

SCHÖNRIED/BERN: ANJA TANNER PRESENTS HER PHOTOGRAPHY OF SCOTLAND

Stories that change the picture

28 year-old photographer Anja Tanner of Schönried discovered the Isle of Skye over a period of months with Scotsman George W. Macpherson. Her photos, which all tell a particular story, may be viewed starting next Friday in Bern.



"Your perception of a certain location changes when you know the story behind the subject," states Anja Tanner (pictured). The 28 year-old photographer from Schönried is presenting 14 selected photos 25 September at the Botanical Garden in Bern. They were all taken on the Isle of Skye, and each image features an audio recording of an accompanying story.

A place, a story, an image

Anja Tanner, who attended the gymnasium in Thun and has been trained in Vevey, Berlin, and elsewhere, discovered the beauty of the raw British landscape and its culture for the first time during a nine month long trip in 2001. At that time, she completed an internship as a photographer in Wales. Her



Was a bride kidnapped here? This lake is located close to the village of Sligachan on the Isle of Skye (Scotland).

zvg/Anja Tanner

work also took her to the north, including the Isle of Skye, an island in the north-west on the Scottish coast. That's when she met local George W. Macpherson, a famous storyteller and author who knows nearly 2000 stories about his country and his island; Macpherson even drove Tanner to the scenes of these stories. "George Macpherson has real storytelling talent - his longest story lasts for two days!" exclaims Tanner.

Where heroes died

This project on the Isle of Skye has produced a Swiss-Scottish collaboration named "Clacharan - Stepping stones", which is currently being presented in Bern. "For two months last spring, we traveled from one location to another," recounts Tanner. 76 year-old Macpherson told her the stories associated with the images on location. Among other things, the stories involve

heroes from Scottish mythology, Celtic warriors, clan feuds, and of course love. For example, the title photo of the exhibit, "The Waterhorse of Sligachan", tells the story of how a wedding day tragically ended when the bride was kidnapped and carried away into the sea by a monstrous waterhorse while she returned home from the festivities.

This gifted young photographer's Scotland journey, who started her

career at diverse events including the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad, was financed by a grant for a photography contribution to the canton of Bern that she received last year. Above all, Miss Tanner loves the broad expanses of Scotland: "In the north of the country in particular and on the Isle of Skye, you can walk for hours without seeing any houses." She also adores the intense colors of the Scottish landscape and the constantly

changing weather, which reveals the facets of the raw, hilly scenery so well.

On the occasion of the vernissage this Friday, Scottish storyteller George Macpherson will be traveling to Bern especially to tell the fascinating stories that belong to Tanner's photos live. Of course, the stories are also available as recordings until the end of the exhibition on the 10th of October.

SARAH McGRATH-FOGAL

Exhibition "Clacharan - Stepping Stones": Vernissage Friday, 25 September, starting 6:00 p.m. in the Galerie Botania of the Botanical Garden Bern. The exhibition will last until 10 October. Opening times: Wednesday to Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. More info: www.ancatan.com and www.skye-storytelling-centre.co.uk