

CREATIVE GROUP CONSTITUTION

Prepared and approved by: The Creative Group

Date: 15th March 2009

Approved: By Council

Date: 27th March 2009

1. Name and Aims

The Group shall be known as "The Creative Group" of The Royal Photographic Society. For the purpose of clarifying the role of the Group the following definition shall be adopted:

"Creative photography is a form of the visual arts which seeks to employ the technology of photographic equipment and materials in order to create images which, through the input and personal expression of the photographer, stimulate the imagination, feelings and senses of the viewer. It is not restricted by subject matter and neither requires nor excludes manipulation of an image either at the point of taking or subsequently."

The aims of the group are to foster and develop creative photography in print, film and digital media by:-

- Actively encouraging the participation of all members of the Group in a programme of meetings and workshops at points of easy access to the members.
- To communicate with Group members with a regular newsletter and website, by which all members are free to, and encouraged to, share information and views.
- Organising exhibitions to provide an opportunity for members to show their work and particularly to encourage the display of experimental and innovative work.
- Organising any other type of function or event identified as desirable by the membership.

The Group will operate as a constituent Group of The Royal Photographic Society under the current Regulations and Guidelines for Special Interest Groups of the Royal Photographic Society (MP004) and supplementary Rules and Guidelines as determined by Council.

2. Membership

All paid up members of the Royal Photographic Society are eligible to become members of The Creative Group on payment of an additional annual Group subscription. The level of subscription shall be decided from time to time by the Annual General Meeting upon a recommendation from the Group Committee. The Council of the Society shall be given at least three months notice of any change of subscription and will approve the subscription.

All members' personal data are held in accordance with the Regulations and Guidelines for Special Interest Groups of the Royal Photographic Society (MP004).

3. Committee

A Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Group from members nominated in writing by not less than two other members. Such nominations must be received not later than twenty eight days before the date of the meeting and must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee.

The Committee shall comprise three officers: - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer together with not more than six other group members each of whom shall each have a specified responsibility within the Group. The length of service of officers and committee members shall follow the current regulations in the Management Manual of the Royal Photographic Society (MP001).

The President, Director General and Honorary Treasurer of the Royal Photographic Society shall be ex-officio members of the committee entitled to receive all significant committee papers but not entitled to vote at meetings and their presence at a committee meeting will not count towards the quorum.

A quorum for committee meetings shall be three, or one third of the committee membership, whichever is the greater. Such a quorum must include two of the officers.

The committee shall elect a Group's representative (who must be one of the elected members) to the Society's Advisory Board at the Annual General meeting.

In the event of a vacancy occurring, the committee shall have the power to co-opt another member of the Group to serve as a committee member until the next Annual General Meeting.

The committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees as required. Such sub-committees shall have the power to co-opt members for special purposes, such co-opted members being members of the Royal Photographic Society but not necessarily members of the Group. Co-opted members shall have no voting rights.

The committee shall have the power to nominate or appoint a member of the Group to undertake any particular activity for the Group or to act on any other committee within or for the Society if invited to do so.

4. General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of the Creative Group shall be held within three months of the end of the group's financial year

All officers and committee shall retire annually at the Annual General Meeting, but may offer themselves for re-election except that the appointment of a member as Chairman shall be limited to a total of three consecutive years. A retiring Chairman will be an ex-officio member of the committee for the duration of the succeeding Chairman's term of office.

At least fourteen days written notice of the meeting including the names of those members nominated to the committee shall be given to all members of the Group to their last known address. A quorum at such meeting shall consist of fifteen members of the Group. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for holding the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to such other time and place as the committee determines. At such an adjourned meeting if a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for holding the meeting the members present shall be accepted as a quorum.

The committee shall have the power to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group if in its view circumstances require such a meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall also be called by the Secretary within ninety days of the receipt of a requisition in writing signed by at least twenty-five members of the Group. At least fourteen days written notice of such meeting shall be given to all members of the Group to their last known address stating the purpose for which the meeting is convened. A quorum at such a meeting shall be twenty five members of the Group. No other business than that specified in the notice may be conducted at the meeting.

5. Group Finances

The Treasurer will open and maintain records and accounts in the name of the RPS Creative Group and to follow the Finance: Delegation and Control, Regions and Groups document of the Royal Photographic Society (FP003).

The Treasurer is permitted to authorise expenditure on behalf of the Group as laid down in the Finance: Delegation and Control, Regions and Groups document of the Royal Photographic Society (FP003).

The funds of the Group shall be under the control of the committee. The committee shall require the Treasurer to maintain proper accounts, which shall be open to inspection by the committee on request. Proper accounts, comprising an Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet, showing the state of the Groups finances, shall be drawn as at the 31st day of December in each year and such accounts together with the Treasurer's report shall be laid before the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

Any changes in members' subscriptions will be decided at the Annual General Meeting and will be implemented in the next financial year (subject to 2, above).

6. Revision of this Constitution

This constitution is subject to ratification by the Royal Photographic Society's Council. It may be amended only at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group. Notices of any proposed revisions shall be sent to members with the notice convening the meeting. Any revision must be approved by the Council of The Society.

7. Disbandment

Council may, following consultation with Group members, require disbandment or amalgamation with another Group in the event that

Either

- a) The Group is unable to elect a quorate Committee
- or
- b) The Group membership has declined to an unacceptable number and/or the Group is not financially viable.