

START A PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

One of the best ways to stay inspired and motivated with your photography is to focus on a project. There are no rules on how to go about it. You can choose any subject and define any rules for the photographing and presentation of your project.

A personal photography project will be great only if the photographer is having fun.

When starting a Personal Photography Project ...

... there are a few things to put some deep thought into:

1. Choosing a subject – the subject of a photography project is a very personal choice. It should be something which you really care about, or something which really excites you. It must also be something that can be photographed effectively.
2. Set a timeline – without a timeline your project runs the risk of never getting completed.
3. Set a goal – you need a goal to stay inspired. The goal will help you in moving forward. Decide what you want to do. Do you want to display your work in an exhibition – on your own or with a group? Do you want to do a photo book? Do you want to document a story? Do you want to make a cohesive group of images of a particular subject?
4. Challenge yourself – there is no better way to stretch your limits and creativity than by taking a chance.
5. **IMPORTANT!** Don't get hung up on the technical aspect of photography. This is NOT a competition. Relax and enjoy your very own personal photography project!

For some inspiration:

- There needs to be a subject matter – random images will be just random and there will not be a clear message coming across;
- The subject matter can be anything. **BUT you must be personally interested in whatever you decide to photograph.** Otherwise over time **your** enthusiasm will fade;
- Think about what brings **you** joy, happiness and enthusiasm in life – can be family, streetscapes, seascapes, flowers, portraiture, **your** favourite food, etc.
- The more interested **you** are in your subject matter the more it will show in **your** group of photographs;
- Look for photography projects online;
- Look around **your** town or townland. Is it unique in any way? Are there people with untold stories?
- Explore the people around **you**;
- EXPLORE WHAT **YOU** ARE INTERESTED IN.



Please fill in the attached questionnaire. This is just to give the committee a rough idea of the level of interest in this type of project. Members will not be obliged to follow through with the ideas they list on this questionnaire. New ideas may emerge as projects are worked on.

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEL: _____

DO YOU WISH TO START A PERSONAL PROJECT? _____

IF YES DO YOU WISH TO DO SO ON YOUR OWN? _____

DO YOU WISH TO HAVE SUPPORT / MENTORING? _____

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PROJECT? _____

PLEASE GIVE DETAILS OF YOUR IDEAS:

The committee shall undertake to ensure that all projects are suitable for exhibiting to the public and of a satisfactory standard. Only those projects approved by the committee may be exhibited in the name of Carlow Photographic Society.