

# PhotoBath Constitution

*This constitution summarises the aims and rules under which PhotoBath operates. It is a statement of what we are going to do, and how we are going to do it.*

*PhotoBath is a group with a collective ethos, open to all whose principles align with these broad aims and objectives. Respecting differences of opinion, and being open to learning from these differences, is central to these aims.*

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## **AIMS**

**The aims of PhotoBath are to:**

- promote an interest in, and awareness of, the skills and appreciation of documentary and fine art photography
- give interested artists/photographers a platform to develop/ show their photographic journey and interest through the interchange of ideas, helpful criticism, discussions and meetings through exposure of local, national, and international examples of documentary and fine art photography
- encourage new and emerging talent in the area
- bring works of national and international significance to Bath
- encourage public interest and involvement in photography

## **OBJECTIVES**

**The objectives of PhotoBath are to:**

- expose and promote documentary and fine art photography
- provide opportunities for learning
- promote and show members' work

## **STRUCTURE**

PhotoBath is made up of like-minded people with an interest in PhotoBath's aims and objectives. It is coordinated by a Voluntary Steering Group consisting of a maximum of six interested PhotoBath members who volunteer their time to help PhotoBath achieve its aims. Any key decisions made by the Voluntary Steering Group requires the support of at least 60% of the Voluntary Steering Group members. From time to time positions may become vacant in which case members with appropriate skills may be invited by the Volunteer Steering Group to fill specific roles.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of PhotoBath is open to any artist interested in promoting documentary and fine art photography who has paid the annual subscription. Every member shall have the opportunity to be involved in collective projects and most of the PhotoBath decisions.

The annual subscription is decided by the Voluntary Steering Group based on the financial needs of the organisation in the coming year and anticipated expenditure in future years. Subscriptions become due annually on 1 October that year.

In addition to the membership fee, members may be asked to pay a contribution towards the costs of organising PhotoBath projects, workshops, exhibitions and events to enable these activities to go ahead.

### **Benefits of your membership include:**

- Free monthly meetings on a range of photography-related issues (*guests pay £2 on the door*) and email reminders of meetings. These meetings provide you with the opportunity to:
  - Discuss examples of your own work and/or make a presentation on the topic of your own favourite photographer or genre
  - Meet and attend presentations by working professionals as well as serious amateurs
  - Widen your perspective, reflect on your photographic strengths and weaknesses, and raise the standard of your work beyond expectations
- The opportunity to take part in, or support, projects which align with PhotoBath's ethos and are organised by PhotoBath including:
  - Exhibitions of members' photography with professional standard presentation
  - Exhibitions of world renowned photographers which raise the profile and standing of PhotoBath e.g. the hugely successful *Sebastiao Salgado* exhibition of 2016 at BRLSI and a proposed *Vivian Maier* exhibition in 2020 of work by which has never been exhibited before
  - Publications designed to a professional standard or zines of members' or other photographers' works
  - Other projects which might emerge from members which support the ethos of PhotoBath, which are organised by members, and which are in the main self-funded
- The opportunity to put a portfolio of some 10-30 images on the PhotoBath website, participate in the Facebook group, and contribute to and receive regular email news

In addition, as a paid-up member of PhotoBath, you will receive an annual membership card.

- This entitles you to discounts on certain products at local photographic stores
- The membership card *may* also provide a level of '*clarification of intention*' when undertaking street photography and covering demonstrations, or attending any public event where your presence taking photographs might otherwise be challenged.

*The membership card should never be lent out to others, used to indicate that the member has Press privileges, or used in any other way which might discredit the integrity of PhotoBath's aims. Abuse will result in an instant withdrawal of membership.*

### **EXHIBITIONS**

Photographic exhibitions put on by PhotoBath may be drawn from the membership or from other photographers who are not members but whose work meets PhotoBath's aims.

### **FUNDING SPECIFIC PROJECTS**

The Voluntary Steering Group may consider providing funds from reserves towards a specific project proposed by a sub-group which meets the overall aims of PhotoBath. This would be considered on a case by case basis, and would need to meet certain criteria. Guidance on this process and criteria is available to any member interested in organising a specific project.

### **VOLUNTARY STEERING GROUP MEMBERS, MEETINGS & PROCEEDINGS**

Voluntary Steering Group members take responsibility for overseeing the following roles:

- Co-ordinating and chairing meetings and contributing to strategic planning
- Acting as treasurer with responsibility for budgeting and all financial transactions
- PR and marketing, maintaining the website, social media etc
- Promoting and managing membership
- Helping and assisting photographic projects that promote the group's main aims

The organising of books, exhibitions and the PhotoBath calendar have, in the main, been done by the Voluntary Steering Group – but these projects/tasks can be taken on by other capable members.

PhotoBath's aims and objectives cannot be achieved without the active support and participation of other members of PhotoBath. The Voluntary Steering Group will support any member interested in becoming more involved: either in taking on or assisting with any of these roles, or in forming sub-groups to lead certain projects.

There is no formal structure for Voluntary Steering Group meetings, but these are usually held monthly; other meetings may take place on an as-need basis.

### **Sub-groups**

We encourage members to form sub-groups to work on any areas of activity relevant to PhotoBath. These might be helping to organise monthly meeting programming, exhibitions, the book etc., or proposing and leading on other specific projects.

At least one member of the Voluntary Steering Group must be part of each active sub-group to provide assistance and support where needed, and to keep the Voluntary Steering Group informed on the project's progress.

### **RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURE & ACCOUNTS**

All monies received shall be paid into a bank account operated by the Voluntary Steering Group in the name of PhotoBath.

It may be that PhotoBath accumulates assets, either in the bank account or in the form of saleable materials (laptop, projector, marketing media, products etc). Should PhotoBath ever be dissolved, any money or assets remaining after debts and liabilities have been paid - including pro-rata refunds on membership paid - will be transferred to another group with similar objectives, or to a like-minded organisation or charity as decided by the members.

The member of the Voluntary Steering Group responsible for financial accounting will:

- keep accounting records
- prepare an annual statement of accounts for PhotoBath to be presented at the Annual Meeting

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

PhotoBath will hold an annual meeting where the financial accounts are presented. At this meeting members are invited to contribute ideas to the forward direction of the organisation and the planning of events for the next annual cycle starting in September of that year. Members will be encouraged to put themselves forward to form sub-groups to help organise these events and take ideas forward.

### **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

PhotoBath operates a zero-tolerance policy on bullying, harassment, and discrimination of any sort including blatant and subtle forms of racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, antisemitism, and other types of bigotry, discrimination, and bias.

PhotoBath reserves the right to terminate the membership of any member who, in the majority opinion of the Voluntary Steering Group, has contravened the aims of PhotoBath during their membership.