BCC Meeting – Speaker Event – Gary Gough

On Monday 8th September we welcomed members back into the OLC after the long summer break. It was lovely to see old friends and meet many new members and guests. This was to be an exciting evening as, unlike other years, we were opening the season with a speaker event. We were honoured that Gary Gough, YouTuber, Fine Art Photographer and 'Influencer' (at the age of 64) agreed to drive down from Huddersfield to share some of his knowledge and skills.

On Sunday Gary had met up with 8 members and 2 guests to guide us through the art of slow shutter speed landscapes created by using neutral density filters and graduated filters, our aim - to create minimalist images.

Now on Monday evening, it was a chance to see a collection of Gary's Fine Art. He set the scene from the start of the evening by recounting a painfully hilarious comedy of disasters he had some years ago. I think the next time we find ourselves out for the day with the wrong lens or no spare batteries we have to remind ourselves to just make do with what we have and get on with it. Things could be so much worse. Imagine following Gary's example and finding ourselves standing semi naked on the side of the motorway, locked out of our car and all energy spent as a result of forgetting the base plate for your tripod. Some how that puts it all in perspective.

Gary has been persuing photography for the last 20 year having previously been a studio photographer but more recently, in pursuit of creating something different, when visiting popular locations, he has discovered minimalism.

Basically, Gary cleans up his images to remove chaos and distractions. Gary is well aware that what he calls 'Fine Art' might not be to the taste of others but he loves it and continues to create. He never adds to the image (except perhaps a vignette) but he always takes away. In doing so he has learnt to see differently. An over hanging tree branch or some debris on the ground does not stop him from

taking an image because he can see the potential and knows he can clean it up in his post processing. With this degree of insight he will often photograph subjects that others would pass by without stopping.

He talked about the 'lone tree' images that so many photographers strive to create and stressed the importance of seeing this pursuit from an entirely different perspective. The image is about celebrating the wide open landscape and allowing the tree to provide us with a focal point within the scene. He suggested that we should avoid 'nasal hair' photography where there is a trend to crop in too tightly. By zooming out we are creating more of a story. He encouraged us to use negative space to our advantage and in doing we evoke emotions.

He discussed the science of long exposures and how to calculate our timings. He explains this well in his YouTube Video Master Long Exposure Photography in Minutes .

He suggested we should challenge ourselves to create an image of a commonly shot location and endeavour to create something original.

If you do take on this challenge it would be wonderful to see your results.

We hope you enjoyed Gary's inspiring talk. Please do see the offer below from BCC Photoschool.

If you would like to checkout more of Gary's images click on the link below.
https://garygough.co.uk/