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Home to Telephoto, a launchpad curated by the Telegraph alongside a collective of independent publications who share an expertise in photography.

Susan Kismaric, MOMA curator and author, is enchanted by Carucci's grasp of poignant vulnerability.



Simon Roberts' photographs of the Polar North surprise with raw grandeur.



According to traditional Chinese belief, when a person dies their descendants are responsible for providing for them in the afterlife until their reincarnation.



Lee Hoagland photographs the thousands of men and women striving to gain acceptance in France.



Erica Shires documents the effect of Anorexia on a young womans body.



Karen Mirzoyan's interpretation of the chaos and confusion circling the Turkey-Armenia border.

**Simon Roberts**

John Swannell

**Miles Aldridge**

**Anna Fox**

**Vanessa Winship**

**More art and documentary photography Q&As**

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Photo sites of the week



Every week we scour the Internet for interesting, inspiring or amusing sites and stories related to photography.

## Telephoto diary



What's on in the world of photography.

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James Pomerantz

## Songs about Photography

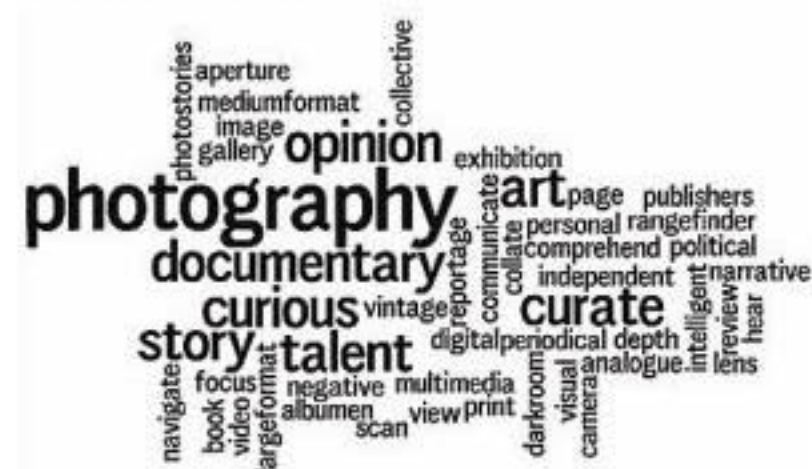
**Lucy Davies**

## Pictures of the Year: The Photographers' Choice

Amber Maitland

### How would you define a word using only photographs?

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Polyarnye Nochi

Simon Roberts' photographs of the Polar North surprise with raw grandeur.

By Lucy Davies  
Published: 3:48PM GMT 08 Jan 2010



Photo: SIMON ROBERTS

See a slideshow of this work.

Britain may have soldiered through freak temperatures of -21 degrees celcius last night, but close your eyes for a minute, fold your arms about you and try to imagine this being your average thermometer reading for whole weeks of the year. For the third of Russia's population who live and work in its northern territories this is not unusual. Throughout December and January the region is shrouded in perpetual dusk, a phenomenon known as Polyarnye Nochi or Polar Nights. The sun remains below the horizon, leaving just the faintest glow of light visible around midday and a raw, dry cold gripping the landscape.

Simon Roberts' *Polyarnye Nochi* series, currently showing at Crane Kalman in Brighton, is actually a tiny, tiny part of a huge journey. In July 2004, he began a year's journey across Russia with his wife. Starting in the Russian Far East they travelled through the Siberian provinces, up the Kola peninsula and across to Kaliningrad, before heading down to the Northern Caucasus, the Altai Mountains and along the Volga River. In the course of their travels they covered over 75,000 kilometres and crossed eleven time zones. The pictures he took were gathered together and published in *Motherland* in 2007.

"I wanted to counter some of the photographic representations of Russia that focus on collapse and deterioration – with their emphasis on the consequences of Russia's turbulent past as opposed to the possibilities of its future – without sidestepping the realities of Russian daily life" he says.

"As my year there progressed, I came to understand that Russians see beauty where an outsider might only see decaying apartment blocks or featureless landscapes...They see Russia as home, their rodina, and they see its landscapes and people as being unique – set apart, spiritual, resilient, even holy".

The human figures that populate Roberts' blue Polar landscapes seem dwarfed by an epic landscape in danger of enveloping them. Factories, railways, apartment blocks, airstrips and streetlamps loom resolutely from the raw, melancholy gloom. In Murmansk, more than a hundred nuclear-powered submarines, some equipped with warheads and loaded with radioactive materials, languish in the harbour. The soft yellow lights in one apartment block speak of warmth and comfort, yet the Soviet mural on the walls of another tell of the brute force and fierce regime that went into building them.

It is the hushed beauty of these images that lingers though: the fuddled light; the limited palette; the open sky sometimes grey sometimes navy. Combined, they surprise the viewer with their vastness and grandeur.

*Simon Roberts - Polyarnye Nochi will run from 4th January to 7th February 2010.*

Read a Q&A with Simon.

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The week's must-see films, chosen by Sukhdev Sandhu and Tim Robey.

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- Chris Evans says 'magic' of Sir Terry Wogan will stay in the 'chair'
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- Griff Rhys Jones dropped as presenter of BBC's Restoration spin-off
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## Polyarnye Nochi



Picture: SIMON ROBERTS



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