

# Justin Partyka photography

## Updates: Summer 2018

A project ends, a new studio, new work, new workshops....

### 1. A project ends

During October 2017 I finished work on *Close to Home*. The *Close to Home* project encompasses fifteen different bodies of work made in my native region of East Anglia over the past seventeen years. Some of this work has been exhibited and published, but most of it is unseen and comes from projects that I have been steadily working on over a number of years. The final photographs made in October completed projects focusing on the Suffolk coast, my long-term investigation of the course of the river Nar and its environs in Norfolk, and I finally finished the trilogy *Field, Wood, Sky* - a series of photographs made in a specific place in Norfolk that contemplate the change of place over time. *Close to Home* will be released as a series of print-on-demand books. The first book will be available later this year. An exhibition proposal for the project will be submitted to galleries and museums soon.



River Nar, Norfolk, 2017

## 2. A new studio

Since 2015 I have been steadily photographing in southwest France. To help facilitate the making of this new work, Bee and I moved to France in December 2017, and in March this year we opened a small public studio in the centre of the hilltop city of Poitiers. Atelier galerie 161 is located on Grand'Rue, one of the oldest routes into the city leading to place Notre-Dame. Today Grand'Rue is a street of boutiques, galleries, artisans, artists, bars and cafés. 161 is open to the public. I have a selection of work available to view and buy, and it is where I can meet with clients (Poitiers has direct trains from Paris, Bordeaux and other cities). The aim is that 161 will become a modest hub of photography in the region: a place for people to come to view and collect prints, look at photo books, and to enjoy, think about and discuss photography. You can find me in Poitiers at:

Justin Partyka photographie

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Still life, atelier galerie 161, Poitiers, France, 2018

### 3. New work

I am really enjoying the experience of getting to know this region of France and the challenge of making photographs in an environment very different to the rural landscape of East Anglia. In France I am mainly photographing small towns and cities, especially in Ruffec, Angoulême and Poitiers. There is now a selection of this new work from France on my website, as well as photographs from the project “Drive!: the cars and vans”, and from Paris. Last year I also added some pictures from London, and a new selection from a visit to Berlin made during the summer 2017.

Go to [www.justinpartyka.com](http://www.justinpartyka.com) to take a look.



Ruffec, France, 2018

## 4. NEW WORKSHOPS

Over past three years I have discovered just how wonderful the photographic potential is in this region of France. It is a fascinating combination of the ancient and the modern, the town and the country, and deeply rooted cultural traditions alongside being on the cusp of change. There is also great food, and very good train links. To share some of these discoveries we have launched a programme of workshops over the summer. These will be residential and all inclusive. Participants just have to make their own way to Poitiers train station which is easily done from the UK by taking the Eurostar to Lille or Paris and a TGV to Poitiers. There are also flights to Poitiers from Stansted. Details of the workshops:

### TWO ANCIENT HILLTOP CITIES

**A four day residential photography workshop in southwest France**

**530 € all inclusive\* \*\***

**Dates:**

**Thursday 26 July - Monday 30 July 2018**

(booking closes 5pm Friday 29 June)

**Thursday 30 August – Monday 3 September 2018**

(booking closes 5pm Friday 27 July)

**Thursday 4 October - Monday 8 October 2018**

(booking closes 5pm Friday 31 August)

Photograph and explore the inspiring streets, historic buildings, and rich cultural traditions of the fascinating cities of Angoulême and Poitiers.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CITIES INCLUDE:

**ANGOULÊME:** the international capital of Bande Dessinée (comic books), the city has a dedicated museum and many street murals celebrating this art form. The Promenade des Ramparts encircles the hilltop city centre and offers great views and architectural features. The Charente river winds its way through the city providing a contrasting and relaxing green space.

**POITIERS:** Parc de Blossac is one of the most beautiful parks in France covering nine hectares close to the city centre. Equally, the Jardin des Plantes offers extensive photographic potential featuring over 100 species of trees and shrubs. A number of exquisite churches including Eglise Notre-Dame le Grande, Cathédrale Saint-Pierre, and the Baptistère Saint-Jean the oldest church in France from the 4th century. Marché Notre-Dame features many indoor and outdoor sellers and offers an exciting insight into the local food traditions and the continuing central role of the market in French life.

## **WORKSHOP HOSTS :**

**Justin Partyka** has exhibited his photography widely and is an experienced workshop leader and mentor. He has spent twenty years capturing the visual essence of a place with his camera, including in East Anglia; Saskatchewan, Canada; Cádiz, Spain; and southwest France where he now lives.

**[www.justinpartyka.com](http://www.justinpartyka.com)**

**Bee Farrell** is a food writer and public food anthropologist. Bee will curate the workshop meals focusing on local and sustainable food. She will share the food experience of some of her favourite restaurants, cafés, and producers of the area.

**[www.beefarrell.org](http://www.beefarrell.org)**

## **LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATION:**

The workshop is based in a 400 year old house in the charming riverside village of Verteuil. Sleeping will be in shared rooms on first and second floors of the house. Group visits will be taking to Poitiers and Angoulême to photograph. There will also be an opportunity to photograph the village and surrounding area.

## **WORKSHOP FORMAT:\*\*\***

Practical experience, group discussions, presentations, portfolio reviews and individual mentoring form the key elements of the workshop. Participants will further develop their skills in using light and colour, composition, editing and sequencing, learning how to intimately engage with the world photographically and create a visual narrative from the experience.

## **REQUIREMENTS AND BOOKING:**

\*Participants are required to make their way to and from Poitiers train station. All other travel and meals during the workshop are included. \*\*A group booking of 4-6 people will receive 10% discount.

**Email [info@justinpartyka.com](mailto:info@justinpartyka.com) to book or for more details.**

\*\*\* SNCF has been operating a rolling train strike schedule during the months of April, May, and June. It is currently unknown if the strikes will continue into the preceding months. If they do continue, the format of the workshop may be subject to revision to accommodate the availability of public transport.

If you have any questions about the workshop or anything else please do get in touch.

Many thanks,  
Justin Partyka



Poitiers, France, 2018



Angoulême, France, 2018