

In Focus

The monthly Newsletter of the Focus Camera Club

February 2011

What's new pussycat...

(Sorry for the lame Tom Jones reference!)

The new year always brings change. People make (and break) resolutions, it's a new tax year for small businesses, and it will soon be the Year of the Rabbit. (Check your placemat next time you eat in a Chinese restaurant.)

There have been a few important changes for Focus Camera Club since January 1. In case you haven't been to a meeting yet, here's a brief rundown.

- We're not a member of the Colorado Council of camera clubs
- We're not affiliated with PSA anymore (as a club)
- Competition rules have been changed
- Critique sessions at competitions will run a bit differently
- You'll learn the "secrets of the Masters" at Best of the Best
- Some excellent photographers earned a bump to the next competition level

Details are on the following pages. And if you didn't get a copy of the new Competition rules, ask one of the committee members or grab the PDF from the website.

This Month's Featured Article

A little departure from the norm. A gallery show review by one of our members.

Perhaps you should go see the work of the younger artist.

[Read more here...](#)

Did you get your Membership Form to Peggy?
Gotta get it done by March 15. Quick, go write a check.

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee members

Officers

President: Joe Bonita

Vice President: Frank Gibbs

Treasurer: Peggy Dietz

Secretary: Paul DiSalvo

Committees

Executive: Joe Bonita, Russ Burden, Peggy

Dietz, Paul DiSalvo, Frank Gibbs, Cliff

Lawson, Marv Mickelson, Tim Visser

Competitions: Russ Burden, Marv Mickelson,

Joe Bonita, Frank Gibbs, Nancy Myer

Programs: Tim Visser

Membership: Peggy Dietz

Special Projects: Marv Mickelson

Education: (Currently unmanned)

The purpose of the Focus Camera Club is to further its members' enjoyment, knowledge and mastery of photographic skills through cooperative efforts and fellowship.

Focus Camera Club Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held the First and Third Tuesday of each month. We gather in the meeting room at the back of the Animal Hospital building located at 5640 County Line Place in Highlands Ranch. Get a Google Map by [clicking here](#). Meetings start promptly at 7 PM. Parking is at the back of the building, but please leave the first 6 spots open. We can also park in the "Tiles for Less" parking lot just to the east of the hospital and walk across.

Unifying the World through Color

By Frank Mercado

The relationship between travel photography and fine art photography is the background question surrounding the newest exhibit at the [Denver Photo Art Gallery](#) on Santa Fe Drive. [Blaine Harrington](#) and [Joe Roybal](#) (his artist handle is Abelino), two individuals who separately travel and photograph around the world, now share an exhibit entitled “Unifying the World through Color”. The exhibit, organized by Gallery curator Kelly Rush, will be shown through March 4.

Denver native Harrington is a seasoned pro, with 250 thousand images in his inventory. Abelino, now living in Colorado, is a young emerging artist who is still building his corpus of work. This exhibit marks the first time either photographer has shown his work to the public. An artists’ reception was held at the gallery on January 21, and Harrington and Abelino provided patrons with commentary, insights, and an extended view of their work via digital slideshows.

The question hanging over this exhibit – I pose the question this way: It’s beautiful, but is it fine art? – can only be answered by each patron who visits the exhibit. I have no doubt that many, especially those awed by the images and colors of exotic peoples and places - presented in drop dead gorgeous prints and mounts prepared by the Gallery’s resident framing genius Tony Eitzel - will answer ‘Yes’, or perhaps even “Are you kidding? Absolutely yes!”

For me the question is best answered “Yes and no.”

After years away and only relatively recently again making his home in Colorado, Harrington has already staked his claim to fame as one of the most successful and honored commercial travel photographers around. His travel images grace the magazines pages of most of the world’s major travel and leisure companies, clothiers, airlines, and major film and camera companies. There is no question that when it comes to commercial travel photography, Harrington is the real deal. More than enough evidence is on display at the exhibit as to why he has won so many awards for his work.

Photography primarily destined for the high end magazine page tends toward overly saturated colors and most of Harrington’s work exhibit this trait. Color saturation is only a technicality – some will like it, some will not. But for me, it is the tangible evidence of what I find flawed in his work from a fine art perspective. While a feast for the eyes – presuming the color saturation doesn’t put you off – I find his work generally ‘soulless’.

I admit to being on weak ground here, as other than the color saturation thing, this sense of soullessness cannot be traced to specific technical aspects of the images. The best I can offer is an analogy. It is akin to the difference one senses when looking at a portrait made by Yousuf Karsh and then at the typical Victoria’s Secret image of a beautiful woman. Both images may be feasts for the eye, but only the Karsh portrait provides insight into the subject’s soul.

Harrington’s work, while beautiful and - other than the over the top color saturation – technically flawless, doesn’t move me. To attribute this to Harrington’s commercial roots may be unfair, but I think that is the cause. In any case I cannot call his work fine art. Others may have different criteria and make a different call.

On the other hand, I find Abelino’s work, although very much more limited in scope, less focused in terms of subject matter, and less technically refined than Harrington’s, to be much more qualified as fine art.

Although the exhibit features only a few of Abelino's prints, the artists' reception slideshow provided an opportunity to gain a greater sense of this young man's talent and long term potential.

Unlike Harrington, who often stages his work, none of Abelino's street photography is choreographed. His images of homeless beggars of London, bazaar workers of Istanbul, and children of Morocco highlight Abelino's ability to capture with respect – as well as with the artist's sense of framing and composition - touching moments of the human condition. Two images stand out; one is a moment of pathos, the other of humor.

In "Black and White", two Marrakech men are squatting by the wall of a building – perhaps a mosque. One is light skinned and enjoying a meal in the light, the other is dark skinned and huddled piteously in shadow. Perhaps the fellow in shadow was well fed and was only trying to get relief from the Moroccan sun. But the image seems to about the unfair balance between light skinned and dark skinned peoples.

In "Monterosso, Italy", Abelino captured the humorous image of elderly men and women sitting on benches. On the left side of the frame, the women, all nicely dressed, are looking at something to their right (frame left). On the bench positioned on the right side of the frame, an equal number of men, all shabbily dressed, stare off at something to their left (frame right). If you didn't know already, you'd know from this image that women are from Venus and men from Mars.

Since the time of Cartier-Bresson, the praise 'decisive moment' has been overused in the critique of street photography. However sometimes it is deserved and I believe that much of Abelino's work does.

Abelino's work is fine art - art that has room for maturation and focus - but fine art all the same. He is a young artist worthy of support, and I will follow the development of his career with interest.

Travel photography is not always fine art, but it can be. The works of Harrington and Abelino are proof of that for me.

– Thank you Frank for submitting this review. I hope the Focus members find this informative and it encourages them to see the gallery show themselves. We can always learn something by critically evaluating and comparing the work of others. (Karl)

Program and Competition Schedules

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
02/01/11	Presentation - Digital Presentation by Andy Cook	02/15/11	Subject - Nature
03/01/11	Presentation - Photography Composition - Taking your photography to the next level	03/15/11	Subject – Open
04/05/11	Presentation - Nik Software by Russ Burden	04/19/11	Subject - Backlight

February 1st Program with Andy Cook

Have you ever wondered why when you get home from a photo shoot, and you thought you took those killer images, they do not come out as you had hoped? This month's program will help you increase your photography and trip planning skills. Our presenter, Andy Cook, will provide you with a digital slide show and will describe the thought process he uses in making a quality shot versus an average shot, the techniques he uses, and the tools and trip planning to help increase your chances for that Killer Shot. Andy will also provide us with some of his advanced post processing techniques he uses to help enhance those Killer Shots.

Andy Cook is a professional landscape and nature photographer. Andy has published one of the best guides to Colorado Photography, "Guide to Colorado's Best Photography Locations". His images have been seen in many magazines including National Geographic, Colorado Vacation Planner, 5280, etc. Andy also has two Galleries where you can view his work, Boulder Street Gallery in Colorado Springs and The Canyon Gallery in Montrose.

This Month's Upcoming Competition is Nature

Since we go by the PSA rules, click to [read them here on their website](#).

If you need the Competition Entry forms or the template for the stick-on labels, you can get both [from the Focus website on the Competition Rules page](#).

Notes on Competition Meetings

Critique sessions will be held only on the nights we have assigned subjects. They will be limited to digital projections only. If a member wants an image critiqued, he or she has to send it in as a digital image. The critiques will take place between the digital projections judging and the prints judging. Each member will be limited to one image until we see how this goes.

The Competitions Committee voted to de-competitionize (if there's such a word) the Best of the Best Competition. It will become a "show and tell" session wherein each member who participates brings in one their photos and explains to the group what they were trying to accomplish, how they accomplished it, and what they think could have been done better.

January Open Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score	Award
f5.6	Color Print	Barb Roche	The Bridge to Twilight	9	1st
		Katie Roche	Come Walk With Me	9	2nd
	Digital Projection	Elmer Paetow	Bristle Cone Knot	9	1st
		Elmer Paetow	Sally Lightfoot Crab	9	2nd
f8	Monochrome Print	Maria Armstrong	Summer Snack	8	3rd
	Color Print	Katie Roche	Alone	9	1st
f11	Color Print	Rick Matson	Who am I Really?	9	1st
		Richard Caverly	Birds of a Feather	9	2nd
		Rick Matson	Fire Dance	9	3rd
		Jennifer Riefenberg	Red, White, and Blue	9	HM
	Digital Projection	Irma Backelant	Sparkling Rose	10	1st
		Frank Mercado	Coming and Going	9	2nd
		Todd Lytle	Catch It Again in 2094 A.D.	9	3rd
		Joyce Mickelson	Peek-a-Boo at Tiny Town	9	HM
	Monochrome Print	Fred Stearns	Drive Wheel	9	HM
		Jennifer Riefenberg	Rock & Iron	9	1st
		Frank Gibbs	Lipstick	10	1st
		Jimmy Doolittle	Night Lights	10	2nd
Digital Projection	Barbara Kennedy	Cliff Palace	9	3rd	
	Jimmy Doolittle	Rejoice	9	HM	
	Jim Doolittle	Bubble and Boy	9	1st	
	Nancy Nelson	Orchids and Buds	9	2nd	
	Mary Paetow	Waiting for a Refill	9	3rd	
	Nancy Myer	Dream Tree at Sunset	9	HM	
Monochrome Print	Jim Doolittle	Woman's Best Friend	9	HM	
	Frank Gibbs	The Bassist	10	1st	
	Jimmy Doolittle	Ornamental	10	2nd	
f16	Color Print	Jim Doolittle	Woman Warrior	9	3rd
		Marv Mickelson	High Country Stream	9	1st
Digital Projection	Ilene Nova	You Are What You Eat	9	2nd	
	Joe Bonita	Red Hibiscus	9	1st	
	Russ Burden	Redwing Blackbird	9	2nd	
Monochrome Print	Joe Bonita	Tattered Sails	9	1st	

Member Promotions

Congrats to all of the fine photographers listed here. Your exemplary work during the past year has earned you a bump to the next level. *(Just remember, it's a tougher crowd the next step up! Keep being excellent.)*

From f5.6 to f8: Joyce Mickelson, Jennifer Riefenberg, Todd Lytle, Richard Caverly, and Irma Backelant

From f5.6 to f11: Guy Geoly

From f8 to f11: Russ Tyler, Barbara Kennedy, and Paul DiSalvo

From f11 to f16: Ilene Nova and Joe Bonita

Calls For Entries / Photo Contests

Photographic Art Show and Sale

The Ninth Annual Lone Tree Photographic Art Show and Sale is presented by the Lone Tree Photography Club, the Lone Tree Arts Commission and the City of Lone Tree. This juried exhibition will run April 16 to May 8, 2011 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Lone Tree Golf Club and Hotel, 9808 Sunningdale Boulevard, Lone Tree, Colorado.

Call for Entry: Photographers are invited to enter the 2011 Show. The deadline for submissions is March 4, 2011. Entry is open to the general public.

Submissions: Photographers may submit up to three images. Images cannot have appeared in a previous Lone Tree Photography Show. A non-refundable \$25 entry fee is required with submission and must be mailed. Payment is not currently available electronically.

Categories

Color: Single photo taken as a color image with minor adjustments to the original.

Monochrome: Single photo taken as or converted to a monochrome image with minor adjustments to the original.

Special Effects Color: Single or group of color photo(s) significantly adjusted for obvious special effects.

Special Effects Monochrome: Single or group of monochrome photo(s) significantly adjusted for obvious special effects.

Prizes: Cash awards are estimated at \$4,000.

Get complete details, entry forms, and contact info at the [Lone Tree website](#).

C4FAP - CENTER FORWARD 2011

Center Forward 2011 will include a main gallery group exhibition and a solo exhibition award. The theme is open and all subjects are eligible. Please join us in the conversation.

Eligibility: The exhibition is open to all photographers world wide, both amateur and professional. The Center invites photographers working in all mediums, styles and schools of thought to participate.

Juror: Hamidah Glasgow

Hamidah Glasgow is the Executive Director at The Center for Fine Art Photography. Ms. Glasgow has had diverse careers as a TV producer, photographer and nonprofit arts executive. She has been a reviewer for PhotoLA, FotoFest, Critical Mass and Photolucida 2011.

Local Photo Opps and Events

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks

America's best idea – the national parks – gets even better with several fee-free days at more than 100 national parks that usually charge entrance fees. See a list of [Colorado parks on the NPS website](#).

Mark your calendar for these fee-free days in 2011:

- January 15-17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday weekend)
- April 16-24 (National Park Week)
- June 21 (First day of summer)
- September 24 (Public Lands Day)
- November 11-13 (Veterans Day weekend)

Fine Art workshop with Jeff Johnson

When: Saturday February 12, 9am – 5pm AND Tuesday February 15, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

(from the PPC webpage) On Saturday morning, February 12, 2011, we'll wander the streets of Old Arvada to photograph the allure and wonderful architecture and many more items of the eclectic. We're bound to create many pieces of photographic art with this fun and creative opportunity.

We'll grab a quick lunch at Udi's then to "Journeys for Conscious Living" event center located at 5855 Wadsworth Bypass Building A, Suite 100 Arvada, CO 80003. It's right next to Gunther Toody's Restaurant. From 1p to 5p in a hands-on computer class we'll play with the amazing images we captured that morning. Jeff will share many of the techniques he uses to create his signature "Images From The Soul" and will help you create you own style.

Full details at [the workshop webpage](#).

Colorado Avalanche pre-game

Tim has been in touch with the Colorado Avalanche and they are providing us with an opportunity to shoot the pre-game warm-up at the Pepsi Center. This will give us approximately 20 minutes to shoot from where the photographers shoot during the game, and in addition, possibly on the player's bench.

Date: Wednesday February 23rd game against Edmonton Oilers. The game will start at 7:30 pm.

Location: Q&A/Meet & Greet hosted inside Pepsi Center, hosted in the Club Level Meeting Rooms or in the Locker Room Bar.

We will then be broken up in groups of @5 and sent to designated photography stations. Each photography group will have a different angle to shoot from than another!

Pregame: Early Entrance into the stadium through the VIP Entrance. Usually starts around 1.5 – 2 hours before puck drops. Networking and Social atmosphere.

Speaker: Introduction of the Colorado Avalanche organization, speaker's introductions of their background to present day, highlights of pre-submitted areas of interest, and Q&A Session with a member of our Photography staff.

Cost: \$40 VIP Club Level (normally \$115) or \$20 (normally \$40) for Upper Level.

If you have family or friends that would like to come and are not going to photograph, they are more than welcome and the costs are the same for them. We currently have 9 individuals registered for this date. If you are interested, please [send Tim Visser an email](#) and include your name, number of tickets and which seating choice. He is working out the payment options with the Avalanche.

Classified Ads

Equipment For Sale

Get your For Sale items listed here.
Email newsletter@focuscolorado.com
with the details.

Help Needed

I need volunteers to write a 1-2 page article to use in the next newsletter.
Interested? Email Karl at
newsletter@focuscolorado.com

Photo Excursions

Russ Burden Photo Tours

www.russburdenphotography.com

303.791.9997

2011 Photo Tours

Feb. 19 - 25, Florida Birds: Everglades / Fort Myers / West Palm

Apr 16 – 22, Monument Valley / Slot Canyons

May 7 - 13, Arches & Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 days of Photoshop instruction

May 25 - June 3, Oregon Coast - 10 day trip

June 18 – 24, Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring

Sept 24 - Oct 3, Yellowstone and Teton Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days

Oct. 18 - 23, Hunts Mesa - Aerial perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef NP

Nov. 5 - 11, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks

Dec. 6 - 12, Bosque Del Apache & White Sands Natl. Monument

“ When you photograph a man in color, you photograph his clothes. When you photograph a man in B&W, you photograph his soul. ”

-Ted Grant, a famous Canadian photographer

Frame #37

A collection of extra tidbits I've discovered during the past few weeks.

– If you follow Joe McNally's blog you've likely read this already. If not, be sure to follow his advice and [Take a Picture of a Feeling...](#)

– Take your image presentation to the next level with a collection of free Photoshop album templates, layouts, backgrounds, and edges from onOne software. Go [get them here](#).

– Talk about pushing Photoshop to it's limits, how about a file with 750,000 layers!! You read that right. Check it out [at Bert Monroy's website](#). Impressive.

– Looking for a great photo adventure this year? The folks at Naturescapes.net have a [bunch of photo workshops/excursions](#) for you. Brown bears in Alaska? Birds in Florida? Arizona desert life? They got 'em.