

**NEWS RELEASE**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Use**

**24.01.2008**

### **EXHIBITING THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

After forty years behind the camera lens photographer John McPake is focussing on a new development for displaying his creative talent.

For the first time in his career John will stage an exhibition of his work featuring 40 photographs – one for each year he has been capturing images across a variety of subjects.

The exhibition will feature stunning views, insights into nature, interesting angles on architecture, studies of people, commercial compositions and abstract creations.

John's work will hang in the reception area of Stirling University Innovation Park (SUIP) at Scion House from the 27<sup>th</sup> of March until the 31<sup>st</sup> of May and he will donate any profits from the sale of photographs to MacMillan Nurses.

The exhibition is part of the innovative 'Art on the Park' programme designed to promote the work of local artists. 'Art on the Park' is a joint SUIP and university initiative drawing on the resources and expertise of Stirling University Art Collection Office.

The University's Art Curator Jane Cameron is an admirer of John's work and was instrumental in persuading him to stage an exhibition. Many of his photographs already hang in the University's buildings.

Originally from Chapelhall in Lanarkshire John became interested in photography as a way of expressing his interest in art – although he admits to being less than proficient at drawing.

As a 15 year old he wrote to 40 photographic companies asking for a job. He was told he either had to have work experience or a college degree. Persistence paid off however and he won his first job with Glasgow Studios & Engravers and went to college.

A job with the old Lanarkshire County Council followed and then in 1980 he moved to Central Regional Council based in Stirling, a position he held for 23 years.

Five years ago John, who lives in Menstrie, launched his own company The Big Picture [www.thebigpicture.uk.com](http://www.thebigpicture.uk.com) .

More/

## The Big Picture/

“Setting up my own business was a milestone. It gave me the lifestyle I wanted in terms of employment and the opportunity to work with many interesting companies and organizations and also pursue my passion for inspirational photography,” explains John.

Although he began his career in an era when plate cameras and black cloths over your head were regularly still in use and he had to wear an asbestos glove to remove flash bulbs from the camera, John has embraced digital technology with enthusiasm.

John said: “I realised very quickly that digital photography was the way ahead and went to evening classes to study the new technology. It has transformed photography and allows you to create amazing images, but only if you have the complementary computer skills.”

He Added: “Staging an exhibition of my work isn’t something I had ever really contemplated until Jane Cameron made the suggestion to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University. She has been very supportive and encouraging and I’m truly indebted to her and the university.”

Jane Cameron, University Art Curator, said: “This is going to be a fascinating exhibition of work over four decades with a lot of variety. I’d encourage anyone interested in photography to make the time to visit it.”

Lynn Blaikie, SUIP’s Operations & Business Development Manager, commented: “We are delighted to host this inaugural exhibition of John’s stunning photography to mark his fortieth anniversary which coincides with the same landmark in the university’s history. It also embraces our ethos of integration with the life of the university and the local community.”

The exhibition will commence with an evening viewing from 5.30 -8.30 on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Ends

Issued on behalf of Stirling University Innovation Park by fs communications.

For further details contact:

Frank Sullivan  
Telephone: 07718660122  
Email: [frank.sullivan@btconnect.com](mailto:frank.sullivan@btconnect.com)