

COLIN PRIOR

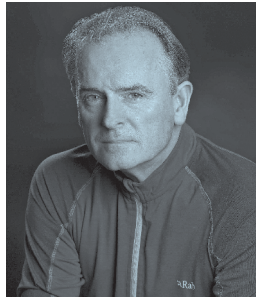
ELEMENTALS

A CALENDAR FOR 2027

FROM SCOTLAND'S FOREMOST LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER

COLIN PRIOR - ELEMENTALS

In a career spanning forty years, Colin Prior photographs capture sublime moments of light and land, which are the result of meticulous planning and preparation and often take years to achieve. Prior is a photographer who seeks out patterns in the landscape and the hidden links between reality and the imagination. He has produced nine books that include *The World's Wild Places* and *Living Tribes*, which were published internationally, and has just completed a seven-year project in Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains. His most recent project, *Fragile*, explores the links between birds, eggs and their habitats, and was published in September 2020 by Merrell. Colin has been the subject of three BBC documentaries entitled *Mountain Man* and is Patrons Ambassador for the RSPB.



Throughout my lifetime, my work as a photographer has evolved. Following some initial success with underwater photography, I turned my attention to landscape photography, to express my passion for the natural world through this genre. Two photographers inspired me as role models: Galen Rowell, a prolific climber, photographer and author who, in 1986, published *Mountain Light*; and a Japanese photographer, Shinzo Maeda, an internationally published photographer.

Galen's work spoke to me deeply and he made great efforts to reach remote, inaccessible locations to capture rare moments when light and land converged. His work shone a light on the path I would eventually follow. His example motivated me to climb mountains and to reach locations where I would photograph at dusk and dawn.

Shinzo Maeda produced seventeen books and worked predominantly with Hasselblad cameras and lenses, and also with large-format equipment. The quality of his published photographs was incredible and his example convinced me to work predominantly with a large-format camera. It was also Shinzo who introduced me to the concept of shooting intimate images within the landscape, a pursuit that continues to give me great pleasure today. Both their examples helped to shape my own journey as a photographer which, in time, developed into a recognisable style.

Today, I continue to search for inspiration, and take great pleasure in the landscape paintings of Gordon Beningfield's Countryside. He too, was shaped by a childhood in the countryside and later trained as an ecclesiastical artist, but spent his life painting the countryside of southern England. He wrote: "I want to capture seasons and moods to such an extent that you can almost smell the subject of the picture, whether it is a portrait of a fox, or a landscape of a bluebell wood." His words resonated with me deeply and I recall thinking exactly the same thing when I began to work with large-format cameras. Often, it is not so much about what is in the picture, but where it takes you.

AWARDS

National Adventure Awards, Winner Business Category, 2015.
Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture, 2020.



Fragile | 2020 | ISBN 978-1-85894-688-7

The Karakoram | 2021 | ISBN 978-1-85894-687-0



COLIN PRIOR WORKSHOPS

If you are interested in developing your photographic skills, why not join one of Colin's workshops? With trips to Knoydart, Glencoe, Skye, Harris and Assynt, there are numerous opportunities to photograph some of Scotland's wild and iconic landscapes. Our workshops are designed to give photographers access to some of the best photographic locations in Scotland, where knowledge and expertise is communicated at an individual level. Aimed at photographers who are already familiar with their cameras, our workshops offer adventure where learning is complemented with excellent food and accommodation. Contact: www.colinprior.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/colinpriorphotographer X(Twitter): #colinprior Instagram: <http://instagram.com/colinprior>



JANUARY – *Buachaille Etive Mòr*

The pyramidal profile of Buachaille Etive Mòr is striking as it stands sentry to the glen's entrance but is challenged by numerous other peaked summits along the glen's twin ridges, one of which is the 10 kilometres, notched ridge of the Aonach Eagach. On the opposite side and rising from the flat valley floor is the dramatic buttress of the Three Sisters.



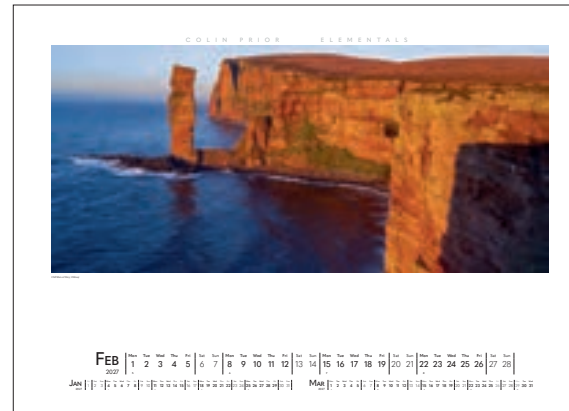
MAY – *Dùn Beag*

Whether crossing Sanday, travelling the coast road to Tarbert, climbing up to Compass Hill or standing above the northern cliffs, a striking feature is the abrupt, vertical, columnar basalt cliffs that occur throughout the landscape. The landscape abounds with wildlife and the biggest sea stack of Dùn Mòr is home to a puffin colony for three months of the year.



SEPTEMBER – *Silver birch*

Ancient forests, interspersed with stands of the lighter birch, add to the air of antiquity and timelessness of this glen. With its extensive native woodland and moorland, its flowing river, its surrounding hills and general absence of artefacts, the glen has a natural and peaceful feel, an oasis from the modern world.



FEBRUARY – *Old Man of Hoy*

One of Scotland's most iconic and recognisable natural features is the Old Man of Hoy. Rising to 137 metres high off the cliffs near Rackwick Bay it has been sculpted from the Old Red Sandstone laid down during the Devonian Period, 375 million years ago. Despite their age, the Old Man is thought to be less than 400 years old and stands on a foot of basalt.



JUNE – *Isle of Rum*

The island of Rum was turned into a shooting estate by the Marquis of Salisbury who introduced red deer. Thereafter it had a variety of owners, the last private one being the Bullough family who used it as a private sporting estate. They built the sandstone Kinloch Castle, which stands as a monument to a bygone era.



OCTOBER – *Liathach*

Torrion is one of the most dramatic and distinctive landscapes in Scotland. Liathach and Beinn Alligin's pink, terraced cliffs and distinctive pyramidal peaks composed of Torridonian sandstones are unmistakable, as are the white, scree-covered slopes of Beinn Eighe's Cambrian quartzite, which offer vantage points onto a billion-year-old landscape.



MARCH – *Castle Hill*

The Cairngorms massif is dominated by vast, boulder-strewn plateau, ringed by precipitous cliffs, which plunge to wild dark carries. The highest plateau reach over 1,200m in altitude, supporting large tracts of alpine heath and blanket bog which are home to dotterel, snow bunting and ptarmigan whose hoarse croak can be the only sign of life when the plateau are blanketed in snow.



JULY – *Cairns of Coll*

Lying off the north coast of Coll is a small group of islands which include Eilean Mòr, Eag na Maoile and Sùil Ghorm on which the Cairns of Coll Lighthouse is located. Beyond, lie the Small Isles, an archipelago of contrasting islands, each with its own recognisable profiles and each possessing its own distinct landscape, history and culture.



NOVEMBER – *Scarba*

Scarba emerges sharply out of the sea, appearing as a pyramidal mountain peak rising to 449m. The west coast is precipitous, with steep heather-clad slopes and a raised beach more than 30m above sea level. The Gulf of Corryreckan is renowned for its dangerous tidal races, roaring whirlpools and standing waves with tidal currents here reaching 10 knots.



APRIL – *Isle of Eigg*

This extensive area of the western seaboard possesses richly varied scenery of outstanding quality. The Knoydart coastline is deeply fragmented with numerous promontories, bays, islands and sea lochs. Inland there is a backdrop of hills and mountains, while out to sea there is a horizon of spectacular islands called the Small Isles.



AUGUST – *Gearraidh Lotaigear*

There is something quite melancholy about the abandoned village of Gearraidh Lotaigear which sits above Loch Trolamaraig. With its bones now laid bare, we can see how interconnected the people were with the land – even the runrigs are still visible in the headland beyond, however, this intimacy with the land has been lost forever.



DECEMBER – *Sgùrr na Ciste Duibhe*

The dramatic landscape of Glen Shiel is quintessential of the West Highlands. Magnificent mountain scenery is composed of towering peaks rising steeply from lochs and glens. A feeling of seclusion is engendered by the narrow and winding glen that constrain the view, then suddenly reveal the spear-like cone of Faochag and the pinnacles of the Saddle.



Buachaille Etive Mòr, River Etive, Glen Etive

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Castle Hill, Loch Morlich, Cairngorms National Park

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Isle of Eigg and Isle of Rum, from Sgùrr Coire Choinnichean, Loch Nevis

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Dùn Beag and Dùn Mòr, Sound of Canna, Isle of Sanday

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Isle of Rum from Gallanach Bay, Isle of Muck

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Cairns of Coll, Isle of Coll

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Liathach and Beinn Eighe, Loch Clair, Glen Torridon

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Scarba, The Garvellachs and the Gulf of Corryvreckan from the Isle of Jura

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Sgùrr na Ciste Duibhe, Sgùrr na Càrnach and Sgùrr Fhuaran, Kintail, Glen Shiel

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