

## EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOROTHY BOHM

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 I visited the exhibition of photographs by Dorothy Bohm that were on show at the Manchester Art Gallery, Moseley St., Manchester City Centre.

She was born in Germany in 1924. Her father sent her to the United Kingdom in 1939 to avoid the persecution of the Jews. She became a photographer. She still photographs today at the age of 86.

In the exhibition there are in the order of 150 of her photographs. She initially took black and white images, but then converted to photographs in colour.

On viewing her photographs I was left with the following impressions.

1. Most of her images are in focus. A few have been taken out of focus, but they work.
2. Most of her photographs look like they are photographs taken of paintings, such is the soft focus of her work. You could say she shows a gentle way of taking photographs..
3. Regarding portraits she captured people as they were. Her black and white pictures, in which mode she started her photography career, are really good. They do not only give an insight to the apparel and hairstyles that people had in former times. She shows children vividly in their environment. She shows the masculinity of men to good effect. However her photographs of women, particularly young women, are demure and show the femininity of women in a way that this generation misses. She says that the vast majority of her black and white photographs were never retouched.
4. Her landscape photographs are also gentle in approach, but includes features of composition, such as foreground interest, which makes those images to be admired.
5. She covers all types of photography; portraits, still life, abstracts and landscapes.
6. There are images in the exhibition which she has taken this year of buildings in Manchester City Centre.
7. There are many excellent colour photographs in the exhibition that she shot on many different locations all over the world.
8. There are quotes attributed to her that are inscribed on the walls in the exhibition which really help the viewer to understand the reasons for the approach she has to her work:-
  - a) I photograph the humble, the anonymous, who are spontaneous; the mirror of us all.

b) I have tried to create order out of chaos, to find stability in flux and beauty in the most unlikely places.

c) the photograph fulfils my deep need to stop things from disappearing. It makes transience less painful and retains some of the special magic which I have looked for and found.

All in all a great exhibition of photography by a lady who is a master in this field.

*(This account was provided by David Jones of Mid-Cheshire Camera Club - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010)*