

VACMA RECIPIENT - PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

VACMA round:	February 2023
Name:	John McKenna
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Award amount: £750	Expected completion date: weather dependent – hopefully Winter 2024
Accompanying images (6 Max):	Yes/No

Please give an account of your project and how the VACMA award benefited you (500 max):

I applied for the VACMA award to help with the initial research stage of a new fine art photography project called “The Clyde: Source to Sea”.

The project will focus on the landscapes and environment around this important river, highlighting how vital the Clyde is to the communities which live and work along its course.

The Clyde is approximately 110 miles long from source to sea and the initial stage of the project involved many hours of travel by car, foot, train, and ferry. Two locations have no commercial public transport options and so require chartered boat trips.

Wherever possible public transport was the preferred travel option for the initial research, but this incurs a cost and without the award of this grant, progress would have been much slower.

The grant enabled me to survey the river from its source in the Lowther Hills to the Firth of Clyde and onwards to the uninhabited rock of Ailsa Craig over the space of just 3 months.

Without grant assistance this stage of the project would have taken at least a year to complete.

The next stage of the project is already underway, almost 6 months ahead of schedule due to the fast completion of the initial research thanks to the VACMA award.

Initial photography has now started, and this will continue over the next 12 to 18 months.

Landscape photography is time, weather and season dependent, but the speed at which the initial research stage was completed means that I will now be able to take advantage of the weather conditions over Autumn and Winter 2023, something that had not been anticipated before the award was granted.

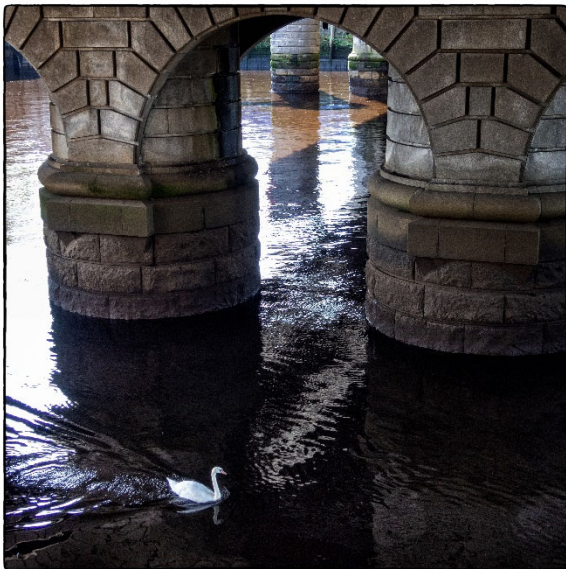
The initial location scouting yielded some promising locations and I now have a list of sites to visit, together with preferred time of day, season, and weather conditions.

Some of the early images from the project (it must be stressed that these are scouting images and not the final versions) include the following:

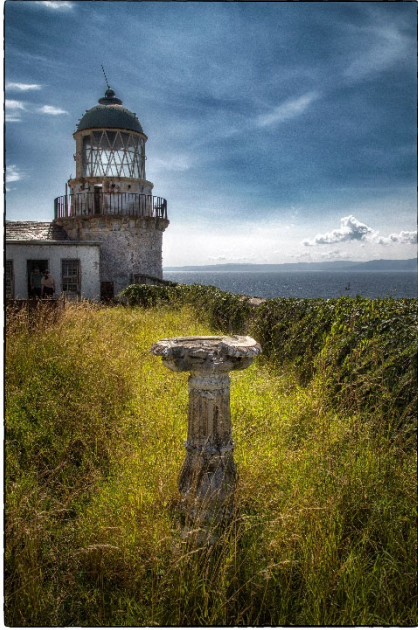
Couple enjoy the view, pier, Helensburgh, April 2023



The Clyde, industry and leisure, Glasgow Green, April 2023



Swan and rail bridge, Clyde, Glasgow, March 2023



Abandoned lighthouse, Little Cumbrae, Firth of Clyde, July 2023



Sunset over Arran, Portencross, Firth of Clyde, March 2023



Clyde coast, South Ayrshire, April 2023