



Destination art

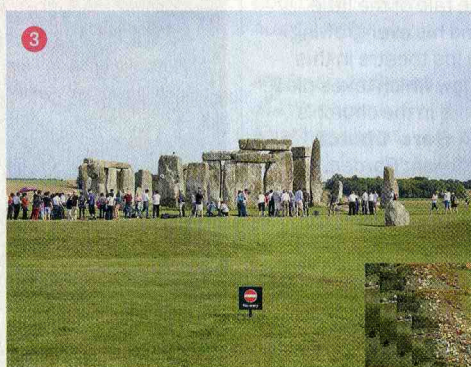
You don't need to leave London to escape the city. Let these photography shows be your passport to discovery, says **Martin Coomer**

1 Go round the world in South Ken Travel Photographer of the Year

You can look at this annual award for the best of the past year's travel photography in two ways. The first, perhaps cynical way (okay, my way), is to thank these show-offs a bunch for reminding you of all the amazing destinations you spectacularly failed to make it to last year, or indeed any year. Or, with a leap of the imagination and a little poetry in your heart, you can allow yourself to be transported to places as far afield as the foothills of the Himalayas and Kibish, south Ethiopia (pictured). It's like taking a long-haul holiday in your lunch hour, with none of the tedium of travel. *Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR. ☎ South Kensington. ▶ Sep 5.*

2 Relive your fave rave off Oxford Street We Want More

Festivals aren't the sole subject of this show about how music photography has evolved over



the past few decades. But, from New Yorker Ryan McGinley's close-ups of rapt festivalgoers to Ewen Spencer's shots of blissed-out Ayia Napa clubbers, there's a sense of collective euphoria that pulses throughout. Need an upper?

Try Gareth McConnell's kaleidoscopic shot of the encampment at the 1992 Castlemorton Common Festival (pictured) from his heady 'Close Your Eyes' series. *The Photographers' Gallery, 16-18 Ramillies St, W1F 7LW. ☎ Oxford Circus. ▶ Sep 20.*



3 Take a stately Brit tour in Cork Street Simon Roberts: National Property

Anyone who's 'done' Constable country, or tried to channel their inner druid at Stonehenge, or even just fancied a bit of peace and quiet in the sticks, will raise a (possibly anxious) smile at Simon Roberts's ace photographs of heritage sites and historic properties. Always with an amused eye on how we interact with (read: mess up) our surroundings, Roberts gives us shots of sightseers milling about at Willy Lott's cottage, spoiling the view while trying to get the perfect view as immortalised in Constable's 'The Hay Wain', and crowds at Stonehenge, some on their phones, many facing the other way. It's tempting to say these images are like a day trip without any of the Network Rail-induced stress. But they're even better than that. They are a reminder of why staying put in London is often your best bet in the first place.

Flowers, 21 Cork St, W1S 3LZ. ☎ Green Park. ▶ Aug 8.



For more incredible photo shows, go to timeout.com/photography