FOCUS CAMERA CLUB

InFocus Newsletter

February 2023

Photos in this issue are from last month's 'Open' competition.

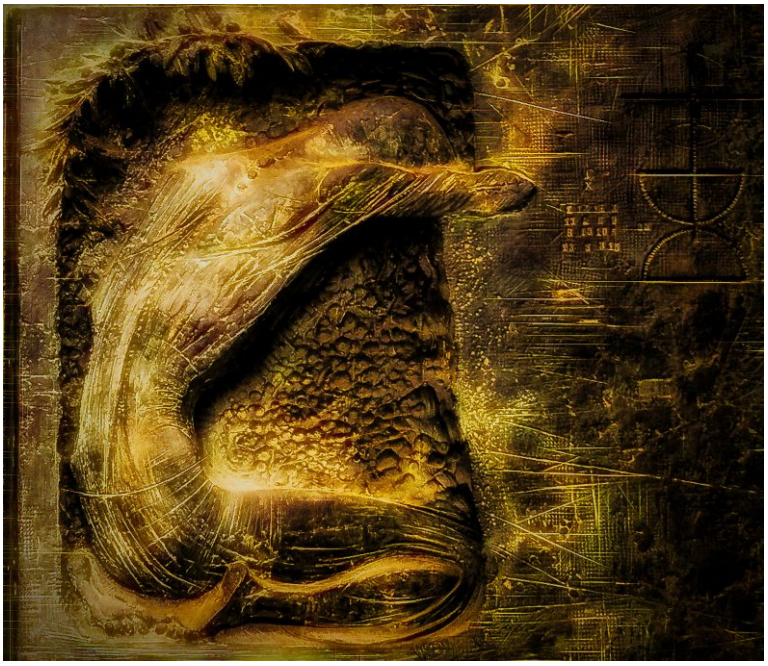
Why, not How...

Camera Club program presentations, and most of the tutorials you find online, focus on the How of photography. This month we spend time talking about Why.

Justin Key will be discussing Creative Vision and finding your style. Be sure to attend the meeting at Lone Tree this month. It will help you, no matter what genre or subjects you regularly shoot.

Street Portrait tips

In under two hours you can be confident and comfortable to go out and shoot street portraits. Let's get to work...



Lamentation by Victoria Ashby

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President: Karl Peschel

Vice President: David Bessen

Treasurer: Ron Schaller

Secretary: Bill Williams

Committee Chairs

Executive Board: Karl Peschel, David Bessen, Ron Schaller, Bill Williams, Victoria Ashby, and the Committee chairs listed below

Competitions: (open)

Programs: Co-Chairs Terry Hanford and David Bessen

Membership: Todd Lytle

Mentoring: Gwen Paton

Newsletter/Website: Karl Peschel

Our Mission

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 Second & Fourth Wednesday of each month. Hybrid meetings – locally at Lone Tree Civic Center and via Zoom. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 PM and normally end by 9:00 PM .

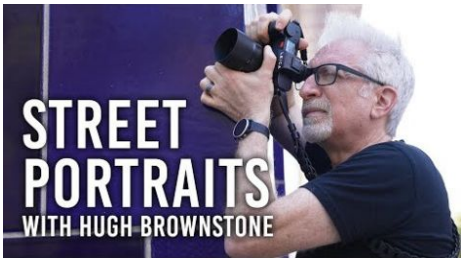
Street Portrait Tips

By Karl Peschel

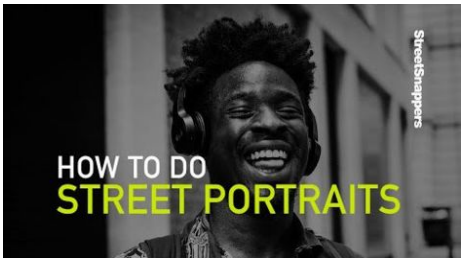
Our Competition subject this month is a bit different; something a number of members may have never tried. But that's one of the reasons we have competitions – Challenges! Shooting something different than the norm, something other than Colorado landscapes.

Spend an hour or so with these videos and you're bound to be more comfortable with shooting and approaching people. Lots of tips here about talking to strangers (you're older now...your Mom would say it's okay), carrying minimal gear, finding an interesting spot and waiting for people to walk through, the right gear and settings to use, the right things to say to people, and how to be confident.

I'd love for everyone to submit an image for Street Portraits this month. Get out and shoot something.

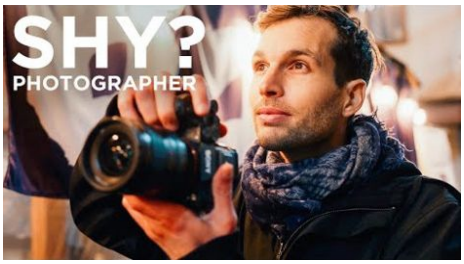


Hugh Brownstone's Approach to Street Portraits



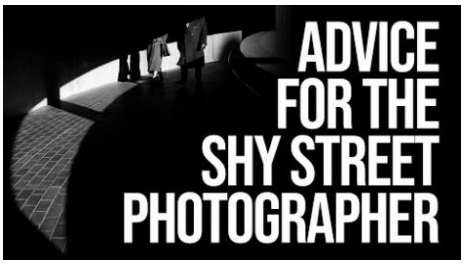
Streetsnappers - How to take Street Portraits

Jamie Windsor - The STREET PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY techniques of Joel Sternfeld



Pierre T. Lambert - 5 Secrets to Street Photography in Public When You're Shy

Faizal Westcott - This is for the Nervous Street Photographer



Sean Tucker - Advice for the Shy Street Photographer

A post suggested by Terry. Everybody and their brother is walking around with a smartphone. Without a "real" camera you'll easily blend in with everyone else.
iPhone · tography: All Souls Procession November 16, 2022 ~ Tony Kuyper

Last thought — Listen to how Sean Tucker worked through various focal lengths to find what works best for him for street photography. This 15 minute video may help you find what's best for you too.

Program & Competition Meetings

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
02/08/23	**Program** – The Photographer's Eye: Honing the Creative Vision that Drives Us by Justin Keys	02/22/23	**Subject** – Street Portrait
03/08/23	**Program** – Infrared Photography by Jeffrey Stoner	03/22/23	**Subject** – Frame in a Frame
03/29/23	Mentor Session – Rescheduled to April 6. See Pg 6 for info.		
04/12/23	**Program** – Phone Photography: From Pocket to Post by Todd Nettlehorst	04/26/23	**Subject** – Wabi Sabi

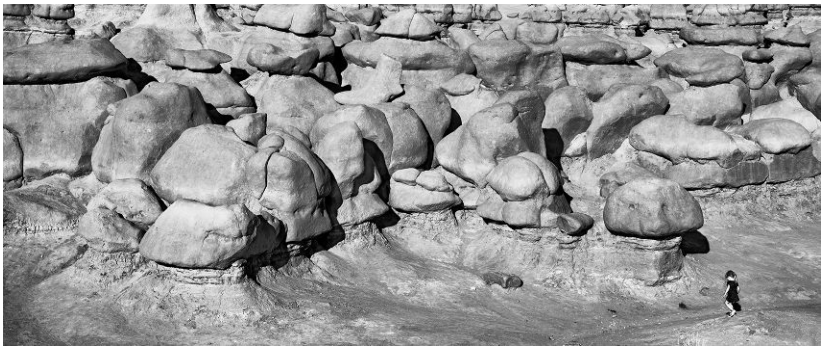
February 8 Program with Justin Key

The Photographer's Eye: Honing the Creative Vision that Drives Us

Justin will be talking about introspective techniques and self-critiques that have helped him improve his work and develop his photographic style. Along the way, Justin will talk about his creative process that led him to create his Skeletons Series of tree photographs and his Sands Study of sand dunes pictures.

Justin Key hails from Green Bay, WI, but has traveled extensively across the U.S. and around the world, capturing images all along the way. As he noted, "I've never felt as much purpose in life as I did the first time I held a camera." After he bought his first camera, he started to see the world in compositions and he even had his Dad turn the car around so that he could get out to take his first picture.

More recently, Justin relocated to the Denver area where he continues to travel and explore new photographic techniques. His eye is drawn to textures and he enjoys the details that make landscapes dynamic. Justin believes that the "beauty of the natural world should remain untouched, so he refrains from extensive editing of his work."



Roadblocks Ahead by Danny Lam

The Brown Pelican by Laura Blake

This Month's Competition is Street Portrait

The official definition - *"A headshot to full length portrait is your choice, but it must be obvious this was shot on the street. No models; no multi-light setups. Natural portraits of real people you encounter is what we want. You can (and should) talk to your subject and may pose them a bit to better convey your message."*

There are a bunch of tips and resources starting on Page 2 to help you get excellent results with your street portraits, along with ways to overcome any fear you may have about photographing strangers.

Judge will be **Travis Broxton**

And remember, we are limiting to 2 images per person for all Competitions done via Zoom.

January 'Open' Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score
F8	B&W digital	Laura Blake	The Brown Pelican	9
	Color digital	John Mumford	Autumn Waterfall	9
F16	B&W digital	Joe Bonita	Modern Living	10
		Danny Lam	Roadblocks Ahead	10
	Color digital	Victoria Ashby	Lamentation	9
		Dan Greenberg	Many Architectural Styles	9
		Oz Pfenninger	Ice Sculpture	9
		Joe Bonita	Wild Cherry	10
		Gary Witt	A Quiet Place	10

Judge for this competition was Cheryl Opperman.

See all the winning images in the Online Gallery.

Autumn Waterfall by John Mumford

Ice Sculpture by Oz Pfenninger

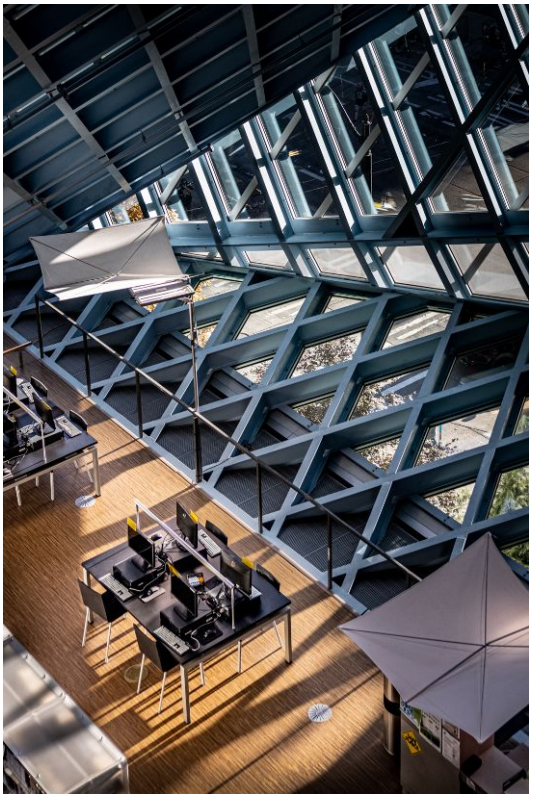
Photo Contests

Exploring the Light

Deadline: February 27, 2023

The 21st Annual Exploring the Light Photo Show will be from April 6th – June 5th, 2023. The show is presented by the Lone Tree Arts Commission and the Lone Tree Photo Club, with support from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). See the world through a different lens with the Exploring the Light Photo Exhibit at the Lone Tree Arts Center. Local photographers come together to create a visual collage of different styles, subjects and sentiments.

Visit the Lone tree Arts Center website for complete info, the 8 categories you can compete in, and
details about judging and delivery of your work. (Best of Show, as well as first and second place winners in each category, will be awarded *gallery space for several weeks* after the show at the Lone Tree Arts Center.)



A Quiet Place by Gary Witt

BigPicture Natural World Photography Competition

Deadline: March 1, 2023

Now in its 10th year, BigPicture encourages photographers from around the world to contribute their work to this competition that both celebrates and illustrates the rich diversity of life on Earth and inspires action to protect and conserve it through the power of imagery. Chaired by award-winning conservation photographer Suzi Eszterhas, BigPicture welcomes high-quality nature, wildlife and conservation images and is open to all photographers around the world. Enter your work for a chance to win cash prizes and be exhibited at the California Academy of Sciences.

Competition details are here on the Bigpicture website.

BirdWatching Photography Awards

Deadline: March 14, 2023

For more than three decades, BirdWatching has published extraordinary photos taken by the world's best bird photographers. We're continuing that tradition in 2023 with the fifth annual BirdWatching Photography Awards, our premier contest for bird photography. Submit your best photos of wild birds for a chance to win cash and great prizes from our sponsors!

BirdWatching is committed to ethical practices in wildlife photography. Please review our contest FAQ section and official rules regarding restrictions on the eligibility of certain types of images.

Visit the BirdWatching contest webpage for all the rules, prize info, and to enter your images.

Local Photo Opps & Events

Month of Photography Denver

Runs from March 1 – 31, 2023 Month of photography Denver is a biennial festival that celebrates the art of photography through exhibitions and events across the region. Look thru the Event listings – lots of cool exhibits and shows you can attend to get inspiration for your own photography.

Visit the MOPD Photographers page to see listings of exhibit venues, calls for entry, and other opportunities to show your work or volunteer. (check those CFE's NOW since a number of them have entry deadlines this month.)

Heritage Lakewood

(Gwen P. talked about it and had that nice art deco building shot in the Nov. 2022 competition)

Located at 801 S. Yarrow Street, Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park is a 20th century history park, museum and festival experience that celebrates our community. It is home to 15 historic buildings, more than 40,000 artifacts, rotating and permanent exhibits, a festival area and an outdoor amphitheater.

Visit their website to learn more, check their event calendar, and plan an excursion there.

Focus Mentor Outing in ~~March~~ April!

Rescheduled from March 31 to April 6 at 11:00 am. Mark your calendars; Save the Date.

Gwen will lead a photo critique of the Lone Tree *Exploring the Light* Photo Exhibit mentioned under Photo Contests above. Random photos will be selected to review as a group critique. Lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant. **More details will be in the March newsletter.**

Frame #37

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

— Free Ebooks from North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA): visit this page on their site, click the one you want, enter your email address. Easy Peasy.

— Don't know if you saw this on the interwebs or not but John Fielder has donated over 5000 Colorado images to the public domain. See the announcement here and later this year you'll be able to view the collection on the History Colorado website.

> It is one thing to photograph people. It is another to make others care about them by revealing the core of their humanness.
>
> – Paul Strand