

Nature in Art

Art Course Information



© Michael J. Amphlett 2007

Suitable for: **Beginners & Improvers**

Course title: **Nature Photography**
Tutor: **Mike Amphlett**
Date: **Sunday 6th & Monday 7th May**
Time: **9.30am - 4.30pm**

Cost: £100* for Friends of Nature in Art
£115* for Non-friends of Nature in Art
* Includes the cost of live birds of prey

Full payment for this course is due by: 8th April

Course description

This course is for anyone wanting to achieve understanding and confidence in the technical and practical aspects of a D-SLR camera in nature photography. You need not be an expert to attend but, a reasonable knowledge of basic photographic principles would be useful, as would a basic knowledge of digital imaging. However, if you have neither, don't be afraid to enrol as, inevitably, there is a wide spectrum of personal skills in any class.

Topics to be covered will include:

- An overview of the digital camera, its main controls, functions and menu-sets
- Lenses - how to select and use them to best effect
- Composition and depth-of-field.
- Basic colour theory
- Accessories, such as filters, tripods and memory cards

The following topics will be covered, briefly, but only 'expanded' upon if time permits and, if poor weather necessitates being class-bound, rather than being outside.

- Image quality - how to choose a suitable file type and resolution
- Efficient and safe transfer of images to a computer or hard drive
- Basic digital image manipulation, such as exposure correction, colour balancing and resizing

We will endeavour to engage in as much practical work as possible during the weekend and will be photographing live birds of prey! Please do bear in mind that the weather will influence the amount of practical work we can realistically achieve.

What to bring

- A digital camera, preferably a D-SLR, that you are familiar with, +lenses, accessories, user manuals, etc. It is important that you are familiar with at least the basic controls of your camera.
- A notebook and [coloured] pens
- If you have a laptop PC with appropriate software (e.g. Photoshop, Lightroom, Photoshop Elements, Paintshop Pro, etc.), please do bring it
- Suitable clothing to keep warm, dry and comfortable outside and, something to kneel on; e.g. gardeners/D-I-Y kneeling pads - essential!
- Plenty of patience and, an open mind – the latter being the most important item!

If you are not familiar with basic photographic principles and camera operation, then these books may be useful pre-course reading:

'Creative Camera Control', 3rd edition by Peter Laytin – a useful primer for photo-basics.

'John Shaw's Nature Photography Field Guide' – the book (and person) that boosted my confidence most.

How to book

To book onto this course please complete a Nature in Art Course booking form and send to the address at the bottom of this sheet with payment (cheques to be made payable to 'Nature in Art'). A non-refundable deposit of £20 will secure your place on the course but once booked full payment must be received at least 4 weeks prior to the start of the course (otherwise your place may be offered to another applicant). *Not all courses fill up before the payment date, so please feel free to enquire about availability.*

About Mike Amphlett

Mike Amphlett has been a photographer for longer than he now cares to admit! During that time, he has worked for the University of Oxford's Dept. of Zoology as photographer and, taught extensively at FE colleges in Oxfordshire and Berkshire for 20 years. Mike is a passionate photographer and believes that, whilst camera skills are a basic necessity, a feeling for and an understanding of the subject being photographed are key to making successful and honest images. Mike's aim is to teach clearly and, to help all participants gain confidence in making successful images of the natural world.



Art Courses, Nature in Art, Wallsworth Hall, Sandhurst Lane, Twigworth, Gloucester, GL2 9PA
Tel: 01452 731422 Email: marketing@nature-in-art.org.uk



Follow Nature in Art on Facebook & Twitter (Nature_in_Art)

