

## PhotoStroud Festival of Photography 2007

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This year Stroud will host the West of England's first festival of photography. The small market town nestled in the picturesque Cotswold hills might seem like an unlikely venue for a photography festival, however the area has always attracted practitioners, and the world renowned platinum printmakers 31 Studio, are based nearby and will be opening their doors and showcasing some very rare samples of the rare craft with images by Bill Brandt, Sabastio Salgado and David Bailey. The festival coincides with the fifteenth anniversary of FotoForum, Stroud's premiere photography group, who will be showing work made over the years.

Stroud College, whose faculty of art is ranked in the top 2% in the country, is one of the twenty-six venues and will be exhibiting work by current and former students and members of staff. The college will also be exhibiting the shortlisted entrants of the Stroud Arts Award, which will reward the winner with a £2000 grant to complete a project.

The festival will of course feature a series of workshops and seminars, and lectures from practitioners including Martin Parr, and Mike Rignall, designer and maker of hand-made cameras that have been sold across the globe. Chris Chapman, who published *Silence at Ramscliffe*, an unflinching documentary on the effects of the 2001 Foot and Mouth crisis in Devon, will also be talking about his work. One of the highlights of the festival is a group exhibition at The Space Gallery, featuring Reinhild Beuther, Roger Jones, Colin Glen, Simon Ryder, and Neville Gabie, whose contribution *Outfield* was made recently in refugee camps on the ambiguous boarder of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and forms a relationship between the complex boundary rules in cricket and graver geopolitical boundaries. There will also be a host other events and opportunities for people to develop their skills and further their interest in the medium. Full details can be found at [www.stroudphotofestival.co.uk](http://www.stroudphotofestival.co.uk)