

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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Summer 2012

Number 10

KICK-OFF FOCUSES ON FASHION

by Lindsay Adler

Lindsay Adler is a professional portrait and fashion photographer based in New York. For the past 10 years she has owned and operated a portrait, fashion and wedding studio distinguished by its 'fashion flair' approach to imagery. As a New York fashion photographer, her editorials have appeared in dozens of publications internationally including *Bullett Magazine*, *Zink Magazine*, *Fault* and more. She regularly contributes to a variety of major photo publications including *Professional Photographer*, *Rangefinder Magazine*, and *Popular Photography*.



©Lindsay Adler

In May 2010 she published her first book, "A Linked Photographers' Guide to Online Marketing and Social Media". In February 2011, she published her second book, "Fashion Flair for Portrait and Wedding Photography."

Adler, a Sigma Pro, is sponsored by a variety of major photography companies and spends a lot of her time traveling to teach workshops and at major conference. You can find her as a platform speaker at events like WPPI, Photo Plus, Imaging USA and many more. She teaches thousands of photographers annually on topics ranging from retouching, to fashion techniques, to studio lighting.

Though only in her mid-twenties, her career and photography have received much acclaim and she has already become a respected name in the industry. Her images have appeared in major publications, advertising campaigns, billboards and more.



©Lindsay Adler

"When I can help someone better express their vision or pursue their passion, I feel honored to be playing a role in enriching their lives. This is why I teach and share."

Lindsay Adler



©Lindsay Adler

SPS Member Studies Primates in Puerto Rico

SPS member Drue Sokol had an incredible opportunity this summer.

Drue, A SUNY Albany Junior, Has been taking part in a global academic, performance and service initiative hosted by Rochester Institute of Technology. So, this Summer Drue was able to spend a month studying rhesus macaques on the tiny island of Cay Santiago (also known as AMonkey Island) near Puerto Rico.

According to Drue, "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," "Hands-on experience in the real world—in the jungle really, having research opportunities there—that sounded super cool to me."



Drue and her research mates spent their days interacting with the nearly 1,000 free ranging monkeys. Their task is to determine the monkeys reasoning skills by showing them objects and seeing if they can count, understand size and other cognitive reasoning.

According to Kelly Hughes a postdoctoral fellow who is supervising the students, A lot of developmental hypotheses that people come up with for why children do certain things at certain ages [are] tied to language or other things that would have a heavy cultural component, or a heavy experiential component that's uniquely human," says Hughes.

**Q. What do you call a
Monkey in a tree?
A. A Branch Manager!!!**

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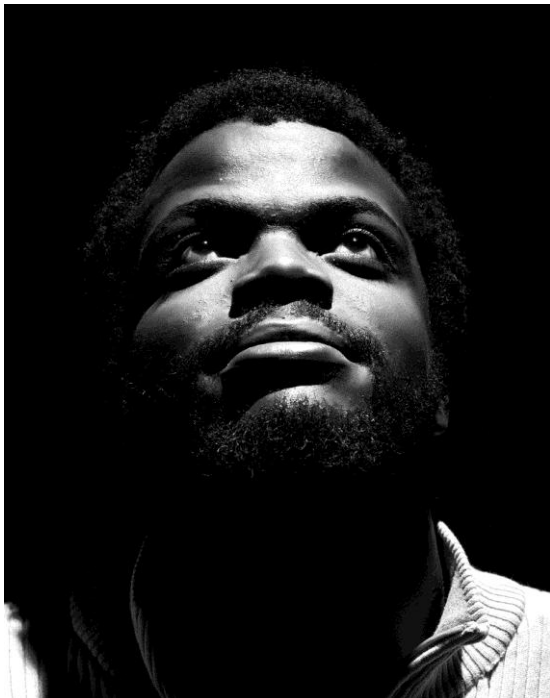
Right:

**Color Print
of
The Year
*Church In
Lucca***

**by
Jeff
Altman**



**“There is a vast
difference
between taking
a picture and
making a
photograph.” –
*Robert
Heinecken***



Left:

**Monochrome Print
of
The Year**

***Are Those My Sneakers
Up there?***

**by
Sean
Sullivan**

Right:

**Projected Image
of
The Year**

Past Their Prime

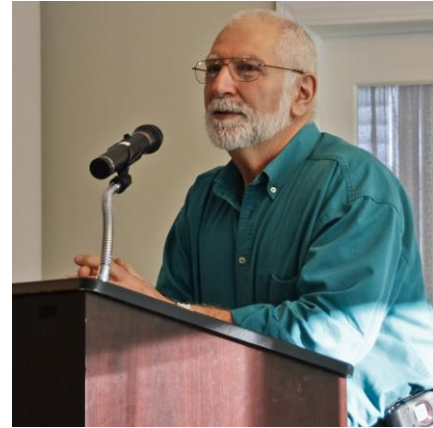
**by
Kim Koza**





Sean Sullivan presents Doug Mitchell with a blue ribbon

*Winning is not
everything
but
wanting to win
is.
Vincent Thomas*



Outgoing President Frank Bumbardatore bids all a fond farewell

**Annual Dinner and Banquet
June 6, 2012
at
Riverstone Manor**



Incoming President Kim Koza presents Robert Wright with new youth award



Luba Ricket with her award ribbons proudly on display

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Barb Lawton looks on while Dale Windsor crowns Luba Ricket with Luba's Betty Barker Award



Sean Sullivan With Monochrome Print of the Year Ribbon



Bob Gough presents Luba Ricket with one of numerous ribbons



Left to Right: Soumita Sarkar, Julie Palyswiat and Eileen Haldeman



Ruby Gold with her husband Harvey



Connie Frisbee-Houde, Linda Heim, Kim Koza, Frank Bumardatore and Sue Gersten

In Remembrance

By Bob Gough



Curt Miller was an exceptionally gifted photographer and his work was prolific. He shot landscapes, cityscapes, nature, architecture and people as well as many other subjects. But one area in which he excelled was street photography, candid photos of people going about everyday life, typically but not necessarily, on city streets. When I think about Curt's photography two of these images spring immediately to mind.



©Curt Miller

The first is one entitled "Bad News". It is of a couple sitting in a booth in an otherwise deserted diner. Curt was sitting one or two booths down the row from them. All you can see of these people are the back of the man's head and the woman, facing the camera, her hands covering her face.

They are obviously having an intense conversation. Curt was a master of this type of photography and one of the devices he would use is to shoot the scene with a Leica camera. Leicas with their leaf shutters are very quiet and allow the photographer to capture scenes such as this without intruding on such a private and personal moment.

Another thing that he did was to use a very fast lens with the aperture wide open. It was a 50mm f1.0 I am told. This gave the shot a very narrow depth of field and Curt placed the plane of focus on the woman. She is the only thing in the image that is in sharp focus and although she is partly hidden behind the man's head she is clearly the subject of the photograph. It is this technique that transforms the image from a voyeuristic snapshot into fine art.

But it is more than just this one aspect that makes it so good. The fact that he recognized this as a moment worth capturing and had his Leica with him to capture it and snapped the shutter at precisely the right moment to capture an image of incredible intimacy. He placed the subjects just off center in the composition so that we see some of the empty diner, adding a sense of isolation to the scene. Finally the masterful printing, Curt was truly an artist in the darkroom, produced a print that invites you to stand and look at it for a very long time. All of these things together combine to make this an extraordinary image.

The other photograph is one entitled "Homeless on 42nd Street". It is of a man sitting on a city sidewalk, huddling against the cold, with bags full of his belongings sitting beside him. He looks directly at the camera with a look of anguish on his face.



©Curt Miller

Curt described to me the technique that he used to capture this image. His camera was equipped with a right angle viewfinder. With this he could frame the shot while holding the camera at chest level rather than up to his eye. To the subject it appeared as though he was just fiddling with the camera, not actually taking pictures. This allowed him to take very candid photographs of people who did not realize they were being photographed.

By showing us this image Curt is not showing us just a single individual but a whole class of people, their humanity and their dignity, and the pain that they endure on a daily basis. It is a very powerful image.

Curt Miller was an extremely talented and skilled photographer, an insightful judge and critic, a helpful mentor and a good friend. His presence and his contributions will be sorely missed by the Society.

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Ron Ginsburg on a photo shoot

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Dale Winsor and Luba Ricket share a smile



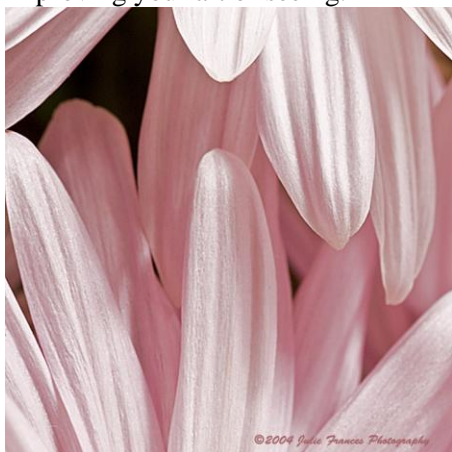
**A Happy group of Schenectady Photographic Society
members at NECC**

Composition, From Vision to Image

Part 1: Seeing

By Julie Palyswiat

Composition and photographic visualization incorporates so many techniques. From previsualizing your image to lens choice, rules of composition, lighting to subject matter. We will take a look at all of these factors throughout the year. In this issue we'll concentrate on improving your art of seeing.



Jonathan Swift said... "Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others."

Understanding how our eyes and brain work together is ever important. When we look at our subject we envision our end result. In other words, our brain eliminates all the distracting elements and we perceive the perfect composition. We look through our viewfinder, set our shutter speed and aperture for a good exposure, focus and shoot. Then the images are uploaded to the computer and the result is not what we envisioned."where did those flowers in the background come from?", "What is that pole sticking out of the subjects head?", and "why does it look so flat and ordinary?" Truth is we get so excited about the shot that we forget to slow down and study the composition in the Viewfinder.

There are so many elements that can affect an images composition from the way you perceive to lens choice. This issue will focus on seeing.



When I came across this scene, I was taken by the color and saw a wonderful image. It has no subject and a lot of distracting elements, a poor composition.

There are a number of ways that you can challenge yourself to develop your compositional skills. One of the techniques that I have used since I was a teen and continue to challenge myself with every now and then, is to take a quota of shots within a confined area. For instance, when I first started doing this I would use one roll of 36 exposure film and shoot the entire roll walking around the block. Now with digital I would give myself 100 shots around the block. Do this three times in one week, each time with a different focal length, and you will be forcing yourself to see new things, or at least see the same things in new ways. In his book *Photography and the Art of Seeing*, Freeman Patterson actually suggests locking yourself in the bathroom for twenty minutes and shooting as many images as you possibly can. These techniques force you to see ordinary subjects in a new way, thereby giving you new compositions.

Another technique to try is to use a 5X7 piece of black mat board with a 4X6 cut opening to preview your shot. Ansel Adams provided one of these viewers to all the participants of his Photo Workshops. When you are composing a scene, hold the mat board up at arm's length, move all around your subject, look at it from all angles. You will begin to see a number of composition options. Also, try closing one eye and squinting with the other while looking through your home made viewer. Closing one eye will give you a 2 dimensional impression while squinting with the other eye will increase the contrast that you see.

Once you have your image composed in your viewfinder it's time to look for those finer details. Study the image in the viewfinder. Does your scene fill the frame? Is there litter or dead foliage that should be removed. Is there a telephone pole sticking out of the top of your subjects head? Really scrutinize your image before you shoot. Take the time to really practice these techniques and before you know it your composition will be much better and much more intuitive.

In the next issue I'll discuss the basic rules of composition.



"The stamp shows Niecephore Niepce (left), Louis J.M. Daguerre (right) and F. Arago (in the middle) while he announces at the meeting of Academie Francaise the invention of photography (January 1839). The stamp was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of photography." *Photoquotes.com*

Winning Advice

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.



One of Ken's winning images



Ray Henrikson Wins First Place in BAA Exhibit

In the recent spring exhibit of the Bethlehem Art Association at the Bethlehem Library in Delmar, SPS member Ray Henrikson received first place in the photography division. The image, titled "Water Falling", was made in Australia in 1968 using Tri-X developed in Microdol and printed on Agfa Brovira.

Ray's first place winning image
Water Falling

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Home Auto Life Business

Zoom H4N Digital Audio Recorder

by Keith Patankar
Hunts Photo and Video

Looking beyond everything that is essential in your bag of equipment; your camera, the right lenses for the job, flashes and anything else you use to steady or modify your camera for the type of photography you do. We now enter into the multi-media world of the digital age. Each one of you are a story teller, a journalist, an artist and a reporter showing the world what you experience through your eyes behind the camera and lens. We have now entered into the digital era of multi-media where still and motion picture has crossed over and become unified in the same unit.

So as writers and journalist that tell a story the next essential piece of the puzzle becomes audio. Whether you use a digital still camera or video camera, quality audio is now equally as important as the picture you show. Enter the Zoom H4N, a digital audio recorder capable of capturing high quality audio on 4 channels. This tool is a valuable piece to do interviews, enhance the sound quality of your video or record separate tracks to input into a slideshow.

The Zoom H4N is more than a standard voice recorder (there are a million of them on the market today) it has features that work in tandem with today's photographer/videographer. Starting with the most important thing, sound quality. The Zoom H4N produces crisp, high quality sound. It will record in stereo 96 kHz/24-bit audio. You have control over the modes you

want to record and can adjust it as needed. The audio is recorded in a WAV file format or you can lower it to record in a standard MP3 format. One amazing thing is the ability to record on 4-channels. With 4 channel recording your audio will sound more professional. For example you can capture music and get all the layers of each instrument, far and near to sound equally crisp.



Even though Zoom originally designed this mic recorder for the music recording business you can quickly notice all the features designed around today's videographer. The Zoom H4N was completely redesigned and thought out for today's DLR shooter or video camcorder. It has XLR connections for the higher end camcorders or mixers. It also has a mini mic jack that will plug into most Digital SLR's. You can record two separate tracks and sync them up in software later. The top of the x/y microphones will rotate from a 120 degree angle to a 90 degree angle. This is useful if you want to change from doing an interview where you want to concentrate the sound on the person

talking and then changing it to the 120 degree to pickup all the surrounding audio.

The Zoom H4N is a solid design that can stand up to the rigors of today's photographer on the go. It's size is a little bulky and you can not just throw it into your pocket. The menu system is intuitive with a side scroll wheel that lets you quickly navigate the many features. It illuminates, making it easy to read the options. However, if you are new there are plenty of options that can get overwhelming so do not let this deter you novices out there. It runs off of AA batteries and has a battery life from 6 to 11 hours with the stamina mode enabled. Other connections include a headphone jack and USB out to download to your computer. The Zoom H4N records to a SD/SDHC memory card. This is very convenient since most of us have this type of card with our digital cameras

Overall the Zoom H4N is an excellent handheld microphone that can be put to good use for today's photographer. It is great to do interviews, document things and to record excellent audio for your DSLR videos. A tool in today's multimedia world that adds another dimension into each and everyone's story telling.

Keith Patankar works in outside sales, marketing and specialty market at Hunts Photo & Video in Melrose MA. Please feel free to contact Keith directly at 781.462.2340 with any related questions.



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