

World Building – ADAA5011

Martin Dykstra – 2305923

www.martindykstraphotography.com

Looking at other Artists and Photographers
Websites for inspiration

www.nicolaslattery.com

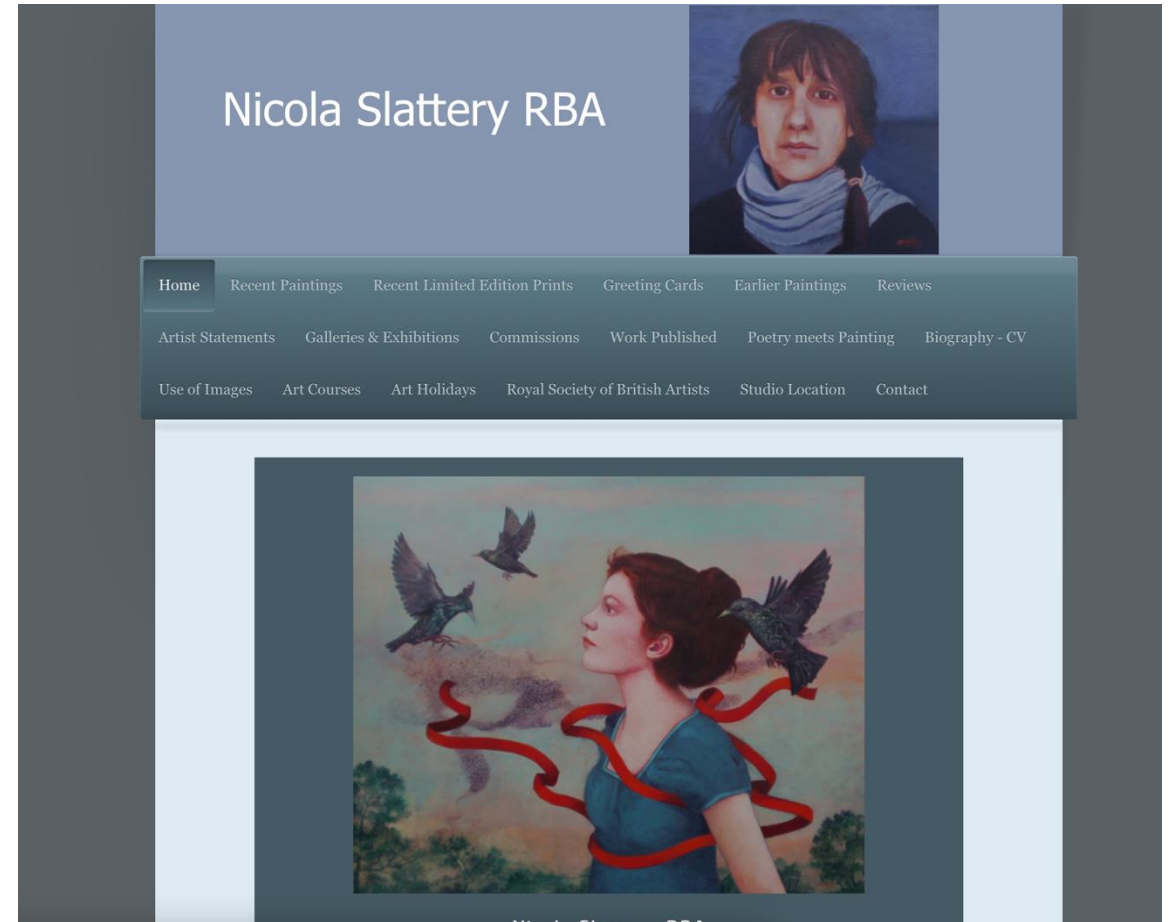
Nicola Slattery RBA

Nicola Slattery is a member of the Royal Society of British Artists.

Her distinct style is known to art lovers across the UK and beyond. Winner of art awards and prizes her work is in contemporary art collections worldwide.

There is a lot of colour and imagery on this site; it is easy to read and scroll through, and the menu bar is visible on all pages.

What I do not like is the repetition, especially about the courses offered. They have their own page and are hugely used on the homepage.



Nicola Slattery continued.

The menu bar is huge and, in my opinion, is too large a lot of the information on each of them is duplicated and some could be put together, for instance, the Studio location and contact



Home	Recent Paintings	Recent Limited Edition Prints	Greeting Cards	Earlier Paintings	Reviews
Artist Statements	Galleries & Exhibitions	Commissions	Work Published	Poetry meets Painting	Biography - CV
Use of Images	Art Courses	Art Holidays	Royal Society of British Artists	Studio Location	Contact

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

Yep, that's right, when I started with professional photography I was NOT interested in wedding photography.

At the time I told myself it would be too much stress, that I'd have to deal with those 'bridezillas' you hear so much about, and that I didn't want to work an 8-hour day constantly on my feet, with the *usual* wedding food being my only sustenance.

I didn't like the style of what I saw as wedding photography either. Light and airy, overly-posed, editorial style perfect photos; or perfectly flash-lit, over-edited shots of a bride and groom in an obviously fabricated embrace. **Meh.** Not for me.

It took (reluctantly) photographing a friend's wedding and attending a Killer Filler Workshop for me to realise that **wedding photography can be fun** and isn't stressful. It's exciting and uses *SO* many genres of photography *all in one wedding day*.

Fun couples who are looking for **alternative, unconventional** wedding photography want candid, natural, documentary-style photos, and they want portraits that capture their personalities, not the most awkward, unnatural pose they could imagine. **Those couples are my couples.** They don't fit defined physical characteristics. It's about being the real you on one of the most important days, but also one of the most fun days, of your lives.

If that sounds like you, the ones who don't like their photos being taken, but love to laugh at each other's stupid jokes, then you should have filled in my contact form by now, because you're already one of my couples.



Andrews's site is simple, easy to navigate and clean on the eyes.

My only negative would be the landing page is a little cluttered, and the image and white writing do not work for me, also for a wedding photographer, his gallery (though beautiful) is a little lacking in images.

His pricing is also very clean, and you are left knowing exactly what you are getting.

Some of Andrews images



Andrew’s pricing

WEDDINGS AT HOME	THE TRIPPLO	THE LUNGO	THE ESPRESSO	THE RISTRETTO
★ <u>All-day</u> coverage (~12 hours) ★ Pre-wedding consultations ★ Sneak preview in 1 week ★ ~600 hand-edited, hi-res photos ★ Online slideshow + secure gallery ★ Keepsake box of prints ★ Travel costs included and also... ★ 2x 16x12" Fine Art Prints (worth £50) ★ Pre-wedding session (worth £300)	★ <u>Prep to party</u> coverage (~10 hours) ★ Pre-wedding consultations ★ Sneak preview in 1 week ★ ~500 hand-edited, hi-res photos ★ Online slideshow + secure gallery ★ Keepsake box of prints ★ Travel costs included	★ <u>Prep to party</u> coverage (~10 hours) ★ Pre-wedding consultations ★ Sneak preview in 1 week ★ ~500 hand-edited, hi-res photos ★ Online slideshow + secure gallery ★ Keepsake box of prints ★ Travel costs included	★ Half-day coverage (~5 hours) ★ Pre-wedding consultations ★ Sneak preview in 1 week ★ ~300 hand-edited, hi-res photos ★ Online slideshow + secure gallery ★ Local travel costs included (within 100 miles of S63)	★ Short coverage (up to 3 hours) ★ Pre-wedding consultations ★ Sneak preview in 1 week ★ ~200 hand-edited, hi-res photos ★ Online secure gallery ★ Local travel costs included (within 50 miles of S63)
	£2700	£2200	£1600	£900

INTERNATIONAL WEDDINGS

THE AFFOGATO

Rest of the world

- ★ Prep to party coverage (~10 hours)
- ★ Pre-wedding consultations
- ★ Sneak preview in 1 week
- ★ ~500 high-res photos
- ★ Online slideshow
- ★ Secure gallery
- ★ Keepsake box of prints
- ★ Travel + 2 nights accommodation included

and also...

- ★ Photo album (worth £665)
- ★ Adventure session (the day before your wedding, worth £600)

£4200

THE MACCHIATO

Europe

- ★ Prep to party coverage (~10 hours)
- ★ Pre-wedding consultations
- ★ Sneak preview in 1 week
- ★ ~500 high-res photos
- ★ Online slideshow
- ★ Secure gallery
- ★ Keepsake box of prints
- ★ Travel + 2 nights accommodation included

and also...

- ★ Photo album (worth £665)
- ★ Adventure session (the day before your wedding, worth £600)

£3750

THE CORTADO

Europe

- ★ Prep to party coverage (up to 10 hours)
- ★ Pre-wedding consultations
- ★ Sneak preview in 1 week
- ★ ~500 high-res photos
- ★ Photo slideshow
- ★ Secure online gallery
- ★ Keepsake box of prints
- ★ Travel + accommodation included

£3100

Additional websites researched

www.clairebyrnephotography.com

www.tomhull.co.uk

www.harisnukem.com

www.mathieustern.com

www.carianneolder.com

www.jasoncoxphoto.com

www.cassbird.com

www.thehearnes.com

www.brandonwoelfel.com

www.dollyave.com

www.milkovi.com

www.carmenhuter.com

Website Building sites

- ❖ Wix
- ❖ Squarespace
- ❖ Wordpress
- ❖ Canva
- ❖ Freeola
- ❖ Cargo Collect
- ❖ Go Daddy
- ❖ Abobe Portfolio
- ❖ Weebly

Opposite are a range of website-building sites. I have previously used several of them to build sites for my Landscaping business, all to varying degrees of happiness.

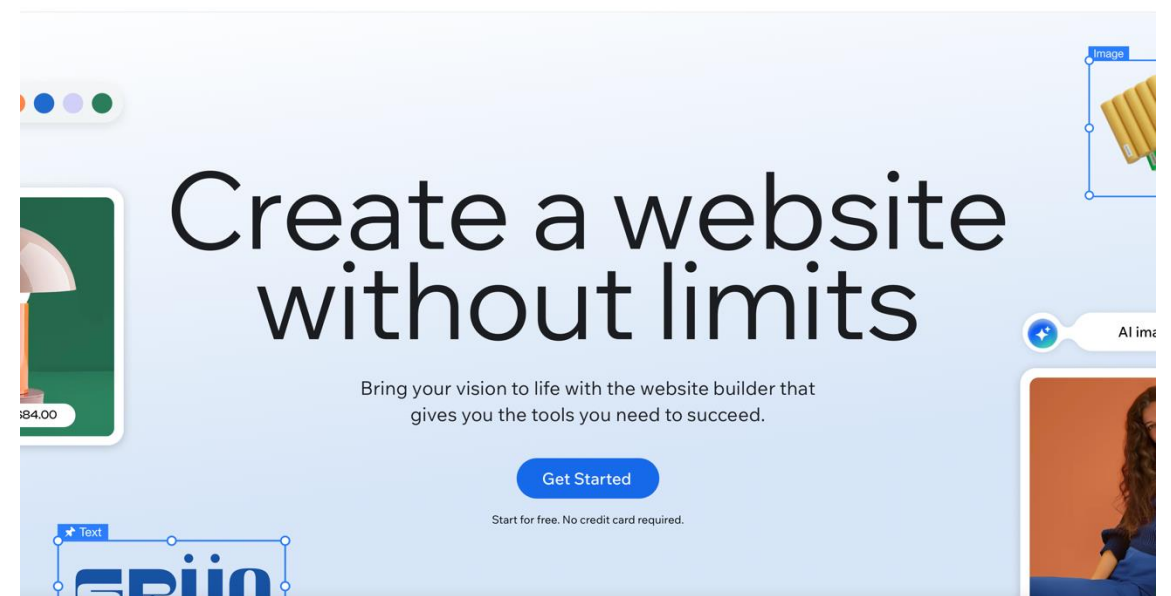
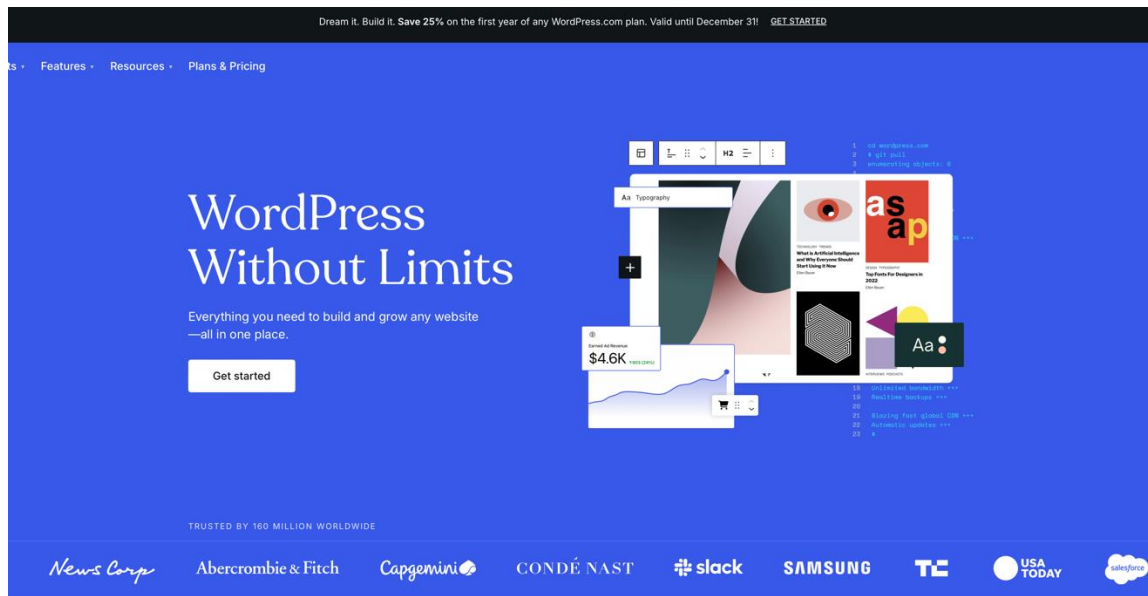
The only ones I have not dealt with are, Canva, Cargo Collect and Adobe Portfolio.

Out of all the ones I have used, Wix and GoDaddy gave the best results. But only if you pay. Their basic free site is too simple and not very creative.

WIX & Wordpress

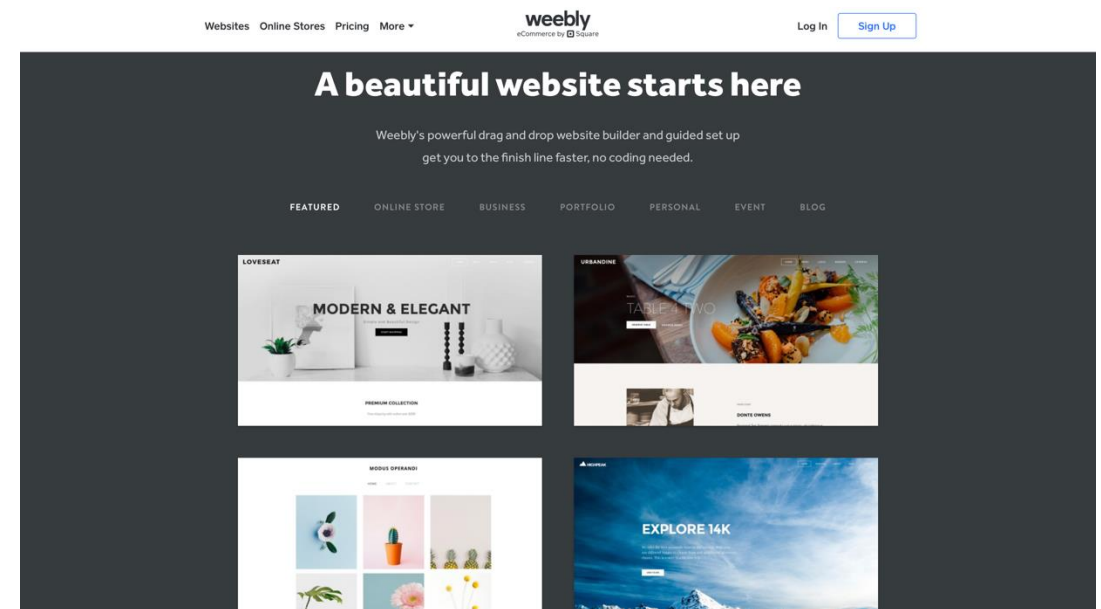
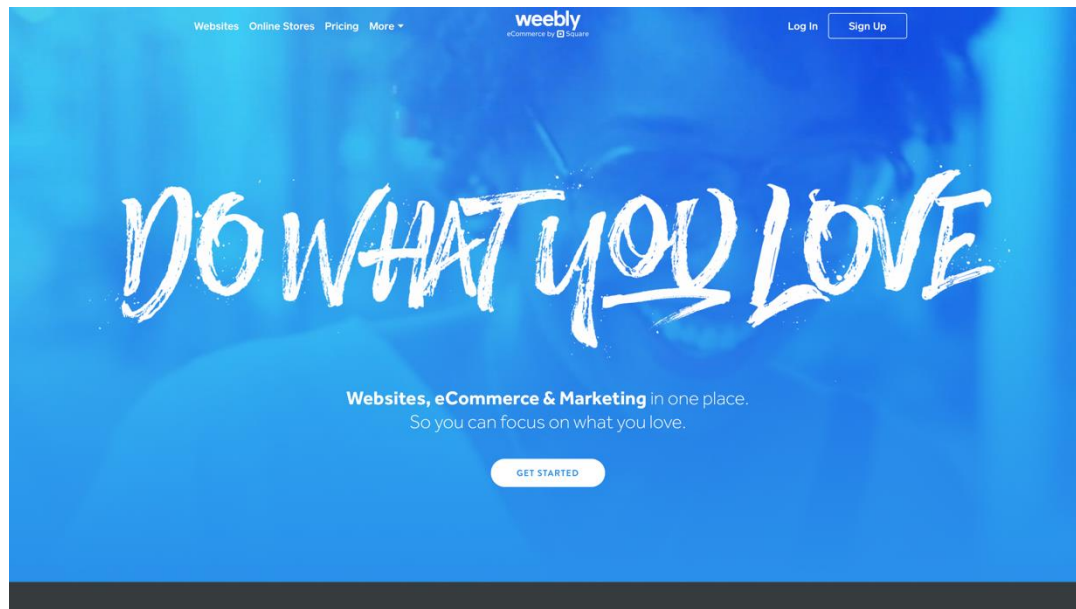
I initially tried to make a Website using WIX. However, I have several previous websites with them, and for some reason, they would not let me build another one.

I then went on to look at WordPress. The major issue with this site was that it would not let me pay for it. I have no idea why. I tried several times and used two different cards. No luck, so off to another site.



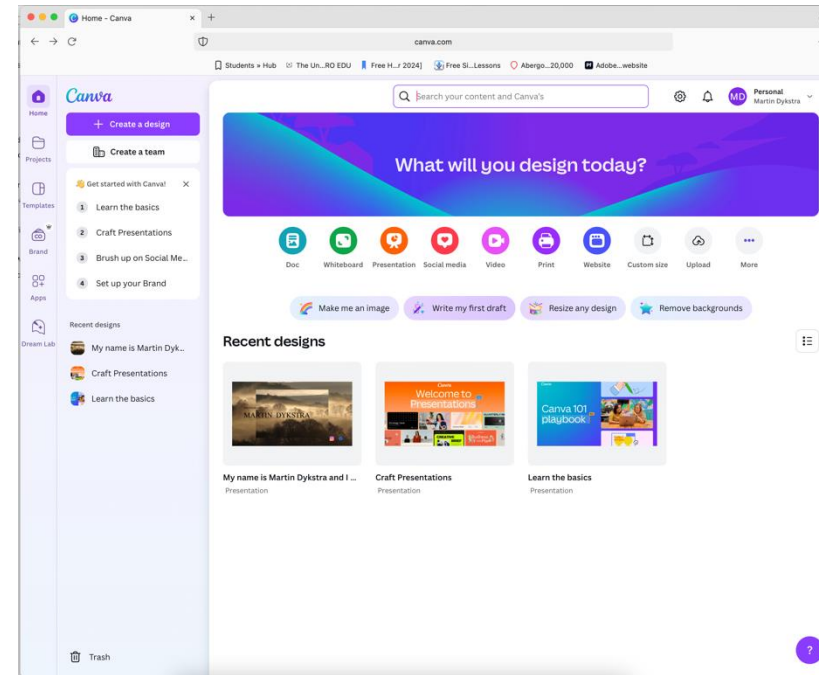
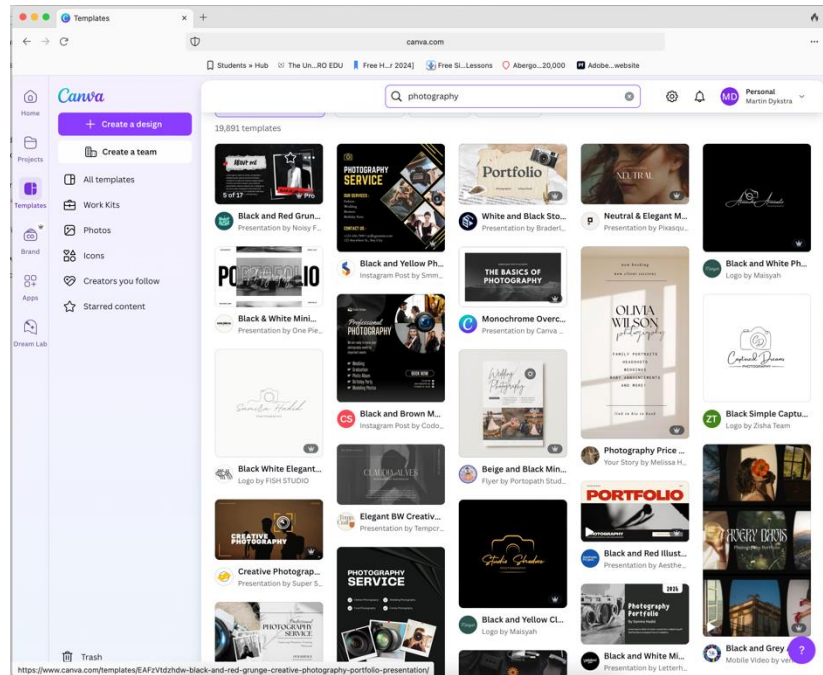
Weebly

Next was Weebly, which looked like an easy-to-use site. After only several minutes, I realised it was far too basic, and the tools did not allow me to do anything I actually wanted to do. This included making the images larger and I could not get it to scroll correctly, this was probably me, not the site.



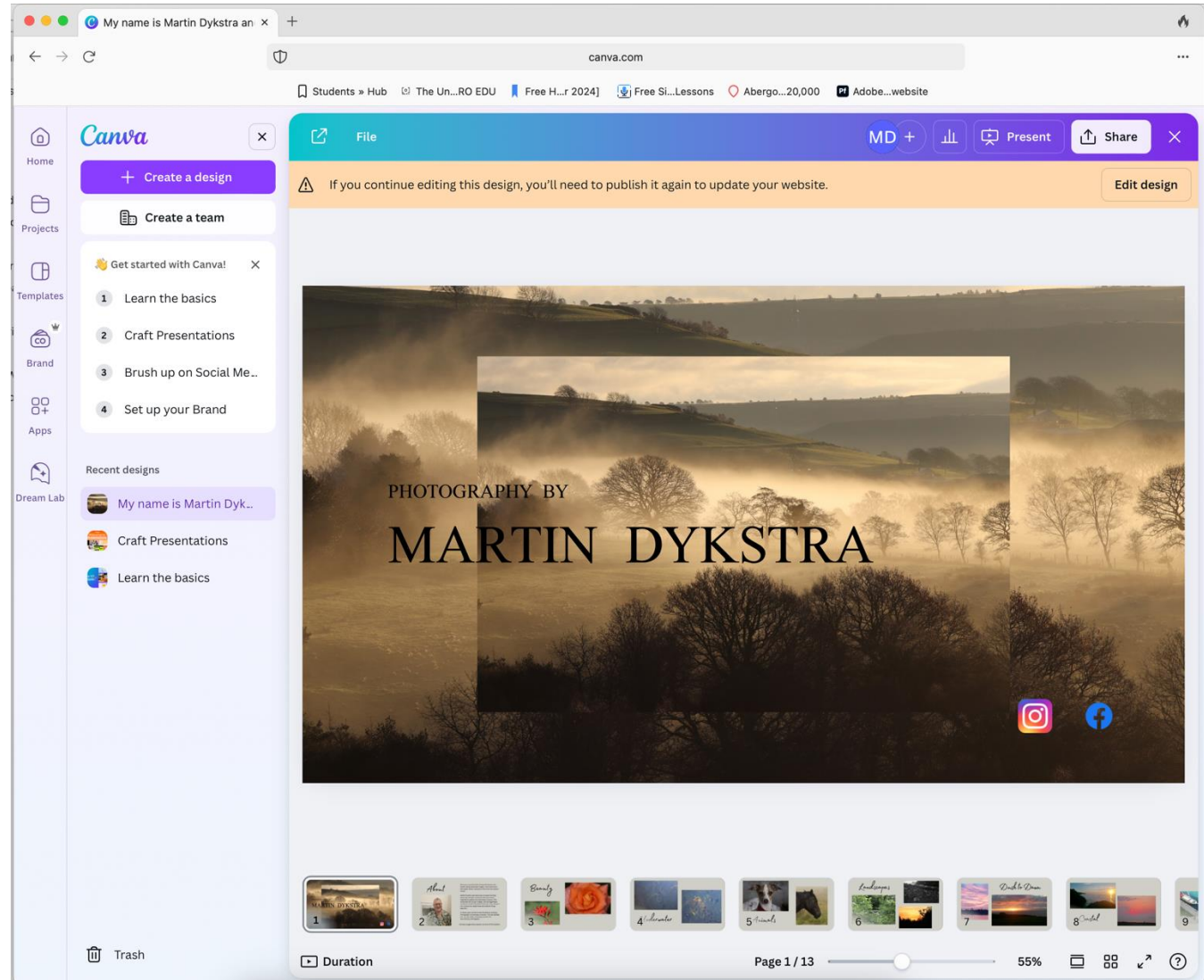
Canva

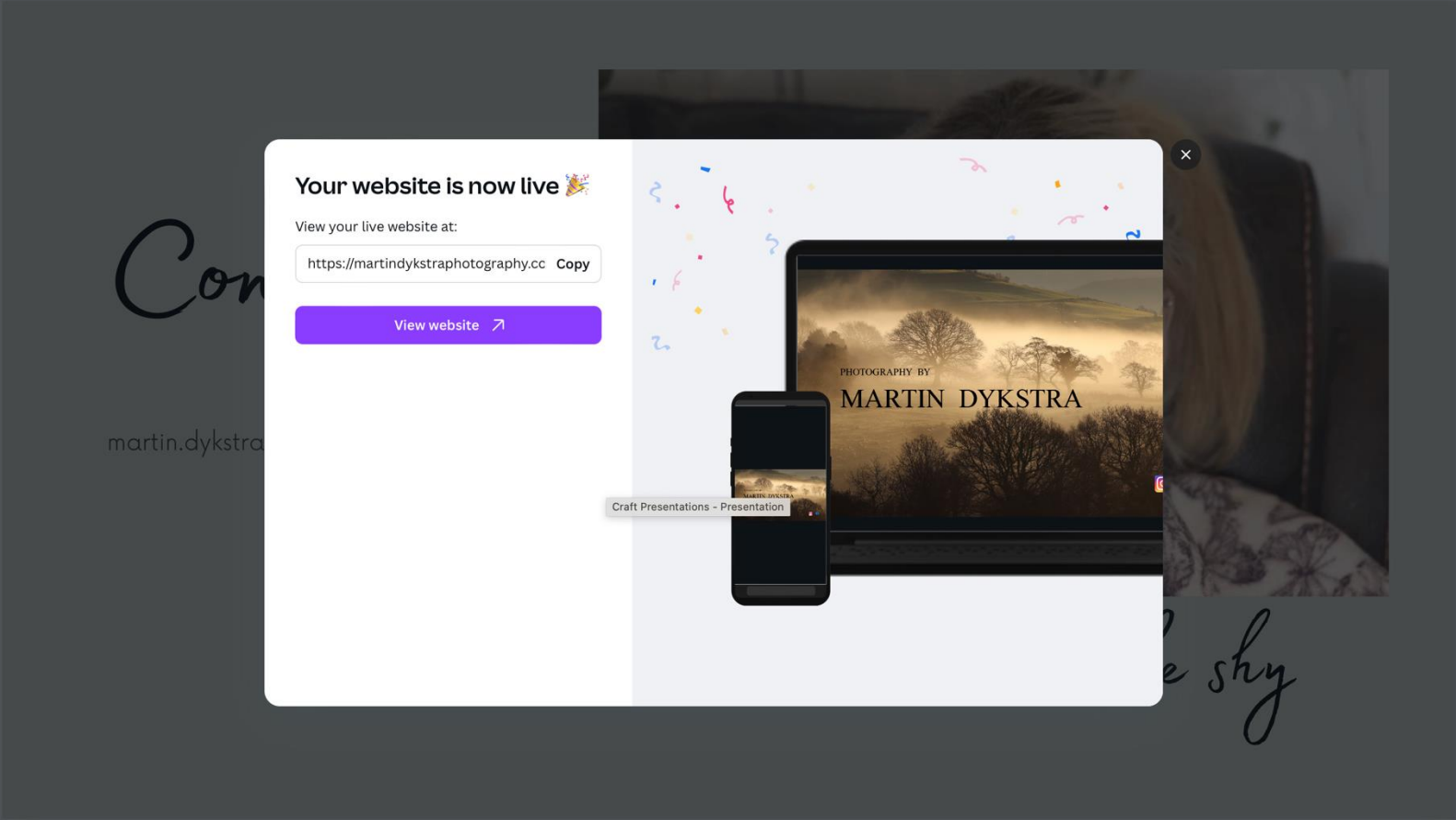
I then looked at the Canva site, it had good reviews and looked easy to use. I really liked this site; it did everything that I wanted it to do and produced an excellent website. However, It was basically a Powerpoint style site, which, although in the future, for art sales, I would use for a main site, it did have too many flaws. For instance, there was no click on an image to make it bigger, and you could not add hidden pages. So on to the next one.



My original Canva website,
which worked on all PC's and
phones, except the University
one which showed it as being a
possible site linked to
terrorism ?

Who Knew..





Canva – It was on the Canva website that I bought my domain name, it cost me £16.99

BusinessEducationPlans and pricingLearn

Domains > martindykstraphotography.com

martindykstraphotography.com

your domain

martindykstraphotography.com

Domain registration

Auto-renew off

Domain expires on 8 Nov 2025

Payment method

Manage

/isa **** 2317

Contact details

Edit

your contact details won't be publicly visible as WHOIS privacy protection is enabled.

Martin Dykstra
Rhyd Y Gwin
Craig Cefn Parc, Swansea, SA6 5TE
United Kingdom
martin.dykstra@sky.com
+44.7983494915

Advanced settings

Manage

Manage your domain's nameservers and DNS records, or transfer to another registrar

Published websites

Your websites are no longer live as this domain has been disconnected. [Manage your connections.](#)

BusinessEducationPlans and pricingLearn

Purchase history

Search for invoice ID

Filter by type

Filter by date

34874-9052016

Any item type

All dates

Description	Billed To	Created On	Status
 Subscription purchase 04359-25728391	Martin Dykstra martin.dykstra@sky.com	8 December 2024	Paid
 Custom domain subscription 04329-42365166	Martin Dykstra martin.dykstra@sky.com	8 November 2024	Paid

I used these themes to help build my website:

Use easy navigation so people can find what they need quickly.

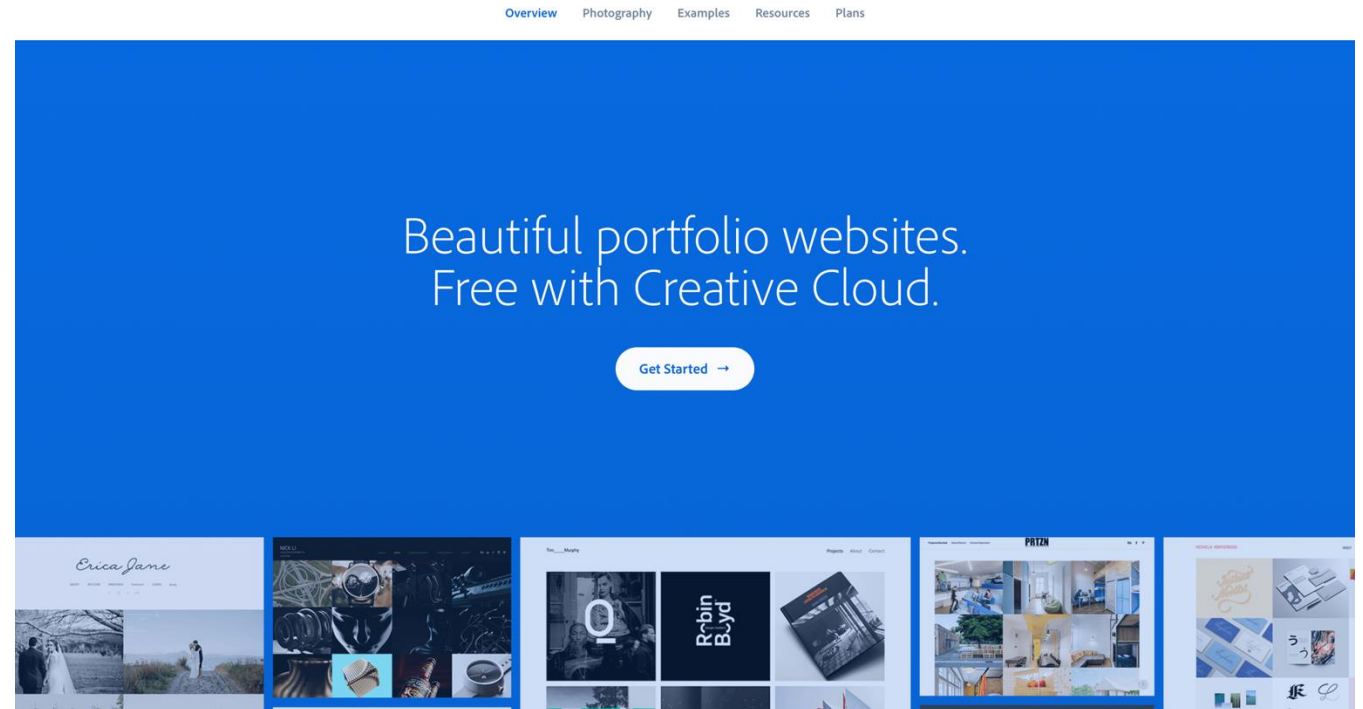
Only use High-quality images, and the image galleries are prominent. Ensure you have clearly labelled pages.

- All pages are mobile-friendly and load quickly enough.
- The fonts and colour match the style of photography.

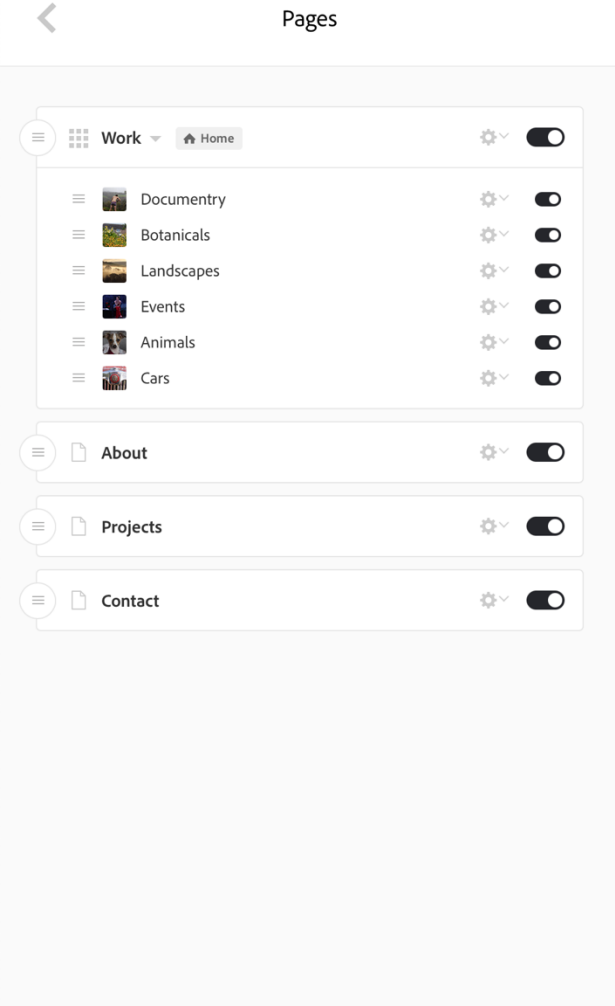
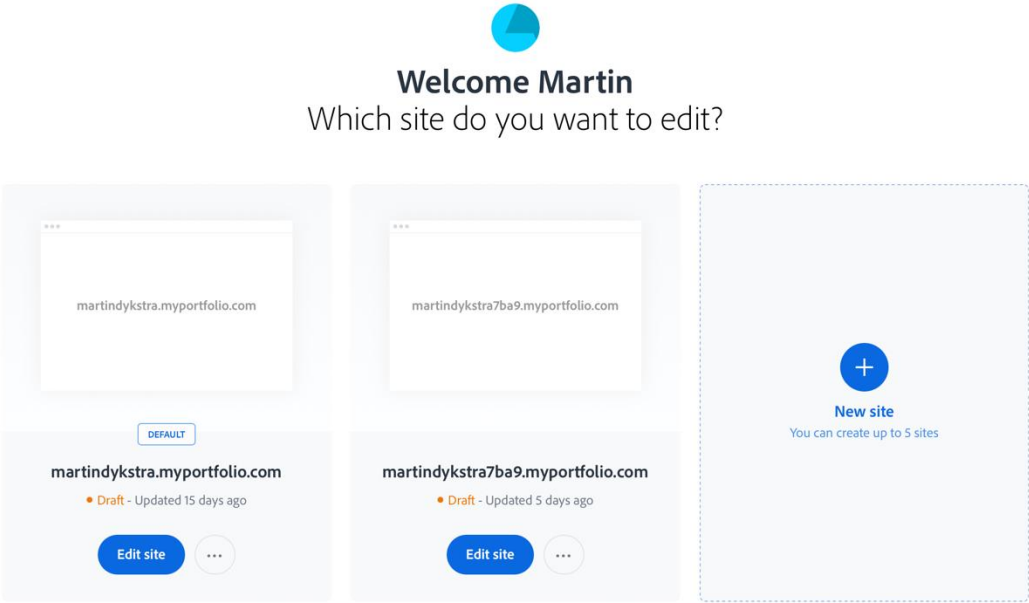
Adobe Portfolio

Eventually, I made the decision to use Adobe Portfolio.

This Website builder seemed easy to use, had more tools at its disposal and had the requirements that I needed, mainly the hidden pages, as well as the ability to enlarge images.



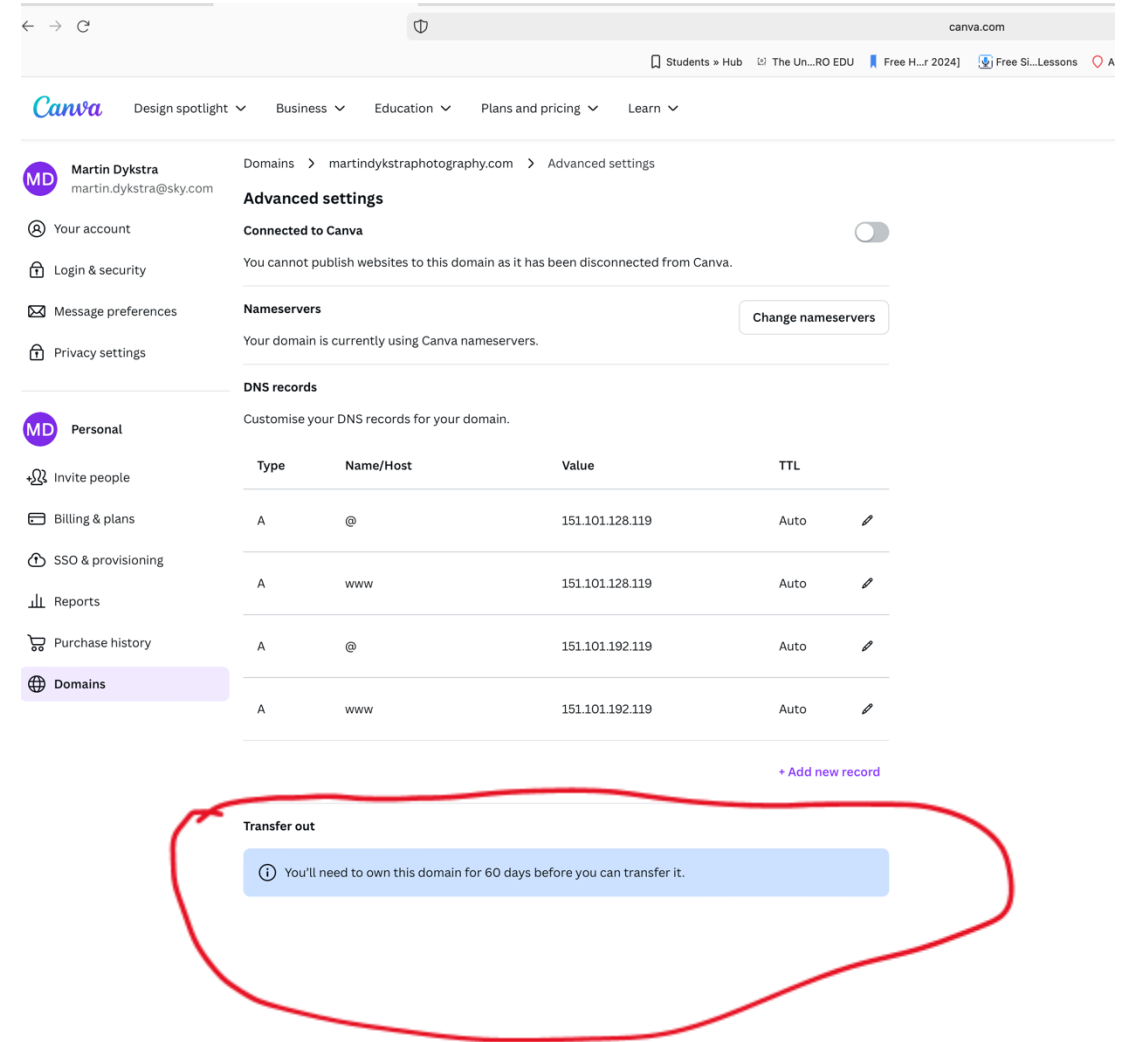
Adobe Portfolio editing opening page and my final page summary



As I had previously purchased the domain name through Canva, I had to change it over to Portfolio.

This tested my patience, as I had no idea what I was doing. Luckily, I eventually found a Google site that explained what to do. Even with this help, I still found it very challenging.

I was worried, as it stated (circled red), that it could not be changed or transferred for 60 days, plus the Portfolio site was saying that it could take up to 72 hours to go live after the domain name release. If this was the case, it would not go live until the 9th of January.

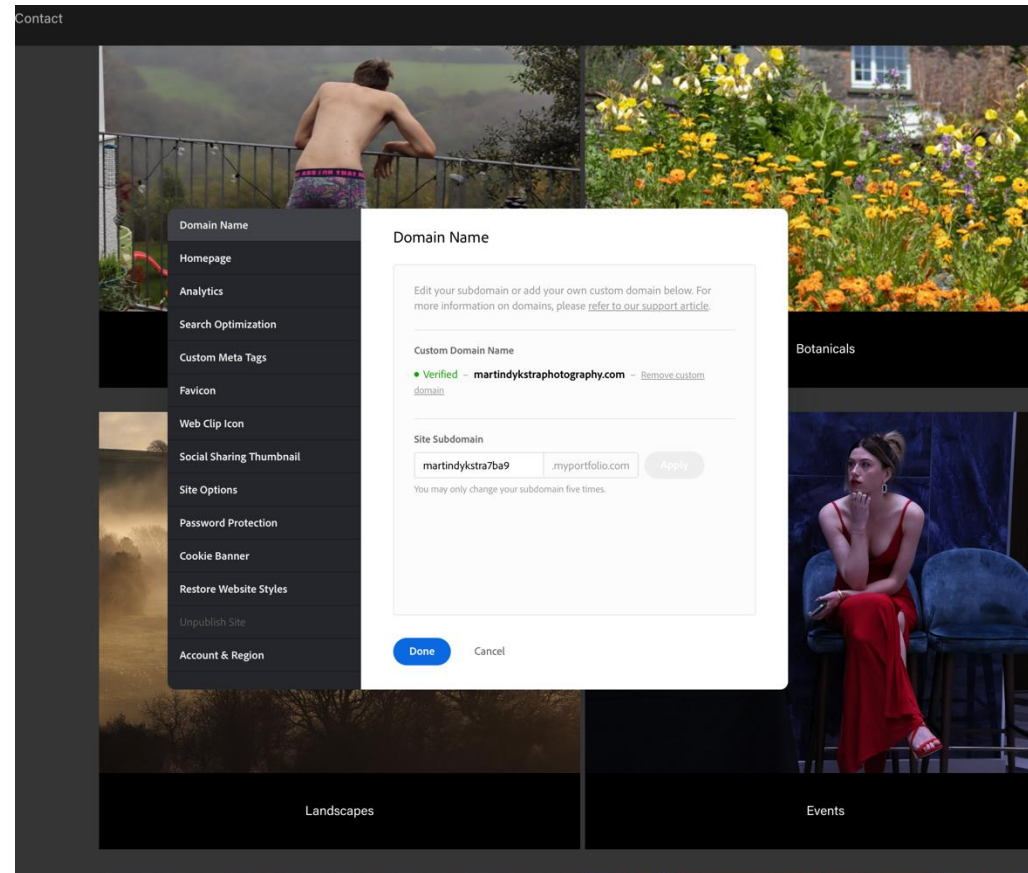


The screenshot displays the Canva website's domain management interface. The top navigation bar includes the Canva logo and links for Design spotlight, Business, Education, Plans and pricing, and Learn. The user's account is logged in as Martin Dykstra (martin.dykstra@sky.com). The left sidebar shows various account settings, with 'Domains' selected. The main content area shows the domain 'martindystraphotography.com' with 'Advanced settings'. A toggle for 'Connected to Canva' is turned on, with a note stating 'You cannot publish websites to this domain as it has been disconnected from Canva.' Below this, the 'Nameservers' section indicates the domain is using Canva nameservers, with a 'Change nameservers' button. The 'DNS records' section shows a table of records for the domain.

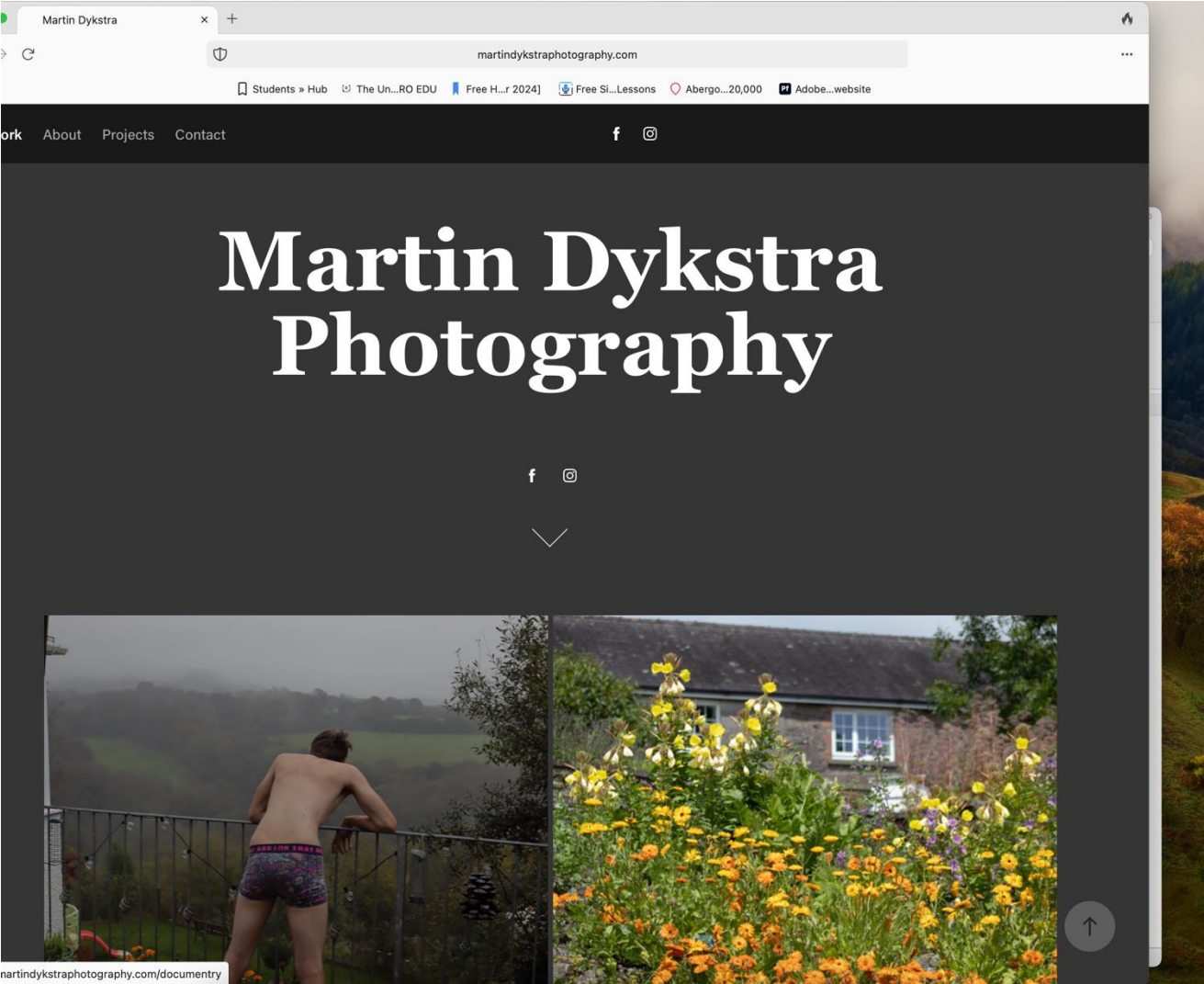
Type	Name/Host	Value	TTL
A	@	151.101.128.119	Auto
A	www	151.101.128.119	Auto
A	@	151.101.192.119	Auto
A	www	151.101.192.119	Auto

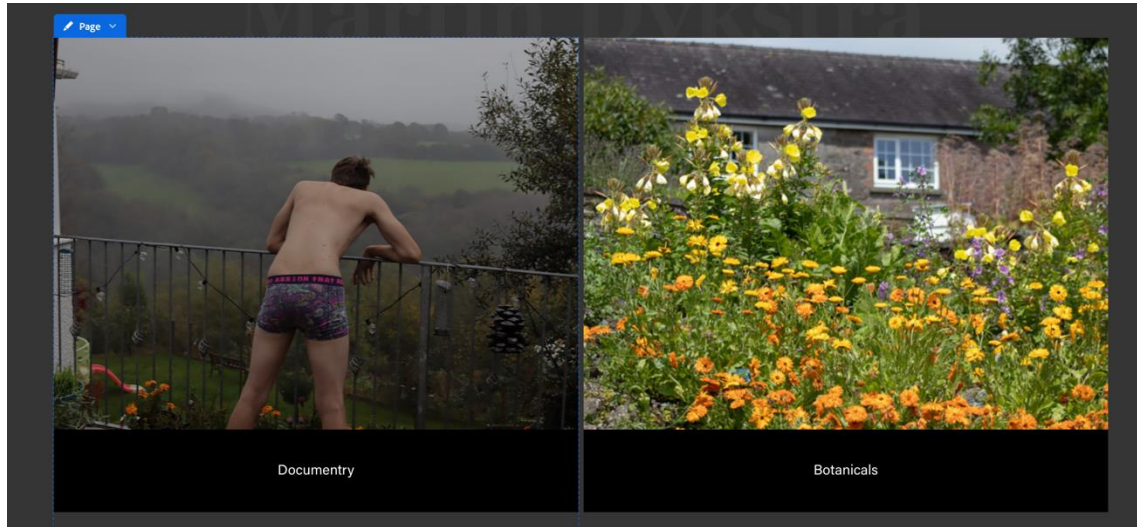
Below the DNS records table, there is a '+ Add new record' link. At the bottom, a 'Transfer out' section is circled in red, containing a message: 'You'll need to own this domain for 60 days before you can transfer it.'

Thankfully, the site was verified by Portfolio and did go live within the 60 days. Why say it would not, if it would??

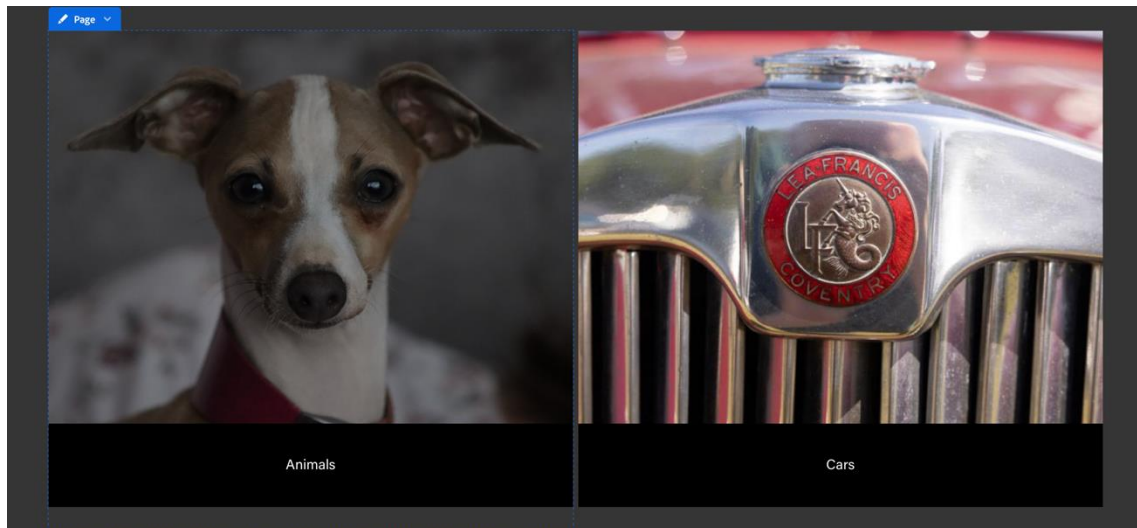
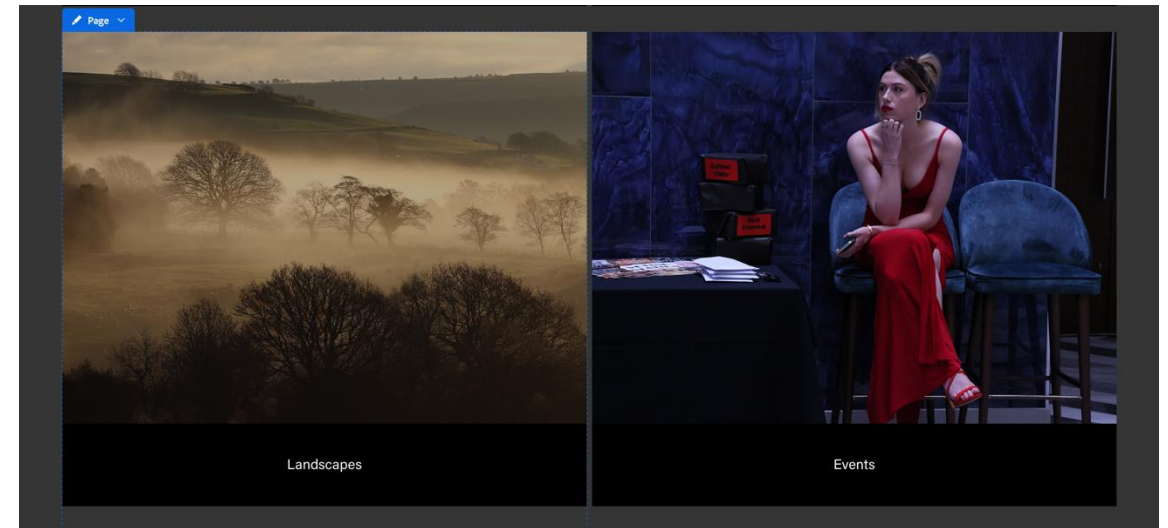


Opening Page





The six categories of photography on the home page



Projects Page

Projects

May 2024 - Losing oneself to Dementia - An exhibition at the University of Wales, Trinity

Sy David.

This exhibition focused on the slow loss of one's mind to Dementia. It featured a set of seven images depicting a person (who has dementia) on a bleak day, walking up a pathway away from the camera. The images represent a poignant view of who you are now and who you will become in the future.



December 2024 - Atmosphaera - An Exhibition at St Marys Church, Swansea.

This exhibition was part of a site-specific group exhibition. The images represented the atmosphere of the church, in this case, its age, using paint flakes from its walls and altar. The process involved taking paint flakes samples using sellotape, and then making darkroom images of them before scanning them into a digital medium.

The images were printed at around A3 size and were laid on the floor of the church to represent its ageing process.



About Page

About



Original and New version of Artist statement

Discover a surreal world of exquisite beauty and breath taking landscape imagery. Here nature and life create vibrant, sensual art forms for the viewers delight

Martin Dykstra was previously an award winning landscape designer and horticulturalist which inspired his passion for botanicals to bloom. This combined with living in Wales, with its magnificent coastlines and the beautiful landscape, have allowed him to become a passionate advocate all things beautiful.

In recent years he has honed his skills by studying Photography at Swansea university. This has opened him up new styles, including a passion for documentary photography.

Martin Dykstra is a talented photographer who possesses a profound love for the great outdoors. From a young age, he has been deeply passionate about the intricate beauty of plants and the stunning landscapes that nature has to offer. This passion is not only evident in his captivating photographs but also in his previous work as a skilled horticulturist and innovative landscape designer. Determined to further explore this lifelong love, Martin made the bold decision to become a mature student at Swansea University. There, he immersed himself in the study of Documentary Photography and Visual Activism, honing his craft and developing a unique perspective on visual storytelling.

During his academic journey, Martin also took significant steps to establish his own photographic business, showcasing his work to a broader audience. His entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to his craft have allowed him to create a niche for himself within the photography community. With a keen eye for detail and a strong sense of composition, Martin is capable of undertaking various photographic roles, including portraiture, documentary photography, and much more. His diverse skill set enables him to capture the essence of his subjects, whether they are people, plants, or landscapes, resulting in striking visual narratives that resonate with viewers. Through his photography, Martin aims to inspire others to appreciate and connect with the natural world, highlighting its beauty and fragility.

Contact Page

Contact

Name *

Email Address *



Message *

Submit



Come on, don't be shy.

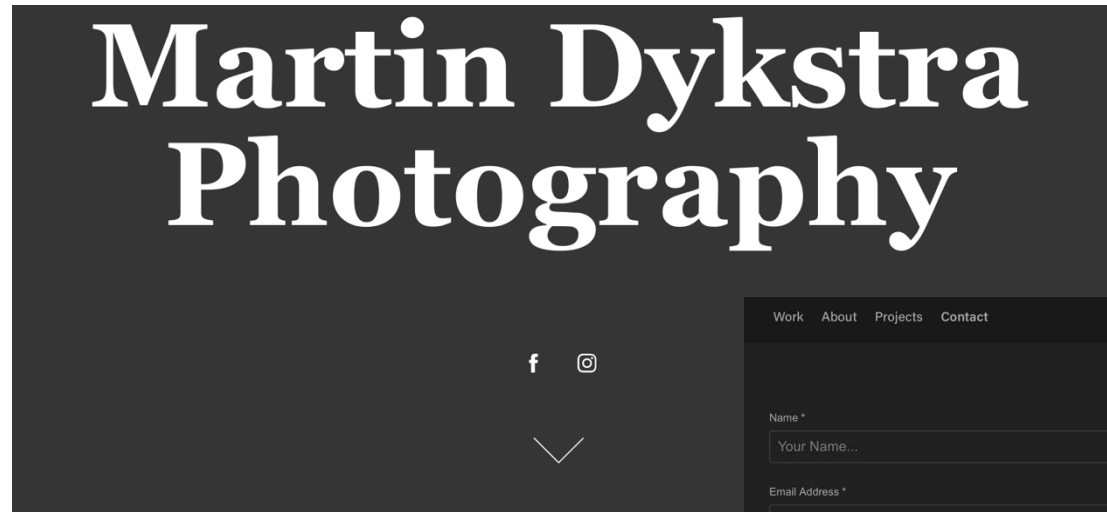


← Social icons ▾

Profiles Icon Style

X	X
Bē	Behance
in	LinkedIn
f	https://www.facebook.com/f
ig	https://www.instagram.com/
TikTok	TikTok
Dribbble	Dribbble
t	Tumblr
M	Medium
v	Vimeo
YouTube	YouTube
P	Pinterest
E	Etsy
••	Flickr
S6	Society6
A	Artstation
500px	500px
GitHub	GitHub
WordPress	WordPress

Social Icons available on Portfolio and how they look on the website



I currently only use
Facebook and Instagram
but will shortly be using
LinkedIn

Work About Projects Contact f ig

Name *
Your Name...

Email Address *
Your Email Address... @

Message *
Your Message...

Submit

ig Come on, don't be shy.

Social icons

f ig

Powered by Adobe Portfolio

Overview of Adobe Portfolio and completed Website

Adobe Portfolio was the best of all the sites I tried. It had a host of templates, and changing from one to another was painless. The image uploading was simple; you could do individual images or a collection of them at the same time. The collection allowed you to decide how many images per line, etc. However, it did not allow you to change one image to be larger than another which is a shame. All images open into a larger image when clicked.

The finished site has good navigation settings, and separate categories of images allow the user to see differences in photographic style. This setup allows for easy additions later on, such as weddings etc.

I believe the site comes across as professional, although I am limited by the amount of images I have, but this will be rectified as time goes on.

Social media icons are prominent and on multiple pages.

I am unsure of the home page colour; the grey may be a little too dark or even the wrong colour. I may change this in the future, but we all need a starting point.

My main criticism of the site was that I was unable to add a photo to the landing page, this is a shame as I prefer the landing page on Canva, I think it looks better and more professional. This is something I will look at in time.

Bibliography

Used research

<https://www.andrewheeleyweddings.com>

<https://www.clairebyrnephotography.com>

<https://www.nicolaslattery.com>

Additional research

www.tomhull.co.uk

www.harisnukem.com

www.mathieustern.com

www.carianneolder.com

www.jasoncoxphoto.com

www.cassbird.com

www.thehearnes.com

www.brandonwoelfel.com

www.dollyave.com

www.milkovi.com

www.carmenhuter.com