

University of Brighton/Ryerson University 2018 Photography File Exchange Exhibition

For the seventh year, students from the University of Brighton's 2nd & 3rd year BFA photography program are exchanging image files with Ryerson University's 2nd year Image Arts photo students (Brighton's photography program has a smaller number of students). Virtual exhibitions of the work of Ryerson students will be seen in Brighton in June while the Brighton students' work is seen here.

This form of "file swap" was initiated in 2010 between these two groups of students by their respective instructors, Julia Winckler at the University of Brighton, UK and Vid Ingelevics at Ryerson University, Canada. The original premise was to simply facilitate an international connection between students who are engaged in similar programs of study but are geographically far apart. It was first seen as a kind of test run for a possible future exchange of actual physical photographs. While the file exchange seems increasingly less of a "substitute" for an actual physical exhibition and a quite viable form in its own right due to the mobility of digital media, exploring the potential of organizing an actual physical exchange between schools has not yet been completely forgotten.

In the production of this year's exhibition, each school formed its own student-led committee that determined formats, collected and organized images, set thematic approaches, and produced posters, etc. The results raise interesting questions such as: how might the concerns of these groups of students be similar or diverge? What influences could be discerned in the differing thematic choices that two groups of students have made? Does the location of study itself have much influence in these days of virtual and instantaneous connection? These are open questions for you, the viewer, as much as for the students taking part.

The students at both universities – committee volunteers, gallery sitters and those who submitted their work - are to be commended for their hard work in pulling together this extra-curricular project and, for many, their first international exhibition!

Organizing Committee (Ryerson):

Lucy Alguire, Austen Ambraska, Evan Arbic, Courtney Giles, Cole Legree, John-Paul Lue, Constance Osuchowski, Britney Pasion.