

imaging

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# Masters in the frame

Value and trust characterises the work of famed photographers.

**W**E'LL stick our neck out here and say the most famous photo session of all time was the three days Bert Stern spent with Marilyn Monroe in 1962. It was just six weeks before her death and he was on a commission from *Vogue*.

Stern took 2500 photos. An extravagant number, even by digital standards, and positively prodigal with film. And the 2500 have been distilled to a poignant photographic memorial.

Now, it so happens that you can own a genuine photographic print from this Stern set, which is for viewing and sale at the Source Photographica gallery of fine art photography in Brighton. And it is not the only famous photograph for sale — there are works by Max Dupain (signed original prints); the photo-



grapher on Hillary's Everest expedition, Alfred Gregory; and Nick Brandt, creator of images of African animals. Gallery owner Philip Kulpa opened Source Photographica a year ago and sources photos from all over the

world. "I go to Paris every November, where there is a big photo fair," Kulpa says. "I do a lot of the fairs, markets, auctions and galleries over there."

How does he find and buy the historically significant photos, such as the Marilyn Monroe pictures?

"I met Bert Stern's assistants at a photo show in New York that is held every March and April," Kulpa says. "This was about seven years ago and since then I have been selling a lot of work for them."

A striking part of the collection is the



Philip Kulpa travels the world to source photos, such as the work of Nick Brandt (bottom left).

Brandt work. His specialty is close-ups of African animals in monochrome. At Kulpa's gallery there is a book of photographic proofs of Brandt's photos and it is worth a trip to Brighton just to turn the pages. If one takes your fancy, make sure you have a large limit on your credit card. These stunning photos sell for up to \$150,000, raising the question: how do we know we are getting a print from a genuinely limited edition?

"Photographers can't just have open editions," Kulpa says. "Because that is not good for collectors and there will never be any value in their work. They've got to do small runs — 10, 15, 25 maximum, otherwise buyers don't have faith in the market."

Which is all very well but where is the guarantee? "Ethics," Kulpa calls it. "One hundred per cent trust."

Source Photographica, 1a Rose Street, Brighton, is open noon to 6pm every day. See [sourcephotographica.com.au](http://sourcephotographica.com.au).

review

## PENTAX K-5 DSLR

Price: \$1900 (body)

Designed by photographers



**The low-down:** Pentax calls this 16-megapixel camera its professional APS-C model. The chunky, rugged body feels tough and incorporates features such as a 100 per cent viewfinder, high-resolution LCD, fast seven frames-per-second burst mode, DNG and PEF RAW formats and just about every control a serious photographer could want. It sits well in the hand and the ergonomics are excellent. The shutter-mirror is quiet, which is a nice touch. Autofocus with the Pentax 18mm-55mm lens supplied is fast and accurate. Little touches, such as the five-exposure bracketing and inbuilt high-dynamic-range processing, are signs this has been made by and for photographers.

**Like:** Image quality is on par with the competition from Canon and Nikon. Autofocus in Liveview is astonishingly fast and accurate.

**Dislike:** Auto-white balance is disappointing. The camera doesn't get anywhere near adjusting for tungsten light. It is best to shoot RAW for ease of colour correction in post-camera processing.

**Verdict:** This is an outstanding camera and anyone with a bag full of Pentax lenses should put it high on the shopping list. Just about all old bayonet-mount Pentax glass will fit, even if some of the lenses are manual-focus. The camera comes with a 375-page instruction manual, which gives some idea of the comprehensive scope of its controls and settings. Having all the camera settings visible in a body-top LCD, the rear LCD and in the viewfinder is the mark of a well-designed unit. Perhaps the only thing missing is a discrete video button but that is a minor quibble. A worthy contender in the segment of the market dominated by the Nikon D300S and the Canon 7D.