

FOCUS

IT'S OUR
93RD
SEASON!

Volume 91 - No. 1

<https://spsphoto.org/>

September/October 2024

WELCOME BACK TO SPS! **Opening Night: September 25, 2024** *Live at First United Methodist Church, Schenectady* **Presentation by Janice Prichett:**

Journey to the Eastern Himalayas: Darjeeling, Sikkim, and the Singalila Ridge

We are happy to begin our 93rd season with a presentation by our own Janice Prichett on her trip to the Himalayas. In addition we will have a raffle and refreshments. We hope you will join us to begin our 93rd year!

After the earthquake in April of 2015 in Nepal, Janice Prichett's trip to circumnavigate Annapurna was canceled and she was rerouted to a trek along the border of Nepal and India that took place in November of 2015. The Singalila Ridge is a classic Himalayan trek. Following the border between India and Nepal, the trail has magnificent views of Kanchenjunga (8,586m), the world's third highest mountain and the broader Himalayan chain including Everest, Lhotse and Makalu. The trip began in Delhi, (over 30 million people) and ended in Kolkata (5.05 million people). The average altitude on trek was over 12,000 ft. The unexpected experience of this trip was the culture and everyday life of the local people both in the hill-towns and the cities. While the



© Janice Prichett

Kangchenjunga

views were spectacular, this presentation will focus on the people and everyday life of these places.

Continued...

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Janice Prichett:
Journey to the Eastern Himalayas
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Delhi Lotus Temple

© Janice Prichett



© Janice Prichett

Street Life



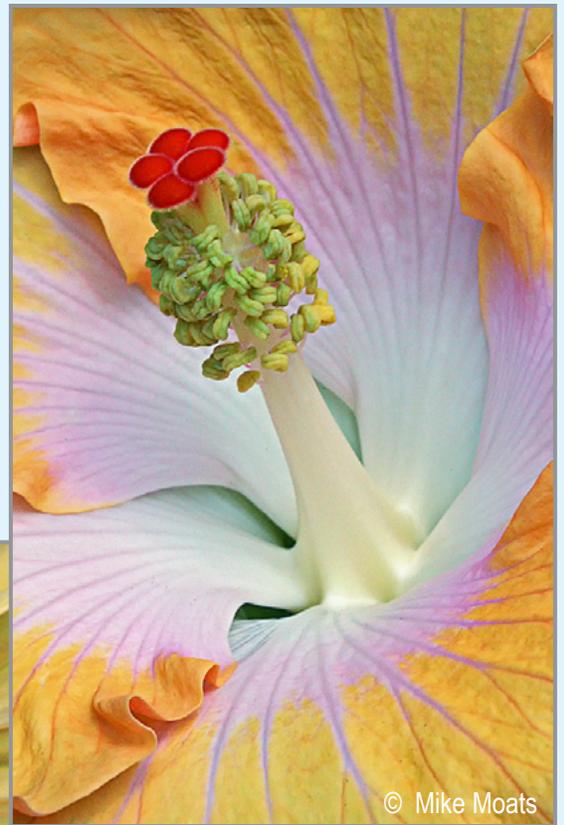
New Delhi Family

© Janice Prichett

**EVENT
NIGHT**

October 23, 2024 - On Zoom THE PROPERLY-EQUIPPED MACRO PHOTOGRAPHER by Mike Moats

Being a properly equipped macro photographer is not just about the equipment, but also equipping yourself with the how-to knowledge of macro photography. Mike will cover the most important equipment for macro photography, how to control depth of field, composition, and finding character in your subjects.



© Mike Moats



© Mike Moats



© Mike Moats



© Mike Moats

The Properly-Equipped Macro Photographer

(Continued from page 3)

About Mike Moats:

Mike Moats is an international award-winning full time pro macro photographer from Michigan. He is a Tamron Image Master, Vanguard Pro, and his articles and images have been published in many photo magazines for over 18 years. He has a Macro Photo Club online with over 2,800 members, from 29 countries. Mike teaches workshops and speaks at photo conference throughout the US.

Website:

<https://www.tinylandscapes.com>

Blog:

<https://www.tinylandscapes.com/blog>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063551943645>

Serious About Macro Photography? Join Mike's Macro Photo Club:

We have over 2,800 paid lifetime members from 29 countries and opening up membership again. No monthly payments, no yearly payments, onetime payment (\$99) for life in the club. 280 instructional macro videos in four categories.

Macro Equipment and Tech Tips

Macro Composition

Macro Post Processing

Macro Tips from the Field

It doesn't end with the videos you start with; Mike will be updating the video library as we go.

Other Benefits:

Each month Mike will have one photo product to give away from our sponsors. We have given away Tamron Lenses, Acratech Ballheads, Vanguard Tripods, Lensbabies, Hunt's Photo Gift Cards. Think Tank Photo Bags, Wimberley Plamps, Hoodman Loupes, Datacolor Software, Litra Lights, and more.



Part of a club is to be a participant with other members, and we will be doing that through a group on Facebook.

Members can apply to be featured along with their images on my blog and shared with all my social media sites.

All the info about what's happening in the club and also about monthly shooting assignments, contests, equipment giveaways from our club sponsors will all be posted there, along with lots of images posted by the members. If you have no desire to be part of the Facebook Macro Photo Club, that's fine, you can just learn from the instructional videos and find updates posted on my blog here at the website.

Macro Club Sponsors: Tamron, Vanguard, Acratech, Lensbaby, Hunt's Photo, Think Tank Photo Bags, Wimberley, Hoodman, Datacolor, Lensflipper, Litra.

<https://www.tinylandscapes.com/macro-photo-club>

Cost for lifetime membership is only \$99.

**EVENT
NIGHT**

October 30, 2024 - On Zoom PERSONAL EXPRESSIVE BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY by Huibo Huo

Black and white photography has a timeless appeal, often can touch viewers in a more profound level. Some landscape photographers may find it difficult to work without color. In the first half of this talk, Huibo will delve into the development of one's personal vision, drawing from her own evolution in B&W landscape photography. In the second half, she will explore various compositional and tonal control techniques, including her post-processing flow, with the aim of improving one's vision of seeing and editing in black and white.



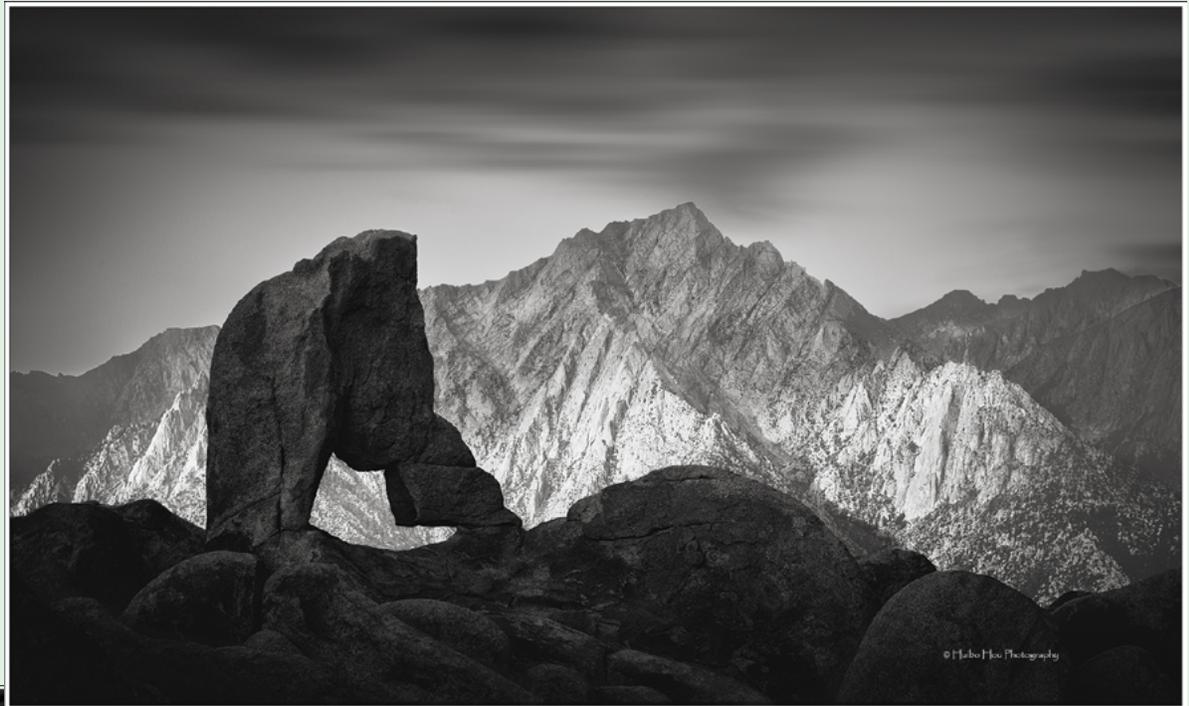
Personal Expressive Black & White Photography

(Continued from page 5)



Personal Expressive Black & White Photography

(Continued from page 6)



Personal Expressive Black & White Photography

(Continued from page 7)



<https://www.huibo-hou.com/>



(Portrait credit: Xi Zeng)

Hi! This is Huibo. I'm a landscape photographer based in San Diego, California. I fell in love with photography about 25 years ago as a hobbyist while working in the wireless communication industry. Then life got in the way and I had to set aside my photography pursuit for quite some time. In early 2015 I rekindled my love for photography and gradually became more serious about the craft.

Landscape photography, especially in black and white, is the artistic medium that I'm passionate about. It serves as my creative outlet to express how I observe, interpret, and connect with nature.

SPS SPECIAL EVENT November 2 - In-person at FUMC MODEL SHOOT WORKSHOP With Doug Mitchell

**PRE-REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

**LIMITED TO
12 PARTICIPANTS**

There will be a Model Shoot Workshop on Saturday, November 2 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church. It will be run by our own Doug Mitchell. The cost is \$75 per person with 12 participants max, first come first served. There will be two models with two looks each.

We will have a 30 minute break between looks 1 & 2 for model outfit change, lunch (bring your own lunch), review of images and camera setting adjustments. *No experience with photographing models is needed.* This will be a learning experience.

Backdrops and lighting will be supplied by the workshop. Flash triggers will be used that are compatible with most camera flash systems (Canon, Nikon, Sony, Pentax, Panasonic, Fuji, and Olympus). There will be two opportunities to test that your camera will work with the flash triggers before you sign up. They are at 6:00 pm before our opening night presentation on September 25, and 6:00 pm before our first print competition on October 9..

There is a minimum of 8 registered participants to hold the workshop.

**Registration will be open on Thursday, October 10 at 9 am
First Come - First Served
Maximum 12 Participants (Minimum 8 Participants)**

Link to Register:

[https://spsphoto.org/workshops/
model-shoot-workshop/](https://spsphoto.org/workshops/model-shoot-workshop/)

Registration Closes
at midnight, October 18.

Photos from Model Workshop
at SPS on November 3, 2018

NOTE: These are NOT the models
for our Nov. 2 Workshop.



This is a hands-on opportunity to photograph models with Runway/Fashion Model/Concert photographer Doug Mitchell.

<https://www.doug-mitchellphotos.com/>

Learn more about this opportunity from Doug on the following page!

MODEL SHOOT WORKSHOP

Pre-Workshop Info and Motivation

by Doug Mitchell



On **Saturday, November 2** SPS will host a hands-on model/portrait workshop where members will have the opportunity to use studio lighting to photograph two models on two different studio set-ups. Each will have two different backdrops and lighting configurations. A mid-workshop break will allow

for a quick bite to eat (BYO), a review of your images, and the opportunity to make or discuss camera adjustments. During this time models will change into their second look. The 2nd half will feature new looks for each model.

The type backdrops and lighting used will be suitable for creating model or fashion type images as well as portrait and fine art portraiture.

If you have a desire to widen your portfolio, gain more experience, or see what it's like to photograph people or models this workshop will provide that. Photographers from beginner to experienced are welcome.

This one-day workshop is a **hands-on event** and will provide ample opportunity to capture images that participants will have to take home and edit. Photographers will gain experience with creative tools such as the camera, lighting, and post processing through editing software. Use of RAW files is best. If you've been avoiding making that transition, perhaps consider setting your camera to record JPEG and RAW. That way you will have RAW files "in the bank," to work with them after the workshop, or at some future date when you're ready. *RAW files take up more memory space so be sure you have enough!

There will be a **short discussion and test shots prior to starting the workshop** and there will also be several senior members who can assist with camera or image questions. **Please note: experience or familiarity with shooting in manual mode is needed.** At minimum, participants will need to be able to set manual mode, shutter speed, aperture, ISO, and white balance (we will be shooting around 5000K). Please consult your manual or www.Youtube.com for helpful tutorials. See additional resource links below. To provide maximum amount of time for shooting a suggestion would be to practice photographing objects and rooms at home while adjusting and learning various manual settings of your camera.

Ballpark camera settings will be provided to get attendees started. Because there are differences between cameras and manufacturers, participants will need to tweak camera settings to best achieve the exposures desired. You can further adjust color temperature, exposure, and contrast through your editing software which is where you can explore your creative vision.

When working with people or models, verbal interaction is best to achieve a vision. Photographers need to provide feedback such as head angle or chin position, subtle details such as hands, fingers, arms or elbows, legs, and feet, even shoulders and hip lines are all important to making the image as strong as possible. These small details elevate the image and will require patience and practice to learn.

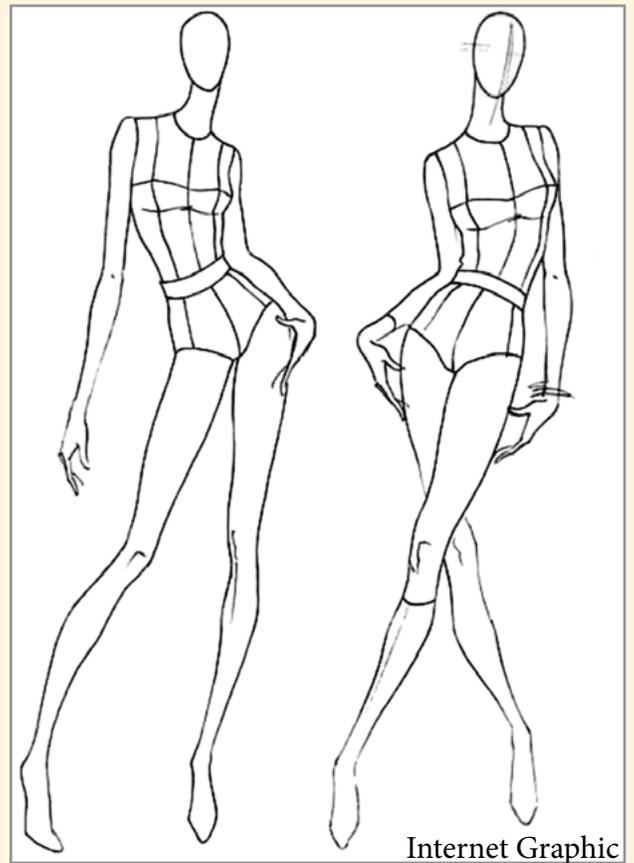
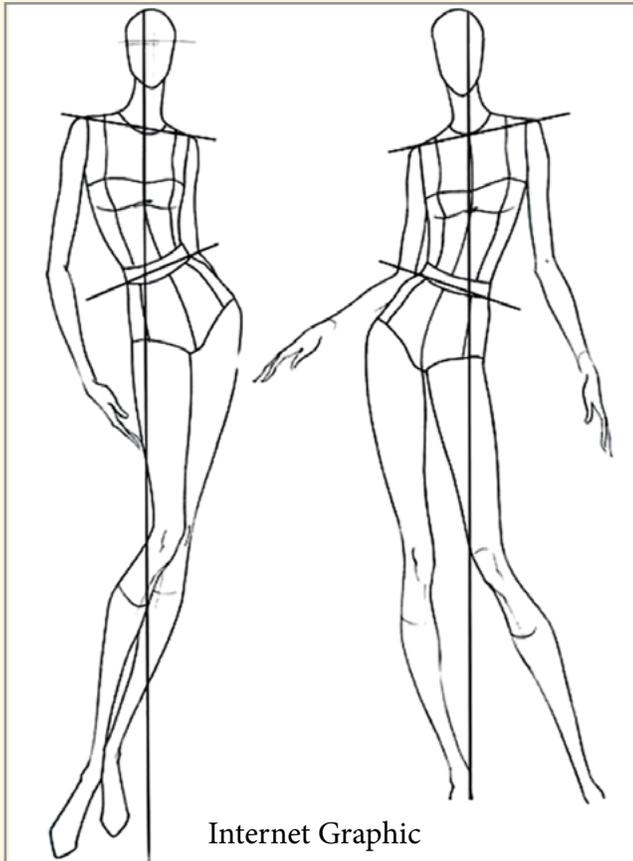
Models will be experienced with posing so direction by the photographer can be minimal. If you



Model Shoot Workshop

(Continued from page 10)

have ideas or wish to try some directing this will provide an opportunity. There will also be a hand-out with sample photo poses which will help refer to as suggestions.



tame, modify, or control the light and exposure. To further your vision, you need to explore settings and **tools** available in your **editing software** to convey the emotion or impact of your final image. No matter what you strive to shoot, **choices and tools** will shape and determine your final image!

Photography at its core is the capture of light and the effects on an object within that light. That's really all it boils down to! No matter what type of photography you shoot this is the one constant for everything you shoot, and you must always consider the light to render successful images. Where you place the subject and its angle to the light determines the impact of your final image. How you capture the subject e.g., exposure (shutter speed, aperture setting, and ISO) are the tools that help you to forge your final image.

All photographers employ tools to record and create images to their liking. Whether you shoot landscapes or scenic, wildlife, still life, urban locations, people, architecture, or even models, we all use the same tools to capture various subjects in specific lighting conditions. **Choices** you make determine how you



Model Shoot Workshop

(Continued from page 11)

WORKSHOP DETAILS

The workshop arrival time is 11am. Please get your camera gear ready and we'll start with a short discussion followed by some test shots and begin the workshop soon after.

Registration begins on Oct 8 and ends Oct 18.

A preferable lens choice would be a longer telephoto lens if you have one. Anything in the range of 105mm and longer will typically provide flattering results and more flexibility while shooting. If you have a wide-angle lens, bring that too!

Bring a late lunch or snack! Bring your manual!

Don't forget to have plenty of memory card space and battery power. (Always have backup whenever possible).

The workshop will use Phottix Ares flash triggers. These wireless triggers are intended to be compatible with Canon, Nikon, SONY, Pentax, Panasonic, Fuji, and Olympus cameras but aren't guaranteed.

if you are considering joining the workshop it's recommended that members take advantage of two opportunities to test camera compatibility with the Phottix triggers we'll be using. Testing will be at 6pm on our first two in person meetings (September 25th and October 9th)

Additional resources:

MASTER YOUR CAMERA in 15 mins: settings, dials, functions (includes JPG & RAW)

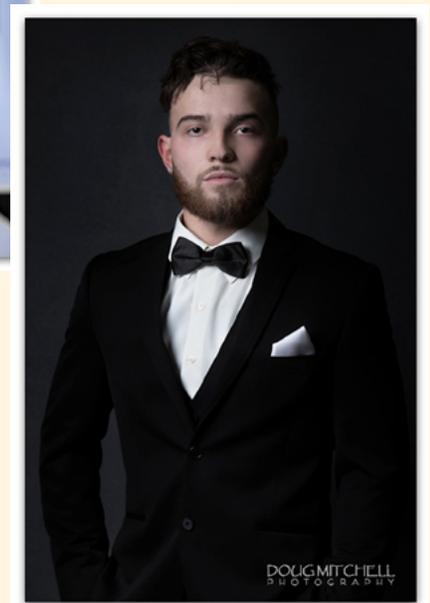
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vu8Z-VISSqs>

How to Shoot in Manual Mode for Beginners + Examples

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6J5n-N45cKk>

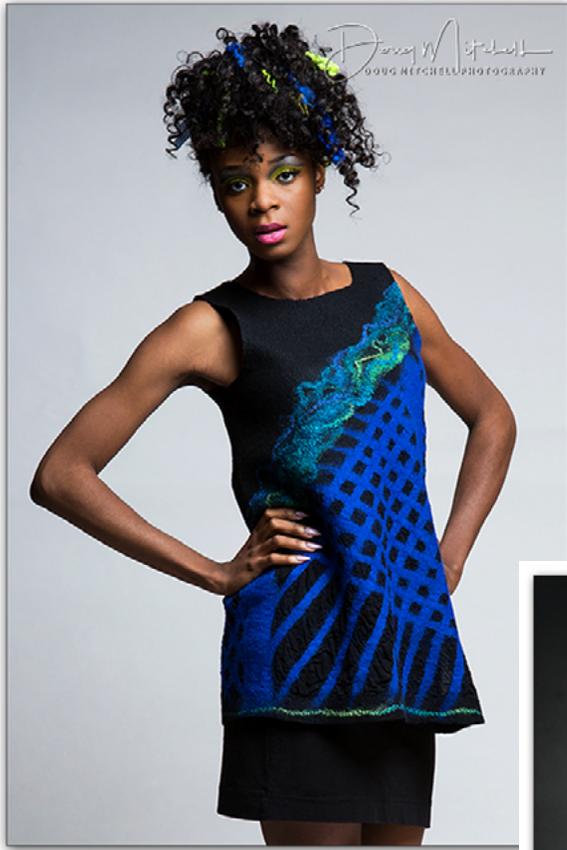
How to Shoot Manual in 10 Minutes - Beginner Photography Tutorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyXiW-F3ml2s>



Model Shoot Workshop

(Continued from page 12)



Model photos by Doug Mitchell
<https://www.dougmitchellphotos.com/>

CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF FALL With the I♥NY Fall Foliage Report

With all the rain we've had, and how beautifully green the landscape is, we can only hope for an exceptional Fall Foliage season.

Don't miss it!

Check the NYS Fall color on their website:

<https://www.iloveny.com/things-to-do/fall/foliage-report/>



PLACES
TO GO

THINGS
TO DO
♥

PLACES
TO STAY

EVENTS

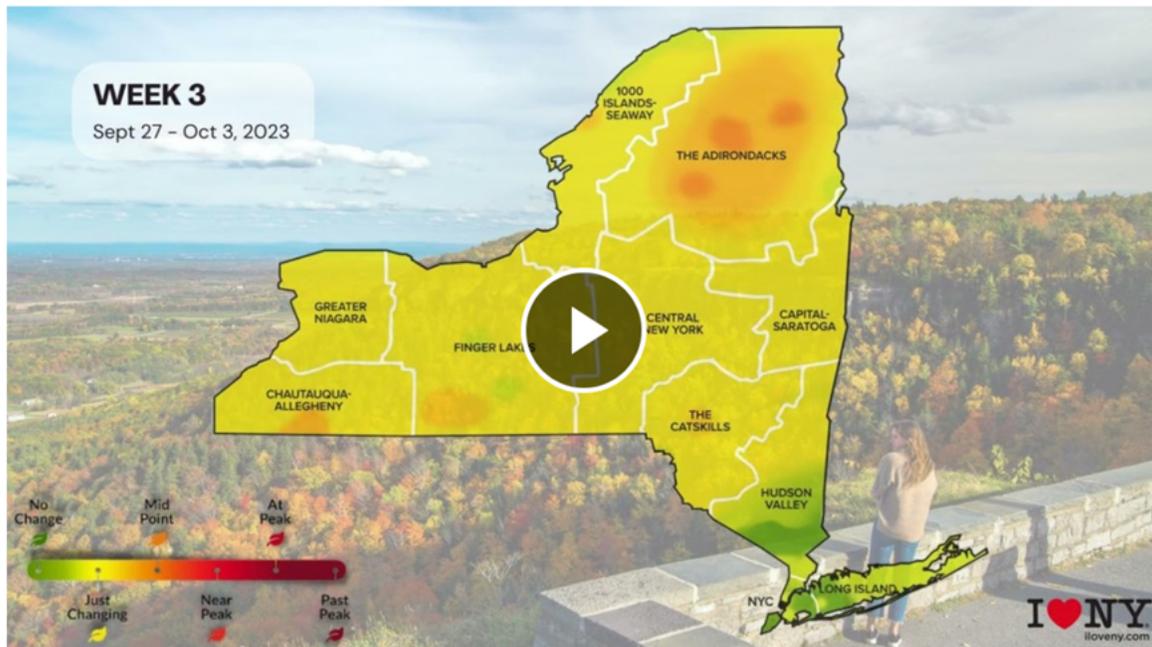
BLOG

PLAN
YOUR TRIP



FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

Mark your calendars: the first fall foliage report of the 2024 season is coming September 12! New York State boasts one of the longest and most colorful fall foliage seasons in the country, starting in September and ending in November. As the landscape transforms into vibrant hues of red, orange, and yellow, I LOVE NY's weekly fall foliage reports track the changing colors across the state's 11 vacation regions to help travelers plan their trip to experience fall in New York State at its peak. Watch the video below to explore last year's color-changing timeline and [start planning your autumn adventure](#) in New York State!



TEN TIPS TO PREPARE FOR FALL COLOR

by Rich Seiling

(Reprinted with permission)



Fall has always been my favorite time of year, and the season I have made some of my favorite photographs. To get the most out of your autumn photography, I've put together a list of helpful tips.

1. Practice

Great photos are fleeting, so you need to be fluent with your camera. Like anything in life, fluency requires practice. Find some time to go out and practice in the coming weeks, so you can build that all-important muscle memory with your camera's controls. Practice photos don't have to be artistically beautiful, but they should be technically excellent.

2. Equipment Check

Is your equipment in good working order? Is your tripod and head wobbly or solid? Do you have

enough batteries? Do you have a way to carry it all? Now is the time to make sure your kit is tight, so you can run out the door when opportunities arise.

3. Trip Planning

Planning time to photograph will help make it happen. It could be to a park across town or to another state. Plan what days you want to photograph based on website predictions for peak color, and where you want to visit.

4. Scouting

They don't hand out maps to the perfect photo, so you will have to find it yourself. That means scouting. Start visiting nearby locations before peak color to get an idea of what might work. For travel

Ten Tips to Prepare for Fall Color

(Continued from page 12)

photographs, the middle of day light may not be the best for photographing, but you can use it to scout where you want to be at golden hour.

5. Technique

Polishing up your technique will make you ready for challenging circumstances.

6. O' Dark Thirty

Sunrise photography gives you a second chance at golden hour, typically has less wind than sunset, and offers a chance for frost. Scout out a location beforehand, so you don't have to find the photo in the dark.

7. Sunrise/Sunset Times

Autumn brings shorter days. You'll want to check sunrise and sunset times to plan your activities to get the most from each day.

8. Meal Times

If you are traveling for fall color, you'll want to get the most from your trip. That includes adjusting

meal times. What works for me is breakfast after the morning shoot, a large slightly late lunch, then dinner after sunset. And pack lots of snacks and caffeine drinks of your choice. In far-flung places, restaurants often close early, so be sure to check and have a plan.

9. Stop and Smell the Roses

Some of my most favorite moments in life have been spent just sitting in an Aspen grove in full fall color. Take some time to stop and soak it all in, maybe with a picnic lunch.

10. No New Gear

There is a temptation to rent or buy new gear for a trip. The problem is you won't be fluent with this new gear, and that will lead to missed opportunities. It is better to have less equipment that you know really well than a lot of gear you are not familiar with.

About Rich Seiling

Rich Seiling's passion for capturing light and beauty with photography has led him on a series of adventures that have shaped his vision and view of the craft.

From a stint at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite as an assistant curator, to his pioneering work in digital printmaking, to founding a leading fine art printmaking studio, and 22 years living in, and photographing, the Yosemite region of the Sierra Nevada, Rich has deeply explored the vision and craft of photography.

Working in both B&W and color, Rich strives to capture the profound beauty of creation and communicate it through vibrant, and sometimes large, prints. He considers himself to be a student of light, discovering its qualities and how it communicates the inherent realities of a subject, often seeking out fleeting moments of rare light that make the landscape sing its own voice.

Rich lives just outside Nashville with his wife and creative partner Susan, and his three children.



Check out Rich's images and workshops at:
<https://www.richseiling.com/>

Register for more of Rich's articles at:
richseiling.substack.com

FOCUS ON The Troy Art Block by Linda Tommasulo

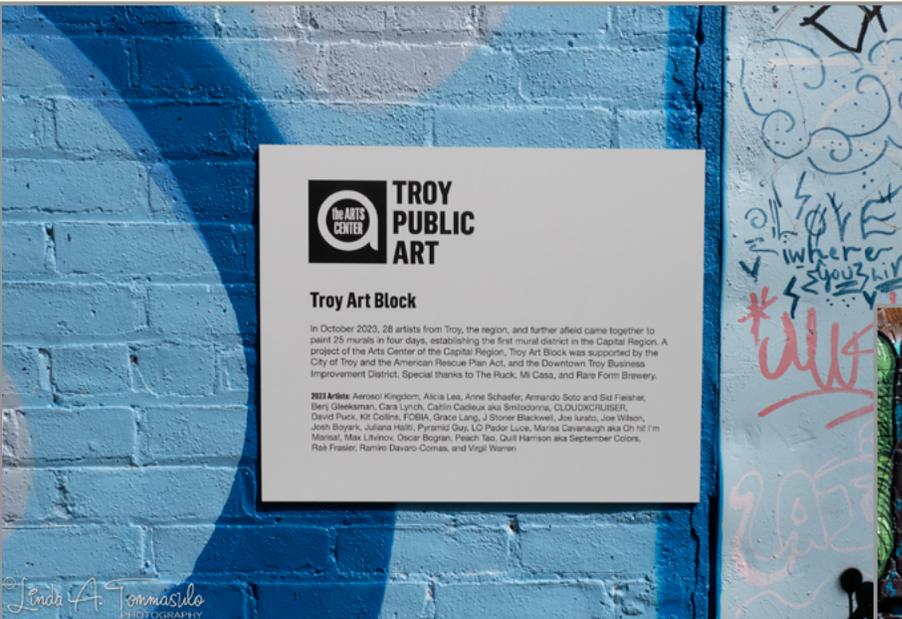
Troy Art Block is a public art program developed by The Arts Center to create a distinctive urban experience for visitors and residents who use Troy's historic alleys as thoroughfares. In 2023, they curated and produced 28 temporary murals spanning two blocks of the Church Street alley, between State & Ferry Streets, in downtown Troy.

This massive public art installation has created a unique destination for art lovers throughout the region. As the first open-air gallery in the Capital Region, Troy Art Block attracts customers to Troy's locally-owned businesses and showcases talent from our wonderful creative community, in a public space, for all to enjoy.

Location: 2 blocks of murals on Church Street – between State + Ferry Streets, in Troy, NY.

2023 ARTISTS

Aerosol Kingdom, Alicia Lea, Anne Schaefer, Armando Soto, Benj Gleeksman, Cara Lynch, Caitlin Cadieux aka Smilodonna, CLOUDXCRIUSER, David Puck, Kit Collins, FOBIA, Grace Lang, J Stoner Blackwell, Joe Iurato, Joe Wilson, Josh Boyark, Juliana Haliti, Kris Kanaly aka Pyramid Guy, LO Pador Luce, Marisa Cavanaugh aka Oh hi! I'm Marisa!, Max Litvinov, Oscar Bogran, Peach Tao, Quill Harrison aka September Colors, Raè Frasier aka Art Money, Ramiro Davaro-Comas, Sid Fleisher, and Virgil Warren

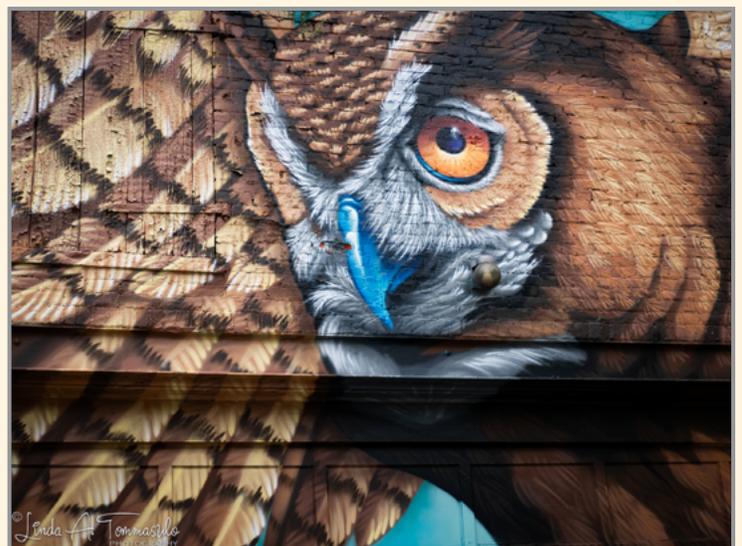


It was definitely a fun afternoon photographing the murals and graffiti at the Troy Art Block. Photos taken September 2, 2024.



Focus On The Troy Art Block

(Continued from page 17)



Focus On The Troy Art Block

(Continued from page 18)



Focus On The Troy Art Block

(Continued from page 20)



Check it out!

<https://capartscenter.org/public-art-projects/troy-art-block/>

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PHOTOGRAPH?

by Joshua Cripps

(Reprinted with permission.)

We all want to be good photographers, but have you ever asked yourself, “what makes a good photograph?” I believe that if you want to be good photographer, you should give lots of thought this question.

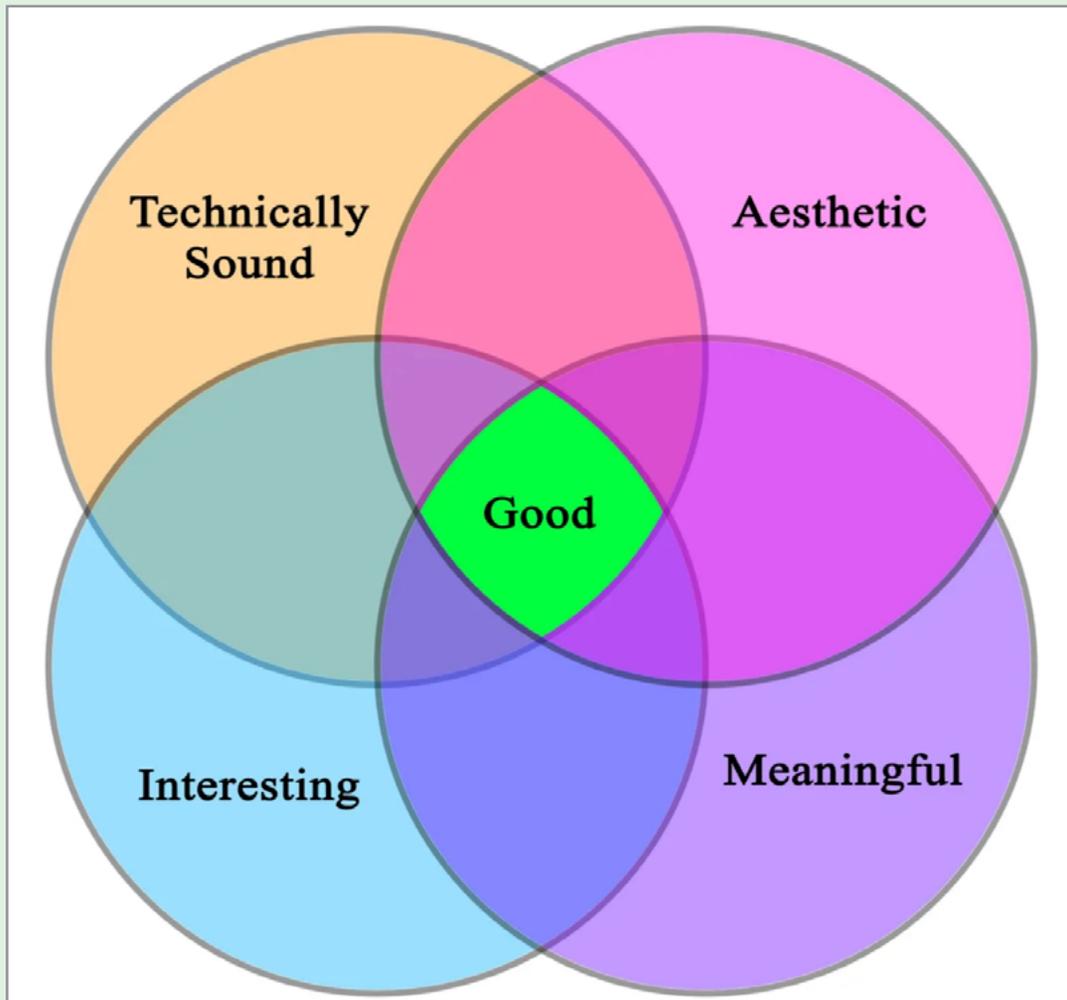
The truth is, most of us get stuck at “pretty.” If we shoot a landscape photo that’s pretty, we’re happy to call it a day. And while “pretty” is great, by itself it’s not enough. After pondering this question for many years, I realized that for me, a GOOD photo has four elements:

1, ***It’s Technically Sound***, meaning that it’s well-exposed, has the depth of field the photographer intended, and captures any motion in the scene in a deliberate way.

2. ***It’s Aesthetic***. That is, it’s pretty, attractive, compelling, or engaging visually.

3. ***It’s Interesting***. It shows the world in some unique or novel way, and demonstrates some aspect your uniquely personal vision.

4. ***It’s Meaningful***. Which is to say it has some greater context and relevance above and beyond “look how pretty this place is.” In other words, what’s the importance of the landscape, and why should it matter to people? Does it express something personal that you want to say about the world? Does it demonstrate a unique ecosystem or geology? Is it symbolic of something? Is there an important lesson to be learned within the photo, or does it pose a philosophical question? Does it express something important about your existence or emotions, or our human experience as a whole? These are the types of questions you can ask when it comes to the Meaning in your photos.



What Makes a Good Photograph?

(Continued from page 22)

In my view, if you manage to achieve all four of these things in one image, you have a good photograph. Conversely, if you feel like your photo is missing something, it's because it's not fulfilling all four of these roles.

Take a look at the two photos below. When I came across this field of flowers, I felt extremely joyous and happy. But at sunset that night, dark clouds rolled in and created an ominous dark scene, which you can see in the photo at left. That photo



is technically sound, it's aesthetic, and perhaps even interesting. But it's missing out on a huge part of what the scene meant to me, how it made me feel, and the emotions I wanted to convey. Therefore, to me, it's NOT a good photograph. However, at sunrise the next morning, the sun lit up the sky and flowers in a beautiful display of dazzling light, and I was able to recapture the scene in a way that it conveyed the meaning I wanted it to: a bright, joyful, energizing place.

The beauty of this four-part framework is that it breaks down your photos into clearly defined elements. Not only can you use this to figure out what an individual photo might need to improve it, but you can also use it to determine where you need to develop your skills.

For example, if you are struggling to get sharp photos but can create beautiful compositions, then you know you should spend more time developing your technical skills. Whereas if you can



get a photo sharp from front to back but it feels generic, then you can work on developing your unique artistic vision and thinking more about what meaning you want to convey in your images.

Now the question becomes, if you know where you need to improve, HOW do you effectively develop those skills? The answer is quite straightforward: by setting specific learning goals for your photography.

What Makes a Good Photograph?

(Continued from page 23)

Meet the Artist: Joshua Cripps

Joshua Cripps is a renowned landscape photographer who has garnered worldwide acclaim for his breathtaking images of our planet's wild places. His photos have been published by the likes of *National Geographic*, NASA, CNN, *The Sun*, and Nikon Global.

Josh grew up in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and has been exploring the "Range of Light" for most of his life. Since 2015, Josh has made his home in the Eastern Sierra, one of the most spectacular and photogenic mountain landscapes in the world.

Josh is one of today's most sought-after photography educators. He leads photo tours and speaks at conferences around the world.



<https://www.joshuacripps.com/>

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

As our new season begins, so does our Traveling Exhibit. We will have a photography exhibit in the classroom and the multipurpose room of the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center from Wednesday, October 2 through Tuesday, November 26. The theme of the exhibit is nature in the greater Capital District.

A reception will be held on Saturday, October 26 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

The exhibit will be installed on Tuesday, October 1 between 2 pm and 4 pm and taken down on Wednesday, November 27 between 3 pm and 4 pm.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center is located in Delmar, NY, at 56 Game Farm Road.

OUR "FUN" COMPETITION

ASSIGNED TOPICS 2024-2025 SEASON

Once again, for the upcoming season, we will have Assigned Topics for Print and Digital. There are no detailed descriptions this season. You may interpret the topics as you wish.

Digital images may be submitted on our website:
<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/upload-projected/>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after May 1, 2024.

See the following page for details on submitting entries for both Print and Digital Competitions. Deadline for submission of digital images is midnight on Saturday (Sunday am) before the competition date—no exceptions!

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Arches**

November: **Blue/Blues**

December: **Old Things**

January: **Harvest**

February: **Odd Couples**

March: **Close Up**

April: **Anything Railroad**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **The Color Yellow** (no flowers)

November: **Planes, Trains & Automobiles**

December: **Construction**

January: **Out of Place**

February: **Staircases**

March: **Stacks**

April: **Something Starting with the Letter "P"**

JOIN US FOR FIELD TRIPS WITH JANICE PRICHETT and the Photography Connection Meetup Group

The Schenectady Photographic Society participates in field trips organized by the Photography Connection Meetup. It is a great opportunity for members (and non-members) to meet together at venues that offer a wide variety of photography opportunities. Recent outings included Bannerman Castle, Slate Hill Flower Farm and a trip to NYC to see "Unseen" (Vivian Mayer's Exhibition at the Fotografiska Museum). Future field trips are posted on the Photography Connection Meetup Group. To sign-up for this meetup group go to:

<https://www.meetup.com/photography-connection/>

Photography field trips are also shared on the SPS Facebook page and through the SPS group email. Field trips are posted on an on-going basis.

Schenectady Photographic Society is not responsible for anyone's health or accident on any scheduled event. Attendance at all events by SPS members signifies acknowledgment, agreement and compliance to the SPS Liability Waiver which was agreed to upon membership registration.



© 2024 Janice Prichett

With new members joining every month, this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPETITIONS 2024-2025 SEASON

For the 2024-2025 season we will again hold print competitions in person at First United Methodist Church. Digital Competitions will continue on Zoom. Both will have an Assigned Topic component. NOTE SOME RULE CHANGES BELOW.

PRINT COMPETITIONS:

With the exception of our opening meeting, Print competitions will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. As many of you know, making a print is an art in itself...choosing the size and the paper are just as important as composition.

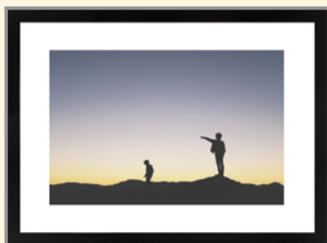
Members may submit up to **four (4)** images in our Print Competitions. Categories will include General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. You may submit up to **(2) in any category**. For example, two in Monochrome and one each in Assigned Topic and General.

Prints must measure at least 5" x 7" or a maximum of 18" x 24". They can be matted and mounted on mat board, foam core or stretched canvas. Mounts must be a minimum of 8" x 10" and may not exceed 16" x 24".

Prints **MUST** include an Entry Card affixed to the back in the upper left corner. For your convenience, a copy of the Print Competition Entry Card (4-up) is included on the following page.

We hope you will consider entering prints this season. **Check out the *Print Competition Rules on our website for additional details.***

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/print/print-competition-rules/>



With new members joining every month, this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.



DIGITAL COMPETITIONS:

We will be continuing our Digital Competitions on Zoom. With the exception of our opening meeting, Digital Competitions will be held on the second Wednesday of the month. As with prints, Digital Competitions will contain three categories: General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. Participants may enter a total of **four (4)** images, with a maximum of **two (2) in any category**.

Digital images should be jpeg, sRGB color space and sized no more than 2800 pixels wide and no more than 1800 pixels high. Maximum file size is 10MB.

Check out our website for details on preparing your images for Digital Competition:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-preparation-guidelines/>

Details on Digital Competition Rules can be found here:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-competition-rules/>

Paid/active members will be supplied with a Zoom link a day or two prior to the meeting.

REMEMBER THAT:

Alternative processes, composites, and manipulations are allowed.

Major elements in a print must be the maker's own work and the majority of the elements must be photographic in nature.



PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARDS

You may enter a total of three (3) prints,
with a maximum of two (2) in any one category:

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

Print sizes: Minimum 5" x 7" up to Maximum 16" x 20"

For complete rules:

[https://spsphoto.org/programs/
print/print-competition-rules/](https://spsphoto.org/programs/print/print-competition-rules/)

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

1st	2nd	
3rd	4th	
5th	HM	Entry # _____

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

1st	2nd	
3rd	4th	
5th	HM	Entry # _____

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

1st	2nd	
3rd	4th	
5th	HM	Entry # _____

HOW DO OUR COMPETITIONS ACTUALLY WORK?

Print Competition Rules: <https://spsphoto.org/competitions/print/print-competition-rules/>

Digital Competition Rules: <https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-competition-rules/>

Do you wonder why your images have to be in by Saturday midnight before the competition? Well, our Digital Chair, Sean Sullivan, downloads all of the images and forwards them to Wednesday's judge. This gives the judge a lot of time to review the images, score them and provide valuable critique at our virtual meetings.

You should be aware that this is generally very different from the way other clubs handle competitions. Judges do not get the images in advance. They see them for the first time on competition night (either virtually or live), and must quickly provide a score. Sometimes they are permitted a quick "run through."

The links above detail everything you need to know about how our competitions are run, including scoring:

First Place – 10 Points
Second Place – 7 Points
Third Place – 4 Points
Fourth Place – 3 Points
Fifth Place – 2 Points
Honorable Mention – 1 Point

If the number of entries is 20 or less, first through third places will be awarded. If 21-30 entries are judged, first through fourth places will be awarded. If more than 30, first through fifth places will be awarded.

The number of honorable mentions awarded is at the discretion of the judges and may not exceed the number of places awarded.

Note that once entered, you are giving SPS permission to publish your images in our newsletter and on the website. Copyright remains with the photographer.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRIES

For Print, members are permitted to enter a total of four (4) images, two (2) in any one category. For Digital you can enter up to four (4) images, two (2) in any one category.

Images that receive a winning place or an honorable mention may not be re-entered in any subsequent monthly Digital Image Group or Print Group competitions in perpetuity (that means forever!). This does not exclude them from any "special" competitions that may be held.

Once your images are submitted you will receive an email confirmation. This is a great opportunity

to check whether or not your images were entered in the proper month and category.

It is important that digital images be sized correctly for viewing. Specific instructions can be found on the SPS website here:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-preparation-guidelines/>

End of Year is handled differently. Members who participated in digital competitions during the season will receive an email with their submissions from which they can choose those to be entered. Rule links in the page heading provide details.

WHY COMPETE?

Win, lose or draw, participating in competitions gives you an opportunity to share your work with fellow SPS members. It also provides you (hopefully) with valuable input on how to make your images better and improve your photography.

And, the best part...it gets you out and shooting.

Assigned Topics especially get you photographing out of your comfort zone.

We hope to see more members participating this season.

JOIN ~~LIKE~~ US ON FACEBOOK!



Edit

Group by Schenectady Photographic Society

Schenectady Photographic Society

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152200768242>

Our “regular” SPS Facebook page is open to all interested photographers. Participants must request permission to join. It’s a great forum for all things relating to photography.



Schenectady Photographic Society

301 likes · 326 followers



Visit Group

Liked

Message

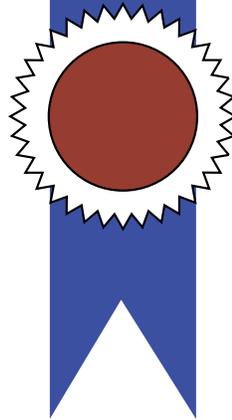
<https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyphotographicsociety>

Our “community” SPS Facebook page is where we post notifications, events, etc.

With new members joining every month, this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.



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Topic: Multiple Exposure
"Carousel"
© Joe Cotroneo

Judges:

Chris Murray

I am a professional photographic artist, instructor, and writer living in the Thousand Islands, NY. I photograph primarily the landscape of my home, the woods, lakes, mountains, and streams of New York State. My work has appeared in several magazines including *On Landscape*, *Popular Photography*, *Adirondack Life*, *Life in the Finger Lakes*, and *New York State Conservationist*, among others. I lead photography workshops independently and through the Adirondack Photography Institute. In photography I strive to make images that are a reflection of my sensibilities and how I see the world. My goal is not to document literal appearances, but rather make photos that are a creative expression of my emotional response inspired by the subject. Ultimately, I wish for my work to reflect what it is to me, a celebration of the creative experience in nature.

Shannon Calvert

You're a creative director or product manager ready to dazzle on a critical project, but there's a problem. Maybe you're struggling to come up with a great headline or product name. Perhaps the layout isn't quite right or the supplied photos are lifeless. It could be that the image colors are off, the production specs are too complicated, or you're simply out of time and have to get the job done right... and right away. You could call in freelance copywriters, photographers, art directors, and production specialists, or you could call me. I do all of this at a level that rivals the best in the business. My unusual skill set means more than just convenience, though. It means your text and visuals are developed together with a unified vision. It means copy edits, proofing, and retouching can be done on the fly. It means design and production are not separate steps, and I can handle an entire project from concept through completion with incredible efficiency. It means an unfair advantage for you!

GENERAL



"Foggy Take-Off"
© Linda Tommasulo

"Flying Home"
© Neil Shapiro

MONOCHROME



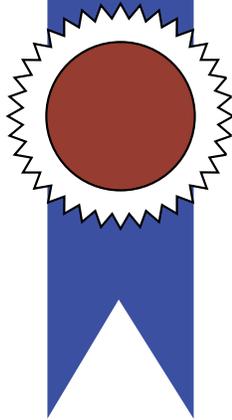
Neil R Shapiro
NEESHAPIRO.COM

2023-2024 PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR



“Nest Building Time”
© Greg Efner

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Judges:

Natalie Cartz

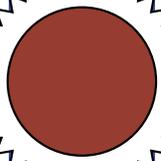
An acclaimed, award-winning portrait photographer, whose diverse and successful journey in the field of photography has shaped her into an exceptional artist. With a career trajectory that spans from working in a travel division to her very own thriving photography studio, Cartz's experience exemplifies her progression and dedication to her craft. Her vast experience across different aspects of photography have played a pivotal role in shaping her well-rounded skill set.

Mark McCarty

I'd like to say that the photos speak for themselves, but there's always more to it than that. After more than thirty years as a working shooter, I still look forward to every job. If I wasn't looking forward to it, I wouldn't do it. I want my shoots to be a positive adventure for everyone involved — there are no tantrums, no throwing or kicking of things inanimate or animate. I work really hard at being a team player, at not being a jerk, and I work really really hard to deliver the best most creative photograph I possibly can. Every time.

2023-2024 PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR

MONOCHROME



"Look But Don't Touch"
© Linda Tommasulo

Check out all of the past winning images on our website:

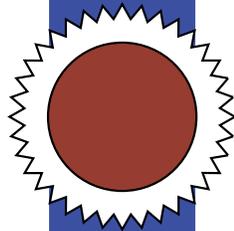
<https://spsphoto.org/>

2023-2024 PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR -
HONORABLE MENTION

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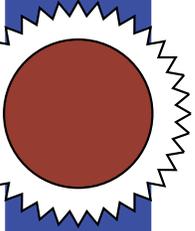
“Ashan Market, Nepal”
© Connie Frisbee Houde



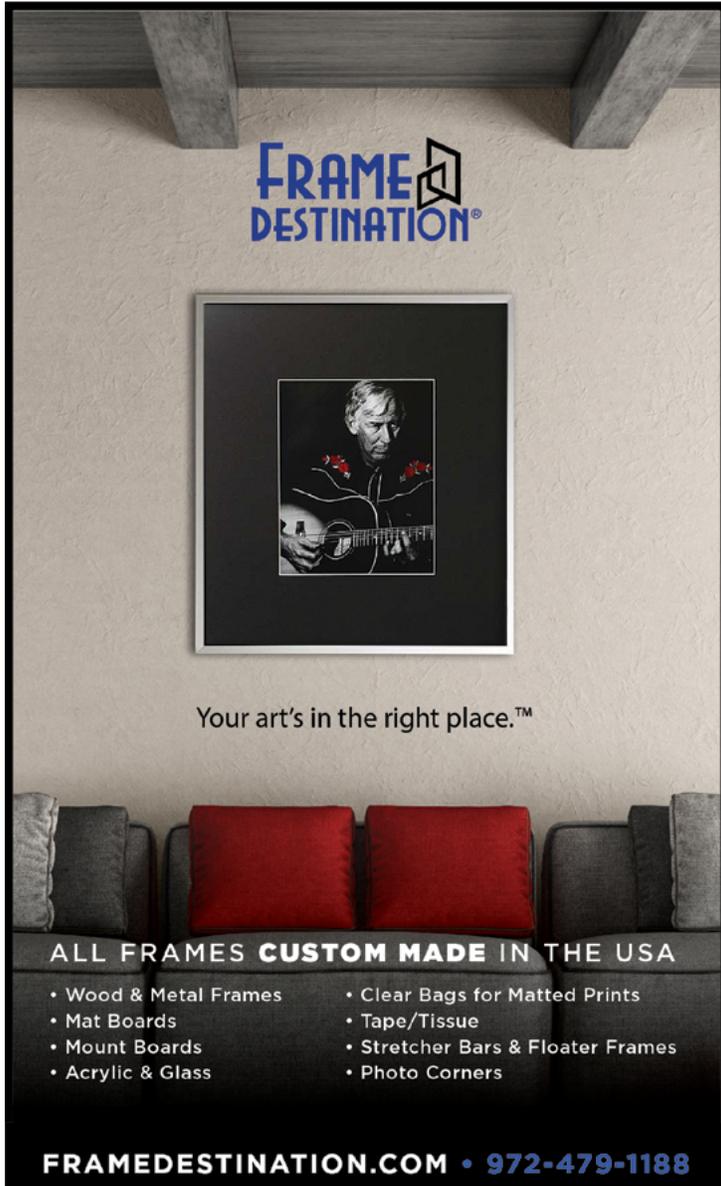
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“Ashan Market, Making Bowls,
Kathmandu, Nepal”
© Connie Frisbee Houde



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ALL FRAMES **CUSTOM MADE** IN THE USA

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- Stretcher Bars & Floater Frames
- Photo Corners

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SPS members can get 10% off all their orders with Frame Destination!

You must be a registered user of the Frame Destination website as a SPS member. (Note: The discount is not valid with other discounts, and will not work for non-members.)

To become a registered SPS member on our website follow these steps:

1. Click "Login" in the upper right of section of our site - <https://www.framedestination.com/>
2. Click "Create an Account."
3. Chat or send an email to info@framedestination.com saying you are a registered user and need your account set for SPS membership.

To see how easy it is to order custom frames on our website you can check out the video "How to Order a Custom Picture Frame..." <https://www.framedestination.com/blog/picture-frames/how-to-order-a-custom-picture-frame>

To learn more about us you can check out our About Us Video: <https://www.framedestination.com/info/about-us.html>

NOT A MEMBER OF SPS YET? JOIN (OR RENEW)YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

SEASON STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

Membership:

Individual: \$60 / Family (Same Address): \$75 / Student: \$25

NOTE: All members will be supplied with links to meeting recordings (unless prohibited by the presenter).

These links **SHOULD NOT** be shared to non-members.

Check out the season calendar on the last page and see what you're going to miss if you're not a member!

Click here to join/renew:

<https://spsphoto.org/join-the-schenectady-photographic-society/>

ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



For 90+ years, the Schenectady Photographic Society has been the meeting place of photographers of all levels—from beginners to serious amateurs to professionals—with the goal of exploring and sharing their love of photography. Members throughout the Capital Region (and beyond, thanks to Zoom!) meet on Wednesday nights to engage in various competitions (digital, photo essay and more), share their vision with like-minded photographers, enjoy guest speaker presentations and other member benefits to further their knowledge, creativity and inspiration.

As part of our monthly competitions, we are challenged with an assigned topic—encouraging participants to venture out of their comfort zones. Members participating in competitions receive specific commentary and suggestions to take their images to the next level. Don't wish to compete? That's OK too. Observing competitions is always inspirational and a great learning opportunity.

With COVID behind us, we are meeting again in person (see calendar on the last page of this newsletter). And you can join us on Field Trips organized by the Photography Connection Meetup. Stay up-to-date with SPS on our website: www.spsphoto.org.

The Schenectady Photographic Society is an enthusiastic and energetic group. Our camaraderie is infectious.

*It's not about being better than everyone else...
it's about being better than you were.*

SPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

President Joe Cotroneo

president@spsphoto.org

Vice President Linda Tommasulo

vp@spsphoto.org

Treasurer Pat McCormick

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Recording Secretary Paula Keefe

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Print Group Alan Wiggins

printchair@spsphoto.org

Digital Group..... Sean Sullivan & Alan Wiggins

digitalchair@spsphoto.org

Photo Essay OPEN

Judge Coordinator..... Neil Shapiro

judging@spsphoto.org

Communications..... Linda Tommasulo
& Sean Sullivan

communications@spsphoto.org

Field Trips..... [https://www.meetup.com/
photography-connection/](https://www.meetup.com/photography-connection/)

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR

Joan Heffler

TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS

Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm,
Rich Schreiberstein, M-J Adelman

travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org

REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS

Judy Breslau & John Ogden



Connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:

Website: <https://spsphoto.org/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/152200768242>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/schenectadypotographicssociety>

THE FOCUS NEEDS YOU! For articles, suggestions, and member profiles (bios/photos).

Contact Linda at newsletter@spsphoto.org.

With new members joining every month,
this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.

SPS 2024-2025 SEASON COMPETITION JUDGES

This is the schedule of judges for the season.
Note that, depending upon availability, this may change prior to the competition dates.

October, 2024

10/9/24.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Arches
JUDGE: RICHARD LOVRICH
<https://www.studiolovrich.com/>

10/16/24**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: The Color Yellow (No Flowers)
JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA
<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

November, 2024

11/6/24.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Blue / Blues
JUDGE: STEFANIE PALAZEKE
<http://www.stephaniepalazeke.com>

11/13/24**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Planes, Trains & Automobiles
JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA
<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

December, 2024

12/4/24.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Old Things
JUDGE: NATALIE CARTZ
<https://nataliecartzphotography.com/>

12/11/24**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Construction
JUDGE: TATE DAVIDSON
<https://www.tatedavidson.com/>

January, 2025

1/8/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Harvest
JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER
<https://neustudios.com/>

1/15/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Out of Place
JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN
<http://www.johannasiegmann.com/>

February, 2025

2/5/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Odd Couples
JUDGE: KEVIN Q. GRAY
<http://www.kevinqgray.com/>

February, 2025 (Cont'd.)

2/12/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Staircases
JUDGE: NICK PALMIERI
<https://palmieri.photoshelter.com/index>

March, 2025

3/5/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Empty Chairs & Benches
JUDGE: THOMAS ROBINSON
<https://www.zoomdak.com/>

3/12/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Close Up
JUDGE: FRANK RAPANT
<https://www.frankrapant.photography/>

3/19/25.....**PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ
<https://cindyschultz.photoshelter.com/index>

April, 2025

4/2/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Anything Railroad
JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER
<http://www.photosbyevan.com/>

4/9/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Something Starting with the Letter "P"
JUDGE: LEV TSIMRING
<http://www.levtsimring.com/>

4/23/25 **LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE
<https://www.lawrencewhiteartwork.com/>

May, 2025

5/7/25.....**PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC**

JUDGES: ANGELA JORCZAK
<https://www.picturesofyou.net/browse/>
DAVID FINGERHUT
<https://davidbfingerhut.zenfolio.com/>

5/14/25.....**DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom**

JUDGES: SKIP ROWLAND
<https://skippix.biz/>
SHANNON CALVERT
<https://hireimagination.com/>

SPS 2024-2025 SEASON CALENDAR

For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after May 1, 2024.

Deadline for submission of digital images is midnight on Saturday (Sunday am) before the competition date—no exceptions!

Meetings start at 7pm. For Zoom meetings, members will receive appropriate link to sign in via email.

This schedule is always a work in progress and is subject to change!

Judges will be announced in the Focus prior to the scheduled competitions.

September 2024

9/25/24..... OPENING NIGHT @ FUMC

Program: Janice Prichett - Journey to the Eastern Himalayas

October, 2024

10/2/24..... NO MEETING - ROSH HASHANAH

10/9/24..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Arches

Program: Phil Olivo - A Photographer's Evolution

10/16/24 DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: The Color Yellow (No Flowers)

10/23/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Mike Moats: the Properly Equipped Macro Photographer

10/30/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Huibo Huo: Personal Expressive Black & White Photography

November, 2024

11/2/24..... PORTRAIT WORKSHOP @ FUMC

with Doug Mitchell

11/6/24..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Blue / Blues

Program: Dale Willman - Ethics in Street Photography

11/13/24 DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Planes, Trains & Automobiles

11/20/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Matt Sues: How to Photograph the Night Sky

11/27/24..... NO MEETING (THANKSGIVING)

December, 2024

12/4/24..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Old Things

Program: Janice Prichett - Landscape Photography in the ADKS

12/11/24 DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Construction

12/18/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Hazel Meredith: Layers & Masking Demystified

12/25/24..... NO MEETING (CHRISTMAS)

January, 2025

1/1/25..... NO MEETING (NEW YEARS DAY)

1/8/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Harvest

Program: Doug Mitchell - A Quick Day Trip to Maine

1/15/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Out of Place

1/22/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Photo Essay Inspiration - 2024 Winners Discuss Their Essays

January, 2025 (Cont'd.)

1/29/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Rick Hulbert: Architectural Photography -

Buildings Inside and Out

February, 2025

2/5/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Odd Couples

Program: Joe Cotroneo - Infrared Photography

2/12/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Staircases

2/19/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

David Johnston: Waterfall Photography - A Deep Dive

2/26/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

M-J Adelman: The Island of Madagascar - Lemurs Call it Home

March, 2025

3/5/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Empty Chairs & Benches

3/12/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Close Up

Program: M-J Adelman - Two Castles, The Dunsmuir Saga

3/19/25..... PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC

Judge: Cindy Schultz

3/26/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Rita Nannini: First Stop Last Stop - From Project to Book

April, 2025

4/2/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Anything Railroad

Program: Ron Klein - 4x5 on the Road

4/9/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Something Starting with the Letter "P"

4/16/25..... NO MEETING (PASSOVER)

4/23/25 LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC

Judge: Lawrence White

4/30/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Essdras M. Suarez: Street Photography -

Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary

May, 2025

5/7/25..... PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC

Program - Greg Efner (TBA)

5/14/25..... DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom

June, 2025 - AWARDS BANQUET Date/Location TBA