



'This is me with my gun': what Appalachian kids did with a camera – in pictures

In 1975, Wendy Ewald arrived in Kentucky's Appalachian mountains and gave rural schoolchildren cameras. The images they took revealed their inner feelings, fantasies ... and visions of death .



Allen Shepherd

'I dreamt I killed my best friend Ricky Dixon,' writes Shepherd. His picture of Ricky shows his face pale, his eyes closed, slumped forward into the fork of a large tree. We can read the picture in terms of birth and crucifixion.



Albert Ison: Self-portrait with my .22

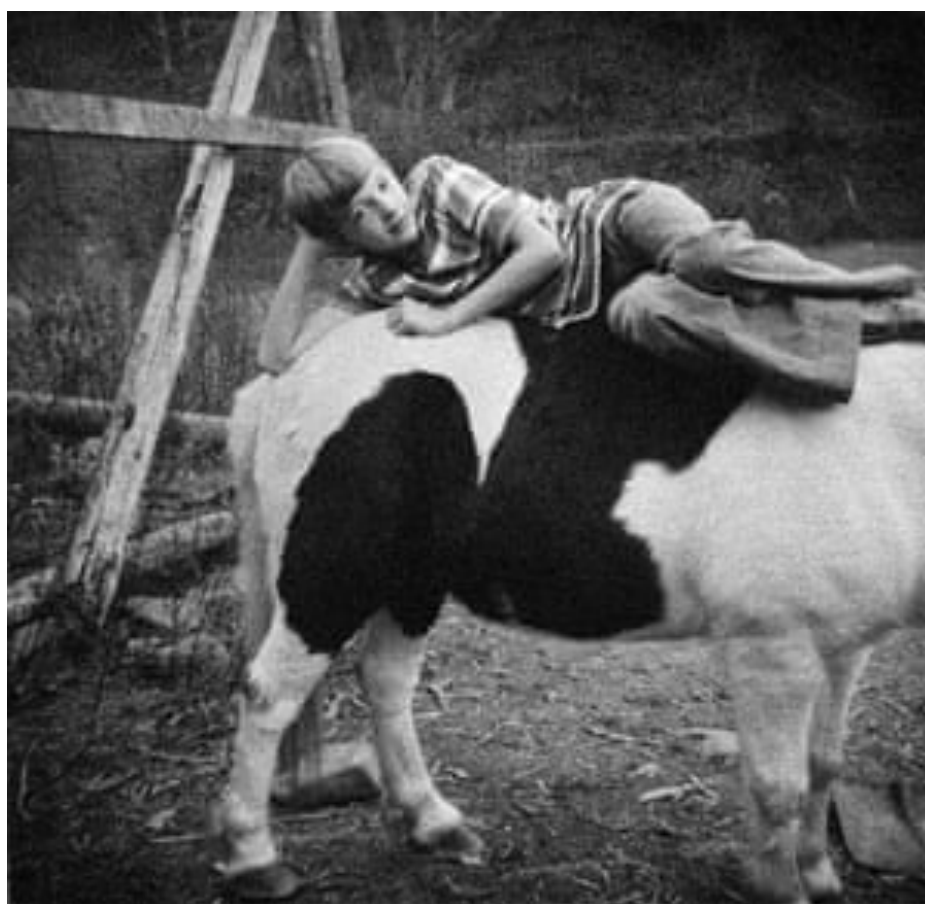
These are photographs by children from the hollers of Letcher County, Kentucky – children familiar with mountains and woods and the ways of the small animals they hunt there with their .22s, children familiar with strip mines and shaft mines and deaths by mining accidents, black lung, suicide Photograph: Albert Ison

Denise Dixon: Self-portrait reaching for the Red Star sky

Asked why Denise had included so much of a cinderblock wall in this shot, she explained: ‘I was supposed to be dancing. . . . See, the music was in that basement, and the camera was right beside the basement’



Photograph: Denise Dixon



Russell Akemon: Lying on the back of my old horse

Wendy Ewald taught the children how to photograph their childhood in the mountains. She knew the names of every family house, but the children knew every stone or tree or creek bend. The students bought \$10 Instamatic cameras from Wendy: 'I hoped that by buying the cameras they would value them as things they had worked to earn money for and would have as long as they took care of them.' *Portraits and Dreams: Photographs and Stories by Children of the Appalachians* by Wendy Ewald is published by MACK. Photograph: Russell Akemon

Portraits and Dreams Wendy Ewald

When Wendy Ewald arrived in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains in 1975, she began a project that aimed to reveal the lives, intimate dreams and fears of local schoolchildren. Tasked with finding authentic ways of representing the lives of these children, she gave each of them a camera and interviewed them about their childhood in the mountains. Through these intriguing transcripts and photographs, we discover the lives of families as seen through the eyes of their children: where domestic, rural life is understood with startling openness and depth. In *Portraits and Dreams*, life's most mysterious realities – love, loss, violence, death, new life – are given voice through an altogether novel discovery: the camera. We learn the eloquence and originality with which children see the world and we see a generous new way of engaging children in the possibilities of the photographic medium.

This revised and expanded edition of Ewald's now-rare book, first published in 1985, and called "An American masterpiece," offers access to a different and broadened view of the rural south over the span of 35 years, and includes contemporary pictures and stories by eight of the students from the original publication.



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David Tipling

David Tipling is one of the World's most widely published wildlife photographers renowned for his artistic images of birds. His many accolades include a coveted European Nature Photographer of the Year Award (2002) for work on Emperor Penguins, and in North America, Nature's Best Indigenous Peoples Award (2009) for his pictures of Mongolian eagle hunters.

He is the author or commissioned photographer for many books including the RSPB Guide to Digital Wildlife Photography (Bloomsbury) and Penguins –Close Encounters (New Holland). In 2013 after 6 years work visiting 39 countries on all seven continents the critically acclaimed Birds & People (Random House) was published. Recently published books include Seabirds of the World, A Parliament of Owls and an instant best seller with Princeton University Press, Britain's Birds. His book A Bird Photographer's Diary charts his 30 year career in pictures.



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© Edward Weston

Edward Weston (1886 - 1958) Pepper No.30 1930

When first shown there was talk of banning Pepper No.30 in certain circles, this image was considered to be far too sexually explicit and offended the sensibilities of those people with closed minds and a narrow grasp of beauty. MF

REMINDER - DPS ONLINE IN SEPTEMBER

8 September*

Monthly Competition: Transport – Judge: Malcolm Sales

You may choose any form of transport that can or has been used to carry people or goods from A to B. Your transport can be of 2 or more wheels, 4 legs, caterpillar tracks, boats, aircraft etc, new or old. Try to convey a sense of purpose.

15 September

A photographic walk around Hellidon – meet in the Red Lion car park at 6.30 pm – additional information will be circulated by email. Please let Linda Wilson know if you will be joining us on the walk: email her at brogenlinda@sky.com

22 September*

Graham Brown Memorial Trophy Round 2 – The Judge's comments and scores This is an 'open' projected competition. While there are no restrictions placed on the subject content, many DPS members use this competition to honour Graham's memory by choosing to follow his own preferences, eg by entering wildlife or other natural history subject such as flowers and landscapes. Graham also enjoyed photographing historical reconstruction events and architecture and was an excellent Macro photographer. However, it is not required by the rules of the competition that these themes are adhered to and it is important to note that the instructions to the judge will be only that this is an open competition. So, the choice of subject is your own. You should feel free to approach it like any other open competition. It is an opportunity to express your own interests and demonstrate your individual creativity and style.

Hollis Trophy

Please note that the closing date for this year's Hollis Trophy is 22 September. The PhotoEntry system is already set up to receive your entries so you can post your entries any time between now and 22 September. The 4 categories in this competition are Portraiture, Nature, Landscape and Creative. You may enter just one image per category. Certificates will be awarded to the winners in each category and the Trophy will be awarded to the author with the highest score across all the categories. The competition will be judged by Graham Walton and John Lewis on Zoom on Tuesday 20th October.

DPS SEPTEMBER COMPETITIONS

The closing date for both the **TRANSPORT** competition and the **Graham Brown Memorial Trophy (Round 2)** is midnight on Tuesday 1 September 2020. Please use the PhotoEntry system to enter your images. Our judge this month will be Malcolm Sales, who you will remember we last saw when he judged the Badby Challenge Cup for us in November.

Malcolm has agreed to judge the Transport competition live online during our Zoom meeting on 8 September commencing at 7.30 pm. He will also provide written comments on the images in the Graham Brown Memorial Trophy Round 2. These comments will be read out when the entries are shown at the Zoom meeting on Tuesday 22 September.

* Zoom meetings will commence at 7.30 pm and will usually last for just one hour. If you are not already on the list to receive an invitation to these meetings, please email Linda Wilson at brogenlinda@sky.com to be put on the list.

Competitions still to come this 'year'

8 September	Transport
22 September	Graham Brown Memorial Trophy Round 2 – Open
13 October	Still Life
20 October	Hollis Trophy
10 November	Textures
8 December	Water
12 January 2021	The Colour Purple and Graham Brown Memorial Trophy Round 3 – Open
9 February	Panel of 3 Images

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