



InFocus

Metal

April 2014

The News Letter of The Indian River Photo Club



Hello Members, My message this month is: IF YOU WANT TO MAKE CONSISTENTLY GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS, IT TAKES "CONSISTENT WORK" !!!

Being technically good is not enough; your photo needs something more to stand out from others, being artful is one way.

Ken Rockwell has posted an article titled, *The Secret: What Makes a Great Photo* © 2013 KenRockwell.com. All rights reserved. <http://www.kenrockwell.com/tech/basics.htm>

One of the points he makes is: **It's not about the subject** *"in photographic art, it's never about the subject.*

It's always about the underlying compositional structure. Subjects that may be there are chosen because they support or create a structure, not the other way around.

What a subject does in real life is irrelevant. In a good photo, subjects are chosen to provide the shapes or colors we want to lay down as the basic design of an image.

What might look like a door is really only used because it's a rectangle, or two squares. If we shoot it at an angle, now it's a trapezoid, or a truncated triangle."

Be sure to check out the Ken Rockwell article to see more elements that create great photos.
IRPC SO FAR THIS YEAR: It is hard to believe that May is just around the corner. I am happy to report that IRPC has had a number of good monthly programs and print contests as well as some good times together outside the meetings.

If you would like to volunteer to host and organize a photographic event, please let me know. My email is on the club Web Site along with the other board members who would also like to hear from you. The board and club members are always open to new ideas. Creating fun is what we are all about.

APRIL'S ROUND ROBIN MEETING:

I am looking forward to our meeting this month, which will be presented by club members **David Garrett, J.R. Williams, Hazel Lacks, and George Bollis**. They will be sharing their expertise in four different photographic topics (Round Robin Style).

Aren't we so fortunate, at Indian River Photo Club, to have so many knowledgeable photographers that are willing to share their knowledge with others?

We had a great showing of photos at last months contest and this months theme is "Metal". Make sure you bring some.

ALWAYS KEEP YOUR CAMERA READY! Billy Ocker, Club President

Congratulations Arlene Willnow well done!

Arlene was very happy to receive an Honorable Mention in "Creative Nature" at the Jonathan Dickinson State Park photo contest on April 11th -

Judged by Raymond Gehman.

Read all about Arlene on page 15





Getting to Know our Members

By MEB

BILL CONWAY is on of the 2014 Board of Directors for the Indian River Photo Club, is our club secretary as well as the official “meeting photographer” volunteer.

Bill has been taking pictures for over 50 years, starting as an instrumentation engineer in the aerospace industry using both still and video film cameras to record images and events. As an instrumentation engineer, Bill would generally create a plan to use measuring devices (such as cameras, gauges, sensors and other technology) which would show and possibly record the outcome of the test efforts.

Bill worked for Grumman Aerospace on the Apollo LEM Program as well as the Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (OAO).

Bill says, “The great thing about my job was that it was never the same thing every day. For example, one day I would be in the Thermal Lab with 1500 thermocouples attached to the OAO in the 32 foot vacuum chamber measuring how the spacecraft distributed heat thought the systems as it orbited the earth with one side blazing hot in the sun and the other shade side in the deep freeze of space. Computers monitored the temperatures while heaters cycled to simulate the sun’s heat hitting the craft at various angles. The next might be to instrument a jet plane landing gear to see how it holds up under the stress of landing on a carrier deck in a rough sea (pilot’s call this a ‘controlled crash’).”

“Cameras were an important part of the instrumentation process. Hi-speed was particularly important, both to document tests as well as being part of the test equipment itself. Whether documenting a missile separation form an aircraft at high speed, or a bird striking a jet’s window on takeoff or the result of a foreign body being ingested into the engine, film was always there.”

His interest in photography continued in his personal life taking shots with his Nikons in Southern California and while traveling to places such as Bermuda, Belize, Mexico, and Aruba using a Nikonos for his SCUBA adventures. With the advent of digital cameras, Bill has found the myriad of options and settings daunting and is still discovering many of the features that his new cameras offer.

Bill says that he “heard about the club in 2013 from a friend. He visited the club, liked the people and joined. Joining the Indian River Photo Club has offered the opportunity for me to join like-minded enthusiasts in looking at, and presenting, the world through the artist's lens. Bill says, “ When I see a sight, event, or situation of interest, I always want to share it with others. Rather than shout, ‘LOOK!’, I generally grab a camera. It pleases me to give others the opportunity to see my view of things.”

Get to know Bill at the next meeting. He has a genuine smile ready for all the members and you will enjoy getting to know him.

Interview by MEB

What’s Inside This Month? Take a look!

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Metal

The name meta is derived from the Latin word metallum and also the Greek word metallon meaning a mine.

Your **AWARDS** theme next meeting

So, what exactly is Metal?

To guide you in your efforts to produce the most accurate and appealing photographs for the awards category this month here are some suggestions as to what metal is.

Metal is an opaque substance possessing a peculiar luster, often has resonance, it may have fusibility, often conductivity for both heat and electricity, Such an example is gold. Many metals have flexibility and some have great durability in severe conditions, such as stainless steel and similar alloys.

Metal is also used as a word meaning courage, or spirit of will. (This is often spelt mettle) It stands for an intrinsic quality. Metal may also refer to the gun armament on a naval vessel such as a destroyer or man of war as they were referred to in olden times.



The surface of a highway is referred to as metal, but that is usually made up of crushed and broken stones and other substances that are “macadamized” before being laid down to make our high speed road surfaces which in the US is called “black top”. So you see that the adage of putting the “foot to the metal” has more than one origin of meaning.

The rails that our railways and trams run on are referred to as metal, excepting some special monorail type tracks that are made of concrete or other “metals” and are more often today just called tracks.

A term not often heard these days is the name given to a worker in metal as being a metalist. In times past it indicated that such a person was an expert in using or fashioning metal in any number of ways. Also a person who preferred to use metal as currency (coin) as distinct from using paper money was know as a metalist.

There is a a type of piano that is called a *metallophone*. This instrument uses strips of graduated metal in place of the traditional strings that a piano normally has and which is quite similar to a xylophone which uses wood or metal keys but has a key board.

So there you are, we have many aspects upon which we can base our “metal” photo entry on, and remember that we have base metal, fusible metal, light metal, alloy metal, perfect metals or noble metals. Those are the ones that keep their luster when exposed to the air, and do not produce metal salts and oxides when exposed that way.

So show your metal to us in as many ways as you can imagine, and remember you may now enter three entries, one in each of the categories and that certainly will test your metal!



Awards Results for March 2014 - Open

Class A – Color

Mike Ricciardi	“Fuzzy Pink Squat Lobster”
George Bollis	“Honored with Natural Light”
Donna R. Green	“Bent Beams”
Lynn A. Luzzi	“Malecon Musicians”
Roger Sobkowiak	“Windless”



1st
2nd
3rd
HM
HM

Class A - Monochrome

Billy Ocker	“Eventually, the Bull Will Win”
Christine Wickham	“Old Camera & Moth”
Pat Rice	“Sweet Music”
Donna R. Green	“A Bygone Era”



1st
2nd
3rd
HM

Class A – Special Techniques

Maria Heffernan	“Iridescent & Sparkling”
Donna R. Green	“Dimpled Domes”
Arlene Willnow	“The Gate”



1st
2nd
3rd

Class B – Color

Rene Donars	“Sunrise at the Winery”
Sue Hansen	“The Furnace Keeper”
Arlene Brooks	“Goin’ Fishin’”



1st
2nd
3rd

Class B – Monochrome

Arlene Brooks	“Morning Star”
Sue Hansen	“Homestead”
George Huizinga	“Swamp Tree”



1st
2nd
3rd

Class B - Special Techniques

Bill Lord	“Shock Waves”	1 st
Jennifer Lanam	“The Calm After the Storm”	2 nd
Rene Donars	“I’ve Got a Lovely Bunch of Cocoanuts”	3 rd



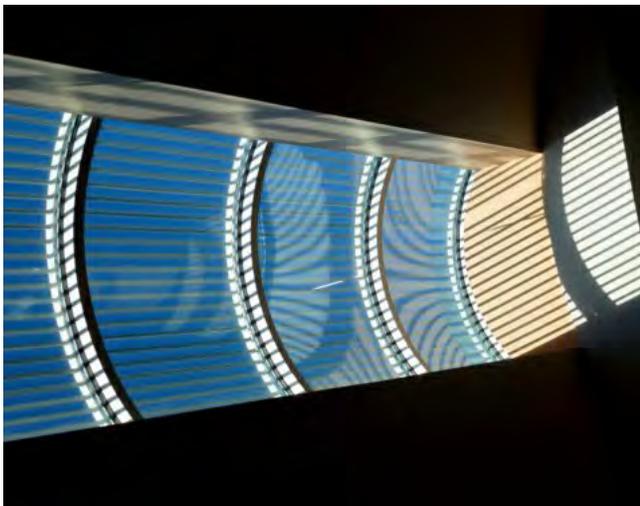
Awards Photographs for March 2014 - Class A Color



Windless
By Roger Sobkowiak
Class A, Color, Honorable Mention



Fuzzy Pink Squat Lobster
By Mike Ricciardi
Class A, Color, First Place



Bent Beams
By Donna Green
Class A, Color, Third Place



Honored by Natural Light
By George Bollis
Class A, Color, Second Place

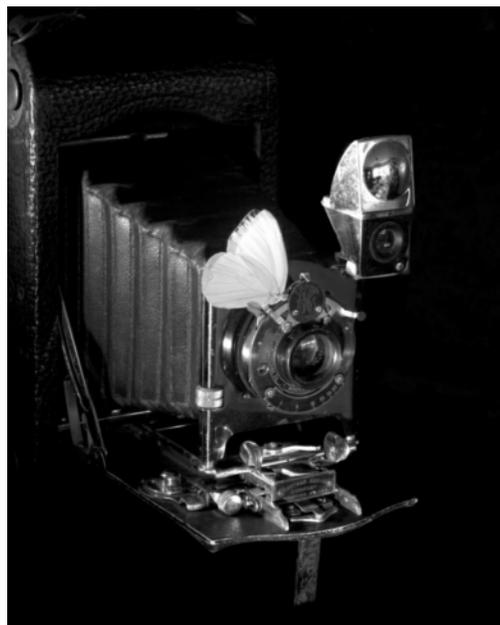


Malecon Musicians
By Lynn Luzzi
Class A, Color, Honorable Mention

Awards Photographs for March 2014 - Class A Monochrome



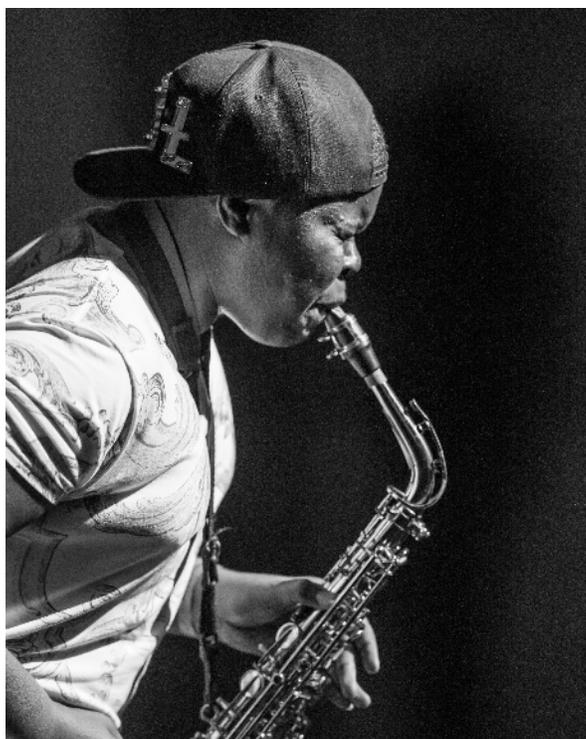
Eventually, The Bull Will Win
By Billy Ocker
Class A, Monochrome, First Place



Old Camera and Moth
By Christine Wickham
Class A, Monochrome, Second Place



A Bygone Era
By Donna Green
Class A, Monochrome, Honorable Mention



Sweet Music
By Pat Rice
Class A, Monochrome, Third Place

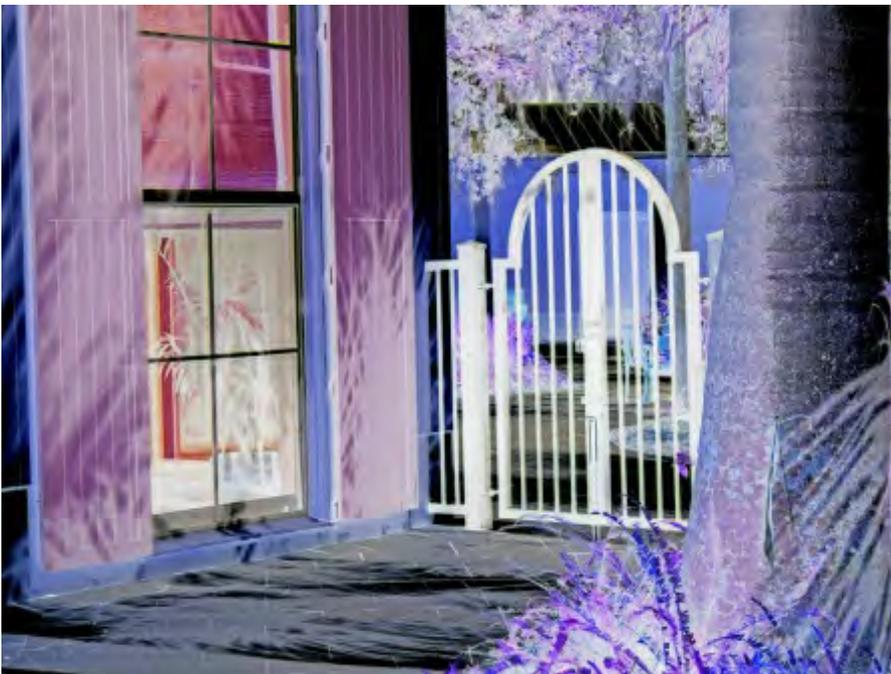
Awards Photographs for March 2014 - Class A - Special Techniques



Iridescent & Sparkling
By Maria Heffernan
Class A, Special Techniques, First Place



Dimpled Domes
By Donna Green
Class A, Special Techniques, Second Place

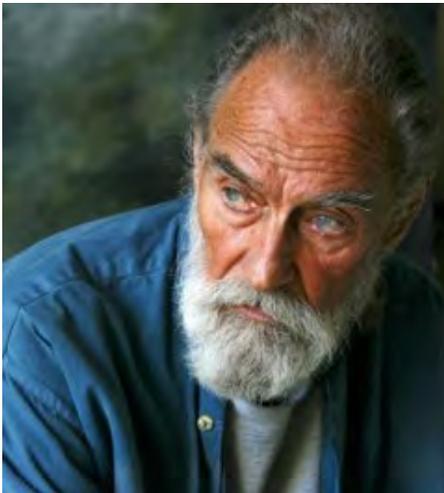


The Gate
By Arlene Willnow
Class A, Special Techniques, Third Place

Awards Photographs for March 2014 - Class B Color



Sunrise at The Winery
By Rene Donars
Class B, Color, First Place



The Furnace Keeper
By Sue Hansen
Class B, Color, Second Place

Goin' Fishin'
By Arlene Brooks
Class B, Color, Third Place



Awards Photographs for March 2014 - Class B Monochrome



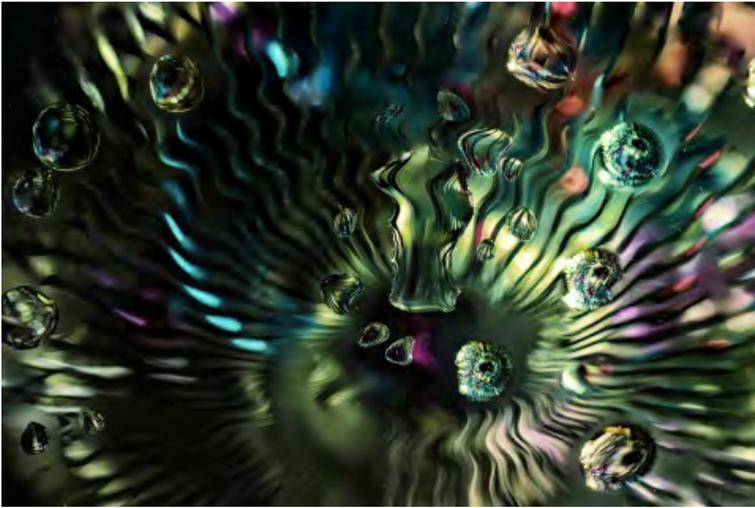
Morning Star
By Arlene Brooks
Class B, Monochrome, First Place

Homestead
By Sue Hansen
Class B, Monochrome, Second Place



Swamp Tree
By George Huizinga
Class B, Monochrome, Third Place

Awards Photographs for March 2014 - Class B - Special Techniques



Shock Waves

By Bill Lord

Class B, Special Techniques, First Place



The Calm After The Storm
By Jennifer Lanam
Class B Special Techniques
Second Place

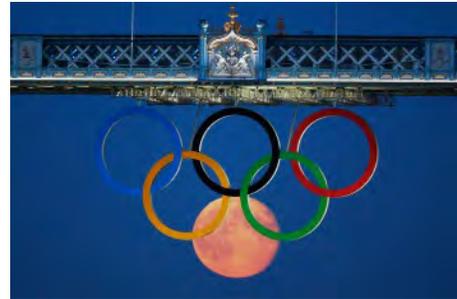


I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Cocoa Nuts
By Rene Donars
Class B, Special Techniques
Third Place

Perfectly Timed



Evening birds ready to settle



Olympic Moon, 2012



Ouch!.....a deadly bite!

Do you have any shots that compare with these?

If you do then please share them with us.

Always have your camera ready as you never know what might pop up right in front of you!

Could you anticipate such shots?



Be ready for our Vero Beach air show in early May.....you just might get this shot!

Some Great News



We are very pleased to introduce to you and announce that one of our members has volunteered to take the minutes of the monthly meeting and prepare them for distribution in our monthly newsletter.

We welcome “aboard” Jennifer Lanam who will carry the title of “assistant editor” and who you can reach through her own e-mail address at assisteditorirpc@gmail.com.

Please do not hesitate to send Jennifer any items of interest that you might like to suggest for inclusion in the newsletter, or for distribution to the membership as a whole.

Jennifer grew up and attended college outside of Boston yet began her career in education in Indian River County in 1990. She was a classroom teacher for 13 years at Sebastian River Middle School and Fellsmere Elementary schools. Currently working as a district ESOL Resource Teacher, Jennifer works with students, families, and teachers to improve literacy skills for English Language Learners. It is with great pride she shares that she is a pancreatic cancer survivor of 2+ years and going strong! Soon after, she took her first photography class at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. She has been hooked ever since!

Photography has become a new passion to her and finds it to be quite healing, peaceful and reflective work. Her family includes her husband, 2 children both freshman, one in college and one at Sebastian River High School.

One of Jennifer’s favorite photography quotes is,

“To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

~Elliott Erwitt

Jennifer is the north county club representative in the next “Outside The Box” adventure.

Youth Guidance Update

By Rene Donars

We’ve gotten a very good response to the proposed photography program at Youth Guidance. To date we have 20 students who have signed up to participate in the first session, which is scheduled for the start on May 14 to June 18. They are targeting meeting on Wednesdays between 5:30 and ending a little after 7PM. If successful the program will repeat in the fall.

Again this course is for disadvantaged kids ranging in age from 10 to 14. The size of the class will be determined by the agenda and how many cameras we have available. Some of our members have been generous in providing used “point & shoots” and printing paper. But we still need more cameras, so if you got one that is not being used, bring it to the next meeting.

I will be meeting with Dick Robertson to setup the program content on Tuesday April 15 at 10:30 in the Youth Guidance office. Dick has experience running such a program for teenagers. If you are interested in participating in design phase, please contact me via e-mail at donarsr@bellsouth.net.

We plan on presenting the details of the program at our next meeting. At that time we will be looking to recruit presenters and also some supporting members to assist the kids.

I will be more than happy to provide further information on the Youth Guidance Mentoring & Activities Program. It is a great opportunity for members of our club doing community service with their photographic skills.



Thank you Rene

Think Outside The Box #3

Saturday April 26th 2014



By Team MEB

8:00AM till 11:00AM ~ Unconventional Environmental Photography

FYI: A local news columnist is going to do a write up about this event.

Sign-up will occur at Thursday's club meeting (April 24th).

Part 1: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM (FYI Sunrise is 6:45 if you wan'na).

IRPC Club Members will gather at **three locations** to photograph litter along our local waterways. Instructions will be handed out by a club volunteer at each of the three sites.



North County members will be met at the Wabasso Causeway Boat Dock by Jenna Lanam



Fort Pierce members will be met at the Smithsonian Aquarium aka South Fort Pierce Causeway Park by Arlene Willnow.



Vero Beach members will be met at Jaycee Beach Park (north end of Boardwalk on Ocean Drive) by Patty Corapi..

Part 2: 9:15 AM – 11:00AM.....

The three groups will bring some of their found litter and convene at Riverside Park for trashy still life photography and breakfast casseroles by Pam Price.

Green Ribbons (Recycled Lagoon & Beach Material Ribbons) will be awarded at Riverside Park for whatever trashy reason the judges come up with at the time.

Could be most colorful, ugliest, or grossest, just whatever they want.

Bring - Camera



Coffee



and a Lawn Chair



Part 3: The fun continues at the monthly meeting May 22nd

Green 3-D Sculptural Trophies will be awarded.

Tables & easels will be set up along the west side of the meeting room for you to display your trashy photos.

As a fund raiser for the club.... a piece of trash will be placed beside each photo for the attendees of the meeting to vote with quarters placed in the "trash container" ☺. You can vote as often and as much as you like (this is just plain trashy fun). Photos with the most quarters will be awarded trophies for:

- ☺ Best On-Location Trash Photo
- ☺ Best Still Life Trash Photo
- ☺ Best Manipulated Trash Photo

The Green 3-D Sculptural Trophies will be original art pieces created by 3 artists who belong to our club Green Ribbons

(Recycled Lagoon & Beach Material Ribbons) will be awarded for Best Trash Titles.

Getting to Know our Members

By MEB



ARLENE WILLNOW is the Indian River Photo Club Volunteer in charge of arranging the snacks we enjoy at our meetings.

Arlene Blanchard was born in Michigan where her father was a truck driver. She married Jack Willnow (a journeyman plumber-pipefitter and a licensed builder) and they had four children. Two of them, Lisa Willnow, and Shelley Stang are members of the Photo Club and dedicated volunteers.



Trio In Motion

Arlene was in real estate and sold houses, partly because she and Jack sold so many of their own homes. Arlene helped to physically build the first three houses. But she drew all the plans, and did all of the painting and decorating of each of the homes herself.



She sewed clothes for herself and her children, making suits when she sold real estate and uniforms when she worked for an orthodontist.



Arlene and Jack moved to Stuart, Florida in 1976. In 1980, they moved up the coast to Port St Lucie and put their boat in the back yard.



Besides building houses they built a sail boat hull, from scratch.



Arlene helped her dad, in Michigan, when her mother died of cancer (in 1995). Then when her husband, Jack, died of cancer, four years later (1995), she sold her home in Port St Lucie and moved to Leesburg where her father was then a resident but he died of cancer two years later (1999).

During this time in Leesburg, Arlene was a hospital volunteer, golfed, and went to karaoke several times a week. She says, "She had a wonderfully full life with friends and activities."

Arlene says that "My daughter, Lisa, introduced me to photography in 2009 and eventually got me involved in the club because I was at loose ends here."

As with many artists, she is competent in other artistic endeavors such as oil painting.

About the photo club, Arlene says, "It is so much fun!! I love the club and all of the wonderful people I have met there." And about photography Arlene says, "At this stage of my life, photography has given me something to be competitive about, to be passionate about, as well as something to spend all of my hard earned money on."



If you are around Arlene for very long you will find yourself really liking her. She is a great conversationalist with an easy sense of humor. Make an effort to get to know Arlene. You will certainly come away with something special.

Two of Arlene's favorite subjects to photograph are flowers and birds.
Left: Sun Kissed Hibiscus Above left: Pink Beauty



“JUDGING PHOTOGRAPHS OF PEOPLE TAKEN IN A STUDIO SETTING”

By Steve Myall EFIAP

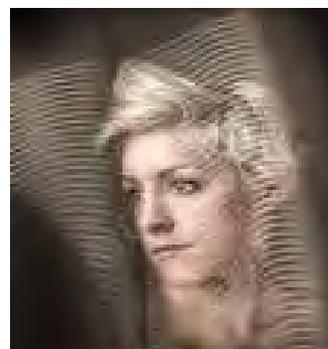
A continuation in our series of articles on judging written by renowned judges of photography

Photographing people in a studio means the photographer is in complete control: able to direct the pose and light the model in a sympathetic or dramatic way. Of course we all see things differently - there is no “Best Way” but there is always room for improvement, and this article may allow judges and you, as the photographer, to offer a few hints and tips that could help make the pictures just a little bit more pleasing.

The Background. This is just as important as the subject. Many photographers choose to use a material background and too often this is full of creases - made worse if side lighting has been used.

Another problem can be an over lit background, particularly if it is white. Many photographers, make it far brighter than the model and, if the model is wearing white, the clothing will appear dull, even greyish. If white, or pale colors, are being worn then the background needs to be lit at the same exposure, or slightly duller, than the model to ensure they seem crisp and bright. Too bright a light on the background can also cause flare i.e. light bouncing back and giving a dull flat look to the model.

Placing the model too close to the background often results in shadows that don't enhance the image. Ideally you need at least a six foot gap. This way shadows go off to the side and don't appear in the final image. This kind of setup also allows you to light the background independently of the model.



Lighting the Model. It is very hard to cover this in depth without writing a book, or two, but here are a few basics.

Does it matter if there is more than one catch light in each eye? If it bothers you then it is suggested that they are removed in Photoshop. Catch lights can be the judges' best friend, helping you (as a judge) to work out what type of lighting has been used and from what angle.

E.G. A square catch light means a softbox.

Umbrella shape means a shot through an umbrella.

Umbrella shape with a black dot in the middle indicates bounced light from a brolly (the black dot being the strobe).

Hair lights or Rim lighting is often used and if not done correctly this can result in very burnt out areas. This can be checked easily on the camera screen and the lighting turned down until a good balance is achieved.

Balancing fill lighting to the main light. This is often done more or less at the same exposure which can result in flat lighting, and can produce awful cross shadows on the face, particularly noticeable on either side of the nose. Again checking the light ratios on the camera screen can enable the photographer to alter the balance of the lights to create a pleasing result. A nose shadow across the cheek can also be unattractive and usually indicates that the main light should have been set higher.

The Pose. This depends on the type of image being created, but like any composition there are a few basic points that can help make the subject look better.

A head a shoulder image is improved by having the head and shoulders at different angles. Taking this a step further, if more of the body is included then a pleasing effect can be achieved by having the hips at another

Continued over

angle. An 'S' shaped pose often works well. If the head is at an angle then it looks better if the nose doesn't break the cheek line. Fingers look more graceful when together!

Generally it doesn't look right if cropping is done through a lower limb: if the elbow is included then have the hand in too, if the knee is in shot then include the foot.

Getting the model to stretch slightly can eliminate creases in the skin – often seen in the neck – and rolls of fat. If all fails then fix in Photoshop or cover with clothing, or in the case of the neck, long hair can conceal these unwanted lines. Many portraits can be improved by getting the model to sit up straight thus giving better poise by removing the 'round- shoulder' look.

Expression Forced and unnatural? This is often the result of the photographer not working quickly enough and not talking to the model. The mouth can smile but the glint goes from the eyes if not captured straight away. A more natural smile can be achieved by making your model smile rather than asking them to do so.

Clothing. Unless the logo on the clothing is important to the final image then it's usually best to avoid them as they can distract from the rest of the image. Mixing black and white clothing can result in problems with lighting and getting detail in both can be hard. If it seems the photographer has struggled in this area then suggest they don't mix the two. Creases and labels showing through should be spotted before the image is taken but once more Photoshop can come to the rescue.

Make Up and Jewellery. Make-up needs to be checked carefully. Lipstick on the teeth is not Page 10 news nor is 'blobby' mascara. Shiny areas on the face can be toned down with foundation. A heavily made up face can look wrong if other flesh on show isn't made up to a similar tone, and is most noticeable in a headshot when the shoulder is uncovered and included in the image.

Jewellery often produces distracting highlights, so it is wise to avoid it if it's not an important part of the image.

Photoshop - friend or foe?

Photoshop can be used to correct areas of the image and there are obviously many enhancements that can be done with it such as bringing out details, removing bags under eyes or cloning out spots, scars, clothing marks, and tattoos. It can also be used to whiten teeth and brighten eyes – this latter area is something that in my mind many photographers go too far with, making the whites of the eyes too bright.



Flyaway hairs can be removed. New backgrounds can be added. Colors can be changed. Skin can be softened - this is also something easily overdone, giving an almost plastic appearance to the flesh, making the model look like a mannequin.

If softening skin tones can be overdone then so can over sharpening, it's generally not a good idea to bring out every pore in a woman's face.

Final Comments. Hopefully this will provide a small insight into what can make a studio image of a person more pleasing to the eye, and hopefully this will help you when next asked to give some constructive comments on a studio photograph, or when you are entering such an image for consideration in an awards event.

With appreciative thanks to Steve Myall EFIAP

The Sebastian River Art Club

Indian River Photo Club Member achieves First Place with this superb photograph

The Sebastian River Art Club presented it's 16th Annual Juried Art Show on February 15th and 16th, judged by renowned Vero Beach Artist Deborah Gooch.

Photography - 1st place Toni Hill "Splash"



For members who love dogs and photographing them in all their finery, strutting their stuff, and cocking a snook!

Great Photo Op's!

This is an AKC sanctioned Dog Show - April 26th & 27th.



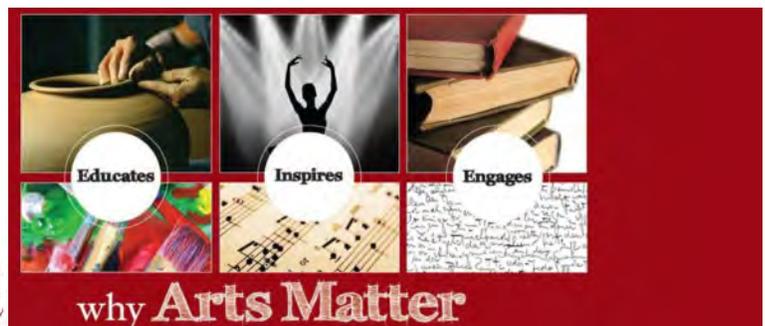
At the Indian River Fair Grounds

Show Times - 9.00 am to 4 pm



Parking is just \$5.00 for a car load of enthusiasts or photographers!

For details on all your local activities and photo-op's go to the Cultural Council web site below:



<http://www.cultural-council.org/CulturalGuide.html>

VERO BEACH AIR SHOW 2014

A Real Nail Biting Photo Op

May 10 - 11, 2014
Vero Beach Municipal Airport



Hibiscus Festival

If you did not go you missed some tremendous Street photography shots



7 Tips for Raptor Photography

(For non-captive, wild birds)

By Jeff Parker

From time to time a friend of the club, and a professional photographer sends us tips on “How To”. We like to pass these on to you for your interest and continuing education in the art of photography.

1) **Burst mode’s best.**

When birds blink, their second eyelid (called a *nictitating membrane*) opens and closes, which can result in strange looking images. Since an in-focus eye is one wildlife-photography “must,” burst mode ups your chances of capturing keepers. It also helps collect quick action such as birds fighting over carrion, landing, and taking off.

2) **Wary is the word.**

Nobody had to teach raptors about stranger danger—these birds are born nervous! Quick movement catches their eyes the most. In and out lens movement may even give them pause. Act like a statue, staying still as much as possible. Nervous birds will look at you; if one does, FREEZE! If not careful your actions will scatter your subjects—for the rest of the day. Allow raptors to relax after you shoot your landing shots. A raptor on one foot signifies a relaxed bird. A bird stretching its wings might make you think he’s relaxed, but not necessarily! If he has sat still for a while the opposite is probably true—he’s probably preparing for take-off.

3) **Keep concealed.**

There’s a reason we use the phrase “eagle eye”: raptors will see you before you see them (*see tip #2*). Your best bet’s to work from a blind. Often a vehicle works well as a blind, especially if you bring your biggest lens and sit extra still for a while after shutting off the engine. Since I’m talking about photographing non-captive birds, plan on staying far away from these subjects.

4) **Stay silent.**

Raptors can hear well. Vertically offset ears located just behind the eyes help hone in on sound location. Some species get extra ear-range from facial disk feather arrangement. Your voice and your shutter—especially non-stop actuation—could cause the birds to leave for the day. If you must talk, keep your voice down. And use short bursts when shooting.

5) **Lookout for landings.**

Focus on where a bird is headed *before* she arrives. Like airplanes, most birds (*including raptors*) take off and land into the wind. Considering when the light’s best for photography, an a.m. east wind and a west wind in the afternoon, means you’re in luck!

6) **Prepare for lift-off.**

You get some of your best action shots as birds leave. That means you’ve got prepare for take-off. Good news! Raptors also prepare for take-off and will give you plenty of signs that they’re about to depart. A bird looking *into* the breeze and/or crouching is a bird about to take-off. So, too, is a bird that defecates.

7) **Practice patience.**

Patience pays in wildlife photography, especially when shooting raptors. Don’t fire away at a perched bird just sitting there. You’re creating lots of boring images and running the risk of scaring your subject away with the sound of your shutter. Wait for natural behavior, the kind of show a relaxed bird puts on: stretching, preening, calling, eating. Wait for her to *do* something before taking your shot.