

SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY TRUSTEES' REPORT 2025

The Scottish Society for the History of Photography (SSHoP), through its organisational and publishing arm **Studies in Photography**, enjoyed an exceptionally productive and inspiring year in 2025. From its dedicated gallery and bookshop at William Street in Edinburgh, the Society continued to provide an important space for the study, appreciation and advancement of photographic history and contemporary practice, bringing together artists, photographers, historians, writers, curators and audiences.

Central to the year was an ambitious programme of **nine exhibitions**, demonstrating the breadth of the Society's interests and its commitment to connecting the history of photography with contemporary photographic practice. Among the highlights was an important exhibition devoted to the pioneering Scottish photographer **John Thomson**, whose remarkable nineteenth-century work remains central to the histories of documentary, travel and social photography. The programme also included a notable exhibition of work by **Norman McBeath**, recognising his distinctive contribution to contemporary Scottish photography and portraiture.

The William Street gallery continued to play an important role as a meeting place for Scotland's photographic community. Exhibitions were accompanied by talks, discussions, book launches and other events, enabling audiences to engage directly with photographers, artists, writers and specialists. The gallery bookshop complemented this activity by bringing together *Studies in Photography* publications with a carefully selected range of books relating to photography and visual culture.

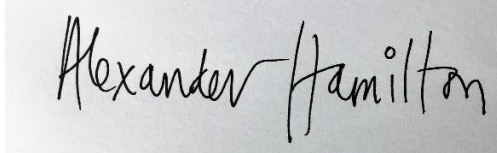
Publishing remained at the heart of the Society's charitable and educational activities. *Studies in Photography* continued to publish two issues of its journal during the year, providing a platform for new research, historical scholarship and critical writing on photography. The 2025 programme also highlighted important connections between Scotland and **Poland**, developing relationships with Polish photographers, curators and cultural organisations. These exchanges created the foundations for further international collaboration and reflected the Society's ambition to place Scottish photography within a wider European context.

The Society also continued to develop **Leaves**, its publication dedicated to presenting accessible and engaging writing about photography, artists and collections. *Leaves* complements the more scholarly *Studies* journal and has enabled the organisation to broaden the range of voices and approaches represented within its publishing programme.

A major development during 2025 was *Studies in Photography* taking responsibility for the organisation and development of **PhotoDalkeith** at Dalkeith Palace. Building upon the inaugural PhotoDalkeith in 2024, the 2025 exhibition, **Nature and Nurture: Contemporary Scottish Photography**, was curated by Julie Lawson and brought together the work of 17 photographers. The exhibition demonstrated both the diversity of contemporary Scottish photography and the considerable potential of Dalkeith Palace as a significant new setting for photography and cultural exchange.

PhotoDalkeith also represented an important development in the Society's approach to partnership working and off-site programming, allowing *Studies in Photography* to reach new audiences beyond its Edinburgh premises.

Taken together, the achievements of 2025 demonstrate the remarkable level of activity delivered by a relatively small charitable organisation. Through exhibitions, publications, research, events and partnerships, Studies in Photography continued to celebrate Scotland's rich photographic heritage while supporting contemporary practice and developing new national and international relationships. The year strengthened the organisation's position as an important independent voice for photography in Scotland and provided a strong foundation for its future programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Alexander Hamilton" in a cursive, slightly slanted script. The first letter of "Alexander" is a large capital 'A', and the first letter of "Hamilton" is a large capital 'H'. The signature is centered horizontally within the image frame.

Alexander Hamilton

Treasurer 19/09/2026