

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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April 2012

Number 8

Beau Comeaux to present on April 18th

My work exists at an intersection between art and science. With childlike curiosity, I examine the world with the determination of an explorer and the eye of a scientist, studying and recording my wanderings.

I seek out strange, luminal spaces devoid of their inhabitants, but not without evidence of their presence. From strange, remote architectural structures, to sites of construction, and also areas of decay, I investigate those areas on the periphery of our daily awareness.

A solo explorer in the solitude of night, I photograph as a collector of raw materials; shadows, light, textures and colors. From these, I sculpt the scene according to my imagination and present the results as printed images.

On Wed. April 18, Beau will be presenting and discussing his current work, but also talking about and showing images that led to it – a bit of his photographic journey.

BIO: Beau Comeaux grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana as an only child with a vivid imagination and a penchant for exploration. He received his BFA from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and his MFA from the University of North Texas in Denton. Photographing at night for over twelve years, his work has been shown across the world in places like Saratov, Russia and Pingyao, China. Comeaux was included in the book, *Night and Low Light Photography* by Jill Waterman published by Amphoto Books, New York 2008. Now living and teaching in upstate New York, he continues to explore and photograph the world during his nocturnal wanderings.

© Beau Comeaux (more images on page 9)

April Calendar		
Date	Competition	Program
Wed. Apr.4	Print: Giant . Think BIG, find something that is oddly oversized and put it into perspective to show its size.	Steve Honicki & students – Back to school: learning to become more effective visual communicators
Wed. Apr.11	Projected: Portrait of a tree - Show the personality of a tree.	Deb Baldwin: The Creative Self - Personal Happiness Through Self Expression
Wed. Apr.18	-	Beau Comeaux <i>This meeting is at the Sage College of Albany, 140 New Scotland Ave. Albany</i>
Wed. Apr 25	Annual photo essay competition	-



Back to school: learning to become more effective visual communicators

A presentation by Media Arts educator Stephen Honicki and students from his Advanced Photography class at Niskayuna High School

How has the cost of maintaining a “wet” darkroom and the advent (and affordability) of the digital SLR camera affected photography education in our schools? With cameras accessible in so many different formats to teenagers today, why is the “instruction” of fine art photography so crucial?

Mr. Honicki will share some of the approaches and techniques he utilizes in his classroom environment to help students become more effective visual communicators. In addition, the presentation will explore the importance of developing creative and technical problem-solving skills in students as they begin the process of becoming independent life-long learners.

On Wed. April 4, students will share and discuss their work created in Mr. Honicki’s Advanced Photography class. Some examples of these students’ work can be seen on page 8.

BIO: *Stephen Honicki received his BA in Fine Art from State University of New York at Albany and his MS in Art Education from the College of Saint Rose. He has currently teaches the introductory level as well as the advanced level course in Studio in Video and Photography at Niskayuna High School. In addition to working with students in the classroom environment, Mr. Honicki is the co-advisor of the Nisk-Art Gallery – an in-house teaching gallery that provides students the opportunity to learn and take part in the operation of a professional art gallery.*

During his tenure, Mr. Honicki’s students have received numerous accolades and awards for their work in numerous art exhibitions and film festivals at the regional, national, and international level.

[Continued on page 3]

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Deb Baldwin: The Creative Self - Personal Happiness Through Self Expression

Deb Baldwin received her B.A. in Psychology from the State University of New York, Albany. She has always had a love of photography as an art form and has been utilizing this medium as a form of self-expression since primary school. With a minor in Fine Art, Deb has come to find her voice through continued exploration.

Deb began working traditionally by creating "normal" size prints. She has evolved into working with digital techniques and experimenting with how the use of scale can be a tool in helping people express themselves. As a result, some of her recent work is life size. Deb also enjoys traditional processing using alternative cameras, including pinhole and Holga varieties.

Deb's work was featured in an exhibition last spring, at the 33rd Photo Regional Show at the Albany Center Gallery. This first experience of exhibiting her images publicly and professionally was exhilarating, as she was the recipient of one of three First Prize Awards. Deb is currently working as an auctioneer and administrator at Stair Galleries in Hudson, NY. It is with great enthusiasm that she continues her creative journey.

Stephen Honicki [Continued from page 2]

In addition, over the past several years, Mr. Honicki, and Ruth Hall-Daly, coordinator of the Viewpoint Gallery and Studio in Arts Project at Sunnyview Hospital received Community Art\$ Grants from the Arts Center of the Capital Region for collaborative projects involving photography and video students from Niskayuna High School and adult art students from Sunnyview Hospital's Studio in Arts project.

In addition to his teaching duties, Stephen has had photographs from several of his personal narrative series exhibited as part of the "30th Annual Photography Regional" at the Albany Center Galleries as well at the last four "Exhibition By Artists Of The Mohawk-Hudson Regional" held at the Albany Institute of History & Art, the University Art Museum at SUNYA, and the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls just to name a few. In addition, a solo exhibition of selections from his various series was on display at "Magnet" in San Francisco during the month of August 2008 and July 2011. His most recent work was exhibited as part of the international juried exhibit, "It's a Thin Line Between Love and Hate", at the United Photo Industries in Brooklyn.

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**SPS Traveling Exhibit at Clifton Park-
Halfmoon and Colonie Libraries**

The Traveling Exhibit will hang at the Colonie Library (William K. Sanford Town Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville) for the month of April. Participation in the Traveling Exhibit is open to all members in good standing. For more information, please contact Ray Henrikson (rhenriks@nycap.rr.com).

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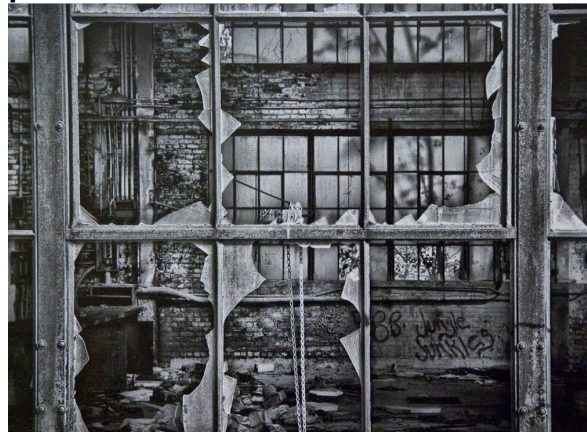
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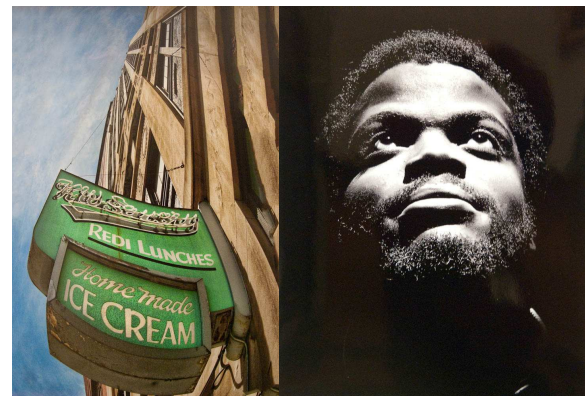
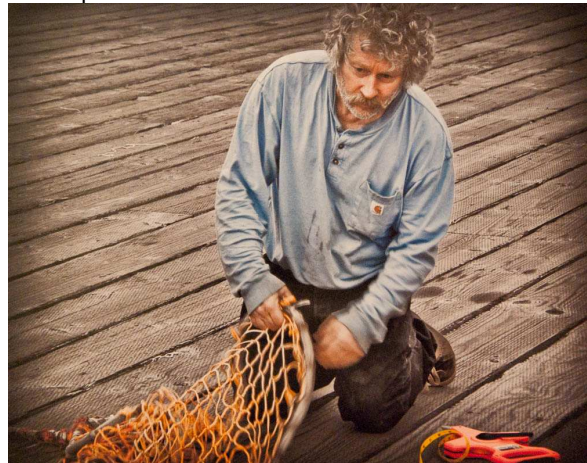
March Print Competition Winners



Jeff Altman photographed **Church In Lucca** (1st place General print, above). Kim Koza photographed both **Afternoon Light Plymouth** (3rd place General, below left) and **Amma Bella** (2nd place Monochrome, below right).



Doug Mitchell bagged 1st place Monochrome, for **untitled** (above), photographed late afternoon in Troy with a Canon 5D and 24-70 mm. lens @ f/11, 1/250 sec. ISO: 640. Processed in Topaz to increase detail. Dan Steen photographed **Fixing The Net** (2nd place Assigned, below) with a Nikon D90 and AS-F Nikkor 18-105 mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR lens @ f/8, 1/60 sec. ISO: 200, on an overcast morning at the public dock in Kodiak, Alaska, as the crew of a purse seine fishing boat repaired their net.

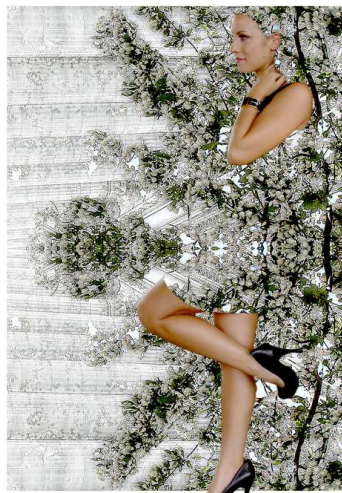


Rebekah Sokol secured 2nd place General, (above left) for **Looking Up**. Shot with a Canon Rebel XTi and Tamron 18-250 lens in downtown Albany in natural morning light. Sean Sullivan wonders **Are Those My Sneakers Up There?** (1st place Assigned, above right) Jeff Altman secured 3rd place in Assigned for **Jackie** (at left).

March Projected Competition Winners



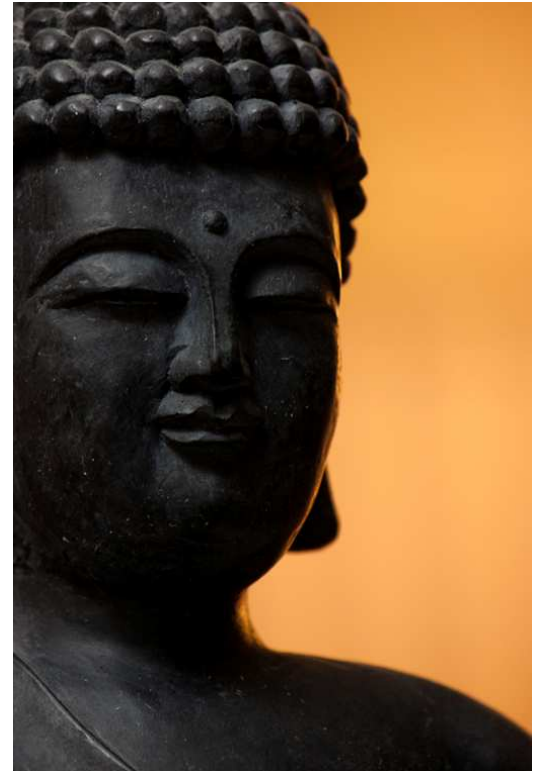
Drue Sokol photographed **As the Crow Flies** (*1st place General, above*) with a Canon 20 DSLR in natural afternoon light in Rochester. **Cactus Garden** (*2nd place General, below left*) is by N. Sukumar, photographed in Baja California with a Canon XTi, 17 mm lens @ f/11, 1/50 sec. ISO: 100.



Dan Steen secured *1st place Assigned* for this capture of **Sunday Afternoon**. Shot with a Nikon D90 and AF-S DX Nikkor 18-105 mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR lens @ f/5.0, 1/1250 sec. ISO: 800 on a Sunday afternoon, in Wynantskill, while his son-in-law and grand-dog napped in front of the fireplace. Lit by a single SB 600.

Luba Ricket photographed both **Spring Fashion** (*3rd place General, at left*) and **Serene Shell Seeker** (*2nd place Assigned, bottom left*) in natural daylight. [see page 8 for detailed description]

Soumita Sarkar photographed **Peace and Serenity** (*3rd place Assigned, below*) with a Canon EOS Rebel T1i, EF-S55-250 mm f/4-5.6 IS lens and UV filter under fluorescent lamps @ f/6.3, 0.8 sec. ISO: 200.



March Print Competition Results

Assigned Topic: Portraits		
1	Sean Sullivan	Are Those My Sneakers Up There?
2	Dan Steen	Fixing The Net
3	Jeff Altman	Jackie
4	Doug Mitchell	Tayla
HM	Barb Lawton	Serving His Country
HM	Bob Gough	Jonathan
HM	Jeff Altman	Smelling The Roses
HM	Joan Hefler	The Petrie Dish
General		
1	Jeff Altman	Church In Lucca
2	Rebekah Sokol	Looking Up
3	Kim Koza	Amma Bella
4	Ray Henrikson	The Artist As Art
5	Ken Deitcher	Space Borders
HM	Doug Mitchell	Cascade
HM	Eileen Haldeman	The Cookie Exchange
HM	Jim Miller	Grand Central Shuffle
HM	Marianne Rahn Erickson	The House On Bare Hill
HM	Max Tiller	The Library
Monochrome		
1	Doug Mitchell	untitled
2	Kim Koza	Afternoon Light Plymouth
3	Ken Deitcher	Money Man
HM	Dan Steen	Late Season Cow Parsnip
HM	Marianne Rahn Erickson	Hannah on the Island
HM	Steve Schoenburg	Zebra

Judge: Angela Jorczak

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March Projected Competition Results

Assigned Topic: Still Life		
1	Dan Steen	Sunday Afternoon
2	Luba Ricket	Serene Shell Seeker
3	Soumita Sarkar	Contemplation
4	Luba Ricket	Relax Let Go
HM	Kim Koza	Lake McDonald
HM	Ken Deitcher	Peaceful Garden
HM	Jeff Perkins	Meditation
General		
1	Drue Sokol	As the Crow Flies
2	N. Sukumar	Cactus Garden
3	Luba Ricket	Spring Fashion
4	Jeff Perkins	Wedding at The Bean
5	Rebekah Sokol	Snapping Turtle
HM	Sean Sullivan	Guard Duty
HM	Ruby Gold	Sitting Pretty
HM	Sean Sullivan	A Lotta Yarn
HM	Rob Near	Praying
HM	Rebekah Sokol	Hawkmoth

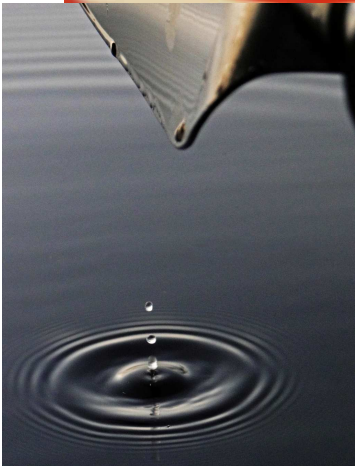
Judge: Mark Bolles

March Competition Winners [continued]

Spring Fashion (3rd place General): P&S Olympus C7000. State Education Building was shot at noon in May 2005 with spring blooms on the trees. Model was photographed in July 2010 at the NECCC convention in Amherst, MA. **Luba Ricket** first flipped the State Education Building, then turned it sideways (flowers were on top in original flip). Then selected only the model's body parts and moved them into the flipped building. Positioned the model till it was appealing to her. **Serene Shell Seeker** (2nd place Assigned) photographed with a Nikon D80 and Tamron 18-250 lens @ f/11, 1/500 sec. ISO: 200. Had to straighten the horizon line & used Shadow & Highlight to get more detail in the foreground. Also used some Topaz Adjust filters to punch up the water colors.

Money Men (3rd place Monochrome print, below) © **Ken Deitcher**

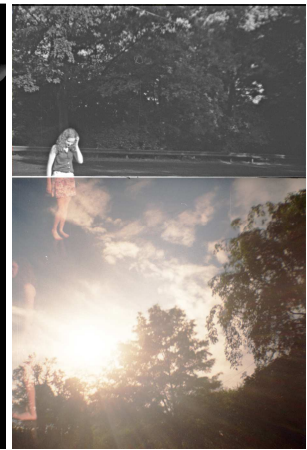




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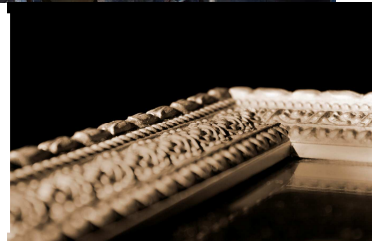
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NEW MEMBER CONSULTATIONS

As a 50+ year member of SPS I would like to help our Newer members who are having trouble visualizing their photos and modifying them for competition. I would like to work with and critique the newer members who need help in submitting the appropriate image to be judged.

To start, you can forward an image that you have selected for submission, along with your thoughts for why this was a good selection for competition and what you expect the judge to see. I will then correct and suggest improvements. The rest will be up to you. I will be available for internet and/or phone consultation, if desired.

This will be an experimental program to see how many new members avail themselves of this project. If it works well I may expand the idea. I would like to show your images that have been corrected (before and after), to all members in the monthly FOCUS.

Contact Ken Deitcher: kendeitch@aol.com, 518-489-7678



Images © Beau Comeaux



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.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com/>

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