

Platanos College News

Friday 23rd March 2018

Year 10 Photography Outreach Programme



Members of the Platanos Art Department, - Ms McAteer, Ms Wall, Mr Gent and Ms Kernon - with two of the winning Year 10 pupils: Joanna Byrne and Zied Talaboulma.

In January, The Art Bermondsey Project Space (ABPS) and Olympus offered Platanos College the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Olympus Photography Outreach Programme in the borough of Lambeth. ABPS is a new art platform sponsored by Olympus. The aim of the gallery is to become a driving force behind the artistic and cultural scene that is rapidly developing in the area.

The programme invited students to turn their eyes away from their own reflected image of the 'selfie' and rediscover the beauty and poetry of their everyday places. The programme was conducted with the theme *My School, My House, My Street*, producing very interesting results.

The programme started by ABPS and Olympus representatives visiting the school to present the Olympus Photography Programme to pupils and teachers and later, an Olympus photographer giving an orientation on the value of photography. Following this, the pupils took part in a free photography workshop conducted by one of OLYMPUS' photographers to familiarise themselves with the cameras.

Every pupil had access to a camera to take several shots in the three different contexts mentioned above and then choose the best three shots to submit to Art Bermondsey Project Space. ABPS chose one best shot from each of the pupils, and the final selection of images were professionally printed by Olympus to be exhibited for a week at Art Bermondsey Project Space, with a purposely-made catalogue.



A Private View was held for parents and school staff to see the works of the students on Wednesday 21st March. Furthermore, a jury panel of photographers and art critics selected the three best shots of the whole exhibition and awarded a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize. Each winner will receive an Olympus camera.



1st Prize Winner was Joanna Byrne for "Reflection",
2nd Prize, Nathan Osei-Prempeh for "Chicken funeral" and 3rd Prize, Zied Talaboulma for "Joyride".



Reflection by Joanna Byrne

“Each of my photos were taken by using the same process; if I felt drawn to or motivated by what I could see, I took multiple photos, changing both the central detail of the photo and also the angles at which my photos were taken. Then I uploaded every photo onto my computer and chose my favourites. I then enhanced saturation, either warming up or cooling down the feeling of the photo. In doing this I also kept in mind the mood and the original inspiration for the photo.

Through this process I have learnt that if you observe your surroundings carefully, looking at colour, shape and shadow, for example, its possible to understand and create exciting compositions even from the most everyday of situations.



Chicken Funeral by Nathan Osei-Prempah

“I saw all the dead chickens and thought “I HAVE TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THIS!”. There were two people in the picture: My Dad and some random guy on the phone. When I took the picture it looked like they were attending a funeral for the chickens which is why called it “Chickens Funeral”.

I used every opportunity I had to take a photo. I did this because I didn't want them to look forced. The process of





taking the images was actually quite simple. All I did was find the perfect angle(s) and take the pictures. I feel as if my work is different to the rest because I took it in more urban areas which showed the true colours of South London while others took in more rich and well known areas.

Joyride by Zied Talaboulma

“I’ve always liked art; I did it for many years in all sorts of different areas looking for the right kind of self expression I wanted, but I still felt like I couldn’t express my self until I discovered photography. It allowed me and many others to express ourselves in our unique ways. I like that anyone can do photography; the form of taking pictures lets you capture what you see instantly and you can have outstanding results in a matter of seconds.”

ABPS describe their rationale behind the programme as follows:

“Nowadays, photos are a constant feature of our daily lives thanks to smartphones and social media through which the production and circulation of images has reached unprecedented levels. Our eyes are perhaps becoming more skilled in understanding what makes a good photo; surely all of us have experienced that subtle feeling of self-indulgence when posting a picture that we found particularly artistic or well taken. In a sense, social media and Smartphones can give us all the illusion of being potential photographers or visual artists. Yet, in order to master real artistic photography skills, a smartphone is not enough; despite the moving photos on the latest iPhone X, or the 20 megapixels of the Sony Experia camera, the smartphone cannot replace the experiential quality that a good camera will give to a professional photographer.”

The exhibition runs from Tuesday 20th – Saturday 24th March from 11am – 6pm.



Ms Kernon, Art teacher, said about the project: "All of our students fully immersed themselves in the Photography Enrichment with Art Project Space Bermondsey. They engaged in the lectures and practical workshops, quickly taking on board the learning from the professional photographer. They put all this into practice by producing some unique and high quality outcomes.

We are incredibly proud in the art department of the level of hard work put in by all students and of the impressively high standard of images. An independent panel of judges selected the three winners. We hope this has offered the students an opportunity to engage in photography and that this may impact on their choices to continue to engage in the creative subjects during their school career and in the future."

