

Andrew Bell – the photographer and his photography

Andrew Bell has been a photographer for over thirty years. After training and working in London he spent six months in Kenya, documenting the tribes, then moved to Sydney to do commercial work. He recently returned to doing documentary work, including projects in Bangladesh, Chernobyl, Soweto and Australia.

Below is his brief account of the techniques used to capture the images in the photographic exhibition *Steel Beach – ship breaking in Bangladesh*

“For the beach shots I usually went out onto the beach twice a day. First at about 4am while still dark, and then at around 5pm for the sunsets. As dawn broke I would try and do a few shots before sunrise which I found to be the most interesting light. These would be long exposures, between 1 second and 30 seconds as I always like to try and have the camera stopped all the way down for maximum focus. Once the sun was up I had a bit more flexibility and could shoot without a tripod. I would shoot until around 7am when the light became less interesting.

All photographs are taken on a Fuji Landscape camera onto slide film, 9x7cm, and shot on Fuji Velvia film. I have two of these cameras, both with fixed wide lenses. Once processed the film is scanned on a Flextight scanner to around 350mgs and printed onto Kodak photographic paper on an Ilford Lightjet.”

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