

# FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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**Volume 80****November 2010****Number 3**

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## **Mark Andrew presents “Artistry Of Photography” on Wed. Nov. 17**

Our November speaker, Mark Andrew, is resident photographer at the National Museum of Dance. Photography, says Mark, should be entertaining to the photographer, the subject and ultimately to the audience. Mark Andrew will present a series of ideas on how you can enhance the levels of entertainment to all three. He will demonstrate, in various projects and through his work, how to raise the level of excitement and entertainment in your work. Some of the contributing topics he will discuss include; themes, presentation, post processing, high tech strategies, low tech strategies and creative strategies that incorporate techniques used by other artists.

Mark writes, “I have no formal training as a photographer or as an artist. But I’ve had an incredible life with brilliant training. I’ve spent hundreds of hours in the basement with my grandfather, Samuel Kaplan, as a child watching him work his hands in wood. He was a master. I’ve read Shakespeare, Milton, Thoreau, and a hundred other writers who were equally masterful with words. Attending the world’s museum’s and experiencing paintings, sculpture and art from all millenniums has left me in awe. And I’ve felt music touch my most inner core. Yet despite my lack of formal training I have a huge desire to create art.”

“When I was 20 years old I was standing in a field of flowers on the side of a mountain in Colorado. The day was picture perfect. The beauty was overwhelming and omnipresent - everywhere we looked there was beauty. I took my camera out and told my friend I could make it even more beautiful. He told me that was impossible - that it couldn’t be more beautiful than the original. I explained to him that even though that seemed to make logical sense, that adding human interpretation had the potential to make it even more beautiful; an interpretation of another soul.”

“The common experience I’d like people to view my work would be the experience of feeling my interpretation. Each interpretation is different, but each is a part of the human experience and accessible through my work.”

“I heard an interview with Carlos Santana, the interviewer asking him what his intention in his music was. His response: *“I want to make the molecules line up with the light”* resonated with me. His intent is to make it all line up. To make all the elements line up so that the impact was a clean and profound and human and powerful as can be.”

Mark has been a photographer since a child. He saved his pennies and purchased a Kodak instamatic camera - a prized possession. Since then he has owned many cameras but over time the equipment has meant less and less, while the artistic concepts have intrigued him more and more.

After a 25-year career as a real estate investor Mark turned to creating photographic arts full time in 2005. In 2006 he began focusing on dance and had his first exhibition at the National Museum of Dance: Eleanor Rigby’s Resurrection - Images Inspired by Music’s Icons. In 2007 he became resident photographer for the National Museum of Dance, thus gaining access to some of the world’s top dancers. In 2009 he became resident photographer for The New York Institute of Dance & Education and has since photographed dancers from the world’s premier dance companies including NYC Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Paul Taylor Dance Company, and Rebecca Kelly Ballet, collaborating with those dancers to create art.

*[Continued on page 2]*

### Eastern States Penitentiary Field Trip Report

On October 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 a group of 8 photographers from SPS made a trip to Eastern States Penitentiary for a day of shooting. Rob Near, Linda Buckman, Connie Houde, Cynthia Placek, Linda Wroble, Tim (friend of Linda Wroble), Jim Craner, and Sean Sullivan all attended this outing. We paid extra for two hours of shooting access to cell blocks 11 and 14 and one person got a little extra shooting time in the location. Linda Wroble was left behind in cell blocks 11 and 14 and know one took head count on exiting and after Linda finished shooting she found her self locked in, we quickly posted bail and she was freed.

Everyone felt is as a wonderful field trip and an excellent shooting location and you can look forward to seeing many Eastern States Penitentiary photos during this year's competition from this trip. I highly recommend putting this location on your list to get to one of these years. Even if you do not pay extra for off limit areas there are many great photographic opportunities in the general admission areas. You will find the quality of the light is wonderful and you can do high dynamic range work of conventional single exposure work, I would recommend a tripod since the light can be low in the cell interiors.

And one final note if you do go down remember the streets you part on has a 2-hour parking limit. I forgot about this and at the end of the day I found a little note to help support the City of Philadelphia, a \$26 parking ticket.

- Rob Near

### Upcoming Interclub competitions:

**Photojournalism Interclub 1<sup>st</sup> round**

**CPID Creative Interclub 1<sup>st</sup> round**

Please check the photojournalism criteria on the website. "Creative" is interpreted as "Altered Reality." Thanks to all who submitted images for the Nature and EID competitions in October.

*N. Sukumar  
Interclub Coordinator*

### Mark Andrew: "Artistry Of Photography"

*[Continued from page 1]*

In 2008 Mark had two exhibitions open at the National Museum of Dance: Smoke & Mirrors - a whimsical play on both the literal and metaphorical, and STEEL: the physique of a dance. In 2008 he began marketing his work through a few very select fine art galleries.

Mark's presentation will stress the artistry of photography and minimize the technical/equipment aspects of the art - giving everyone who attends a slew of exciting ideas to experiment with when they leave. Bring paper and pencil!!!

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### Working with Sustainable Agriculture (Nov.10) by Dietrich Gehring

Dietrich Gehring is a fine arts photographer specializing in natural landscapes as well as horticultural and agricultural subjects. He has a degree in Graphic Design from the New England School of Art and Design. His fine art prints are sold through galleries and exhibitions and from his website, [www.dietrichgehring.com](http://www.dietrichgehring.com). A selection of his landscapes and agricultural images are part of the permanent collection at the Albany Institute of History and Art. His photography has also appeared in magazines, calendars and books.

Dietrich was raised on his family's dairy farm in the Mohawk Valley and now lives with his wife, Laurie Ten Eyck, and son, Wolfgang Gehring on Indian Ladder Farms', an apple orchard owned and operated by his wife's family in Albany County, New York. His rural background has been inspiration for much of his work as a fine arts photographer.

His collection of landscape images of the forests and farmland surrounding his home entitled Clear Mountain has been exhibited in several regional galleries and show spaces including Albany City Hall and the Albany International Airport Gallery. Other exhibits include, From Grandmother's Garden, a collection of luminous images of heirloom vegetables, Farm Animal Faces, a series of engaging portraits of livestock and a large and diverse collection of sunflower images.

Agriculture has also inspired Dietrich's travel photography resulting in a study of Jamaican migrant workers at home and abroad that took him on two tours of rural Jamaica. In addition Dietrich visited post Soviet Russia with a group of American farmers to document the transition of agriculture from collective farms to private enterprise. Dietrich has also photographed in Costa Rica, Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, Bonaire and the Dominican Republic.

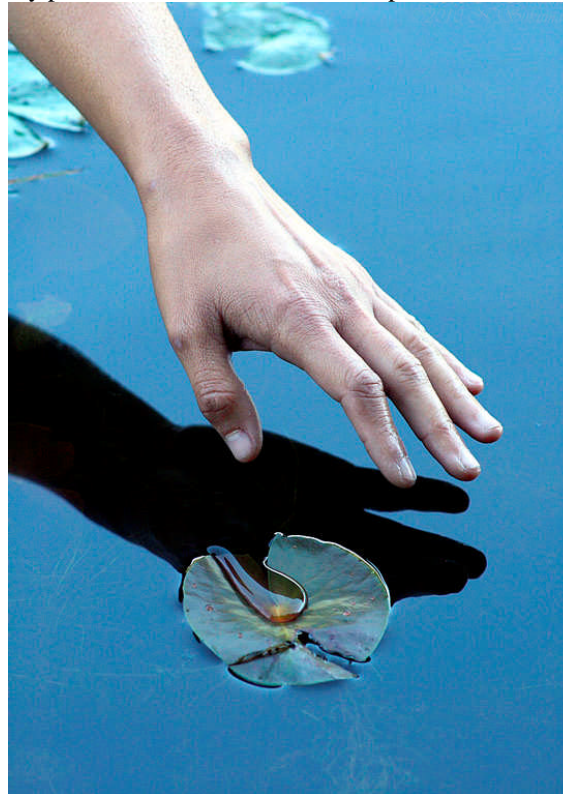
A whimsical collection of images of garden gnomes at work and play in natural settings was inspired by a request from Workman Publishing for a wall calendar on the subject. Several of his garden gnome images have been exhibited in the Czech Republic at the Usti nad Labem in Prague.

Dietrich has focused his lens once again on the Helderberg Escarpment. He collaborated with New York City photographer John Yang, whose work is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art. Together they have been photographing the Helderberg Escarpment in John Boyd Thacher Park using large format cameras. John Yang has since passed away. Dietrich is now photographing sustainable farms and creating images that document the relationship between chefs and farmers. To view more of Dietrich's photography visit his website at [www.dietrichgehring.com](http://www.dietrichgehring.com)

### October Projected Competition Winners

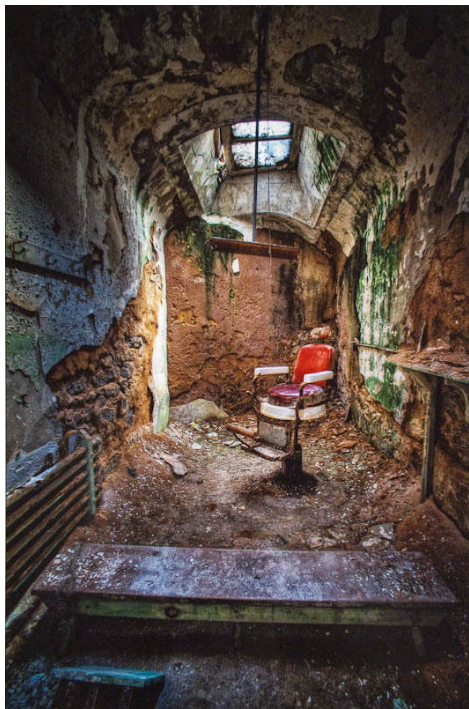


**Me, Myself and Eye** (*1<sup>st</sup> place Assigned, above*) is a Self Portrait by **Ken Deitcher** with a Fuji Finepix F 20 and 24 mm lens. F/5.0 @ 1/100 sec hand held in available light. ISO: 200. Processed with Photoshop, Texture filters and Topaz. **N. Sukumar's Touch** (*3<sup>rd</sup> place General Projected, below*) was photographed in a coastal bog in Maine, using a Canon EOS XT<sub>i</sub>, with Canon EF 75-300mm f/1:4-5.6 USM lens and tripod. I had the model position her hand above the lily pad, then zoomed in on the composition.





## October Print Competition Winners



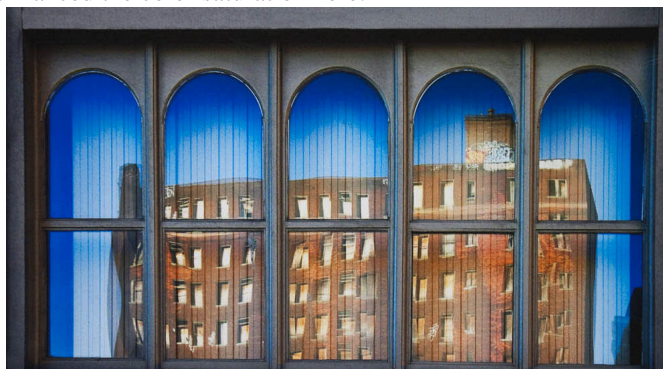
**Eastern State Barber Shop** (*1<sup>st</sup> place Color Print*) is a 9-shot HDR by **Rob Near**, bracketed from -4 to +4 stops, processed in Photomatix. Photographed at the Eastern States Penitentiary, Philadelphia, with a Nikon D700 on a tripod, and Tokina 17 mm lens @ f/11, ISO: 200, 1/20 to 13.0 sec exposures. **Doug Mitchell** shot **Just Waiting** (*2<sup>nd</sup> place Color Print, below*) at a model shoot with a Canon 5D, manual exposure, spot metering, 70-200 mm f/2.8 lens @ 200mm. f/2.8 @ 1/250 sec. ISO: 1000.



**Discarded 1** (*1<sup>st</sup> place Assigned Print*) is by **Doug Mitchell**, who used a Canon 40D and 70-200/2.8 lens @ 200mm, f/8, 1/2000 sec, ISO: 1000. Shutter priority, pattern metering, + 1/3 EV. Figuring the Schenectady County Dump would be a fine place to find discarded, unwanted and forgotten items, this shot was taken shortly before noon. The shoe was without its mate, all alone and surrounded by a variety of other debris. **Max Tiller** shot **The Mack Truck** (*2<sup>nd</sup> place Assigned Print, below*) with a Sony DSLR, 18-70 mm lens and fish eye lens attachment on Western Ave turnpike. F/16, ISO: 800, Topaz plug-in.



**Saul Aronson** shot **Abandoned But Not Forgotten, The Wellington** (*3<sup>rd</sup> place Assigned Print, below*) in downtown Albany with a Canon 7D and Canon EF-S 17-55 mm f/2.8 USM IS lens, ISO: 125. Evening sun (within an hour of sunset) enhanced the color saturation here.





October Projected Competition Winners *[continued]*

**Jeffrey Altman** is **Rolling with the Punches** (3<sup>rd</sup> place Assigned Self Portrait, below).



## Günter Knop

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Afternoon light streaming into **Luba Ricket's** house caught her eye - as did the **Shiny Shoe** (1<sup>st</sup> place General Projected, at left). She played for about an hour, trying different setups, before taking this shot, hand held, with an Olympus C7000 (P&S). ISO: 80, f/4, 1/80 sec, -.7 EC.



**Heidi Ricks** contemplates **Facing Mortality** (2<sup>nd</sup> place Assigned Self Portrait).

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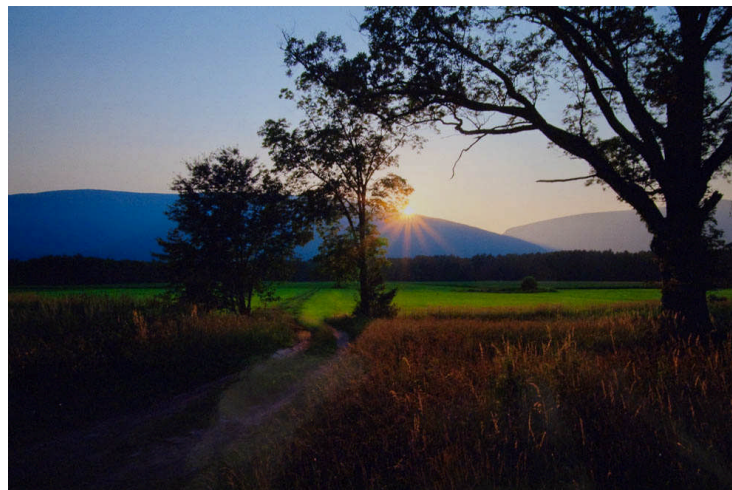
Schenectady Photographic Society's meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church at 603 State St. in Schenectady, NY. Parking and entrance are at the rear of the building off Chapel St., a short one-way street off Nott Terrace. Additional information and directions on our website <http://www.schenectadypicturesociety.com/>





**Doug Mitchell** photographed **Towering Tulips** (*2<sup>nd</sup> place General Projected*) in Albany's Washington Park, using a low angle to get some background color and sky, and to make them loom larger than life. Canon 40D, 24-70/2.8 lens @ 70 mm, partial metering, 1/320 sec, f/9 ISO: 800.

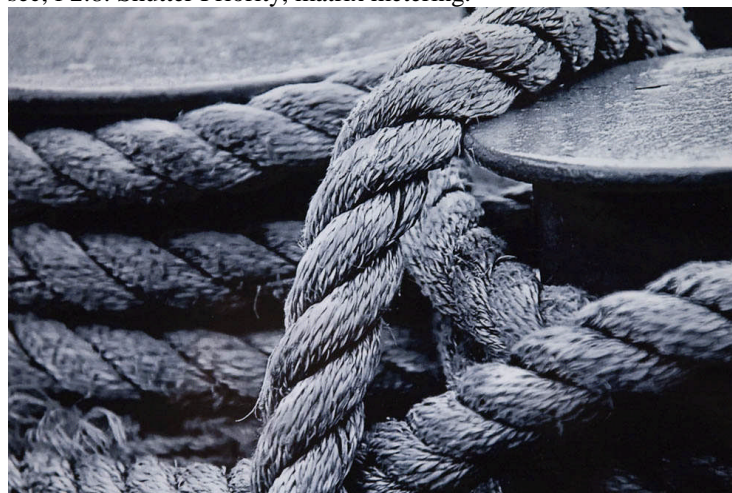
**Rob Near** found the rundown house below 300 yards from his home in Athens. Nikon D700 on tripod with Nikon 14-24mm lens at 17 mm. ISO: 200. **Kitchen Clean Up** (*1<sup>st</sup> place monochrome*) is a 9-shot HDR bracketed at one-stop intervals, processed in Photomatix and LightRoom.

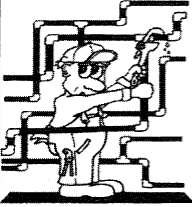


**Catskill Sunset** (*3<sup>rd</sup> place Color Print, above*) by **Bernie Herman**. **Saul Aronson** photographed these **Windows** (*2<sup>nd</sup> place monochrome print, below*) of an abandoned industrial building in downtown Albany, around mid-day, with a Canon 7D and Canon 70-200 IS L lens. ISO: 125. Sepia toned in Photoshop.



**Julie Palyswiat** photographed these **Harbor Ropes** (*3<sup>rd</sup> place monochrome print, below*) just before sunset at the Waterford Harbor during the Tugboat Roundup Parade, with a Nikon D300 handheld and Nikon 80-200 f 2.8 lens at 200 mm. ISO: 640, 1/350 sec, f 2.8. Shutter Priority, matrix metering.



| November Print Competition Results    |                      |                                             | October Projected Competition Results                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                |                           |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Assigned Topic: Abandoned & Discarded |                      |                                             | Assigned Topic: Self Portrait                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                |                           |
| 1                                     | Doug Mitchell        | Discarded 1                                 | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ken Deitcher   | Me, Myself and Eye        |
| 2                                     | Max Tiller           | The Mack Truck                              | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Heidi Ricks    | Facing Mortality          |
| 3                                     | Saul Aronson         | Abandoned But Not Forgotten, The Wellington | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Jeffrey Altman | Rolling with the Punches  |
| 4                                     | Doug Mitchell        | Discarded 2                                 | HM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ruby Gold      | Mirror Mirror on the Wall |
| 5                                     | Rob Near             | Burger Shack                                | HM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Larry Relyea   | untitled                  |
| HM                                    | Connie Frisbee Houde | Darulaman Palace, Afghanistan               | HM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Linda Wroble   | Come Hither               |
| HM                                    | Michelle Calderon    | untitled                                    | General                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                |                           |
| Color                                 |                      |                                             | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Luba Ricket    | Shiny Shoe                |
| 1                                     | Rob Near             | Eastern State Barber Shop                   | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Doug Mitchell  | Towering Tulips           |
| 2                                     | Doug Mitchell        | Just Waiting                                | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | N. Sukumar     | Touch                     |
| 3                                     | Bernie Herman        | Catskill Sunset                             | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Doug Mitchell  | Ethereal Bloom            |
| 4                                     | Ray Henrikson        | A Pod of Kayaks                             | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Sean Sullivan  | School Daze               |
| 5                                     | Connie Frisbee Houde | Market, Afghanistan                         | HM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Max Tiller     | Dance Troupe              |
| HM                                    | Julie Palyswiat      | Peonies                                     | <div>Judge: Katie Wright</div> <div>If you have any interesting photos of club events or activities, share them with us on our Flickr page:<br/><a href="http://www.flickr.com/groups/schenectadyphotographicsociety">www.flickr.com/groups/schenectadyphotographicsociety</a></div> |                |                           |
| HM                                    | Barb Lawton          | Cherry Valley Hillside                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                           |
| Monochrome                            |                      |                                             | <div><div></div><div><div>Frank Bumbardatore</div><div>Plumbing</div><div>(518) 372-5038</div><div>(518) 852-2170</div><div>Licensed &amp; Insured</div></div></div>                            |                |                           |
| 1                                     | Rob Near             | Kitchen Clean Up                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                           |
| 2                                     | Saul Aronson         | Windows                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                           |
| 3                                     | Julie Palyswiat      | Harbor Rope                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                           |
| HM                                    | Carol Clements       | In Threes                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                           |
| HM                                    | Max Tiller           | The Sheriff                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                           |

Judge: Jennifer Grainer

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| November Calendar |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date              | Competition, etc.                                                                                                                 | Program                                                               |
| Wed. Nov. 3       | Print: <b>But it's BLUE!!!</b> -<br>We're talking about colors, not feelings. Images where the primary subject is the color blue. | <b>Katherine Wright</b> , Director, Photo Center Troy                 |
| Wed. Nov. 10      | Projected: <b>Eyes</b> -<br>They are the windows to the soul. Photograph them.                                                    | <b>Dietrich Gehring</b> – <b>Working with Sustainable Agriculture</b> |
| Wed. Nov. 17      | Board meeting @ 6:30pm                                                                                                            | <b>Mark Andrew</b> “Artistry Of Photography ”                         |

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The *Focus* is published ten times a year by the Schenectady Photographic Society. The organization meets each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. from October through May to promote and present informative programs, activities and competitions in the photographic arts for photographers throughout the Capital District. Members range from novice to expert. Annual dues are \$40.00 for individuals and families. The *Focus* newsletter is included in the membership dues. SPS meets at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, New York. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. Guests are welcome at all regular meetings. **If you change your email or mailing address, let Bob Riccardo know at [briccardo@verizon.net](mailto:briccardo@verizon.net)**