

**Bold red texts
are
interactive links!**

FOCUS

**IT'S OUR
90TH
SEASON!**

Volume 88 - No. 6

<https://spsphoto.org/>

February 2022

**EVENT
NIGHT**

"THE POWER OF BLACK AND WHITE" ***by Silvana Della Camera*** ***February 16, 2022***

Black and White photographs pack a forceful unnerving impact. Photos that deliver a timeless punch evoke nostalgia & inspire a lingering gaze. When we think of this artistic style, the greats come to mind; Henri Cartier-Bresson, Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, among many others. The intensity of black and white is achieved through the clarity of a view without color. By mastering colorless imagery, the subject of your photo becomes larger than the image itself. In this presentation, you will learn techniques of abstract realism.



Continued...

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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

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The Power of Black and White

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Bio:

Silvana began her fascination with photography as a very small child, taking her father's camera as often as she could, to peer through the viewfinder at the rectangular world she chose to isolate for view. When she was 14, her father gave her a second-hand fully-manual SLR which unlocked the realm of controlling the light of an instant in time. The early fascination turned into a lifelong passion. She is the current president and also past president of Stony Brook Camera Club. She helps others expand their own photographic vision with photography workshops, mentoring, presentations and workshops on various photography topics including black & white, infra-red, astro-landscape and time-lapse.

Learn more about
Silvana Della Camera:

www.silvanaphoto.com
silvanadphoto@gmail.com
[Instagram](#)
[Facebook](#)



**SPECIAL
EVENT
NIGHT**

“PERSPECTIVE AND PERCEPTION: The Myth of Style” by Lewis Katz February 23, 2022

This presentation delves into the subject of how we as photographers perceive the composition in our viewfinder and how by altering our perspective, even slightly, the image will become more emotional, dramatic and powerful, both to the viewer as well as the photographer. Minor White was once quoted as saying “Every image is a self portrait.” I believe that to be true especially in

cases of the photographer having a strong emotional connection to the subject. However this shift in perspective is quite different from developing your own personal “style” of photography. In this presentation I will discuss and demonstrate the myth of style and how searching for it is actually hindering your own creative process.

Lewis Katz



© Lewis Katz

Continued...

Perspective and Perception

(Continued from page 3)

About Lewis Katz:

Photography has been part of me from a young age. An early memory of my Dad is him looking down through the viewfinder of his twin lens reflex camera. He soon graduated to a Konica rangefinder that was constantly by his side. I vividly remember the slide shows of family vacations as well as more private moments shared by my parents. My first camera was the Olympus Pen F half frame beauty and I soon moved through the full line of Olympus OM models. Fast forward to the digital cameras and images of today. I still shoot Olympus but have added a Nikon to the bag.

Emotive displays were not commonplace in my home growing up. The camera and the image became an outlet for suppressed feelings as well as for artistic expression. Many years after college I lived in southern York county Pennsylvania and its rural beauty. Although I had been out west as a teenager it was here that I truly discovered landscape photography. Through my career in the travel industry many other trips followed including visiting most of the major National Parks.

After moving to Baltimore in 2001 I discovered and joined the Baltimore Camera Club. I was quickly in awe and humbled by the talent and more importantly I found the companionship of fellow members which is so important to me to this day. The Baltimore Camera Club remains an integral part of my photography life. I have been honored and have received many awards from the competitions at the club.



Teaching photography is another essential component of my photography life as I love sharing my passion. I currently teach for the Johns Hopkins Odyssey program, the Capital Photography Center of DC and for private students as well. I live for those aha moments that only teaching can provide.

My favorite Ansel Adams quote is “A great photograph is one that truly expresses what one feels, in the deepest sense, about what is being photographed.” In the same way that your camera

captures the light being reflected, my photography reflects who I am and all of the experiences of my life.

“A still photograph is the illusion of a literal description, of how a camera saw a piece of time and space...I like to think of photographing as a two way act of respect. Respect for the medium, by letting it do what it does best, describe. And respect for the subject, by describing it as it is. A photograph must be responsible to both”

Garry Winogrand 1974

<https://www.lewiskatzphotography.com/home>

REPEATING THIS
FOR THOSE WHO
ARE NOT YET
INSPIRED!

PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION GUIDANCE

by Dow Smith

Competition: March 16, 2022

For those who missed the meeting on December 15, Dow Smith gave an in-depth presentation and tips on creating a good Photo Essay. His PowerPoint slides are included here.

Feel free to contact Dow directly if you have any questions about creating a Photo Essay, or the competition in general: dowsmith323@gmail.com.

Take a look at the rules posted on the SPSPPhoto.org website:

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

DEADLINE: MIDNIGHT, MARCH 9!

Deadlines

- Photo essays should be submitted by March 9th (by Midnight)
- March 16, 2022 photo essay judging and presentation
- No print competition again this year due to Covid.

1

Photo Essay

- The Best Photo Essays: Tell (Show) me a story
 - *Beginning (Establisher)*
 - Shows what you are going to see and feel
 - Time lapse
 - *Middle*
 - Delivers on the beginning
 - Main story
 - *End (Close)*
 - Bring to a satisfactory close
 - Resolution
 - What happens next?

4

Submitting Your Entry

- Save as a video file: type depends on software you use.

Full HD	1920 x 1080 / 1080p	149MB
HD	1280 x 720 / 720p	105 MB
- NO 4K!
- .mov or mp4
- Too big can be a problem...too long to download.
- Send to me (dowsmith323@gmail.com) via a large file app such as Google Drive (preferred), Dropbox or [Filemail](#) for Mac.

2

Photo Essay

- Ideas for a successful photo essay
 - *Keep it reasonably short*
 - No more that 3:30/4 minutes
 - Be tough minded (If they don't earn a place, take it out)
 - *Pace must match the story*
 - Slow pace: emotion
 - Fast pace: fun
 - *Transitions*
 - Cut (fast,fun)
 - Dissolve (slow, emotion)
 - Other transitions distract from your photos (Ken Burns Effect)

5

Photo Essay

- Show Us Your Passion
 - *A collection of photographs that are tied together. (Life magazine).*
 - Same subject
 - Flowers, pets, babies, models, old cars
 - Event
 - parades/protests/fund raisers/flood/snow storm
 - Location
 - Empire plaza, Lark St., NYC, Lake Champlain
 - Type of work
 - Macro/color/shadows
 - Story
 - Illustrate a problem and resolution
 - Profile
 - Day in the life
 - Photo Journalism

3

Photo Essays

- Plan
 - *Establisher*
 - *Closing shot*
- Over-shoot
 - *The more the better*
- Style
 - *Color*
- Editing
 - *Leave plenty of time*

6

Continued...

Try Your Hand at a Photo Essay

(Continued from page 5)

EDITING

- Lots of different editing programs
 - *Final Cut Pro/Adobe Premier Pro*
 - *iMovie on Mac/Video Editor on Win10 (Comes with operating system)*
 - *DaVinci Resolve (free)*
 - *Online tutorials*
 - *Lightroom*
- FotoMagico for Mac
- Pro Show Gold can still be used (Win)
- Movavi Slideshow Maker (Win & Mac)

7

Copy Right

- Photos
- Music
 - *Too familiar*
 - *Copyright problem*
 - Songs
 - Performance
 - *Buy music*
 - Pond 5 (video clips)
 - Triple Scoop
 - Many more (Epidemic Sound)
 - *Creative commons*
 - Free music or pay music
 - *Free with credit*
 - Bensound

10

Music

- Vital for a photo essay video
 - *Sets mood of essay*
 - Action/upbeat
 - Emotion/slow or soft
 - *Determines pacing*
 - Edits match the beat?
 - *Does the story match the music?*

8

More Information

- Spsphoto.org
 - *Rules*
 - *Examples*
- Focus
- Online
 - *Topic suggestions*
 - *Call or email me for help*
 - dowsmith323@gmail.com
 - 518-221-9004

11

Copy Right

- Copy right your own work
 - *Metadata*
 - *Add symbol and year*
 - *Watermark*
 - *Register*

9

2nd © Sean Sullivan



3rd © Rich Schreiberstein



Last season's winners...



1st © Linda Tommasulo



HM © Joe Cotroneo

FOCUS ON

Claudia Jakubowski

When I was asked to contribute to the *Focus*, my first thought was to say “No.” I thought that I didn’t have an interesting story to tell. I haven’t won awards; I didn’t go to school for photography or art and I have no formal training. I also don’t have a website or a huge following on social media. In my mind, all of these things are what I have equated with being a photographer. But as I started to think about photography and how my love for it has been with me throughout my life, I thought that maybe my ordinary story might speak to people. And maybe all of us at one time or another have had limited ideas about who a photographer is and what accolades or achievements they need to possess to wear that title.

I grew up in a house with photos but we were not a photographic family in the artistic or technical sense. We didn’t know an F-stop from a bus stop. There was never a formal discussion about photography. We just took pictures of special occasions, holidays, milestones, of our pets and of our backyard. We were also a family of photo albums. My mom was diligent about putting all our photos...and I do mean all the photos...into the books. It was a family tradition to get the albums out at big holidays and pass them around. There were always the “look at that hair” or “what was I thinking with that outfit” types of comments. Lots of bad hair, unflattering poses and faces that probably would have been better left not captured. These were the days before everything could be made to look better, fuller, thinner or smoother. The way it was shot is the way that it was, and will forever be. Our photos encapsulated our lives and made them into memories. The albums were a record of our family’s history for better or worse.

There was only one camera in our house. I don’t even remember the brand. I just remember that



© Claudia Jakubowski

Gil

we always had film on hand...and flash cubes...those blindness-inducing lumps. The camera was kept on a shelf in our kitchen and anyone could use it. But my mom was the real documentarian of our family’s life. And that is why she is not in many family photos. I wish I could go back and add her in because she is the one that made our family events so special. My dad also liked to take shots but of the local area. His true love though was collecting old pictures of his family and of Rotterdam Junction where he grew up. He later became the Town Historian and was well-known for his huge photos boards of the area.

Our family also had a movie camera and it was only brought out on very special occasions. Viewing our family movies was a big event. The screen was brought out, the projector set up and the reels of movie film, kept in a big box, was unearthed from the back of a closet and our cinema was complete. I can still remember that it always took longer to put the film onto the projector than the length of the movie itself. And I can still remember the slapping sound of the movie film spinning off the reels of the projector and the lights going back on to see how to fix the problem.

Continued...

Focus on Claudia Jakubowski

(Continued from page 7)

As the years moved on, I still had a love for photography. By this time I even had my own film point and shoot camera. I started to document my own life rather than just family moments. Vacations, friends and walks around neighborhoods now were my focus. But my photography was still more of a documentarian style rather than anything artsy. My mind at this point in my life was filled with college and graduate studies and I didn't feel very creative. And, now looking back, I think I also had somehow convinced myself that to be a "real" photographer, I needed a "real" camera. And I was still plagued by doubts that I could ever master one. I knew I had a good eye but I just didn't think that I could learn the mechanical aspects. But my mom continued to encourage me with books on both the artistic and technical aspects of photography. And a Christmas was not complete without an Ansel Adams wall calendar or film in my stocking, but my doubts still got in the way.

All of my mom's encouragement finally started to pay off. In 2012, my thoughts started to shift. I finally made the leap into digital photography and bought a Nikon Coolpix S9100. It had a lot of capabilities that my old film camera did not have. And the ability to shoot endless amounts of photos helped me to make the image that I had in my mind into a reality. I started to read more about photography and even though I still did not have a SLR camera at this time, I understood more about f-stops, focal lengths and ISO. I learned what was needed to achieve a certain look. However, I still knew nothing about editing and just hearing the word "Photoshop" sent shivers down my spine.

Shooting more and showing my pictures to people helped to build my confidence. I joined the Schenectady Photographic Society in 2014 and started entering the competitions. I was really nervous because I had no idea what I was doing especially with the print competitions. And honestly, I still don't know anything about printing which is probably why I print so few of my own shots. But even without doing much editing to my pictures, I



© Claudia Jakubowski

Becky's Arrangement

did okay in the competitions. I really appreciated hearing the judges' comments about my photos as well as the works of others. I think the critiques were single-handedly the thing that helped me the most with my photography. I learned about the importance of cropping, composition and subject matter. And most importantly, I learned that art is subjective.

Finally, in 2016, I decided it was time to buy a "real" camera. I was ready. I started to think that if other people could figure them out, I probably could as well. I didn't do any research on cameras, I just went to Photo Lab in Schenectady and said that I was a complete newbie to DSLRs and could they help me out. They were so helpful and I walked out of the store with a Nikon D3300 and two kit lenses and it is still the camera that I use today. I can't say enough good things about it. It means so much to me which is probably why I still have it and don't really want to change, even though lately it is has been trying to tell me that it is tired.

I embraced this camera. I decided that I was going to "master" it. I started learning all that I could about digital photography and eventually editing. I bought Joel Sartore's "The Fundamentals of Photography" from The Great Courses and made my way through all the discs. I bought books and probably watched every video on YouTube and,

Continued...

Focus on Claudia Jakubowski

(Continued from page 8)



little by little, I started to see improvements in my photography. And mainly the improvements came about because I would take photos and not like the results and I would try to figure out how to fix them. Those thousands of bad photos were the best instructors I ever had.

As my confidence level grew with my camera, I thought it was time to up my editing game. I had purchased Photoshop Elements in 2013 but I had never even opened it because I was too intimidated. However, I applied the same thoughts about teaching myself how to use my camera to my editing skills...if others could do it, I probably could as well. So once again, YouTube became my best friend and I taught myself Photoshop. And I still use Photoshop Elements 13 today. I also started using Snapseed a few years ago and I find that these two programs are all I need for my photographic style.

In the beginning of my photographic journey, I took lots of pictures. Wherever I went, my camera went with me. No subject matter was off limits. And I thought that if I could edit a photo a little bit then editing it a lot was even better. So needless to say, I have lots of bad, over-processed photos. But as the years went on, I found that I started shooting and editing less and I started listening more to my inner voice and what it was trying to say to me.

My photographic journey is also about my journey into self-awareness and self-acceptance. I started to develop a style that works for me and represents who I am as a person. I am an unapologetic introvert so I am someone who likes to shoot alone rather than in groups. I'm shy, so this is why you won't see too many shots of people. I have no patience, so I almost never set up a shot or use a tripod because I get too frustrated. I'm a very intentional person, so I don't like to take pictures on the fly. I like time to walk around and take many shots of the same subject. I don't like change, so I like to go back to the same locations at different times of the day and year. And it is probably why I have used the same camera for so many years.

I also like uncluttered areas, so my favorite shots are single objects with a clean background. And my love of uncluttered spaces has probably saved me lots of money over the years because, thankfully, I have not been afflicted with GAS (Gear Acquiring Syndrome.) My favorite kinds of days are rainy, snowy and cloudy; and images with those elements in them are always my favorite. And even though I'm a planner by nature and very organized, I find that photography gives me a reason to break out of that mindset. I love just grabbing my camera and heading out to see what catches my eye. There is rarely an agenda or a plan and I find that freeing. But my organized nature kicks in when I return home and I start going through all of my images. I love sorting, tagging and putting them into folders for future use. And finally, I'm a homebody by nature, so I'm just as happy shooting in my backyard as I am in an exotic location.

I still have all of the thousands of bad images on my back-up drives. Sometimes, I look at some of them to remind me of how far I have come. And sometimes, when I find myself doubting my capabilities when attempting something new, I compare my very first shots with ones that I now take, and they give me a boost of confidence. They make me see that perseverance, hard work and self-confidence will take you far in this world.

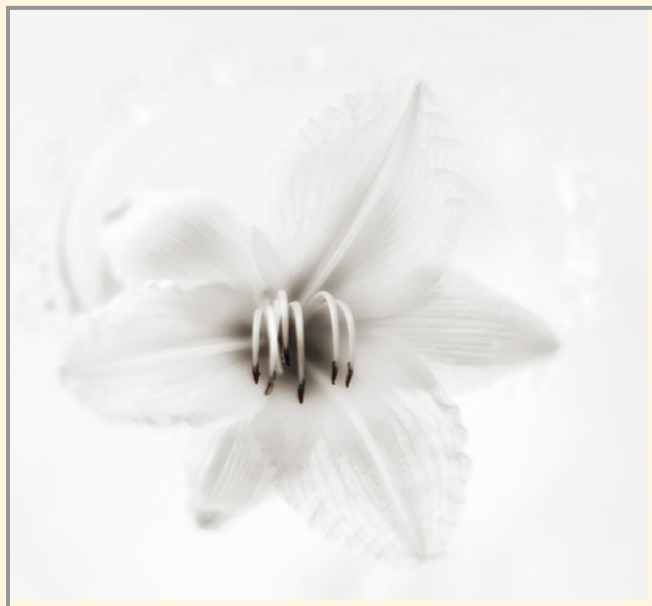
Continued...

Focus on Claudia Jakubowski

(Continued from page 9)



Iris



Lily

All photos © Claudia Jakubowski



Rose



Zinnia

Continued...



Portland Head
Light



Portland Head Light
in Snow

Continued...

Focus on Claudia Jakubowski

(Continued from page 11)

All photos © Claudia Jakubowski



Leaves on Headstone



Tree with Cairns



Two Canoes

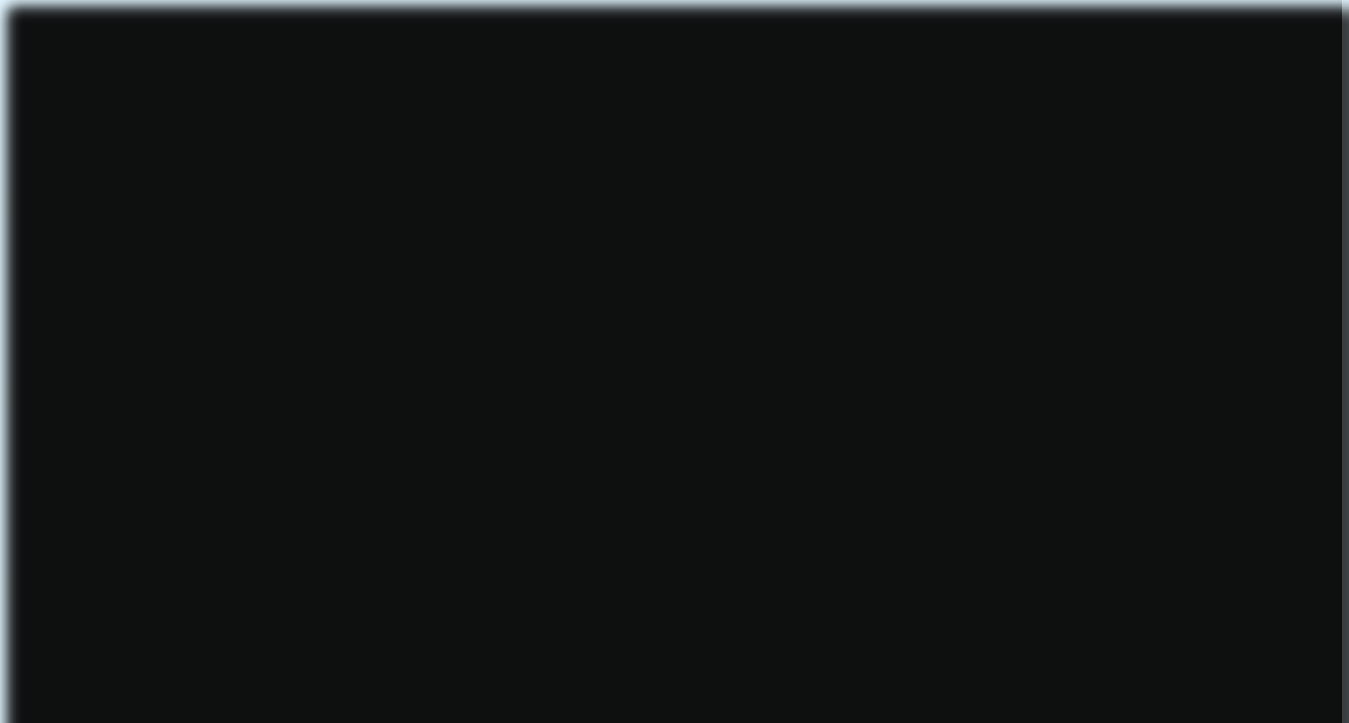
COLD WEATHER AND WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

by Laurence Noah / Finding the Universe

Reprinted with permission from Laurence Noah

Here is the link to the original article:

<https://www.findingtheuniverse.com/tips-cold-weather-photography/>



Contents:

Winter Photography & Cold Weather Tips

1. Use A Sealable Plastic Bag
2. Take spare batteries (and keep them warm!)
3. Don't freeze your nose to your camera
4. Wear good gloves
5. Use Heat Packs
6. Wear warm winter clothes too!
7. Use a good camera bag
8. Invest in a good tripod
9. Use the right camera settings for Winter Photography
10. Carry an air blower

Wintry cold places offer myriad opportunities for photography, from shooting beautiful snow covered landscapes to chasing the northern lights. If the light is right, you can get some truly fantastic winter shots. However, cold winter weather also

offers unique challenges to photographers – and I'm not just talking about cold fingers!

In this post I want to share with you some of my top winter photography tips and ideas to help you prepare yourself and protect your camera when photographing in cold weather and wintry conditions. This advice is based on my experiences doing winter photography in various conditions all the way down to negative 40 in countries like Norway, Finland, Canada and Scotland.

You can actually damage your camera equipment (and yourself!) if you're not properly prepared for winter photography, and some of these winter photography tips are particularly important for keeping your camera protected from both the snow, and the cold. I hope you find it useful!

Continued...

Cold Weather and Winter Photography Tips

(Continued from page 13)

1. Use A Sealable Plastic Bag

OK, so this might seem a bit weird. But this is one of the most important winter photography tips in this list, so I've put it first to ensure you properly protect your camera in winter from the cold.

If you're using your camera in particularly cold weather, you're going to want a bag (or bags) that you can fit your camera gear (i.e., camera body, lenses) in that has an airtight seal – my recommendation would be something like a **freezer bag** with one of those easy close systems.

The reason for this is that when you move from somewhere very cold to somewhere warmer, there is the risk that moisture will condense on or inside your equipment. Moisture does not play well with the internals of most cameras, and protecting your camera from it is important.

To stop this happening, before you head inside after your shoot, seal your camera equipment inside the freezer bag along with some of that cold winter air. You can remove the battery and memory card before putting it in the bag if you want so you can begin importing your photos and recharging your batteries. Then you can take your camera inside, leaving it inside the sealed bag, and it will warm a little more slowly with none of the moisture able to penetrate the bag.

You'll want to leave your camera in the bag for at least a couple of hours to warm up before taking it out the bag – in the meantime you could be importing your photos to your computer, or just warming yourself up after your winter photography session!

2. Take spare batteries (and keep them warm!)

Cold weather kills batteries. It's a known fact. The cold causes batteries to drain faster than normal inside the camera, and even when not in use, they'll still lose their charge.

To mitigate against this, and to save yourself from running out of battery power at a key juncture,



you're going to want to carry spare batteries, and keep them in an inside pocket as close to your body as possible. Your body heat will help protect them from discharging and keep you shooting for longer. You should also keep your main batteries warm in this way until you need to use your camera.

3. Don't freeze your nose to your camera

A lot of cameras are made of metal, and when you drop down to seriously cold temperatures, metal can become a bit of a risk to our skin. In particular, when you hold your camera up to your eye to take a photo, your nose might touch up against the camera body, which can lead very quickly to frostbite, or even your nose being frozen to your camera!



Continued...

Cold Weather and Winter Photography Tips

(Continued from page 14)

To avoid freezing your nose, I'd suggest wrapping your face with material to protect it, like a scarf or balaclava, or wrapping the camera body with something to protect you. Alternatively, shoot from a tripod and use the camera's screen rather than the viewfinder to compose the shot, and avoid the problem altogether.

4. Wear good gloves

One of the big challenges of cold weather photography is just trying to use the camera in those sub zero temperatures. Dials, buttons, filters – all these things that are easy to deal with when shooting in normal conditions, all become very challenging when we're wrapped up to the max. The right pair of gloves can be key in this situation. If it's not insanely cold, fingerless gloves can be an option – allowing you the dexterity of your fingertips whilst keeping the rest of your hands warm. Otherwise, you're going to have to be pulling those toasty warm gloves on and off to operate your camera.



There are a variety of gloves designed for winter photography and cold weather conditions, which vary in their approach, from fingerless solutions to gloves with removable sections. In my experience, really cold conditions tend to need bulkier gloves, so make sure you pick the pair that will suit the conditions you'll be shooting in.

I'd suggest avoiding fingerless gloves for anything but the mildest temperatures, as they are less likely to keep your fingers really warm. Instead, find a pair of gloves that has detachable fingers so buttons and dials can be adjusted quickly.

There are a number of options on the market. **These** are a good pair specifically designed for photography, with a warm merino wool lining and magnetic finger caps. These are the pair that I own which I use for winter photography at temperatures around freezing and just below.



The company that makes them specializes in winter photography gloves, and they have a wide range of options, depending on the weather conditions. The pair I own are good for fairly cold weather, but I would recommend one of their more heavy duty pairs if you are traveling somewhere really cold, such as **these**, **these** or **these**.

There's another option to consider for keeping your hands warm, which is to:

Continued...

Cold Weather and Winter Photography Tips

(Continued from page 15)

5. Use Heat Packs

Chemical **heat packs** solve the problem of your hands (or feet) getting cold, and you not being able to warm them back up again. This is especially the case for your hands, which will be handling very cold camera equipment.

A chemical heat pack can provide hours of warmth to your hands for a minimal cost, and are a sound investment – just pop them in your gloves (or hold them in your hands) for instant relief from the cold.



© Laurence Norah - findingtheuniverse.com

6. Wear warm winter clothes too!

This should be obvious, but sometimes obvious things need stating. If you're out in cold weather, you want to be wearing clothes designed for cold weather. The secret is layers—**thermal base-layers** to start, and then build up the layers until you finish with something that's ideally water and windproof.

Avoid cotton if you can, as if it gets wet from either rain or snow or if you are sweating you'll get cold very quickly. Synthetic fleeces or wool are a better option.

Don't forget a hat of course – I like a hat that covers my ears (any extremities are susceptible to frost bite), warm socks, a scarf, and those gloves I previously mentioned.

7. Use a good camera bag

This isn't just a cold weather photography tip, but when you're out in extreme conditions, a good camera bag is a must. It will protect your gear until you're ready to use it. You want something that is purpose designed to be a camera bag, as it will have the necessary amount of padding to protect your gear.

You also want a bag that offers some level of protection against the elements. When it's cold, this is usually snow, which will brush off, but a bag with a waterproof cover is a good investment nonetheless. You'll also want to be sure it fits all your gear and anything else you usually take with you when out (heat warmers, snacks, drink etc..).

I'm proud to be a Vanguard ambassador, and love their range of bags. Currently my go-to bag is the excellent **Vanguard Alta Sky 49**. I can fit two

Continued...

Cold Weather and Winter Photography Tips

(Continued from page 16)

camera bodies with lenses in, it has a side pocket for a travel tripod (or water bottle / flask of hot coffee), it has a water-proof cover, and it's comfortable for all day wear even when loaded up.

8. Invest in a good tripod

I'm already a big proponent of using a tripod to help you improve your photography—in fact I wrote a post detailing **12 reasons you need a tripod** for awesome photographs.

This is no different for winter photography—especially if you're out at night trying to capture the night skies or the elusive northern & southern lights. That low level of light is going to need you to use long exposures, and the only way to do that is by ensuring your camera is rock-steady—something you can't do with your hands.



A good tripod is a worthy investment. There are plenty of options available, but I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the excellent **VEO range from Vanguard**. They've been my go-to travel tripods for a number of years, and they offer a great balance between price, portability and functionality.

9. Use the right camera settings for Winter Photography

Snow makes for beautiful winter photography opportunities, but it can also wreak havoc on your camera's exposure meter, resulting in images that

are under-exposed, or darker than you would expect. This is because all the glare from the snow confuses your camera, causing it to read the light in the scene wrong.



If you are shooting snowy scenes, one of my top winter photography tips is to compensate by increasing your camera's exposure by around 1 stop—the exact amount will vary depending on the amount of snow and light.

When taking the shot, you'll need to check how dark the image is by checking the preview on your camera's screen. If it looks too dark, you'll need to compensate – you can do this with the exposure compensation feature of your camera, or by shooting in manual mode and setting everything up yourself.

Working with exposure compensation (and taking full control of your camera!) is something I cover in much more detail in my travel photography

Continued...

Cold Weather and Winter Photography Tips

(Continued from page 17)

course, but in essence, you need to find the exposure compensation function on your camera, which usually looks like a “+/-” button. It may also be accessible from inside your camera menu system.

Once you’ve found it, set it to “+1”. This means that the camera will allow twice as much light in versus not using exposure compensation, and should get your pictures looking brighter and more true to the scene as your eye sees it.



10. Carry an air blower

The last tip on this list is to help keep your camera free of snow. When you’re out photographing in cold weather, errant snowflakes might find their way to your camera’s lens—not ideal for your compositions! Thankfully, your camera will be cold so they won’t melt, and can be brushed off.

You don’t want to brush them off with your hands or a cloth though as the warmth could cause them to melt, or you might leave fingerprints on your lens. Instead, use a photography lens **air blower like this** to just blow them off the lens. Easy!

More Photography Resources

This isn’t the only post I’ve written on photography! Here are some more resources to help you out with improving your photography:

If you’re looking for more advice on specific tips for different scenarios, we also have you covered. See our guide to **Northern Lights photography**, **long exposure photography**, **fireworks photography**, **tips for taking photos of stars**, and **snow photography**.

My always expanding series of **Photography Location Guides**, to help you get the best shot in locations around the world.

An overview of my **Travel Photography Gear**, in

case you wondered what a professional photographer has in his bag

We have a guide to **what to buy a photographer**, which has gift ideas at all price points and experience levels

Our always updated guides to the **best travel camera**, the **best travel camera lens**, and the **best compact camera for travel**.

A **Beginners’ Guide to Improving your Travel Photos**.

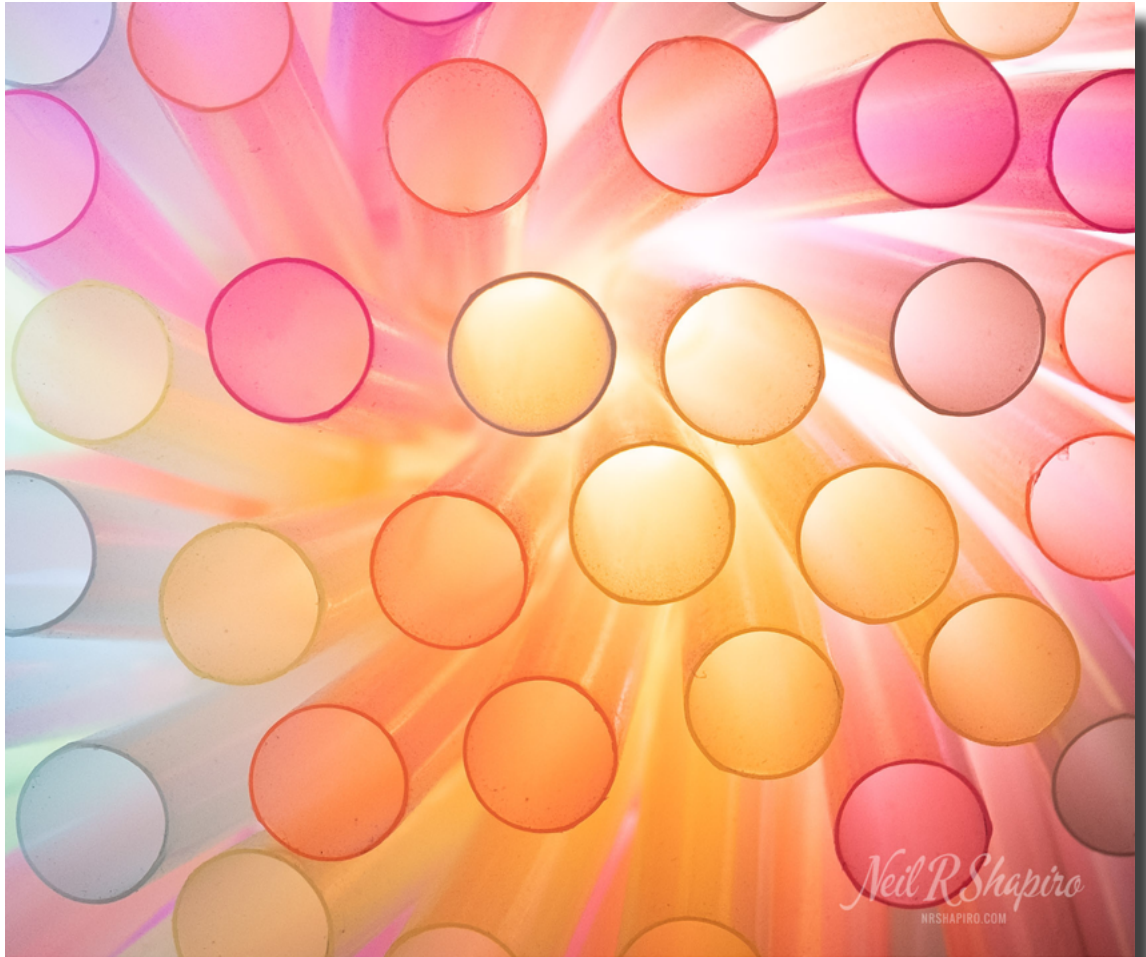
My series of **Photography Tips**, which I am always expanding and updating with posts like this one.

And, if you’re serious about improving your photography, I run an incredibly comprehensive **on-line travel photography course**, which will teach you everything you need to know about photography.

Learn more about Finding the Universe with Laurence and Jessica at:
<https://www.findingtheuniverse.com/>

JANUARY ASSIGNED TOPIC #1 Round Things

(Doesn't have to be a perfect circle, but roundish in nature.)



First Place: "Dots Nice"
© Neil Shapiro



Second Place: "Pontiac Dashboard"
© Alan Wiggins

JANUARY ASSIGNED TOPIC #1

Round Things

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JUDGE: Jim Christensen, is a photographer, teacher, and speaker from the New York City area; a member and past president of the Westchester Photographic Society; founder of the Photographers of Northern Westchester; and was the Artist in Residence at Acadia National Park in the spring of 2015. He has a deep technical background in digital imaging theory and software as a result of his career as a research scientist at IBM where he created firmware and image processing software for one of the world's best (and first) digital colorimetric cameras (in the 1980's and 1990's).

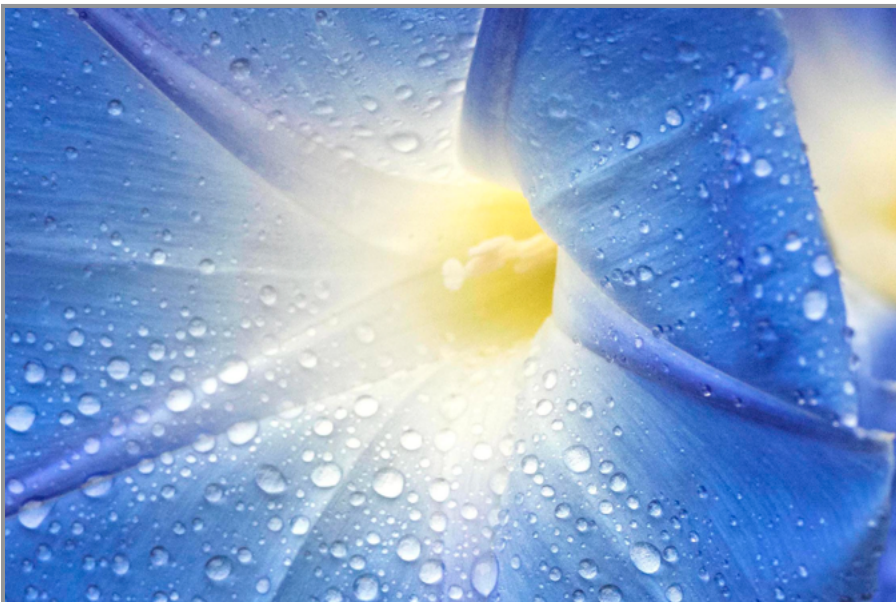
Third Place:
"Splash"
© Sharon Silverman

Check out these winning images
and more competition photos
on our website:

<https://spsphoto.org/>



Fourth Place:
"Eggs"
© Kim Koza



Fifth Place:
"Morning Glory Drop"
© Janice Prichett

Continued...

JANUARY ASSIGNED TOPIC #1

Round Things

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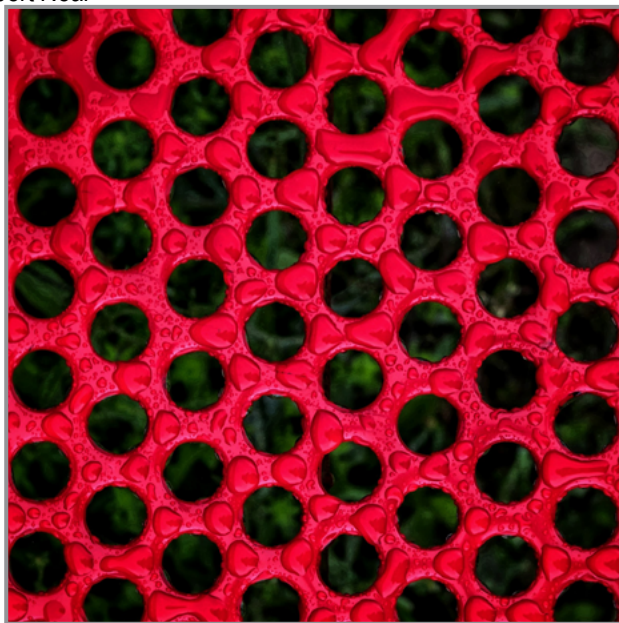


"Circular Bloom"
© Robert Near

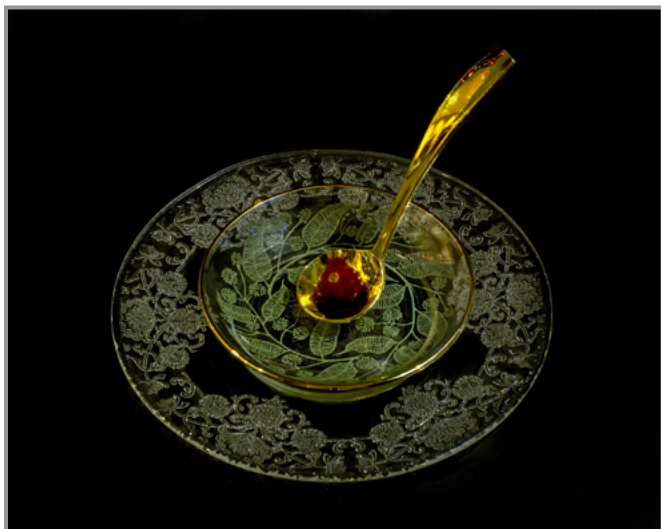
Honorable Mention



"Pumpkin and Leaf"
© Kim Koza



"Seeing Red"
© Claudia Jakubowski



"A Special Treat"
© Elena Keesee



"Winter Berries"
© Claudia Jakubowski

JANUARY ASSIGNED TOPIC #2 Perspective

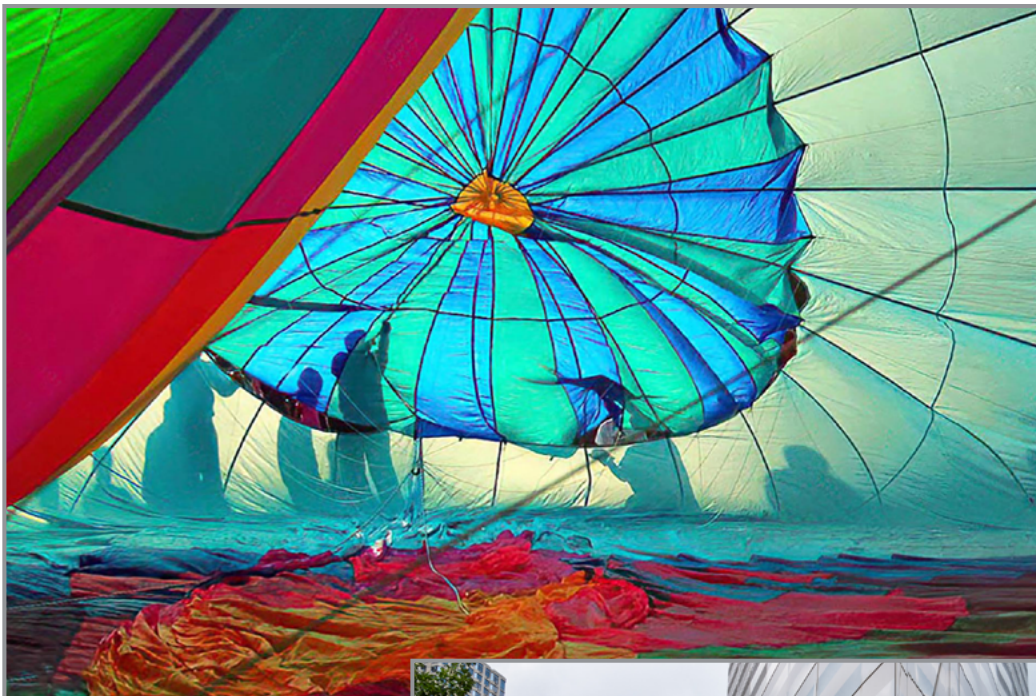
(Photograph from a different or unusual perspective.)



First Place:
"Dandelion Puff"
© Joe Cotroneo



Second Place:
"Vermont Geometry"
© Neil Shapiro



Third Place:
"Teamwork"
© Janice Prichett



Fourth Place:
"Oculus Reflected"
© Alan Wiggins



Fifth Place:
"High Voltage"
© Robert Near

Check out these winning
images and more
competition
photos
on our website:
<https://spsphoto.org/>

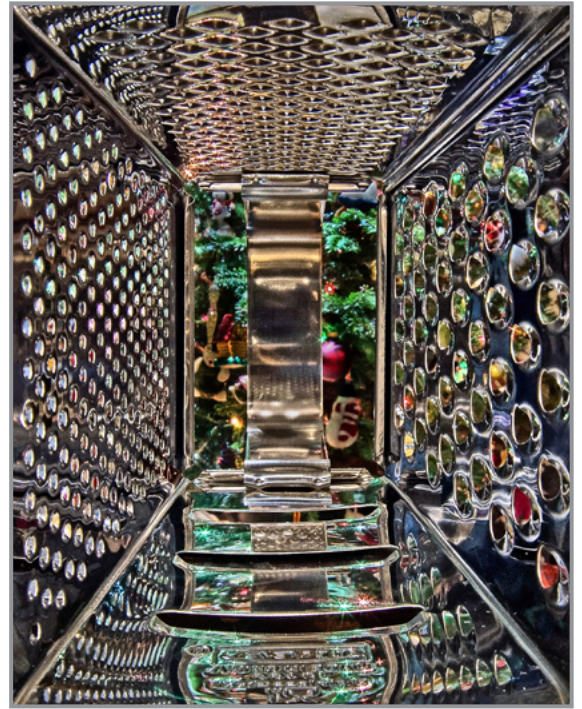
Continued...

JANUARY ASSIGNED TOPIC #2 Perspective

Honorable Mention



"Wavy Boardwalk"
© Nancy Dilanni



"A Grater View"
© Elena Keesee



"Table for Two"
© Linda Tommasulo



"Boardwalk"
© Janice Prichett



"Looking Up"
© Robert Near

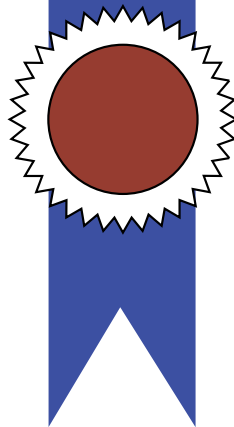
JANUARY DIGITAL IMAGE GENERAL



First Place:
"Autumn Laundry"
© Linda Tommasulo

JUDGE: David Waite is an amateur nature and fine arts photographer who was trained in black and white photography in the early 1970's. David worked professionally and then set aside his artistic pursuits until about 2003. He enjoys the creative aspects of photography and sharing his knowledge with others of similar interests.

Second Place:
"Nudes"
© Elena Keesee



JANUARY DIGITAL IMAGE GENERAL

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Third Place:
"Balancing at Joshua Tree"
© Nancy Jones



Fourth Place:
"Salamanca Garages"
© Phil Olivo



Fifth Place:
"Convent of Saint Frances,
Fiesole, Italy"
© Ron Klein

Check out these winning
images and more
competition photos
on our website:
<https://spsphoto.org/>

JANUARY DIGITAL IMAGE - GENERAL

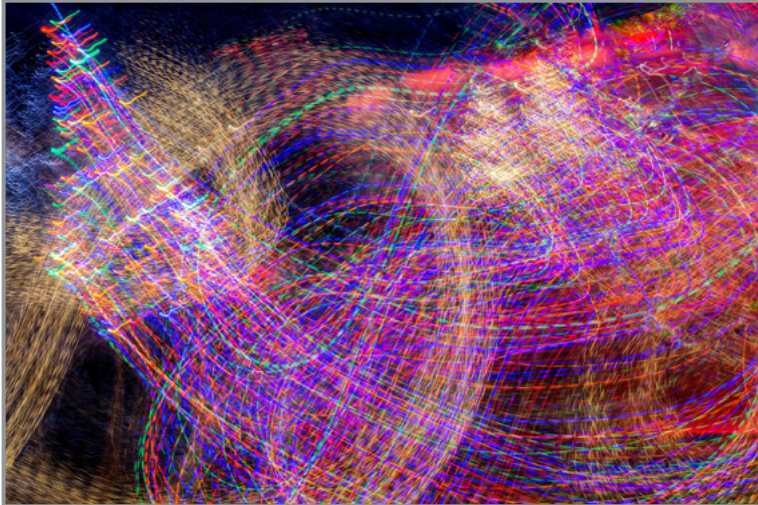


"Devil's Kitchen Falls"
© Rob Near

Honorable Mention



"First Frost"
© Claudia Jakubowski



"Christmas Tree A-Waltzing"
© Elena Keesee

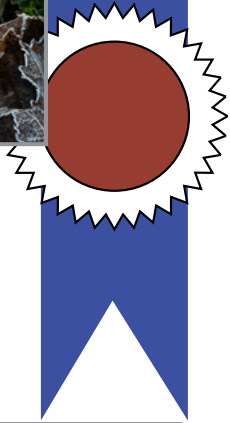


"Jay Street Window Triptych"
© Barb Lawton



"Feeding Time"
© Alan Wiggins

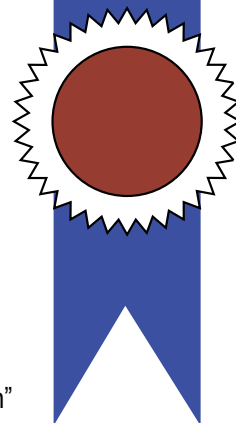
GENERAL





JANUARY
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First Place:
"Moon Over Zion"
© Neil Shapiro



Second Place:
"Early Morning at the Coast"
© Bill Lanahan

JANUARY DIGITAL IMAGE MONOCHROME

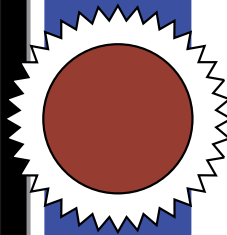
Check out these winning images
and more competition photos
on our website:

www.spsphoto.org

Third Place:
"Heavy Lift"
© Rob Near



MONOCHROME



Fourth Place:
"At the Shore of a Dream"
© Elena Keesee



Fifth Place:
"On the Move"
© Greg Effner

Continued...

JANUARY DIGITAL IMAGE MONOCHROME

Honorable Mention

MONOCHROME



"Timeless Beauty"

© Greg Effner



"Burlap"

© Barb Lawton



"Dog on a Rope"

© Alan Wiggins



"Going Down"
© Linda Tommasulo



"Perched Pigeons"
© Linda Tommasulo

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For Camera Club Specials...

Ask for Alan Samiljan, at (781) 462-2383.

His usual hours 8:30-5:00pm,

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday.

**Leave a message or send an email
(asamiljan@huntsphoto.com),
and he'll get right back to you.**



HUNT'S FEBRUARY SPECIALS

Dear Photo Friends,

I hope everyone out there is warm and safe. We just dug out from 26" of snow this weekend!

Now through February 27, **Olympus** is offering some great deals, to which I am adding an additional discount. Call me at 781-462-2383 to order:

E-M1X body, now \$1649.99

E-M1 III body, now \$1,449.99

7-14mm f/2.8 PRO, now \$1,249.99

40-150mm f/2.8 PRO, now \$1,299.99

100-400mm f/5.6-6.3 IS, now \$1,374

Call me for a special quote on any Olympus PRO lens not listed here!

Tamron is offering the Tamron 150-500mm f/5-6.7 Di III VXD for Sony E mount at \$100 savings, now \$1,299 through February 27!

Need a gimbal head for your Tamron 150-500mm f/5-6.7 Di III VXD or other long lenses? Check out the **Sirui PH-20**, click [here](#) and [here](#). This is one of the best values in a professional, carbon fiber gimbal head! I am offering it on special at just \$319.90, a 20% saving. Then you can mail in for your \$30 Sirui rebate. Final cost is \$289.90! Call me to order yours now! Offer good through February 27.

Please call me at 781-462-2383 with any questions, to request a quote on any other photo gear, or to place an order. UPS Ground shipping is FREE in the Lower 48 for orders over \$50!

Photographically yours, Alan Samiljan

Free upcoming virtual webinars:

March 3rd - Making a Connection with Your Photos by Ian Plant

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sa-7Ok_sLQ8OobNVJZfAzBg



March 16th - More Than the Eye can See: an Introduction to Astrophotography by Liron Gertsman

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RCs3_5UgSuK-GUWbTek9yMQ



Don't Forget to Check out Hunt's Photo Walks, Workshops and Adventures:

<https://edu.huntsphoto.com/>

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Travel like a Journalist, Live like a Native, Shoot like a Professional

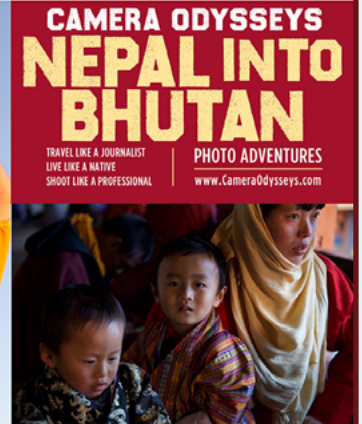
Our destinations are remote and exciting. But that's not the only reason we're fascinated with them. They're also some of the most extraordinary places in the world – mysterious, romantic, exotic, and exquisitely beautiful. We could say they've changed so little because they're timeless to begin with. But the fact is, some of them will, for better and for worse, embrace the 21st century in the near future. That's why it's so special to us to document and share these fragile, anachronistic ways of life in unimaginable places while we still can. We'd like to invite you to join us on these exciting adventures.

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Next trips:

Cuba: February 24 and May 2
Nepal into Bhutan: November 2022

For more info on workshops:
<https://www.cameraodysseys.com/camera-odysseys-photographic-workshops>



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

You must be a registered user of the Frame Destination web-site 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" in the middle of the page.
3. Chat or send an email to info@framedestination.com saying you are a registered user and need your account set for SPS membership.

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



SEASON STARTED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

Membership:
Individual: \$35
Family: \$45
Student: \$20

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/](https://spsphoto.org/join-the-schenectady-photographic-society/)

ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



WWW.SCHENECTADYPHOTOGRAPHICSOCIETY.COM

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 an inspirational and learning experience.

In prior years, occasional field trips gave us the opportunity to expand our photographic vision; frequent exhibits in the local area allowed us to share that vision; and print competitions encouraged us to put our images on paper. All canceled due to COVID, hopefully these will be resumed next season.

The Schenectady Photographic Society is an enthusiastic and energetic group. Our camaraderie is infectious. Check out the calendar on the last page (season runs from late September to mid-May) and join us!

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

SPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

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president@spsphoto.org

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travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org

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Judy Breslau & John Ogden



Connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:

Website: **www.spsphoto.org**

Facebook Group: **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/schenectadyp photographic society/>**

Facebook Page: **<https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyp photographic society/>**

Instagram: @schenectadyp photographic

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

Contact Linda at **newsletter@spsphoto.org**.

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY VIRTUAL 2021-2022 SEASON CALENDAR

Note: All competitions are DIGITAL. For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after May 1, 2021.

Members may enter a total of four (4) images, no more than two (2) in any one category.

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

Click here for more details on the Assigned Topics: <https://spsphoto.org/competitions/assigned-topics/>

Meetings start at 7pm via Zoom. Members will receive appropriate link to sign in via email.

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

September, 2021

9/29/21.....**Event Night**
Rick Hulbert, "Urban Street Photography"

October, 2021

10/6/21..... **Assigned Digital Competition**
Topic #1: Fire
Topic #2: Slow Shutter Speed

10/13/21..... **General/Mono. Digital Competition**

10/20/21.....**Event Night**
Joan Heffler, "Portrait Composition"

10/27/21..... **Special Event Night**
Bryan Peterson, "The Art of Seeing Adjectives, Not Nouns"

November, 2021

11/3/21..... **Assigned Digital Competition**
Topic #1: Abandoned Buildings
Topic #2: Car Parts

11/10/21..... **General/Mono. Digital Competition**

11/17/21.....**Event Night**
John Barclay, "Dream - Believe - Create"

11/24/21..... **No Meeting (Thanksgiving Eve)**

December, 2021

12/1/21..... **Assigned Digital Competition**
Topic #1: Masks
Topic #2: Animals

12/8/21..... **General/Mono. Digital Competition**

12/15/21.....**Event Night**
PROGRAM CHANGE: Dow Smith, "Preparing for the
Photo Essay Competition 2022"

12/22/21..... **No Meeting (Christmas Week)**

12/29/21..... **Special Event Night**
Ian Plant, "Visual Design Techniques for Making Stunning
Photos"

January, 2022

1/5/22..... **Assigned Digital Competition**
Topic #1: Round Things
Topic #2: Perspective

1/12/22..... **General/Mono. Digital Competition**

1/19/22.....**Event Night**
Hazel Meredith, "Working With Textures and Overlays...
Turn Ho-Hum into a Work of Art"

1/26/22..... **Special Event Night**
Jeff Leimbach, "What to Shoot When There's Nothing to
Shoot"

February, 2022

2/2/22..... **Assigned Digital Competition**
Topic #1: Industrial
Topic #2: Old Everything

2/9/22..... **General/Mono. Digital Competition**

2/16/22.....**Event Night**
Silvana Della Camera: "The Power of Black & White"

2/23/22..... **Special Event Night**
Lewis Katz, "Perspective & Perception:
The Myth of Style"

March, 2022

3/2/22..... **Assigned Digital Competition**
Topic #1: Silhouettes
Topic #2: Color (Complementary)

3/9/22..... **General/Mono. Digital Competition**

3/16/22..... **Photo Essay Competition**
Hosted by Dow Smith

3/23/22..... **Special Event Night**
Lisa Cuchara, "Create Fine Art Photographs from
Historic Places and Rusty Things"

3/30/22..... **Special Event Night**
Nic Stover, "The Power to Create"

April, 2022

4/6/22..... **Assigned Digital Competition**
Topic #1: Rainy Day
Topic #2: Friendship

4/13/22..... **General/Mono. Digital Competition**

4/20/22..... **Special Creative Competition**
Show us Your Creative Side - Anything Goes!

4/27/22..... **Special Event Night**
Lewis Kemper, "Using Local Adjustment Tools to Take
Your Images Beyond Ordinary"

May, 2022

5/4/22..... **Assigned Digital Images of the Year**

5/11/22 **General/Mono/Digital Images of the Year.**

June 15, 2022..... **Awards Banquet???**