



When Kintyre-based photographer Sarah Morton was given a camera for her eighth birthday, little did she anticipate that it would inspire a career.

“I just took to it,” she says. “I loved taking pictures of my family and on one lovely occasion in the garden of my maternal grandparents in East Lothian when I was 10, I took a really good series of pictures of my aunts, uncles and grandparents. That was the first time I was told I was a good photographer. I was very much a snapper until in my early thirties when I went to Canada for a month and took some amazing pictures. I gave them to a friend who had

a lab to develop, and he told me that some of my work was as good as the professional photographers with whom he worked. That set me thinking and when I was at BBC Scotland, I went to The Glasgow School of Art as an evening student and studied the Art of Black and White Photography. I learned how to develop in a dark room and what makes a great photo. I’d studied Art History at St Andrews University in the 80s, so I was interested already in the photographers and artists of the past.”

Sarah’s first proper camera was a Ricoh, but Nikon is now her brand of choice. “I met one of my heroes, Sir Don McCullin, at the Edinburgh Book Festival very early on in the digital era and he urged me to keep working in film - which I did for as long as I could, but then I began losing work because I couldn’t do jobs fast enough.” Sarah finally went digital in 2010 when she was satisfied that the quality was comparable to film.

She is passionate about black and white photography. “It’s emotional, artistic, textural and dramatic. You can take a very mediocre colour photograph and turn it into a monochrome work of art. It also forces you to look at the world in terms of light and shape so composing an image becomes a process of abstraction.”

Sarah has been selected by the curators at Saatchi Art as one of the artists to



feature in their catalogue last year and had a photograph selected by the Royal Photographic Society for their annual International Photography Exhibition.

An award-winning hotel in Campeltown has commissioned Sarah to provide photographs for their staircase. “This is a big job and I’m having a lovely time choosing images for the clients. I hope to get that done this summer. Then I hope to be able to revisit mounting an exhibition at Glen Scotia Distillery which was cancelled last year because of lockdown.

Sarah is married to the Scottish writer and broadcaster Brian Morton as they met while working at BBC Scotland, and she has two stepdaughters, Fiona and Alice, plus a son, John, with Brian. The family has two geese; Sid and Nancy, a muscovy duck called Sir Francis Duck, Miles the cat and a Jack Russell called Dileas, which is Gaelic for ‘faithful and bold’.

See more of Sarah’s work at www.sarahmortonphotography.co.uk

