

Over the past number of Wednesday evenings, South Hampstead has become another place of solace and nourishment for me. I gather to participate in a Creative Photography course as part of the SH education programme. This is the follow on course to very successful one we participated in last year.

The shul hall is transformed into our photographic studio where we are able to enjoy the quietness of the space, free from the Shabbat crowds, vodka and herring. Our photographer / artist Galanit Schachner, has inspired and excited us to create photographs completely different to what we have taken in the past. She has encouraged and guided us in being more innovative and thoughtful as well as how to contextualise better our subject matter and material. We have undertaken studio photography, portraiture, field visits, worked with and without a flash and even taken photographs in very low light environments. A highlight has been our 'food shoots'. We have learnt to appreciate and understand the balance between the technical and artistic components of photography. Each session begins with an evaluation of the weekly assignments and projects where we have created our own 'Gallery', followed by a technical overview and then practical session. I have enjoyed experimenting with multiple frame shots, moving objects and creating pictures with a modern contemporary feel.

Leon Blitz writes:



## A Photography Course: Advanced Class

The Course conducts eight sessions. Through the sessions the student will experience four different fields in photography: Portraiture-Studio portraiture, food photography, night photography, the connection between text and image.

This is an extension of the digital photography intermediate course from last year. Aimed at serious amateurs who have done the introduction course, or are familiar with their camera controls and want to take their picture making to the next level.

Classes are limited to 8 people, all of whom will receive individual training in the full use of their digital camera, and a range of techniques to bring them to a more professional level by the end of the course. Students will work with their own digital SLR cameras, tripods, and extra lenses and flash accessories.

This workshop is held at the synagogue on a Wednesday between 20:00 and 22:00 and covers a wide range of advanced image making skills within this timeframe. Students are set a series of supervised assignments for developing skills, and leave with a list of suggestions for materials and equipment for more serious work.

This is an exciting opportunity to be trained by a leading professional photographer Galanit Schachner-Lauter within a fun and intensive educational setting. It is an intensive workshop, and students are encouraged to develop their personal artistic language into the medium of digital photography. For Galanit Schachner-Lauter, creative photography is a window to a person's relationship with themselves and to the world. "On a deeper level, photography becomes a development of more than visual awareness, reflecting values and meanings both inside and outside yourself."