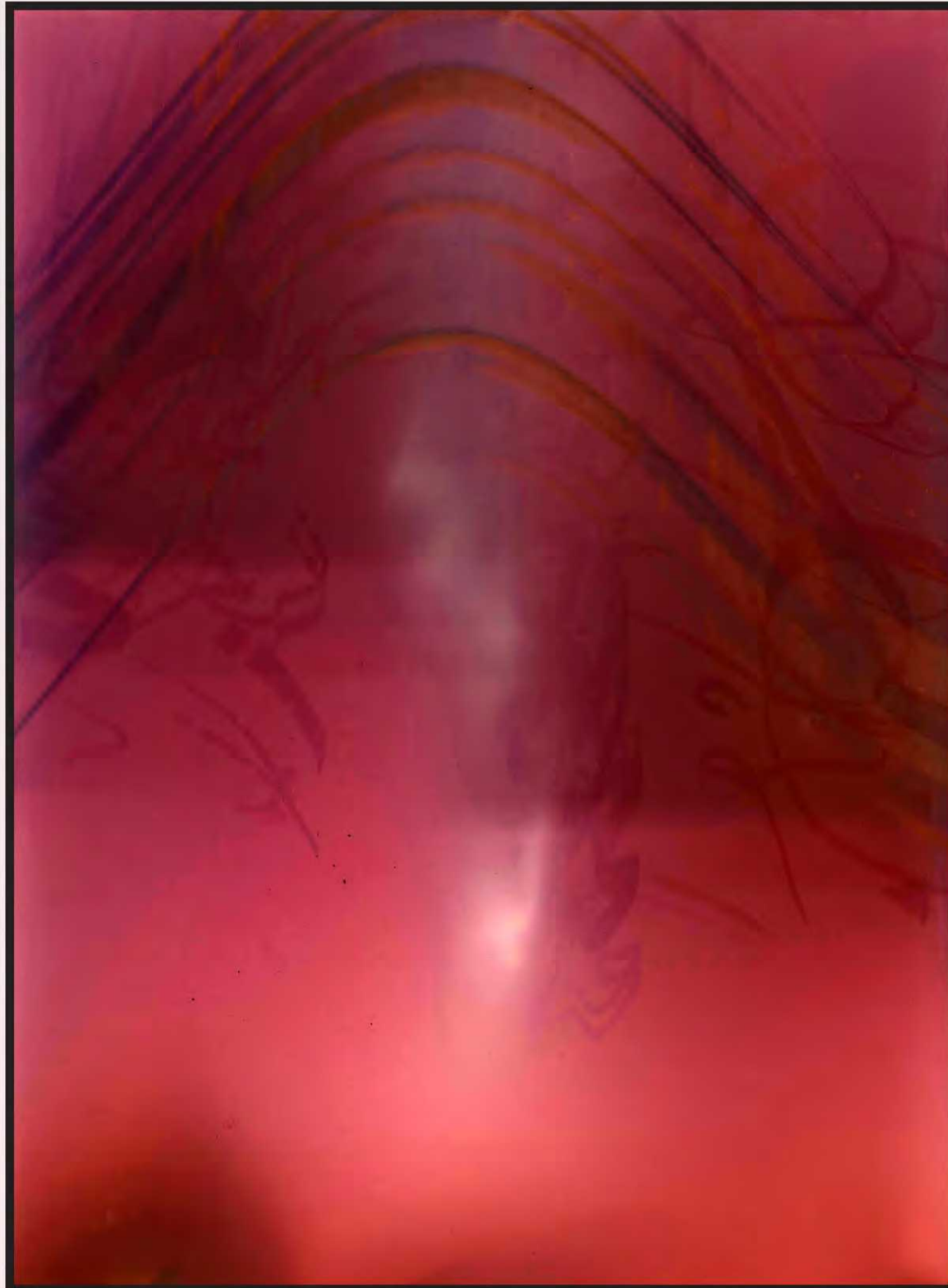


Calum Colvin, *Anger*, 1993.

Calum Colvin: is a contemporary master of constructed photography whose rich visual imagery is layered with symbolism reflecting upon contemporary concerns relating to society, the environment, popular culture, globalisation, Scottish history and national identity. He uses everyday props and combines painting and sculpture in complex and colourful installations which are then photographed.

ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHY

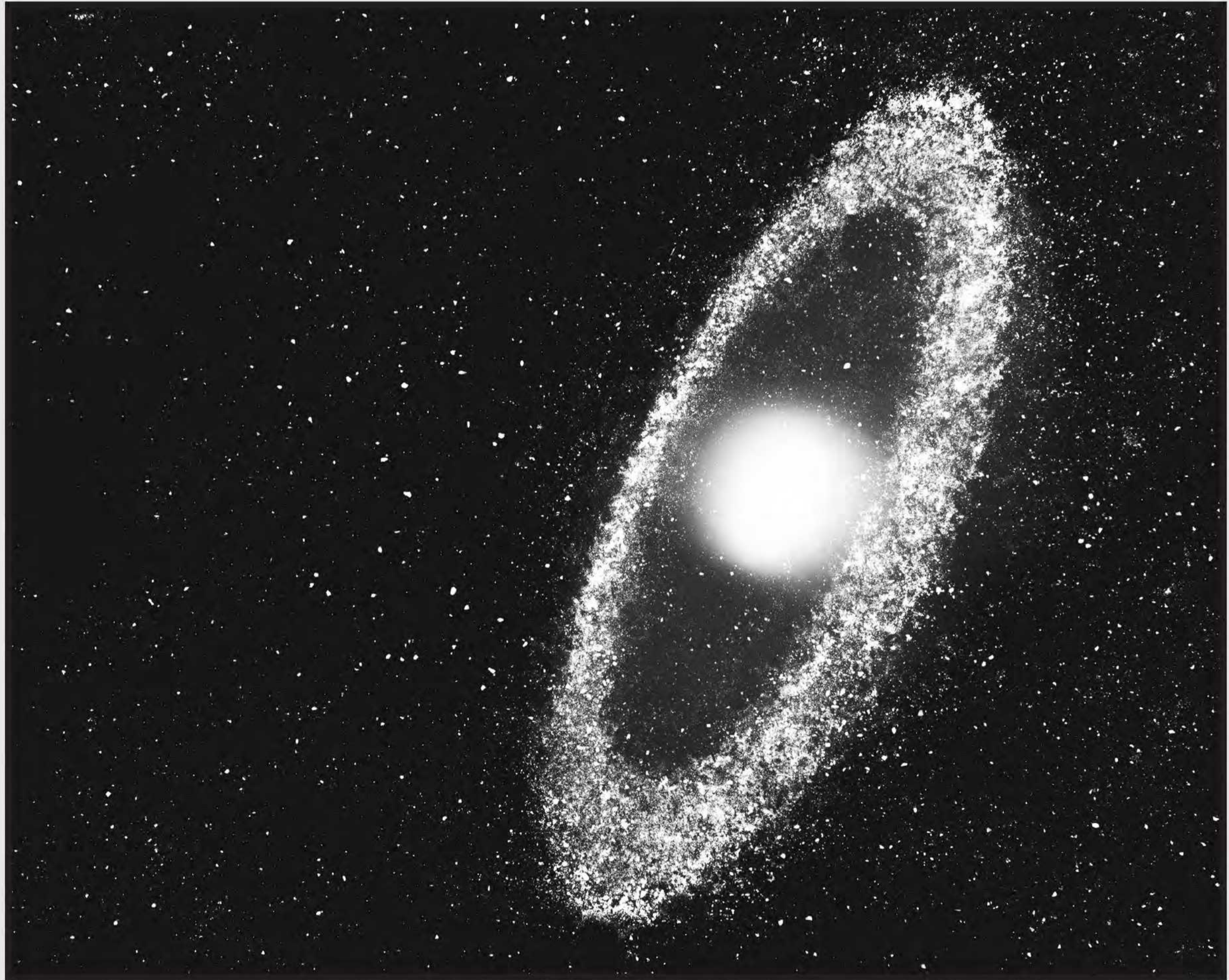
This genre is threaded through the history of photography, with artists creating images with no immediate association with the object world. These often explore elements of light and chemistry as a medium for expressing ideas, emotions and play. The images can be made with or without the use of a camera. It can be described in different ways including experimental and conceptual.



Frank McElhinney, *Arbroath*, 2015

Frank McElhinney: *Only For Freedom* in this series of photographs combine a process-based approach to alternative photographic image making, with a keen sense of history and a poignant political viewpoint. The abstract images – Solargraphs - are produced in pinhole cameras made from Pringles tubes and exposed over many weeks.

Find 2 examples of artists creating abstract photographic images without the use of a camera.



Alan Knox, *Universal Sympathy 06*, 2018.

Alan Knox: *Universal Sympathy* is a series of black and white photograms which are made without a camera and involve placing things on the surface of a light sensitive material such as photographic paper and then exposing them to light. In this case these, the images were made in the darkroom by scattering the cremated ashes of his grandfather, creating a vision of the universe in which one can see almost as far back in time as the Big Bang, reconnecting the remains of the dead with the origin of all life.

INFO & LINKS

Street Level Photoworks provides inspiring encounters in photography for all; a creative setting to make, engage with, and buy photography. Education lies at the heart of our activities. We have a developing range of resources online to support further exploration of photography, including video interviews with artists, image galleries and an on-going Photography on Screen series.

Browse past exhibitions and talks from the What's On page or go to the Education section for further links:

streetlevelphotoworks.org

The artists featured in this mini publication have all featured as part of our programme in the last few years.

We have a wide range of talks and presentations on our YouTube channel, including Arpita Shah, Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert, Alan Knox, Frank McElhinney and Calum Colvin.

youtube.com/user/StreetLevelPhoto/videos

Relevant links and websites:

Arpita Shah: arpitashah.com

Margaret Mitchell: margaretmitchell.co.uk

Iain Sarjeant: iainsarjeant.co.uk

Martin Hunter: martinhunter.co.uk

Oscar Marzaroli: streetlevelphotoworks.org/event/oscar-marzaroli
gcu.ac.uk/foundation/themarzarolicollection/

Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert: instagram.com/everydayclimatechange
jeremysuttonhibbert.com
documentscotland.com

Kotryna Ula Kiliulyte: kotrynaula.com

Calum Colvin: calumcolvin.com

Frank McElhinney: frankmcelhinney.blogspot.com

Alan Knox: alanknoxphotography.com