



# Association for Historical and Fine Art Photography 2022 Conference



**Please note that the entrance to the event space is on Lothian Street**

## Programme

### Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**08:45 – 09:30 Registration**

**09:30 – 09:40 Welcome and Housekeeping**

**09:40 – 10:15 Keynote by Sophie Gerrard**

Sophie Gerrard is an award-winning artist who has worked within the field of photography for 14 years. Her practice is characterised by a visual exploration of the natural environment and landscape and our relationship to it. The central concerns are people, environmental connection, identity and belonging, drawing from archives and personal narratives. In 2012 Sophie co-founded Document Scotland, a

collective of internationally acclaimed photographers dedicated to chronicling the social, cultural and economic life in Scotland.

**10:15 – 10:50**     **Sheila Masson**                     **The Revolution Will be Robotised: Scanning 1.4 million photographs with 'cobots'**

The National Collection of Aerial Photography, part of Historic Environment Scotland, is one of the largest collections of photography in the world, holding over 30 million aerial images that record key moments in history and places throughout the world. We are currently pioneering an international project utilising seven robots to mass digitise 1.4 million aerial photographs from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys (DOS) collection. Digitising the DOS Project involves seven “cobots” (collaborative robots) and eight essential humans, and has encountered many challenges, from historic mould issues, to fluctuating room temperatures, supply chain blockages, snapping cables, stuck steel scanner lids, peeling emulsion, ancient Sellotape, and more.

**10:50 – 11:10**     **Geoff Belknap & Sam Blickhan**                     **A New Approach to Volunteer Led Digitisation**

As part of an AHRC funded research project we are aiming to bridge the gap between in person and online volunteering. Working with a group of Bradford volunteers we are creating an experimental method for giving ownership over to those volunteers in deciding what parts of a collections get catalogued and digitized; how the digital assets get made; and their potential for use on citizen science platforms such as Zooniverse.org. As part of the project, we have created a new method for volunteer led digitization of our photographic collection which combines the best practice of the museum standards with opportunities for deep levels of engagement and agency with the collections.

**11:10 – 11:40**     **Morning Break**

**11:40 – 12:15**     **Iona Shepherd**                     **Capital project photography: Through the lens of the Burrell Collection**

Using my work on the Burrell Collection in Glasgow as an example, I will discuss the pressures that arise from project working and share tips on how to effectively juggle your time and program. I will talk about how to anticipate what imagery might be required from a capital museum project photographer, from a wide range of sources and for which uses. I'll also discuss the importance of building good working relationships with the various staff and contractors involved in capital projects, and how that can result in better quality photography.

**12:15 – 12:50**     **Yosi Pozeilov**                     **A Simple Ultraviolet-Induced Visible Fluorescence Target**

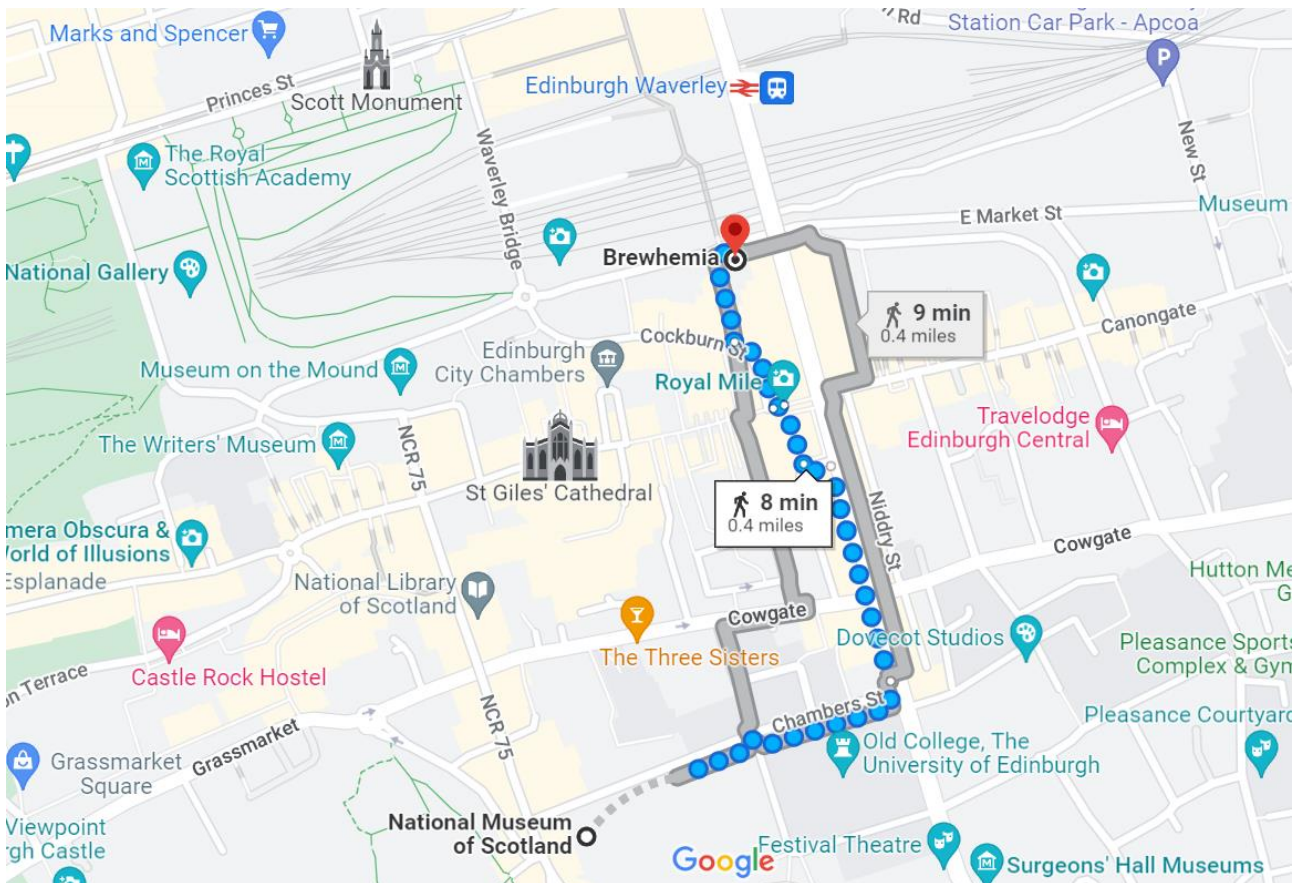
A prevailing question among conservators and imaging professionals producing cultural heritage documentation and research is how to obtain an informative ultraviolet-induced visible fluorescence (luminescence) image. The literature on this topic generally recommends use of delicate and expensive control targets. This article describes a simple low cost method to create a “scene-verify” target that can aid in capturing better images and raise the confidence level of the images created.

- 12:50 – 13:10**     **Nick Teed**                     **The Colour of Stained Glass**
- Over the last three years I have been working to improve colour management of my studio based stained glass recording. I became aware that using standard colour targets to manage colour was not effective with transmitted light through glass. In attempting to create a bespoke measurable glass colour target to create a colour profile and working with a former Hasselblad technician I discovered some of the pitfalls in the use of standard spectrophotometers. Our results improved colour capture, but certain blue and purple colours were not accurately recorded by the equipment that we used. It was suspected that the problems in capturing the colour of certain glass colours is affected by the composition of the glass itself, with blues in particular being the most problematic for cameras to record accurately and spectrophotometers to measure.
- 13:10 – 14:10**     **Lunch**
- 14:10 – 14:30**     **AGM**
- 14:30 – 15:15**     **Richard Everett**                     **Wellcome Collection a Digital Destination**
- From when Wellcome Collection came into existence around 2016, as part of its transformation strategy, the journey has continued and evolved to us now being an equally digital destination as well as a physical one. This presentation will reflect on that journey and the various ways in which the Photographic department has contributed to the success of its digital offer.
- 15:15 – 15:30**     **Luke Unsworth**                     **Working with new Technologies**
- I will give an overview of projects that I have done that involved using technologies new to me and discuss some of the difficulties I encountered (especially as a freelancer working solo or in small teams). These include leaving a camera at 5,058.7m overnight to shoot timelapse at an observatory in Chile, using a high-speed video camera for capturing waves in slow motion, using Lidar to create 3d models of Canadian woods & architecture, using small drones for video & photogrammetry, integrating archive photography into animated 3d models, and shooting E6 film from a helicopter & processing it myself.
- 15:30 – 16:00**     **Afternoon Break**
- 16:00 – 16:35**     **Margaret Weller**                     **Digital Futures - 5 years, 2.1 million items**
- Digital Futures is a preservation digitisation project at Imperial War Museum (IWM) focusing on our most vulnerable analogue collections. Over five years of digitisation the project will create 2.1 million digital assets across our photographic, film and sound collections. The project is currently in year 3. For our photographic collections we are working with external contractors as well as digitising in house. We have a set of lessons learnt on documentation for external digitisation, working with external contractors, QA and creation of records.
- 16:35 – 17:10**     **Isidora Bojovic**                     **Stephen Hawking at Work**
- In the recent years, the SMG photography team had an opportunity to work on the contents of Professor Stephen Hawking's office. The collection presented our team with numerous obstacles of both technical and organisational nature. The scope of our services ranged from studio and on-gallery object photography, display

installation, capture of the interior of Hawking's office and high-paced imaging of nearly a 1000 objects. By way of team's efforts, unreserved knowledge sharing and complex cross-departmental collaboration, we accomplished a holistic documentation of the high-level acquisition and produced content applicable to a broad range of usage. Whilst celebrating our endeavours, we also explore the challenge of fast-paced digitisation, striving to find a balance between high quality imaging and time-bound restrictions.

**17:10 – 17:15 Closing Remarks**

All conference delegates are invited to after conference drinks at The Bothy private bar at **Brewhemia, 1A Market Street, EH1 1DE.**



**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> of November**

**09:30 – 10:00 Coffee** **National Museum Scotland  
Boardroom and Bute Room  
Chambers Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1JF**  
**Tower Entrance on Chambers Street.**

**10:00 – 15:00 Trade Demos** **National Museum Scotland  
Boardroom and Bute Room  
Chambers Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1JF**  
**Tower Entrance on Chambers Street.**

A chance to revisit some of our trade members and get hands on experience with kit, there will also be demos of new and innovative kit which you may not have seen before. This is a drop-in session. Feel free to visit between attending other workshops, the Museum will be a handy meeting point and there will be refreshments available throughout the day for those attending the Trade Demos.

**10:00 – 11:30** **Maker Space** **University of Edinburgh  
Cultural Heritage Digitisation Service  
Main Library  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9LJ**  
&  
**13:00 – 14:30**

Visit the award winning uCreate MakerSpace at the University of Edinburgh. Anthony Middleton will give an overview of this University community service that offers access to and training in 3D, VR and laser cutting technologies, followed by a demonstration of the new 3D Rigster photogrammetry kit. There will also be an opportunity to visit our interactive Digital Wall and the Cultural Heritage Digitisation Studio.

**10:00 – 12:00** **National Collection of** **Historic Environment Scotland**  
& **Aerial Photography** **Unit 3**  
**13:00 – 15:00** **Seven Hills Business Park**  
**41 Bankhead Crossway South**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH11 4EP**

A tour of the new multi-million-pound state of the art facility in Sighthill, Edinburgh, purpose-built to preserve and digitise historical records – specifically aerial photography. It features large hermetically sealed chambers and a cleanroom environment. The tour will include the brand-new robotics suite containing the 7 cobots which will be discussed by Sheila Masson during her presentation on Thursday morning.

**10:00 – 11:30** **Imaging Studio Tour** **National Library of Scotland**  
& **57 George IV Bridge**  
**Edinburgh**  
**11:30 – 13:00** **EH1 1EW**

A tour of the Imaging Studios at the National Library of Scotland, demonstrations of the Microbox Dragon camera and PhaseOne cameras in operation onsite in the studios.

**10:00 – 11:30**  
**&**  
**13:00 – 14:30**

**Digitisation Studio  
Tour**

**Royal Botanic Gardens  
20a Inverleith Row  
Edinburgh  
EH3 5LR**

A chance to see various digitisation set-ups including Herbscan scanners which are modified to work inverted and the latest set-ups in operation using the Fuji GFX 100 with a bespoke lightbox. There will also be an opportunity to see future imaging challenges such as dried fruit/seed and liquid alcohol plant collections.

**10:00 – 11:30**  
**&**  
**13:00 – 14:30**

**Photo Studio Tour**

**National Museums Collection Centre  
242 West Granton Road  
EH5 1JA**

A studio tour including a demo of Photorobot equipment with turntable and arm along with accompanying software. Also a chance to see the Broncolor scope D50 together with Truvis Authentica software.

**10:00 – 12:00**  
**&**  
**13:00 – 15:00**

**Half Day Walking Tour**

**Meet at National Museum Scotland, outside museum  
main entrance on Chambers Street.**

An architectural walk-through Edinburgh's New Town inspired by the photographs of Edwin Smith. Smith's photographs illustrate A J Youngson's seminal work The Making of Classical Edinburgh published in 1966. Developed from 1767 the classical buildings of Georgian Edinburgh tame a once rugged topography. This produces dramatic moments set within the calm language of classical architecture. The walk will celebrate the beauty and drama of Georgian Edinburgh and look at how succeeding generations of architects have responded to the rigour and standards set by the likes of James Craig and Robert Adam.

**10:00 – 14:00**

**Full Day Walking Tour**

**Meet at National Museum Scotland, outside museum  
main entrance on Chambers Street.**

Much of Edinburgh's distinctive character is provided by the contrast between the carefully constructed vistas of Classical Edinburgh and the sometimes accidental, sometimes contrived, picturesque views it excels in. Additionally, the cityscape is dotted with individual structures such as the Scott Monument, which has attracted countless photographers since even before its completion. The tour will include visiting some key viewpoints and eye-catching buildings en-route, as well as viewing (outside only) the studio of pioneer photographers Hill and Adamson, the partnership's 1840s headquarters.

**10:00 – 12:00**  
**&**  
**13:00 – 15:00**

**Round Table**

**National Museum Scotland  
Boardroom and Bute Room  
Chambers Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1JF**

A round table to discuss approaches to large object photography from best case scenarios with all the lighting and time versus what to do in a pinch.