

A Review of the Photo London Fair 2016 at Somerset House, London

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AlphaAktion 'Emily' 2015 by Walter & Zoniel (Courtesy of Gazelli Art House)

Photo London was only launched in 2015 but this year's event, held at Somerset House, was a world-class gathering. Founders Michael Benson and Fariba Farshad brought together 85 of the world's leading photography galleries, supplemented by special exhibitions by the likes of photo-journalist Don McCullin, Russian photographer Sergey Chilikov and Turner-nominated artist Craigie Horsfield. There were also various talks, lectures and panel discussions held over the days of the show.

Somerset House provides numerous rooms and areas over three floors for exhibiting and to these were added two large marquees in the courtyard. You had to pay careful attention to make sure you saw everything: given the number of galleries, there were thousands of images on display, which led to mild visual overload. Nonetheless there were many treats in store.



Charlotte Colbert's *Fermata*, 2015 (Courtesy of Gazelli Art House)

Galerie Taik Persons (Berlin) exhibited some stunning C-prints by Finnish photographer Eeva Karhu. She takes hundreds of images of a single scene and combines them to create what can only be described as an 'impression'. The effect is magical.

Championing young British talent, Gazelli Art House (London, Baku) brought us a double-sided, artificially-coloured triptych *Alpha-Action 'Emily'* 2015 from Walter & Zoniel and an intriguing nude in a bath *Fermata* 2015 from photographer and filmmaker Charlotte Colbert.



Edward Burtynsky's *Skogar* waterfall series at Flowers Gallery, London



München 64, 1964 by Floris Neusub at Daniel Blau Gallery.

In the central tents, Hamiltons (London) had a good selection from the likes of Helmut Newton, Irving Penn, Richard Avedon and Horst, as well as some more recent works from Cathleen Naundorf. The gallery was also showing a great image by Australian photographer Murray Fredericks, part of his series studying the 'Hector' weather phenomenon in the Northern Territories from the air – a refreshingly powerful black and white image with a monumental feel.

Camera Work (Berlin) brought some strong fashion images by Herb Ritts and Patrick Demarchelier, and next door to them, Ben Brown Fine Arts (Hong Kong) had a lovely, meditational Hiroshi Sugimoto seascape.



Jack Bruce in *Given Names* series by Dieter Meier at Galerie
Thomas Zander

And so one comes to the master, Sebastiao Salgado, brought here by Peter Fetterman Gallery (Santa Monica). Personally I prefer Salgado's images without people and the one chosen, *Iceberg*, was as powerful as any. As with so many works here, seeing such pieces in the flesh, often printed to between one and two metres wide, is an utterly different experience to an image in a book or on a screen.

I left visually exhausted, but cannot wait for 2017.



Chinstrap Penguins, South Sandwich Islands, 2009 by Sebastiao Salgado at Peter Fetterman
Gallery

The event was sponsored by wealth manager Pictet and the *FT Weekend*, and supported by Leica, Pommery and Artsy.

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