



FOCUS

IT'S OUR
94TH
SEASON!

Volume 92 - No.3

<https://spsphoto.org/>

December 2025

EVENT
NIGHT

STREET PORTRAITURE with Jeff Perkins December 17, 2025 - on Zoom

Join us on December 17 for an in-depth presentation on Street Portraiture given by our own Jeff Perkins.

Jeff has been a photographer for well over 50 years and is a long-standing member of the Schenectady Photographic Society. As a lover of Street Photography for well over two decades, he has expanded his interest to taking portraits of strangers that he meets.

Jeff will share his techniques and, most importantly, how you can do this with enjoyment and success. He will not only review his approach to complete strangers on the street, but also his equipment, lighting and processing challenges.

Continued...



© Jeff Perkins

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Street Portraiture

(Continued from page 1)



Jeff does more than Street Photography!
Check out his portfolio of images here:

<https://morninglightimages-byjeff.pixels.com/>



ABOUT JEFF PERKINS

Jeff is an accomplished semi-professional photographer, who has won multiple awards over the years including two international photography competitions as grand prize winner. His work has been featured at the Soho Gallery, the Albany Center Gallery, The Factory in Syracuse, and his post 9/11 photographic work entitled "Arrival" remains on continuous display at the Albany County International Airport since 2002.



THE HIDDEN COST OF TRYING TO “LEARN EVERYTHING” ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY

By Joe Brady

How information overload steals your time, energy and creative confidence—and what to do instead.

How many times have you met someone who has bought all the “best” and “top-of-the-line gear,” yet they seem to always have great difficulties creating a good photo? But do you also need to learn everything about your camera before you can take a truly great image?

Of course not.



The Eiger looms over the town of Grindelwald



Strolling, Zermatt

The Illusion of “Readiness”

In today’s world, we’re swimming in information. Tips, gear reviews, YouTube videos, Instagram tl just talked about always wanting our attention. The moment you start learning photography, the floodgates open. Suddenly, you’re trying to memorize every camera mode, every Lightroom slider, every rule of composition before you allow yourself to create.

But that’s the trap: the belief that you need to know everything before you’re allowed to start doing anything. The cost is all that time spent consuming instead of creating, energy wasted switching

from one tutorial to the next, never applying what you’ve learned. Worst of all, confidence that quietly erodes every time you realize you still don’t “have it all figured out”

I’m not saying that you shouldn’t learn about your camera. Any tool needs to be understood well enough so that it doesn’t get in the way of you using it for the job it was built for.

So what do you really need to know? Here’s a short list:

The Hidden Cost of Trying to “Learn Everything”

About Photography

(Continued from page 3)

1. How to use shooting modes - Program, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority and Manual
2. How to use exposure compensation and shutter speed overrides when shooting in automatic modes
3. How and why to adjust shutter speed, aperture and ISO for the situation at hand
4. How to format your memory card
5. How to choose and use the focus modes that apply to your type of photography
6. Learn how to use and understand the histogram

That’s it - at least to get started. The rest is for specific needs such as tracking a bird in flight, astrophotography, etc.

Why High-Achievers Are Especially Vulnerable

Now, some of you are used to mastering complex systems. In medicine, aviation, engineering, mastery often does mean learning everything.

But art doesn’t work like that.

Photography isn’t surgery. It’s storytelling. And creativity thrives in the doing, not the knowing. Yes, you need technical skills. But trying to learn it all before you shoot is like trying to memorize the dictionary before writing your first sentence. You’ll never get there, and you will miss out on the discovery that happens through the act of creating.

So What Do You Do Instead?

Pick One Skill to Practice at a Time

Want to master exposure? Focus on light for a week. Not the histogram and dynamic range and zone system. Just observe light: when it’s harsh, when it’s soft, when it wraps, when it carves.

If your camera is new to you, put it on program mode, and look for light and shadows shapes and elements that draw your eye, and start shooting.



The Irish Coast can be both dramatic and beautiful, Dingle, IE

The Hidden Cost of Trying to “Learn Everything” About Photography

(Continued from page 4)

Set Boundaries for Learning:

One tutorial a week. One book at a time. One mentor, not five YouTubers shouting at you with different opinions. Learning is powerful - but only when it's applied.

Shoot With Intent, Not Perfection:

Every time you take your camera out, give yourself one mission. “Today, I’m going to explore foreground elements.” Or, “I’m only shooting with one lens.” Constraints breed creativity.

Make, Print, Reflect:

Don’t let your work live only on a memory card. Print one photo a week. Put it on your wall. That act alone shifts you from student to creator.

Remember Why You Started:

This isn’t a race. You didn’t pick up photography to become a walking user manual. You did it to feel something, to capture something. Anchor yourself to that purpose when the noise gets loud.

Recover the Color You Felt

White balance is your secret weapon. Often, the default setting makes your photo feel too cool or too clinical. Adjust it until it matches the warmth or coolness of your memory. Unfortunately some places don’t give you a true white balance.

When you are in a place like Monument Valley or Arches National Park, you are surrounded by red rocks and red sand. On a sunny day, this reflects up on everything around you. Your eyes (actually, your brain) fixes this for you, your camera can’t. Once again, stare at these elements that shouldn’t be red or desaturated because of the color of light reflecting up onto them.

Don’t Overdo It

Editing is about enhancement, not replacement. You’re not inventing a new scene—you’re helping the image reflect the moment as you experienced it. What I recommend is to start your image edits, and then walk away - preferably for a day or two-then come back to them. You will find that some of your color adjustments need tweaking or were a bit to over the top.



It's just like writing a first draft.

Come back, and clean it up later. In the meantime, grab your camera and make some photographs!

The Hidden Cost of Trying to “Learn Everything” About Photography

(Continued from page 5)

About Joe Brady

I’ve spent most of the last twenty years full-time in the photography business and exclusively as a photographer for the past five. I’m a writer, workshop leader, video producer and passionate about my photography, both portrait and landscape.

Please sign up the Foto-Friday newsletter on my website and keep an eye out for new Blog posts.

Website:

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

Hone your post-processing skills with Joe and
The Photography Kitchen!

THE PHOTOGRAPHY KITCHEN

"COOK UP YOUR BEST PHOTOS YET"

**Join Joe Live,
Two New Episodes
Every Month!**

A brand-new live, online seminar series from Joe Brady, designed to help you turn your raw photos into beautiful images. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned photographer, this interactive, twice-monthly series will serve up the perfect blend of tips, tricks, and creative "recipes" to refine your editing skills.



JOIN US FOR FIELD TRIPS WITH JANICE PRICHETT The Photography Connection has moved to Facebook!

www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566

The Schenectady Photographic Society participates in field trips organized by Photography Connection. They have moved from Meetup to a Facebook Group. Going forward all outings will be posted exclusively on the Photography Connection Facebook page. Events will be posted as private Facebook events—just click “Going” if you plan to attend. That’s it! For events that require reservations, please only mark yourself as attending if you truly plan to come.

Each month, they’ll post a theme to inspire shooting and sharing. Have a theme idea? Let Janice know!

Members are encouraged to post images from outings in albums on their Facebook page.

They will be inviting instructors to teach in-person workshops at the Clifton Park Library on topics of interest to the group. In addition, they plan to hold two social events a year—dinners, photo-sharing nights, etc., and larger in-person sharing sessions where members can present work or talk about recent trips.

Members can post photography-related announcements (workshops, locations, last-minute outings), and you’re welcome to suggest or lead outings. Janice will be happy to help with organizing and posting.

All SPS members are encouraged to go to the Photography Connection Facebook page, ask to join and wait for approval.. There is no cost.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566>



Full moon at Olana © 2025 Janice Prichett



We've all seen the photo: Steve McCurry's *Afghan Girl*. But experiencing this extraordinary image in person is an entirely different encounter—astonishingly so.

During my photography career, I have been to a lot of photography exhibits, but only two have impacted me dramatically: (1) Julia Margaret Cameron, an early female photographer, whose work my daughter Jess and I saw at the National Portrait Gallery in London in 2003, and (2) *WWII - 80 Years*, a black and white exhibit at the Monroe Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2025 (an exhibit discovered by happenstance on a search for chile limón pistachios.) I assumed the exhibit at the Fenimore would be just as excellent as these, and it did not disappoint. In fact, it was absolutely remarkable.

We had a lovely drive to the Fenimore Museum in Cooperstown from our home on the Great Sacandaga Lake. It was a beautiful Saturday morning drive with rolling hills, Amish farms, and rural countryside.



Focus On The Power of Photography Exhibit

(Continued from page 7)



During the 2020 COVID pandemic, Peter Fetterman began sharing images in a blog that evolved into a project titled *The Power of Photography*. The project eventually grew into both this exhibition and a book of the same name.

All I can say is, even as I write this months later, I am choked up. Having been a professional photographer for the last 30 years, this exhibit was everything to me. Dave and I spent hours poring over each and every image—reading every caption that went along with them. What a feast for your eyes!

The first shot I saw was Henri Cartier-Bresson's *Queens Charlotte's Ball*; a favorite photographer of mine going back to the 90's. Coincidentally, this is also the only image that I took of the entire exhibition, as immediately after I shot it, I saw the "No Photography Allowed" sign...oops!

We visited a sunflower field in Cooperstown on the way, and while you couldn't enter and could only shoot from the road, it was still a beautiful sight to behold and experience. Then we were off to the Fenimore.



Lucky for us, there was also an art show happening on the grounds, so we enjoyed all the beautiful artwork and I even purchased a small owl watercolor for my daughter. We perused all the exhibits in the museum, letting the excitement build and saving the photography exhibit for last. It was worth the wait.



Seeing the vision and experimentation of early photographers such as Cartier-Bresson, was fascinating. Another standout was the glass plate portrait of Abraham Lincoln taken by Alexander Hessler in 1860. The detail in the texture of his skin and the lines in his face—created all the way back in the 1800s—absolutely blew my

Focus On The Power of Photography Exhibit

(Continued from page 8)

You just have to live and life will give you pictures.

—Henri Cartier-Bresson

mind, even after having worked professionally in the film days and having previously printed my Great Grandfather's plate glass negatives. The large, imposing portrait of Winston Churchill taken by Yousuf Karsh in 1941 shows Churchill looking stern and almost angry. It becomes even more fascinating when you learn that Karsh had swiftly snatched away Churchill's cigar—worried the smoke would spoil the shot—after Churchill had refused to put it down. Karsh captured that flash of irritation perfectly in Churchill's expression.

Audrey Hepburn with Flowers, 1955, is a stunning creation in pink.

I cried without embarrassment at the picture of Anne Frank's father, standing in the room where they had all lived together, hidden for two years.

And then there was *Afghan Girl*. It was mesmerizing, just staring into her incredible eyes. What a moment, what a capture, what an experience to see it in person.



It takes a lot of imagination to be a good photographer. You need less imagination to be a painter because you can invent things. But in photography everything is so ordinary. It takes a lot of looking before you learn to see the extraordinary.

—David Bailey

Focus On The Power of Photography Exhibit

(Continued from page 9)



We ended our wonderful day at the Otesaga, having porch cocktails followed by a delicious meal on the patio with the best view of the lake and grounds. What a day!

The Power of Photography exhibit was one of the highlights of my whole photography journey, and if you weren't able to see it but ever have an opportunity, do not miss it. It will stay with you long after you have gone home.



Check out Kim's photography skills on her website:
<https://www.silhouetteimages.com/>

Editor's Note:
If you missed the exhibit, the book is available on
Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Power-Photography-Peter-Fetterman/dp/1788841220>



FOCUS ON Whose Work Was That?

by Dave Koschnick

It was mid-May 2007, and I was day hiking in the Adirondack Mountain Reserve. My hiking partner and I turned off the Lake Road and headed up Gull Brook to see Artists Falls. After decades photographing on film, I was beginning to move to digital. I had a Nikon D200 with a Nikon 18-70 zoom. I was shooting in JPG format as I had not learned how to process raw images. My hiking stick had a removable knob that let me use it as a monopod for the camera. The metadata tells me I was shooting at ISO 100, 18mm, f/8.0 and 1/60 second.

I thought the image was ok for a rank amateur, so I made a print and took it to the office. One lady saw it and wanted a print and could I use a light purple mat to match the wallpaper in her house. I put it together and sold it to her at my cost.

A few weeks later I heard her telling another worker about her husband's reaction to it. It seems that she had wrapped it up and gave it to him as an anniversary present. Upon opening it he said, "You spent too much!" She replied, "No I didn't." He came back with "Yes you did. I know what Nathan Farb goes for."

I, of course, was greatly flattered; but I imagine if Nathan Farb saw the image and heard the story—he would have rightly been insulted.



Have a short-or long-story to tell about
YOUR photographic journey?

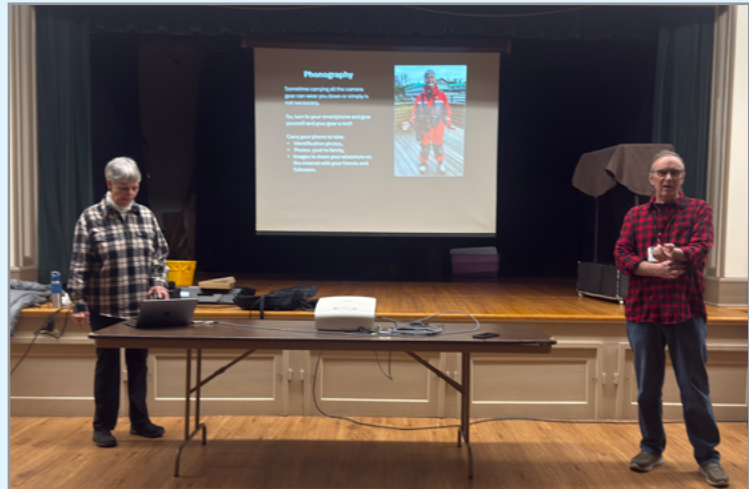
We would love to hear it!

Contact me, your newsletter editor, at
newsletter@spsphoto.org.

OUR PRINT COMPETITIONS CONTINUE LIVE AND IN PERSON! November 5, 2025

M-J Adelman wowed us with iPhone photos from her recent Canadian adventure. Frank Rapant was our November print judge.

We thank all who participated and committed their images to print to share with us!



Photos © Linda Tommasulo



Whether you do it yourself,
or use an outside service,
printing is an art-form itself...
cropping, editing, choosing the medium.

We would love to have more members
participating in Print Night.

Perhaps we'll see you at FUMC
sometime soon!



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Our latest exhibit is up at the
Guiderland Public Library
and will be available for viewing
for the month of December

Reception is being held on Friday, December 12,
from 4-5:30 pm.

Guiderland Public Library
Helderberg Room
2228 Western Ave. - Guiderland, NY 12084
(518) 456-2400

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please be sure your photos are ready for hanging. The November 2024 issue of the *Focus* included detailed information on the preparation of our traveling exhibits and how to properly prepare photos for hanging in these venues. Check it out here:

https://spsphoto.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/2024-2025/Focus_2411.pdf



Thanks go to Bert van Grondelle and his team for their continuing hard work on behalf of SPS.



designed by freepik.com

COMING SOON: THE SPS SMART PHONE FOCUS GROUP

At the suggestion of member, Saul Seinfeld, we are in the process of creating a Smart Phone Focus Group at SPS. The intent will be to share and encourage members to shoot with their phones, improve their skill and participate in competitions with smart phone images.

It is in the preliminary stages, and many members have expressed interest.

Stay tuned for more details in this newsletter and through our group email.

ASSIGNED TOPICS COMPETITIONS

Once again, for the upcoming season, we will have Assigned Topics for Print and Digital.
And, to give you a head start, we've announced the Assigned Topics for next season as well!

Digital images may be submitted on our website:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/upload-projected/>.

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!

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2025-2026 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2025-2026 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Doors and/or Windows**

November: **Still Life**

December: **Water**

January: **Architecture**

February: **Abstract**

March: **Landscape**

April: **Animal**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Reflections**

November: **Circles**

December: **Fall Colors**

January: **Patterns**

February: **Primary Colors**

March: **City Scenes**

April: **Shadows**

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2026-2027 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2026-2027 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after June 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Composite**

November: **Symmetry**

December: **Everyday Objects**

January: **Nature**

February: **Multiple Exposure**

March: **Winter**

April: **Silhouettes**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Fruit and/or Vegetable**

November: **Barns**

December: **Standing Out**

January: **Car Details**

February: **Intentional Camera
Movement**

March: **Sunrise, Sunset and/or
Sunburst**

April: **Bridges**

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPETITIONS

2025-2026 SEASON

For the 2025-2026 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.

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.

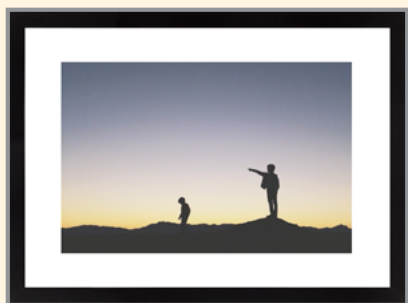
Members may submit up to **four (4)** images in our Print Competitions. Categories will include General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. You may submit up to **(2) in any category**. For example, two in Monochrome and one each in Assigned Topic and General.

Prints must measure at least 5" x 7" or a maximum of 18" x 24". They can be matted and displayed on mat board, foam core or stretched canvas. Mounts must be a minimum of 8" x 10" and may not exceed 18" 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 2400 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/competition-rules/](https://spsphoto.org/programs/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 – 5 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 both Print and Digital, members are permitted to enter a total of 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!



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

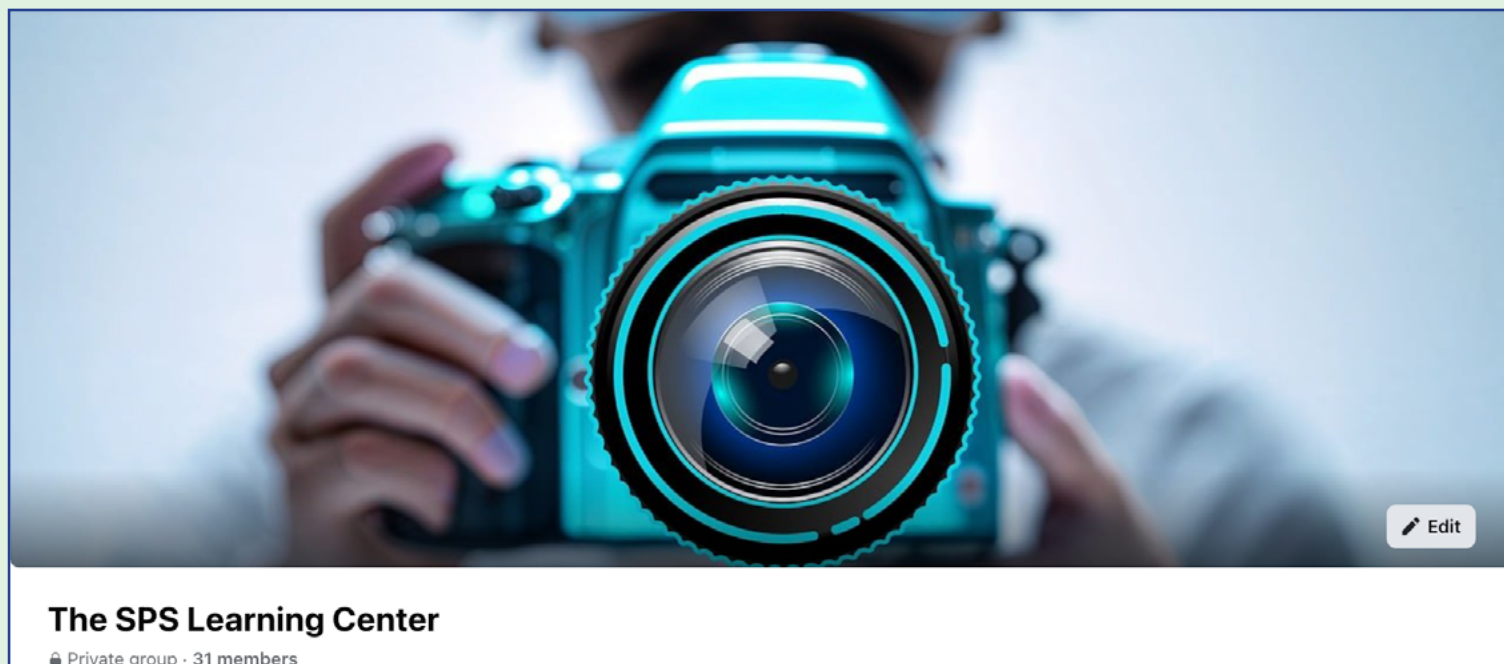
Our “regular” SPS Facebook group (now renamed to “Schenectady Photographic Society FB Group”) is open to all interested photographers. Participants must request permission to join. It’s a great forum for all things relating to photography.



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

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


OUR NEW-SPS MEMBERS ONLY-FACEBOOK GROUP “THE SPS LEARNING CENTER”

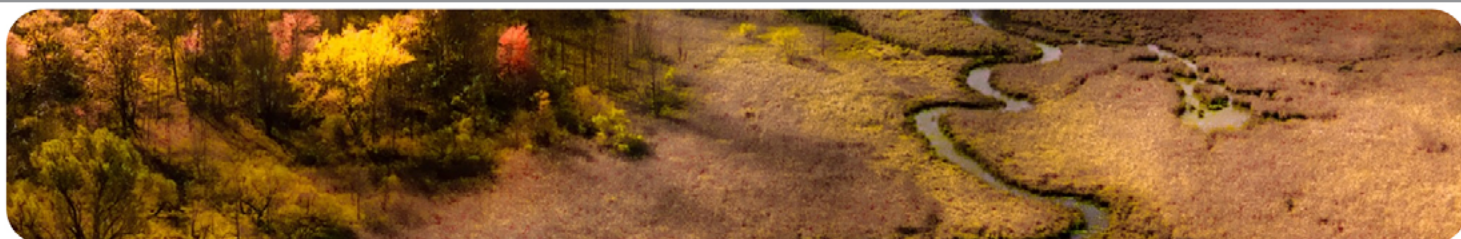


A new benefit of membership: a forum to share photography-related information, post images for critique and more.

If you haven't joined yet, now is the time!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737>

FOLLOW US ON  YouTube



Schenectady Photographic Society

@SchenectadyPhotoSociety • 41 subscribers • 81 videos

Photoessays and other short videos from the Schenectady Photographic Society. Feel f...more

spsphoto.org

We hope to have our YouTube channel up-to-date soon,
Only SPS Members will be able to access Event Night presentations.

<https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos>

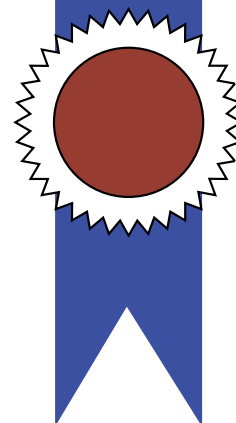
NOVEMBER WINNING PRINTS

Topic: Still Life



First Place:
"High-Key Cups"
© Linda Tommasulo

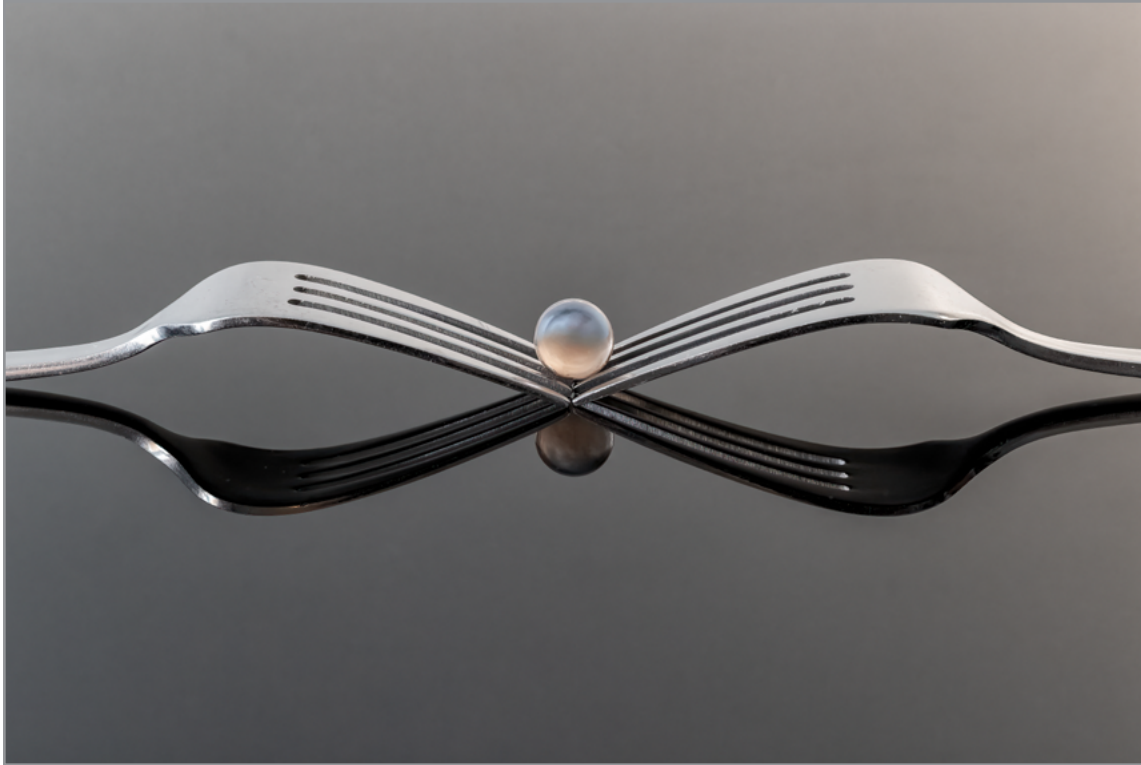
A
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2nd Place: "Lemonade"
© Paula Keefe

NOVEMBER WINNING PRINTS

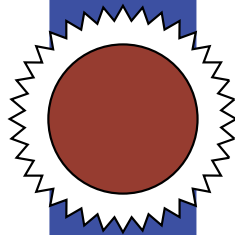
Topic: Still Life



3rd Place:
"Infinity"

© Joe Cotroneo

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Judge: Frank Rapant is a photographer, writer, and sculptor from Castleton NY, where he maintains a small homestead with his family. He holds a BA from Union College in English and Visual Arts, and is currently an MFA candidate (2025 anticipated) at The School of Visual Arts in New York City. Frank has been the photography technician and gallery manager at the Union College Department of Visual Arts, and has been helping shape the next generation of photographic artists there since 2006. He exhibits regularly in and around the Capital District, and was awarded the Opalka Gallery Award at the 45th Annual Photography Regional, for his mixed media (photography and writing) image, "This is my fathers hand." Several years ago, he was awarded the first place Juror's Choice Award at the 38th Annual Photography Regional, for his image, "After the Fire," an image which depicted his pet dog and cat together in a grave after a house fire. He held a solo exhibition of his work, "Ode to Duane," at the Cunneen-Hackett Art Center in Poughkeepsie, NY last winter, and will be included in the SVA Art Practice Exhibition at the Flatiron Gallery in New York City next July. His current work deals with themes of family, memory, truth and fiction, humanism, and social activism, and is pursuing further the ideas of mixed media art using hand embroidery on the surface of photograph.

<https://www.f-rapant.com/>



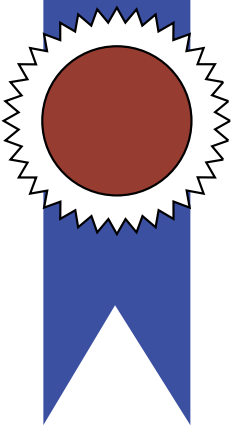
Honorable Mention:
"Farm Still Life"

© Connie Frisbee Houde

Continued...

NOVEMBER WINNING PRINTS

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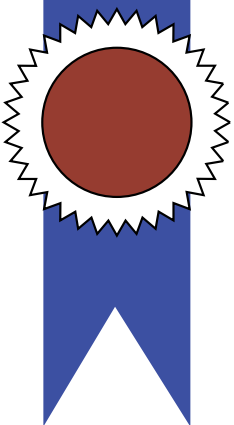


First Place:

"Champlain Navigating the Cosmos"

© Zac Baldwin

GENERAL



NOVEMBER WINNING PRINTS



2nd Place:
"Icarus Rising"
© Neil Shapiro



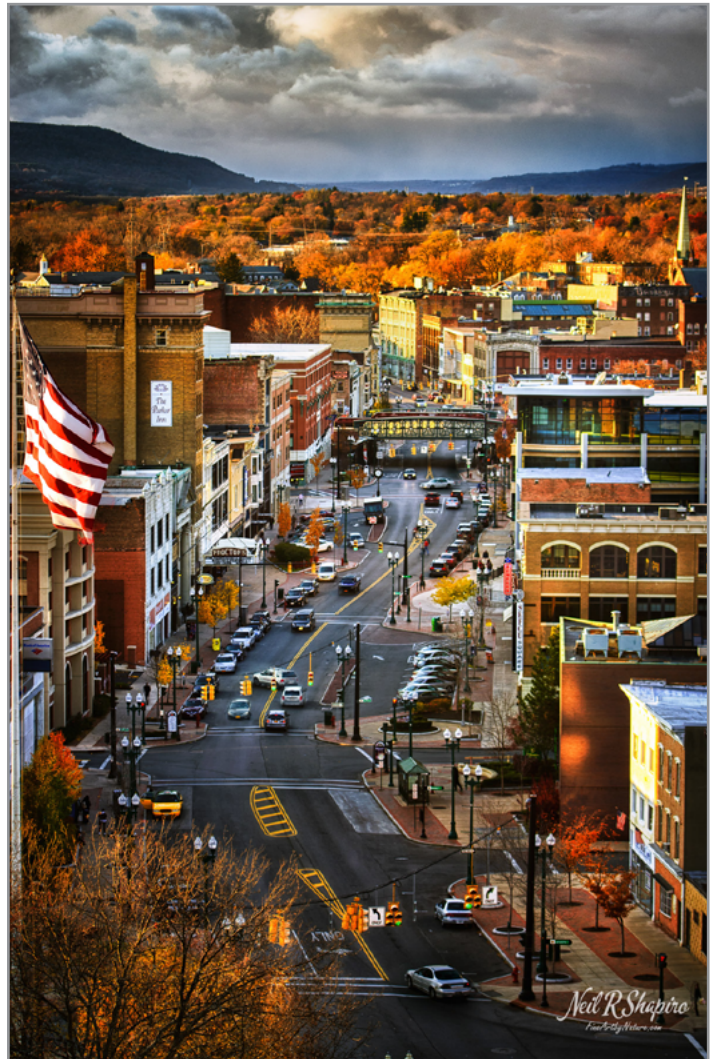
3rd Place:
"Blue Pot"
© Connie Frisbee Houde

NOVEMBER WINNING PRINTS

GENERAL

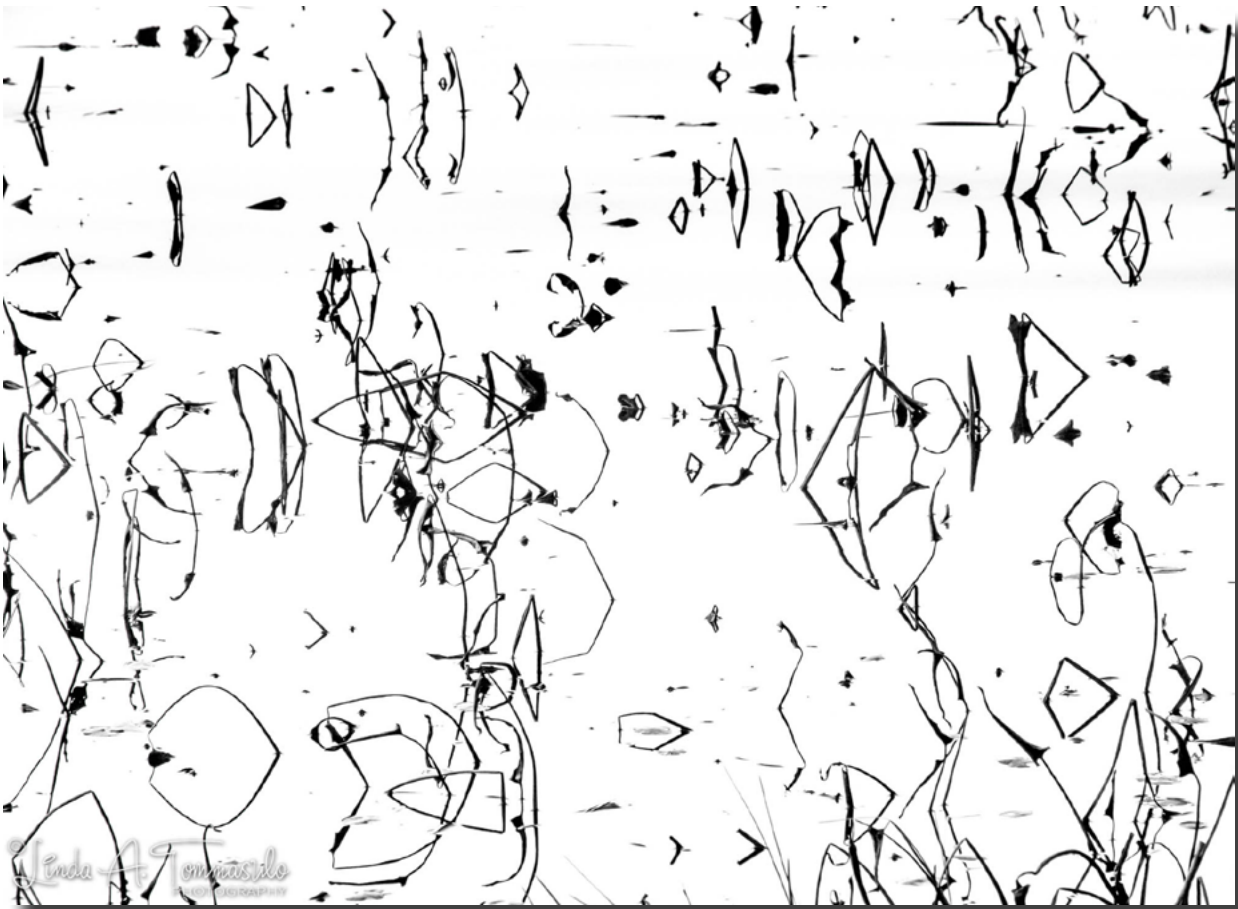


Honorable Mention:
"Seeing Double"
© Nancy Pfuntner



Honorable Mention:
"Small Town USA"
© Neil Shapiro

NOVEMBER WINNING PRINTS

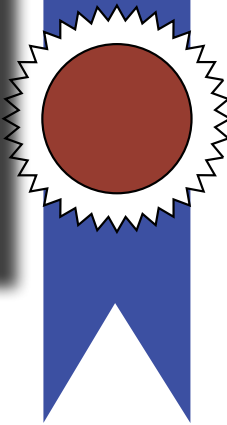


First Place:

"Reeds Abstract"

© Linda Tommasulo

MONOCHROME



2nd Place:

"Ominous Approach"

© Zac Baldwin

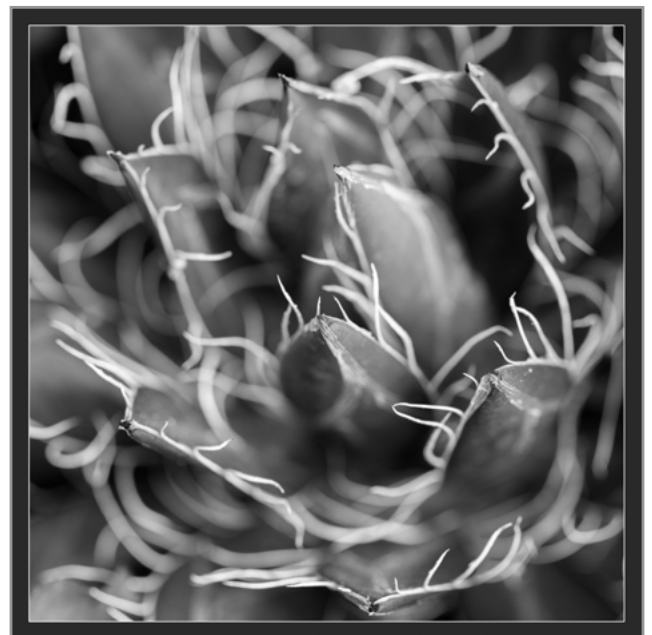
NOVEMBER WINNING PRINTS



3rd Place:
"White Sands"
© Jim Craner

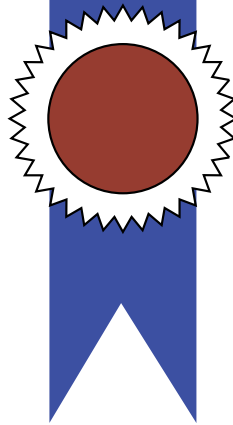


Honorable Mention:
"No Sailing Today"
© Alan Wiggins



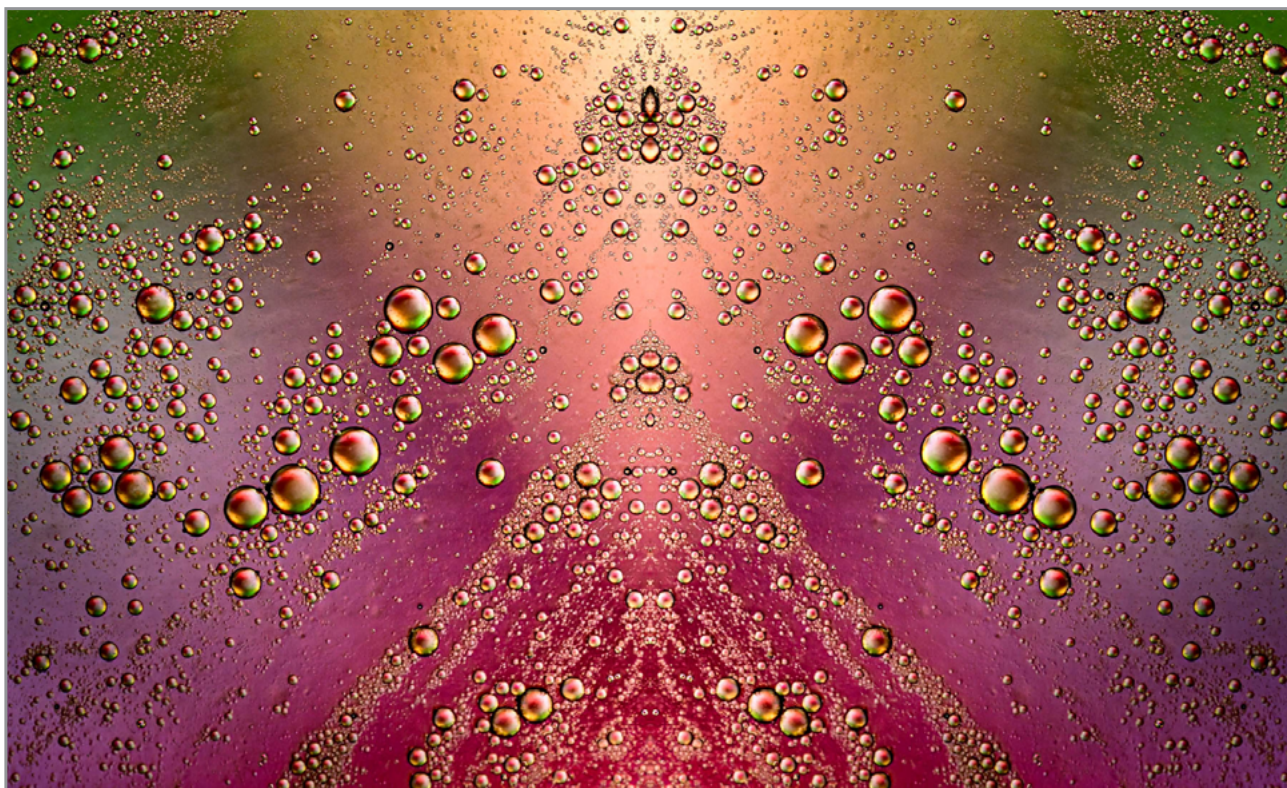
Honorable Mention:
"Thread Leaf Agave"
© Nancy Pfuntner

MONOCHROME



NOVEMBER WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Circles

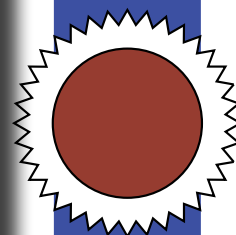


First Place:

"Volcano and Oil and Water Abstract"

© Joe Cotroneo

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2nd Place:

"Diminishing Circles"

© Sharon Silversmith

NOVEMBER WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Circles



3rd Place:
"Shore Suds"
© Jan Juliano



4th Place:
"Supermoon Behind Olana"
© Janice Prichett

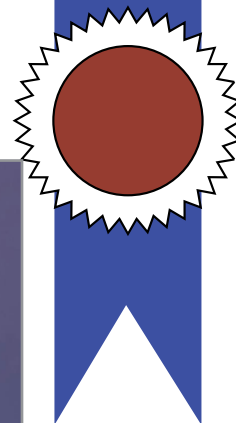
Judge: Tom Cuchara

Tom and his wife Lisa are the "Dynamic Duo" of Photography. They love any chance to take photographs and Teach/Mentor/Motivate. They relish the opportunity to inspire with their "Creativity is contagious, pass it on" philosophy and our "Don't shoot what it looks like, shoot what it feels like" approach.

Tom and Lisa are both OM SYSTEM (formerly Olympus) Ambassadors. They specialize in decorating homes with nature and UrbEx art. We enjoy taking "straight out of camera" photographs and equally enjoy creating ART from our photographs. Both allow us to capture the moment as our mind's eye sees it.

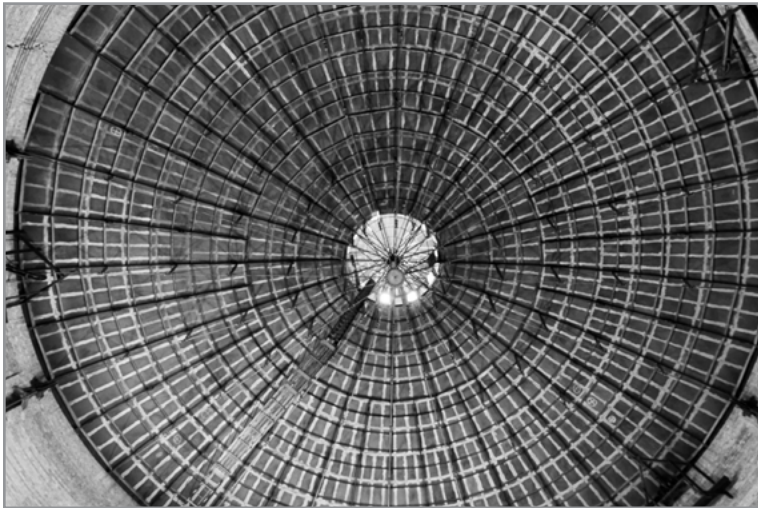
They love to teach photography and editing classes, and we lead photo tours and workshops. We offer a variety of photography classes for photographers of all levels.

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>



NOVEMBER WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Circles



Honorable Mention:
"Radial Vault"
© Zac Baldwin



Honorable Mention:
"Colorful Globes"
© Phil Olivo

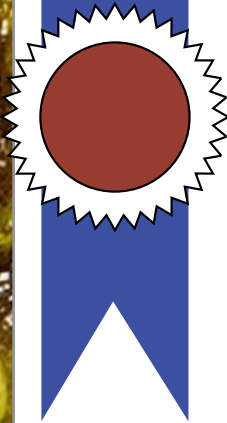


Honorable Mention:
"Frog Eye"
© Sharon Silversmith



Honorable Mention:
"Fish Eyes"
© Ron Speier

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NOVEMBER WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



First Place:
"Sitting Pretty"
© Linda Tommasulo



2nd Place:
"Kirkjufellfoss -
the Other Side"
© Neil Shapiro

NOVEMBER WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



3rd Place:
"Duckweed Dancer"
© Zac Baldwin



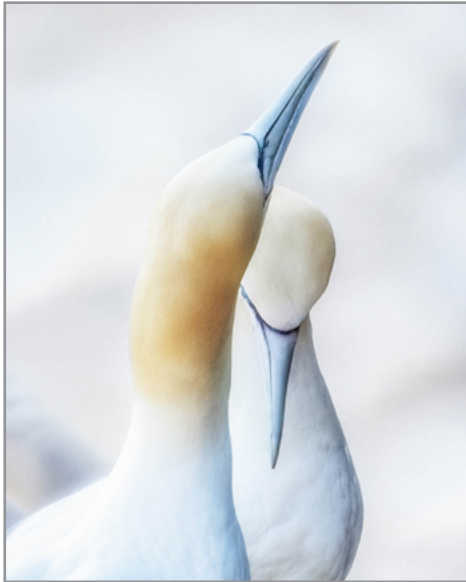
4th Place:
"Flower Field"
© Sean Sullivan



5th Place:
"Best Italian Food in Paris"
© Phil Olivo

NOVEMBER WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



Honorable Mention:
"Courtship"
© Janice Prichett



Honorable Mention:
"Leafscape"
© Joe Cotroneo



Honorable Mention:
"Finland Grey Wolf"
© M-J Adelman



Honorable Mention:
"Morning Lilies"
© Janice Prichett

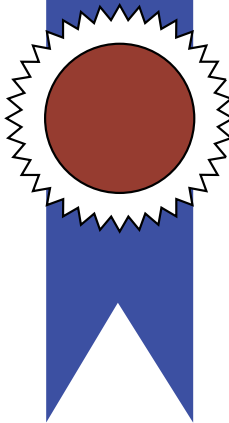


Honorable Mention:
"Tiny Frog"
© Nancy Pfuntner



First Place:
"Two Brooms and a Dustpan"
© Linda Tommasulo

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2nd Place:
"Desiccated"
© Bill Lanahan

NOVEMBER WINNING DIGITAL



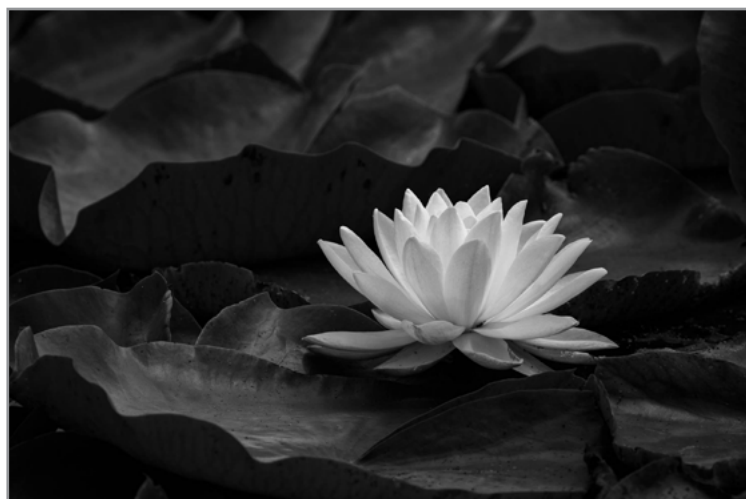
3rd Place:
"Fern Dew"
© Kim Koza

Honorable Mention:
"Mine"
© Nancy Pfuntner

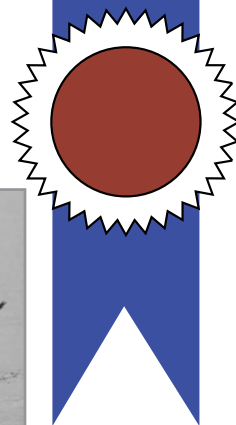


Honorable Mention:
"Torrent"
© Neil Shapiro

Honorable Mention:
"Water Lily"
© Joe Cotroneo



MONOCHROME



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



SEASON STARTED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025.

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](http://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 2025-2026

President Alan Wiggins
president@spsphoto.org

Vice President Linda Tommasulo
vp@spsphoto.org

Treasurer Pat McCormick
treasurer@spsphoto.org

Recording Secretary Paula Keefe
secretary@spsphoto.org

Newsletter Editor Linda Tommasulo
newsletter@spsphoto.org

Webmaster & Annual Report Editor... Sean Sullivan
webmaster@spsphoto.org

Membership Chair Open
membership@spsphoto.org

Print Group Joe Cotroneo
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/schenectadyphtographicssociety>

Members Only Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos>



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

THE FOCUS NEEDS YOU! For articles, suggestions,
and member profiles (Focus on: YOU!).
Contact Linda at newsletter@spsphoto.org.

SPS 2025-2026 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, 2025

10/15/25**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows

JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER

<https://www.sphotosbyevan.com>

10/22/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Reflections

JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

November, 2025

11/5/25**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Still Life

JUDGE: FRANK RAPANT

<https://www.frankrapant.photography/>

11/12/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Circles

JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

December, 2025

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

Assigned Topic: Water

JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER

<https://neustudios.com/>

12/10/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Fall Colors

JUDGE: BUTCH MAZZUCA

<https://butchmazzuca.com/>

January, 2026

1/7/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Architecture

JUDGE: STEPHANIE PALAZEKE

<http://www.stephaniepalazeke.com>

1/14/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Patterns

JUDGE: CHRIS MURRAY

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

February, 2026

2/4/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Abstract

JUDGE: RICHARD LOVRICH

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

February, 2026 (Cont'd.)

2/11/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Primary Colors

JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN

<http://www.johannasiegmann.com/>

March, 2026

3/4/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Landscape

JUDGE: DAVID FINGERHUT

<https://davidbfingerhut.zenfolio.com/>

3/11/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: City Scenes

JUDGE: LIESL WALSH

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

3/18/26**PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ

<https://cindyschultz.photoshelter.com/index>

April, 2026

4/8/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Animal

JUDGE: HANNAH ZEL

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

4/15/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Shadows

JUDGE: NIKKI McDONALD

<https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/nikolynmcdonaldphotography/shop/framed+prints>

4/22/26**LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE

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

May, 2026

5/6/26**PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC**

JUDGES: DINO PETROCELLI

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

RICHARD LOVRICH

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

5/13/26**DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom**

JUDGES: NICK PALMIERI

<https://nicholas-palmieri.pixels.com/>

ELLEN STEIN

SPS 2025-2026 SEASON CALENDAR

For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.

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!

September , 2025

9/24/25..... OPENING DAY@ FUMC
Bring a favorite photo (print or digital)
to share and discuss

October, 2025

10/1/25..... NO MEETING (YOM KIPPUR)
10/8/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Alan Shapiro: Creative Still Life
10/15/25PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows
10/22/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Reflections
10/29/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Joe Brady - Taking Your Images From Good to Great

November, 2025

11/5/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Still Life
11/12/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Circles
11/19/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Rad Drew - Getting the Most & Best from your iPhone
Camera
11/26/25NO MEETING (THANKSGIVING)

December, 2025

12/3/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Water
12/10/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Fall Colors
12/17/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Jeff Perkins - Street Portraiture
12/24/25 NO MEETING (CHRISTMAS EVE)
12/31/25 NO MEETING (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

January, 2026

1/7/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Architecture
1/14/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Patterns
1/21/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Ray Schneider: Intentional Composition
1/28/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Connie Frisbee Houde: Travel Photography -
Phone vs. Full Gear, Italy and Central Asia

February, 2026

2/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Abstract
2/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Primary Colors
2/18/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
M-J Adelman: Polar Bears, Arctic Wildlife &
Norway Highlights
2/25/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Hazel Meredith: Getting Creative with
Smart Photo Editor

March, 2026

3/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Landscape
3/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: City Scenes
3/18/26..... PHOTO ESSAYS @ FUMC
Constructive Critique by Cindy Schultz
3/25/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Caroline Preece: Street Photography - How to
Feel the Fear, Do it Anyway and Get Great Images

April, 2026

4/1/26..... NO MEETING (PASSOVER)
4/8/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Animal
4/15/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Shadows
4/22/26..... LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC
Judge: Lawrence White
4/29/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Butch Mazzuca: Beyond the Rule of Thirds

May, 2026

5/6/26.....PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC
5/13/26.... DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom

June, 2026SPS AWARDS BANQUET
Date: TBA

**HAVE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE
AND PHOTOGENIC SUMMER!**