

Beyond the Border:

New Contemporary Photography from Scotland



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Beyond the Border: New Contemporary Photography from Scotland

Document Scotland:

Sophie Gerrard, Stephen McLaren, Colin McPherson, Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert

Set against the backdrop of the historic referendum on Scotland's independence this exhibition brings together the work of Document Scotland - four photographers, each with a distinctive view of a nation in the midst of intense debate about its future.

Beyond the Border is one of the most significant shows of new Scottish photography in a generation; setting out to challenge clichés and Scottish stereotypes. It pays tribute to the country's rich history and celebrated landscape and brings together a story of modern-day Scotland and its diaspora, whilst exploring the country, its people and identity.

Document Scotland is a collective of four Scottish documentary photographers brought together to witness the diverse social, cultural, political and economic changes which are occurring in Scotland at an important time in its history. Events over the next few years will shape how Scotland relates to its neighbours and the wider world. Document Scotland believes that photography can play a central part in recording a visual legacy of these times.

This exhibition guide is available to download on our website impressions-gallery.com/exhibitions

Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert

Edge of an Empire

"Look back over the past, with its changing empires that rose and fell, and you can foresee the future too."
Emperor Marcus Aurelius, successor to Emperor Antoninus Pius

Edge of an Empire is a study of the Antonine Wall, the northern most frontier of the Roman Empire.

It was when I was planning to leave Japan, after living there for a decade, that I had the notion to visit the Antonine Wall...I wanted to reconnect with Scotland to see the landscape again... to feel the Scottish raw weather on my face once more after the dull humidity and white skies of ten Tokyo summers.

Having lived abroad, away from my home culture and family, I tried to imagine what it must have been like for the soldiers of the Roman Empire as they patrolled the Wall in the rain and snow of a Scottish landscape...I tried to imagine what the landscape would have looked like in AD 140, and through my wanderings I explored what has become of the Wall consumed by modern developments, shopping centres, golf courses and ski slopes.

I also met the Antonine Guard, men from all walks of life who have a strong interest in military history... and heard them talk of their hopes for the Roman history of Scotland to be better known and their desire to keep that era of history alive.

The Antonine Wall was built in the AD 140s on the orders of Emperor Antoninus Pius, running for 60km (39 miles) from the west starting at modern Old Kilpatrick, on the north side of the River Clyde, through to the east coast to Bo' ness on the Firth of Forth.

The Antonine Wall, a ditch with turf rampart, protected by 19 forts and fortlets, was manned for approximately 20 years before being abandoned for reasons unknown. In 2008 the Antonine Wall gained UNESCO World Heritage site status. The Wall is still there, under the towns in the central belt of Scotland; under overgrown fields a reminder that this land was once ruled by the Romans.



Between Kinneil and Polmont
Sunday 22nd September 2013

N55°59.805' W3°41.177'



Ditch at Rough Castle Fort, near Falkirk
Friday 19th April 2013

N55°59.889'.W3°51.432'



Legionnaires of The Antonine Guard, the 6th legion who manned the The Antonine Wall, near the Rough Castle Roman Fort
Sunday 21st April 2013

N55°59.925'.W3°51.179'



Outside *The Carrick Stone* bar, named after a nearby Roman altar stone, outside The Antonine Shopping Centre, Cumbernauld
Friday 3rd May 2013

N55°56.923'.W3°59.246'



Looking north towards the Croy Hill section of the wall, Antonine Course, Dullatur Golf Course
25th February 2014

N55°57.15'.W4°1.36'



The Antonine Guard beside the Forth and Clyde Canal, Auchinstarry
Sunday 14th April 2013

N55°58.002'.W4°02.915'



The Antonine Shopping Centre, Cumbernauld
Friday 3rd May 2013

N55°56.767'.W3°59.442'



The 'lilia' defensive pits, Rough Castle Fort, near Falkirk
Friday 19th April 2013

N55°59.906'.W3°51.397'



The Antonine Guard beside the Forth and Clyde Canal, Auchinstarry
Sunday 14th April 2013

N55°58.002'.W4°02.915'



Summit of Castlehill, upon which once stood a Roman Fort, Bearsden
Friday 22nd March 2013

N55°55.28'.W4°21.50'



Mosswater local nature reserve, Croy
25th February 2014

N55°55.60'.W4°2.31'



The Antonine Guard beside the Forth and Clyde Canal, Auchinstarry
Sunday 14th April 2013

N55°58.161'.W4°02.148'



John Richardson, known as Gaius Julius Riticus, a Tribunus Militum
of the 6th Legion, Auchinstarry
Sunday 14th April 2013

N55°57.58'.W4°2.55'



David Severn, known as Sextus Varus Rufus, a Legionary Optio
Second-in-Command, Auchinstarry
Sunday 14th April 2013

N55°57.58'.W4°2.55'



Kevin Grant, known as Flavius Macrinus, Centurion of the 6th Legion,
Auchinstarry
Sunday 14th April 2013

N55°57.58'.W4°2.55'



Joe Witcombe, known as Valerius Secundus, a Hamian Syrian archer
of the 6th legion, near Rough Castle Roman Fort
Sunday 21st April 2013

N56°0.7'.W3°50.29'

Sophie Gerrard

Drawn to the Land

Working and living in a male dominated world, women have a significant yet under represented role in farming in Scotland. *Drawn to the Land* is an ongoing project documenting the lives of the women who are themselves farmers, not farmers' wives and who are working, forming and shaping the Scottish landscape.

From Highland crofters to Lowland farmers, Gerrard's photographs are an intimate look at these women and how their lives interrelate with the land in which they live and work.

Scotland's landscape is considered to be one of its richest natural assets and having worked and lived away from Scotland for eight years Sophie Gerrard *"wanted to understand the connection I, like many Scots, have with the landscape. It's a great symbol of our national identity. It's how many of us relate to Scotland when we are away...and yet how many of us actually know it...I wanted to go beyond the romantic picture postcard view and learn about the land through the eyes of those who are responsible for it...I was curious to see it from a female perspective"*



Lochan Shira Hydro power reservoir high on Sybil McPherson's remote hillfarm, Argyll & Bute
April 2013



Sybil McPherson on her hillfarm near Dalmally, Argyll & Bute
April 2013

This hillfarm has been in my family for over 170 years. My grandfather was born here. My father would carry me about the farm on his shoulders. I love it, the call of the curlew, seeing the swallows, watching the seasons.



Patrica Glennie on her livestock farm near Lauder, the Scottish Borders
January 2013

At lambing time women can be particularly nurturing, instinctive and perhaps more patient. You could look at it from a maternal perspective.



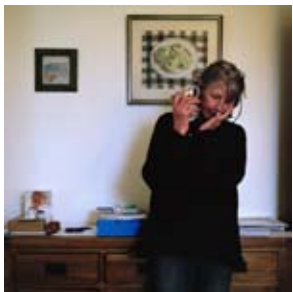
Minty Mackay's home, Isle of Mull
March 2014

Isn't it everybody's dream to have a piece of land. Land suffers when the heart isn't there.



Sybil McPherson gathering sheep, Achlian Hill, Dalmally, Argyll & Bute
October 2013

We're not really hillfarmers, we're mountain farmers. There's two Munros on this farm, the blackfaced sheep are up there now, we won't see them till the summer.



Minty Mackay, on her croft near Bunessan, the Isle of Mull
March 2014

Personally I feel it's such a privilege, to be able to work with the land. And I think that when you look at the successful operations here on Mull, it's often because there is a strong women behind it which has made it possible.



Lorraine Luescher, on her hillfarm near Langholm, the Scottish Borders
February 2014

When I'm standing high up on the hill, looking down over it, I feel very insignificant, with an awareness that I'm part of something much bigger and that I'm only here for a very short time.



Argyll & Bute, Scotland
October 2013

This landscape has been here for thousands of years and it will continue to be here for thousands more. It's the opposite of feeling in anyway having power over that land, it has the opposite effect it makes me feel very small.



Mary McCall Smith, on her farm near Crieff, Perthshire
May 2013

I've been lucky enough to live here all my life, it's an exceptionally beautiful part of the world. Nothing ever stays the same. I see myself not as a landowner but as custodian of this beautiful place, I feel I have an moral obligation and responsibility to leave it as good if not better than it was when I came here.



Lauren, working at Mary McCall Smith's farm in Perthshire
May 2013

I'm not from a farming background, I come from the city. Right now I'm at agricultural college in Fife, I'm working on farms and learning as much as I can.



Lorraine Luescher's kitchen, near Langholm, the Scottish Borders
February 2014

My maternal grandmother bought these hillfarms. I must have inherited some of her genes... That's my little brother, he was 25 when he died. That was me as a baby and that's the 4 of us, in a wheelbarrow, Dad loved that photo.



Animal medicines, Lorraine Luescher's farm, near Langholm, the Scottish Borders
February 2014

When I'm in that landscape it's a very cleansing feeling. I suppose it's partly because it's an environment which is so uncomplicated. Then I come back down to life, the complications of business, feed costs, and all those things. When I'm out on the hill it's just me and the landscape which has been there for millions of years.



Blackfaced ewes at Patricia Glennie's farm, Lauder, the Scottish Borders
January 2013



The Dalmally livestock sales, Dalmally, Argyll & Bute
October 2013



Mary McCall Smith's home, near Crieff, Perthshire
May 2013

My grandfather tenanted this farm from 1905. My father was born here and lived here all his life, he was a forward thinker, he pioneered ways of working. He was a good father in that he just more or less said I'm here if you need me. The best way to learn is through your own mistakes. I think my father and grandfather would be proud of how the farm is now...of what I've done here. I've done my best.



Mary McCall Smith at the Dalmally sales, Argyll & Bute
October 2013

We are totally dependent on the weather. There's no other industry so dependent on the weather. You could be the best farmer in the world and still be completely stuffed by the weather.



Anne McClarty at the Dalmally livestock sales
October 2013

It's the landscape that shapes your early years. It influences what you admire and where you feel confirmable. Everyone has some personal connection to the land.



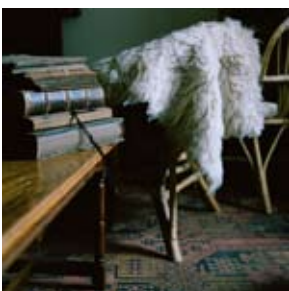
Minty Mackay at her croft on the Isle of Mull
March 2014

I think that the speed of things is just the same in the islands, physiological speed - things are speeding up. Sometimes it brings me contentment, but sometimes it can feel like a pressure. It can feel as if there is a great barrier to the mainland and sometimes I wonder why I'm here.



Sybil McPherson and Snowflake, an orphaned lamb who lived in the kitchen, Dalmally, Argyll & Bute
April 2013

So it's a very fine balance and years and years ago when there were more people around lambing sheep and things like that it was different. Ours is a fragile existence. We have to adapt to fit what we can.



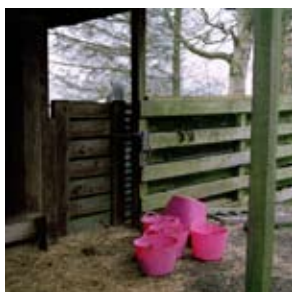
Minty Mackay's home, the Isle of Mull
March 2014



Hillfarm, Dalmally, Argyll & Bute
May 2013



Lauren cares for an orphaned lamb at Mary McCall Smith's farm near Crieff, Perthshire
April 2013



Mary McCall Smith's farm near Crief, Perthshire
April 2013

The farm is the most important thing. It's really the only thing as far as I'm concerned. I suppose that's quite a narrow minded way of looking at things. I now have this dilemma that neither of my daughters are interested in farming - I want to leave here in a box.

Stephen McLaren

American Always, Scottish Forever

American Always, Scotland Forever is a series of portraits depicting both Americans of Scottish ancestry and participants attending several Highland Games 8,000 miles away in California. McLaren has photographed visitors, musicians and athletes to reveal a world of Americans who retain a close affinity with the 'Auld Country' even though they may never set foot there.

As a Scottish photographer who has never worn a kilt I have been a double rarity at these events. In the first instance being born in Scotland meant that I was one of the few attendees who had the complexion and accent to be convincingly Scottish. Secondly, the fact that tartan irritates my skin meant that my attire was always less Caledonian than the people I was photographing.

The Scottish virus which includes pipe bans, sword-dancing, tossing the caber and sheep dog trials is alive and well in California. An annual calendar of around twenty Scottish festivals and Highland Games brings a mix of recent Scottish émigrés and for those whom Scotland is an approximate, yet proud source of their family heritage.

The passion for Scottish sports and culture at events like these could be seen as quaint...but for the thousands of Americans...who attend it is an escapist weekend where they get to celebrate the fact that they are all descended from immigrants.



Karina Ramos, Lizette Molina and Adriana Osegueda
Scottish Fest
Costa Mesa, Orange County, California, 2014



Jeremiah Reed
Tartan Day Scottish Faire
Fremont, California, 2014



Bydand Forever: The Gordon Highlanders of 1882
Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, California, 2012



Andrew LeRoy, Melissa Yarns and sons
Tartan Day Scottish Faire
Fremont, California, 2014



Elizabeth Higgins and Alexander Moore
Queen Mary's Scots Festival and International Highland Games
Long Beach, California, 2014



Adam Barron
Queen Mary's Scots Festival and International Highland Games
Long Beach, California, 2014



Stephanie Graham and Joshua Morgan
Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, California, 2012



William Lee John Taylor
Queen Mary's Scots Festival and International Highland Games
Long Beach, California, 2014



Liann Jimmons
Scottish Fest
Costa Mesa, Orange County, California, 2014



Phillip Mericle and Celina Hubbard
Scottish Fest
Costa Mesa, Orange County, California, 2014



Denise Palermo and Bethany Owen
Tartan Day Scottish Faire
Fremont, California, 2014



Bill Scott
Dixon Scottish Games
Dixon May Fairgrounds, California, 2013



Hollen and Chase MacKinnon, from the Clan MacKinnon
Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, California, 2012



Elizabeth Davis and Andrew Davis
Dixon Scottish Games
Dixon May Fairgrounds, California, 2013



Heather MacDonald
Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, California, 2012



Chris Payne
Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, California, 2012



Michael Macellari
Tartan Day Scottish Faire
Fremont, California, 2014



Jonathan MacGregor
Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, California, 2012

Colin McPherson

A Fine Line

This body of work is a year-long exploration of people, places and landscapes of the physical border between Scotland and England. The photographs are presented not in a chronological order but geographically starting from the western end of the border at the town of Gretna, famous for eloping English couples and finishing at Lamberton, Berwickshire on the edge of the North Sea.

The idea of the border being a barrier is so outdated – look across Europe, the frontiers are open.

A border is a strange concept...it defines, reflects and prioritises peoples' lives, yet in a sense it is an arbitrary expression of historical events. The border between Scotland and England has not been contested for centuries, which means you can see the subtle differences on either side of the line.

I was less interested in documenting the border per se, instead I wanted to feel my reaction to it as I walked, drove and cycled up and down it over the course of one year...I like to think of photography as exploration, both in a physical and visual sense: A Fine Line allowed me to indulge in both.



Welcome to Scotland, 2013

The point where the M74 motorway intersects the border at the small Scottish town of Gretna, next to the River Sark.



Solway Firth, 2013

A barbed-wire fence by the banks of the Solway Firth, with the English side of the estuary visible in the background.



Married couple, Gretna, 2013

A couple returning to Gretna one year on from their marriage. Gretna has long been a popular destination for people getting married, which dates back to an era when the age of majority was different south of the border.



Union Road, Gretna, 2013

Union Road, a reference to the 1707 Treaty of Union between Scotland and England.



Wedding, Gretna Green, 2013

Marriages have continued to be conducted here since the time when the age of majority was different in Scotland and England. Eloping English couples were a regular sight in Gretna in the past.



Jimmy Boyd, Gretna Bowling Club, Gretna, 2013

Gretna Bowling Club, located in the small Scottish border town, plays competitive fixtures only against other Scottish teams as the rules of the sport differ on either side of the border.



Farmland, Hustle Bank, 2013

Farmland by the banks of the River Sark, which marks the boundary between Scotland and England. Agricultural practices aren't very difficult on either side of the border, but due to the European Union and the governments in Edinburgh and London, the experiences of farmers and farming is quite different depending on where you live and work.



Campsite, Canonbie, 2013

Caravanning is a British obsession and this campsite in the heart of the so-called debatable lands hosts holidaymakers from both Scotland and England, making it look like a football match between the Scots and the Auld Enemy.



The Holm Show, Newcastleton, 2013

A young Scottish girl with equestrian trophies won at the annual Holm Show in Newcastleton.



Sheep judging, Newcastleton, 2013

Scottish farmers looking at the sheep judging at the annual Holm Show agricultural show at Newcastleton.



Liddel Water, Penton Bridge, 2013

This historic bridge over the Liddel Water marks the border and is a popular place for people from both countries to relax and socialise.



Tourist, Carter Bar, 2013

A Chinese tourist poses for a photograph at a point which historically rival Scottish and English armies would cross the border during skirmishes and battles.



Site of the Battle of Redeswire, 2013

This field was the site of the last battle between the kingdoms of Scotland and England, which took place in 1575 AD and resulted in a Scottish victory.



Salmon Nets, Paxton House, 2013

Nets drying at Paxton House at the site of the last salmon netting station on the Scottish side of the River Tweed. Laws governing salmon fishing using a net and boat are different on each side of the border.



Woman with a Union Jack bag, Town Yetholm, 2014

A woman with a Union Jack bag waiting for a bus before going to nearby Kelso to shop. "People think the bag represents my politics, but really, I just liked it" she said.



Haulage business, Lamberton, 2014

Scottish flags on a articulated lorries parked in a haulage business a mile from the border with England.



Border fence, Cheviot hills, 2014

The fence which marks the border between Scotland and England, high up on the slopes of the Cheviot hills in the Scottish Borders.



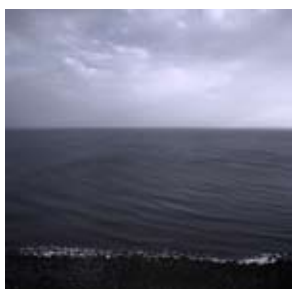
Garden gnomes, Town Yetholm, 2014

An army of garden gnomes gathered in a garden under the Scottish flags, possibly waiting to repel an army of English gnomes just beyond the border?



Berwickshire coastal path, 2014

The first sign of Scotland: the Berwickshire coastal path which intersects the border high above the North Sea, just north of Berwick-upon-Tweed.



Inshore waters, 2014

The North Sea, looking east from the border. In 1999 by order of the Westminster parliament in London, around 6000 square miles was unilaterally transferred from Scottish ownership to become part of England's territorial waters.