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Cover Image: Kristian Piccoli, Photographer of the Year 2020

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(generally) and away from the current strains of work. It was a worthwhile project which adds to the body of portraiture and imagery produced to reflect the strange times in which we have been living. The people pictured are going to be vital in the coming years as the NHS struggles to cope with the devastation visited



upon us. The NHS has been placed under incomparable stress by a government who seem happy to stand clapping on their doorsteps for photo ops but unwilling to do anything in terms of monetary recompense to recognise the work they do. We will all pay the price for this in the future as it seems likely that COVID variations will continue to emerge, long COVID will remain and there is a huge elective surgery backlog to be attended to. I am presently reading the book by Jonathan Calvert and George Arbuthnott, *Failures of State*. It is an excoriating account of the failure of the government to deal with both pandemic readiness (ranging back to before the Cygnus report) and the tardy response to the arrival of the virus in Europe. Anybody who thought the Murdoch press would not lay a glove on Johnson needs to think again, the authors are from the Sunday Times. The additional deaths and economic damage (per capita amongst the worst in the world) are affecting our photographic businesses as much as any – just ask any working photographer how they have fared or try to attract any magazine advertising.

One of the delicious ironies of the situation is that the vaccine which is currently protecting me was developed in Germany by the child of a Turkish guest car worker, just the sort of person Priti Patel is so desperate to keep from our shores. The father of Professor Şahin would probably not qualify for UK entry under current regulations. In 2019, Uğur Şahin was awarded the Mustafa Prize, a biennial prize for Muslims (and non-Muslim scientists in Muslim countries) in science and technology. He is now amongst the 100 richest people in Germany. We should all be grateful for his and other vaccine developers for thier expertise.

At Imagemaker we have not been idle at the loom and next issue you will see some of the new tricks we have 'learned in lockdown' – especially with Adobe Illustrator and CorelDRAW.

We note that this issue features the 70th contribution from Dave Montizambert which is quite an achievement for which we are most grateful. Thanks Dave and Sylvianne (and the chickuns!).

Mike McNamee



Submissions are welcome, preferably in digital format and accompanied by a paper proof copy to the address above. Images should be in TIFF format RGB at 300ppi (Adobe RGB 1998 preferred). Text should be in RTF text form.

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The Societies of Photographers



The Societies'

Photographer of the Year 2020



Kristian Piccoli The Societies' Photographer of the Year 2020 Open Avant Garde Photographer of the Year 2020

The Societies' Presentation Evening is proudly sponsored by Loxley Colour.





The 2020 Vision Project – Behind the Mask

A tribute to UK healthcare workers by nationwide portrait photographers



by Angela Adams

Societies' members who took part in the project were:



Deb Hall, Kerry Clark Howes, Johanna Elizabeth, Rachel Thornhill, Gordon Russell, Gary Hill, Rhian and Darren Whiteley and Angie Adams

What do you get if you ask a hundred photographers to take pictures of off-duty healthcare workers (when safe and appropriate to do so) during a pandemic? An emotive exhibition of visual storytelling, coupled with touching personal backstories which had me reaching for the tissues!

At the start of the first UK lockdown in 2020, Brighton-based Photographer **Sophie Sheinwald**, set about coordinating a collaboration of 100 photographers who ventured behind the mask to portray the human story of healthcare workers outside of their healthcare environments. Eight months and a huge amount of work later, the first exhibition was unveiled in Bishopsgate, London. Each print reflected the dedication, resilience and teamwork of our amazing healthcare workers. A second virtual exhibition took place online between 23 and 27 December 2020 – the time meant for Christmas bubbles. And a third in March 2021, again virtually, at the NHS' fourth annual health and wellbeing conference, as we were once again in national lockdown.

How was the project born?

The idea came from a few things that had juxtaposed in my life. Firstly, the outcome of being inspired by meeting and photographing change-makers from three years of working on the book *Generation Share*. Secondly, the tumultuous applause in gratitude of healthcare workers at the start of this pandemic, followed by thirdly, coming across portraits of NHS workers I'd taken 20 years ago as an artist working in healthcare environments. With all that rolling around inside my head, an idea burst through that kept me awake at night – to create beautiful portraiture as a tribute to these amazing people, nationwide. This opened up a collaboration which led to asking portrait photographers across the UK to join me. On 22 March 2020, I put a call out on FB live – it snowballed from there.

Tell me about the ethos behind the project?

I wanted to create a historic tribute to healthcare workers. They are a group to whom we are truly indebted. The idea was to see behind their masks, away from the uniforms that many sometimes wore for more than 12 hours each day. It was their time to be visible and what better way to honour them than through beautiful portraiture from talented UK photographers?

I admire how each photographer used their unique style to capture the spirit of each person they photographed. This was something that has been evident throughout the project. As a photographer I see the importance and power of visibility; I am passionate about positive storytelling. Each journey we embark upon has challenges to overcome, stories that help to inspire others. Through the 2020 Vision Project, we collectively make healthcare workers visible – they need to be more valued!

I can see we are in great danger of losing many of these dedicated, passionate people if we don't help in some way and I believe the 2020 Vision Project bridges a very important gap as it unmasks the human story.

Was it difficult to source 100 photographers during a pandemic?

I was touched by the generosity of so many photographers who wanted to be part of the project. Honestly, I was overrun with portfolios to look through but I just loved it! Sadly, we had to turn many photographers away as we had so many more than the one hundred who applied, and that was very difficult for me.

What has been the best part of the project for you to date?

Definitely when the exhibition was hung in the Ethelburga Centre, London during September 2020; our exhibition brought these incredible stories to life. A positive story for me involves a journey, often with many obstacles, it involves plenty of drive, resilience and plenty of heart – and there it was, up on the walls, a collaborative body of work epitomising positive storytelling. The Christmas exhibition saw a huge increase in traffic, it went viral – there was definitely a thirst for stories.

Fast forward to March 2021, we were proud to showcase these incredible works directly to the NHS's wellbeing, staff experience conference, Regroup, Reflect, Recharge. The NHS Confederation for NHS Employees was looking for something to enhance their conference and said our project was a perfect addition. We opened our online gallery especially for NHS employees from 10 to 15 March. They were delighted and many said they found it incredibly validating.

What challenges did you face administering the project?

Originally, I had planned to get NHS and healthcare workers nominated for photographers who came on board. However, with the constraints of the pandemic, this was a very tough call! Luckily most portrait photographers are great communicators and were keen to find healthcare workers in their area. Then in April 2020, I was contacted by Marie Curie Hospice in Edinburgh who wanted to nominate their healthcare workers for portrait sessions; this led to us having portraits representing their nine hospices across the UK! Overall it was a lot of effort but the resulting rewards made it worthwhile.

Did a particular photograph or back story touch you?

YES!

Photographer, Lisa Holmes', portrait of Andrew Marshall, Principal Social Worker at the Marie Curie Hospice in Bradford. Andrew said, 'I've had so many difficult conversations with families who wanted to visit their loved ones but couldn't due to the COVID restrictions. It challenged my values as a social worker. My role is key in helping families work through difficulties and hardship and through supporting resilience. Telling people that they couldn't come and visit was really hard. I used virtual visiting to help families stay connected. It was a privilege to support this process and be there to facilitate this. I organised a hospice-wide sunflower competition. I wanted to say thank you to my colleagues for everything they were doing.'



Photographer Lisa Holmes: *Andrew Marshall* – Principal Social Worker

The 2020 Vision Project – Behind the Mask

Photographer, Shabana Jiwaji's portrait of Esha Shah, Physiotherapist at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Private Care Unit, Stanmore, London. Esha said, 'The private practice changed almost overnight and our 28 side rooms became dedicated to COVID-19 patients. All my team had been redeployed so I could conduct a highly specialised elite group of healthcare professionals. Within two weeks I had to retrain to deal with the intricacies of the treatment required for our patients. Everyone in our team had a fantastic hands-on-deck attitude. With every patient who was successfully discharged, we celebrated. One such discharge was a gentleman of 101 who was going home to his 98-year-old wife. Despite getting COVID-19 myself, I feel very honoured to have helped'.



Photographer Shabana Jiwaji: *Esha Shah* – Physiotherapist

Photographer, David Green's portrait of Bev Ryan-Hawes, Senior Mental Health Nurse at Mill View Hospital, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Bev said! My wife was ill with COVID and needed an ambulance one night as she couldn't breathe. My fear of losing her was unbearable. I couldn't let her see this as I didn't want to make her feel fear and then worsen her illness. At the same time, my mum was very ill, and I felt I had to choose between being with mum and my wife. I chose my wife. My mum later died and I never had the chance to see her alive again.

Holding the space for my beautiful wife, surrounding and bathing her with love whilst she healed and recovered. Holding the space at work at times of uncertainty for junior staff and patients, who were already in fear, through mental distress and now feeling more fearful because of COVID-19.'

Photographer, Sarah Ferry's portrait of Kelly Anderson, Senior Staff Nurse at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Grampian NHS Trust, Scotland. Kelly said, 'After a long 12 years as an oncology nurse and 15 months off on maternity leave, I was ready to start a new job as a specialist nurse in the pre-assessment clinic. However, I had a phone-call saying I'd been redeployed to the Acute Medical Assessment unit, to help fight the COVID-19 fight.

My daughter knew not to come near mummy after work until I'd showered AGAIN and that mummy would strip her clothes at the door (which she found hilarious); she also told people, 'Mummy needs a nap because she works all night looking after patients at the hospital and fighting the bug'.

My proudest moment was when she said, 'Mummy, I want to be a keyworker like you when I grow up'.



Photographer David Green: **Bev Ryan-Hawes** – Senior Mental Health



Photographer Sarah Ferry: *Kelly Anderson* – Senior Staff Nurse

A little about Sophie



I do love working alongside people to bounce ideas off but I work alone. I get my people fix when working with my personal brand clients on their visual stories and catching up with fellow photographers.

What's the one piece of kit – camera aside, you wouldn't be without and why?

I like to keep things simple, so perhaps my flash tripod unit; it has been with me all over the world and helped me light people, even in the most awkward of places. Camera equipment aside, a good bit of observation and focus before any equipment is taken out of my bags, is possibly my best practice.

What do you love photographing and why?

Lighting is like sauce, you can make anything taste good with a delicious sauce, and with good lighting, it enables you to bring out a certain magic in any subject.

However, there's also a light inside each person that we as photographers can illicit. I love to bring out people's passion and let it shine – that is what I love photographing.

What would you say is the most important challenge you've faced as a photographer?

It took me ages to understand who my ideal client was! For years I disliked answering this marketing question but I think it is important, as once you know, you are clearer on your direction and you can communicate better to your audience.

We each have a potential sphere of influence that attracts people to us for our particular expertise.

Looking at a photographer's portfolio can be revealing – what does your portfolio reveal about you?

I think mine says – people are interesting and have a story to tell the world. Hopefully, it reveals that I enjoy connecting with people.

What's your why?

Bringing harmony to the world! This is a very crazy world; here we are, a global community that desperately needs to get over our fear of each other. I believe that through storytelling we are changing this because we each have a relatable story. So through new narratives and visibility, we can help change the world with positive storytelling

Who inspires you?

I believe inspiration comes from listening to people around you. I have noticed that there's wisdom to learn from each person I meet. Again that's why I love stories, meeting people and learning from them.

More recently I have been very inspired by many of the healthcare workers and photographers I've had conversations with since this project began.

What do you love, hate, and can't live without?

Love – the sea when it is dead calm, sun rays through trees and eating delicious food with people I love and admire.

Hate – people who trample on others' vulnerabilities – they show a lack of courage!

Can't live without - laughter!

Anything else you'd like to share?

I think I've said quite enough!

More about Sophie: https://sophiesheinwald.com
More about 2020 Vision Project: www.2020visionproject.co.uk



Photographer Deb Hall: *Major Angela Laycock* – *Operation Rescript* leader for the building of the Birmingham Nightingale Hospital.



Photographer Gordon Russell: *Maire O'Riordan* – Marie-Curie Consultant in Palliative Medicine

The 2020 Vision Project – Behind the Mask



Photographer Angela Adams: Caroline Lawrence – ICU Staff Nurse



Photographer Rachel Thornhill: **Alistair Hardy** – Doctor ENT Registrar – retrained to work in ICU



Photographer Gary Hill: **Shane Byrne** – Nurse



Photographer Johanna Elizabeth: *Lynda Worley* – Neonatal Staff Nurse



Photographers Darren and Rhian Whitley: *Tracy Jones* – Nurse