

Advice for Portfolio Review attendees

We want you be able to get the most out of your group review session. This document is designed to help you to prepare and advise you on what you might like to bring to the event.

The event is primarily a feedback session. We offer comments and advice on how to develop your project or ideas, and we are not explicitly trying to find work for the gallery programme.

Frequently asked questions....

Who will be reviewing my work?

The reviewers will be Mahtab Hussain, whose exhibition *You Get Me?* is showing in the gallery, and Pippa Oldfield, Head of Programme at Impressions.

How much work should I bring?

There is no one rule fits all with the amount of work to bring for review, it depends on the nature of your work and what stage of a project or idea you are at. We recommend bringing work from just one main project as time will pass quickly, but feel free to bring another project if you feel that would be helpful. We also suggest editing your images beforehand and thinking about any questions you would like to ask.

I'm just an amateur is this suitable?

People at many different stages and levels of photographic practice attend our review sessions. Impressions reviewers are always interested to see new work and keen to give advice on possible directions for development. The main thing is that you are open to dialogue.

How should I present my work?

The presentation of your images will depend on the nature of your work, how far

along you are with your ideas and what level you are you are at within your photographic practice. The reviewers will understand this. Don't feel you need to spend a lot of money on presentation, work prints are fine.

Consider presenting your work in a way that allows it to be viewed quickly and easily. Many photographers like to present their photos individually in clear acetate sleeves in a portfolio box. While it's fine to bring a tablet to show supporting material, we recommend you bring prints. This enables the reviewer, to lay the images out all together and aids the editing process.

Top tips

- Spend some time before the review thinking about your work and what you want to get out of the review.
- Look at the work of the exhibiting artist and our website to find out what we do beforehand.
- Think about any questions you may like to ask about your work, its development and direction, its strength and weaknesses.
- Bring a notebook, and make a note of any artists, photographers, books, or exhibitions that may be mentioned to you.
- The reviewers will offer constructive criticism, so there's no need to be intimidated! Reviewers are actively looking for the potential for improvement within the work – by discussing this they aim to challenge your ideas and help you develop your work, but always in a supportive way.

Typical questions we might ask include:

- How long have you been working on this series of images?
- How do they relate to work you've taken previously?
- Is the work complete or do you feel you need to add more?
- Have you shown the work to anyone else?
- How do you want to present it?
- What made you interested in making work around this subject area?