

# Northern Ireland Photographic Association

## NIPA Triptych competition 2011 DRAFT

A **triptych** (pronounced “trip tik”) is a work of art which is divided into three sections. The middle section is often the largest and it is flanked by two smaller related works, but there are many triptychs of equal-sized panels.

### 1. History of the Triptych as an art form

The triptych form arises from early Christian art, and was a popular standard format for altar paintings from the middle ages onwards. Its geographical range was from the eastern [Byzantine](#) churches to the English Celtic churches in the west. [Renaissance painters](#) and [sculptors](#) such as [Hans Memling](#) and [Hieronymus Bosch](#) used the form.

From the [Gothic](#) period onward, both in Europe and elsewhere, [altarpieces](#) in [churches](#) and [cathedrals](#) were often in triptych form. One such cathedral with an altarpiece triptych is [Llandaff Cathedral](#). The [Cathedral of Our Lady](#) in [Antwerp](#), Belgium, contains two examples by [Rubens](#), and [Notre Dame de Paris](#) is another example of the use of triptych in architecture. One can also see the form echoed by the structure of many ecclesiastical [stained glass windows](#). Although most famous as a altarpiece form, tryptiches outside that context have been created, most prominently by Hieronymus Bosch, Max Beckmann, and Francis Bacon. Famous examples include:



 [Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion](#). [Francis Bacon](#), 1944.

### 2. Triptychs in photography

It has also now become an interesting form for photography. It allows development of ideas over and beyond the capability of a single print. Many photographers now exploit this form and several magazines have it as a competition format recently

**NIPA is pleased to announce a new competition where members of NIPA clubs may submit up to 3 entries.** The can be mono or colour, prints only.

The format can be any recognised triptych form eg one photo divided into 3, 3 separate related photos, or one photo with three “windows. Entries should be supplied on mounts 50cm wide in Landscape format and may be any height up to 40 cm, or in portrait format 50cm high and any width up to 40cm.

They would have to work towards consistency of style and artform.

It would be far more challenging than we currently set for competitions

20 Circular Road East, Cultra, Holywood, Co.Down, N.Ireland BT18 0HA UK

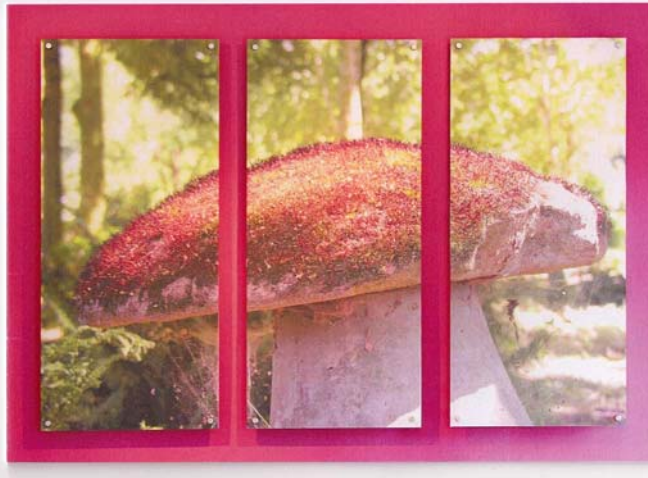
Tel +44 (0) 2890 428366 Fax +44 (0) 2890 428367

Dr. Daniel V. McCaughan OBE FREng, Mrs Anne McCaughan

VAT Registration Number: 766 6815 82

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As another example here is work by a contemporary photographer, Pete Browne, called “the Saddle Stone”



And here is another example which I think is fun (needs a careful look!).

Rebekka Gudleifsdóttir Portfolio

It was during an afternoon of practising freezing movements akin to Halsmann's image that Rebekka accidentally stumbled upon the picture that would initiate her enormous internet following. Rebekka was working on her hand-eye coordination and timing in the midst of an obsession with freezing objects in mid-air. In one hand she held her camera out in front of her lens

this new medium to increase her exposure. Rather than uploading all the fruits of her experiments and imagination, Rebekka learned to restrict her uploads. She concentrated on one or two strong images at a time.

Rebekka believes a human element in pictures can draw the viewer in, and around this time she experimented in self-portraits

**In this triptych Rebekka wanted to explore the idea of something having happened before in exactly the same way**

early self-portraits ultimately led to some of them being suggestive, and Rebekka does not deny that this drew some of her early legions of fans. She says she soon realised that if she wanted to be taken seriously as a photographer, she didn't want to be getting attention for her looks. She needed to remove herself as the focal point

Other examples can be seen on the web. Just Google Triptych and click on Images to see lots. There are companies that sell them eg <http://www.fotoviva.co.uk/triptych-art.asp>

Triptych frames are available for Photoshop for free at <http://www.photoradar.com/>

## Judging and entries

We intend to invite the IPF to compete through its clubs, and have an external well qualified judge. I am negotiating a sponsor and prizes.

Danny McCaughan

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