

LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

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*Featured Cover by Eric Gray
(see makers description on page 6)*

Notices and Coming Events

See the [Calendar](#) on our web site for updates or details.

Thurs. July 13, Photoshop Meetup, 10am - Saratoga Library

Debbie Sy will be hosting a photo editing session for LGSCC members who would like to either get feedback from other members on their current projects or need a little help using Photoshop to improve their photos. This is not a workshop, but an opportunity to exchange ideas.

***There is no need to sign up through Meetup.**

Next Competition - July 3rd - Hybrid Meeting

Submission Rules – Members may enter a total of three images into a monthly competition with a maximum of two images in any one category and a maximum of three printed images and a maximum of two projected images. Check our website with updated definitions for all categories. See more on prints at right.

Our meeting judge for July will be Jane Postiglione. She says-I believe it is important to consciously select visually interesting subject matter with appealing compositional elements, shot at the best time of day to portray the image, use the best technical parameters to capture the image and tell the subject's story.

Categories for July - Besides the monthly categories of monochrome and color pictorial, the two challenge categories will be Nature and PhotoJournalism - see details below.

Nature- Nature Photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation.

- The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining quality.
- Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definitions above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food. . . . [MORE](#)

PhotoJournalism - Photojournalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality. Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible. . . . [MORE](#)

Change to Print Competitions

Beginning with our June competition, prints will be every other month. For the rest of 2023 prints will be judged in:

August - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color

October - PJ, Creative, Mono, Color

December - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color

February - TBD

Special Interest Group Links below

(Click on any SIG title for detailed information)

[Special Interest Group - Seeing in Sixes](#)

[Special Interest Group in Monochrome Photography](#)

[Special Interest Group with Rotating Assignments](#)

[Special Interest Group in Photoshop](#)

[Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)

[Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)



Past Winning PhotoJournalism Image by Sue Anawalt



Past Winning Nature Image by Airdrie Kincaid

Time flies when you are having fun. Hard to believe it has been 11 years since Jeff Balfus introduced me to the Camera Club. Historically, I've been a camera buff, playing with a box brownie some 80 years ago, and then graduating to shell Voightlander 35 mm. Later went to a SLR with a 200 mm reach. And then on to a Mamiya twin lens reflex--the larger format was great in the darkroom.

“My original interest in nature, and in particular birds, goes back to scouting days”

My original interest in nature, and in particular birds, goes back to scouting days. And then in the later 1960s, I went with Franz Lanting to Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge to photograph fall/winter migration. That trip led to numerous returns to Tule Lake as well as other sites along the flyway. I maintained my amateur status while Lanting went on to be world renowned for assignments with National Geographic and numerous others.



I have been fortunate to travel extensively for business and pleasure, and now able to enjoy the opportunities that surround us--the many local parks, numerous baylands, as well as U.C.Santa Cruz Arboretum,



Northern Harrier hunting at Shoreline Park



Moose about to leave a pond -an evening photo in Alaska.

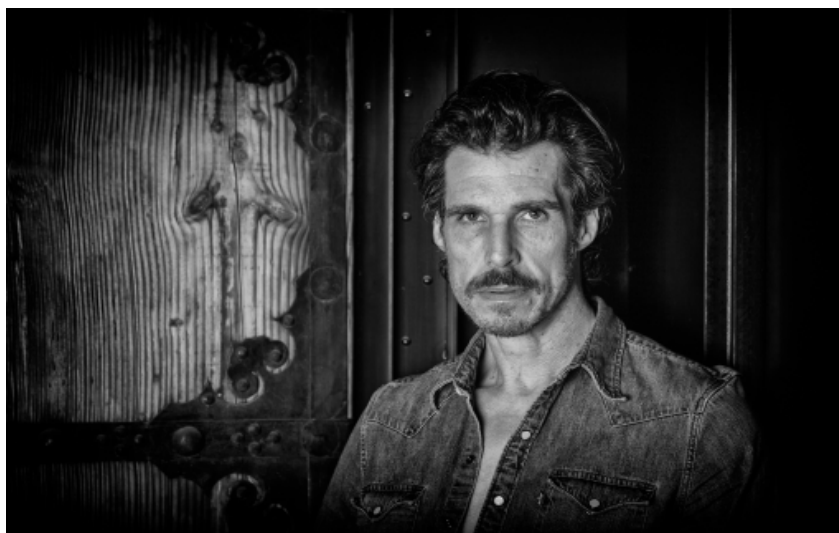
Elkhorn Slough, and naturally, the rookery in Mountain View.

To top it all off, I have a couple of grown grandchildren who have joined me since early childhood on my local photo shoots.

June Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It

The Doorman - Tim, Jim Katzman, Monochrome Pictorial Prints

Jerry Held and I signed up for a class in flash photography in 2017 from renowned photographer Joe McNally in southern California. It was a 2- or 3-day course with professional models. This guy's name really is Tim and we shot models both in a studio and, to my surprise, a great number of times outdoors. This one was shot outside of a restaurant with a very distinctive door. A 3 ft diameter, Octa Softbox flash was used on this in broad daylight, although the door area had an overhang giving some protection from harsh light. It was processed in Lightroom and converted to mono using DxO SilverEfex Pro. Other specs: Shot with a Canon 5D Mark II and a 24-70mm lens at 70mm, ISO 100, 1/250th of a second.



◀ Dancing Nigella, Serena Hartoog, Color Pictorial Projected

This flower is named Nigella which comes from the Latin niger (black), referring to the intense black seeds. I planted them 3 years ago. Since then their seeds come back every year during the Spring.

I used Canon 5D Mark IV with lensbaby Velvet 85 lens to take this image from my garden. This is a manual focus lens. The camera setting were: ISO: 400, Av: f/8, speed: 1/60.

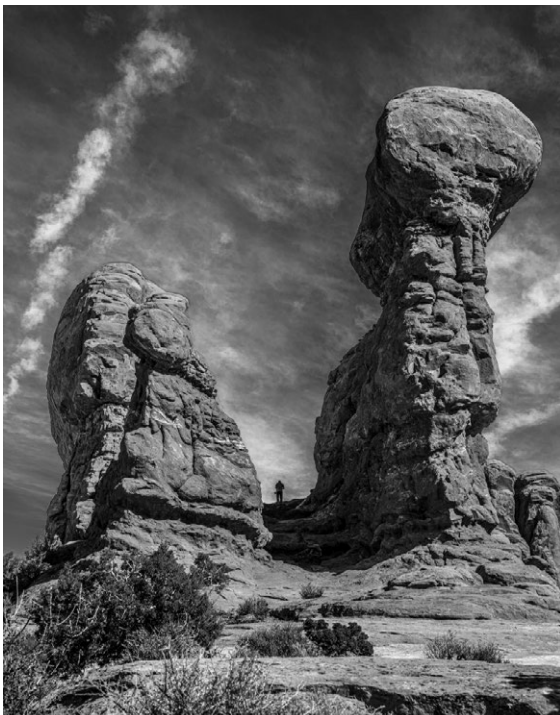
I used the flower pattern to mask the background in photoshop to make the frame's artistic look.



June Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)

Solitary - Tim Aston, Pictorial Color Prints ▶

I've been to this location for sunrises and sunsets more than thirty times, and making sense of it has been difficult. There are a number of lone trees that make good subjects, but the light is frequently harsh or too dynamic. This particular morning there were just enough clouds that the light reflected down and the dark pumice and obsidian took on a warm glow. The lit up clouds and the tree made the composition clear, but finding a spot for myself and the tripod on the loose volcanic rock was an interesting challenge. Sony A7R4 with Sony 24-70 f2.8 @24mm. 3 images focus stacked at f/11, 1/8 sec, ISO 100 and 2 more darker images were used to recover sky detail



◀ Towering Perspective, Edward Fink, Monochrome Projected

I was treated to my first visit to Arches National Park in Moab, Utah in October, 2022. Whispy cirrus clouds provided texture to an otherwise cerulean sky. While the colors were impressive, from the beginning I envisioned my images in Black and White. I knew the images could be compelling as they were dominated by rich textures from the shrubs and monument walls, myriad contrasting colors, and deep lights and shadows.

While I climbed some boulders to obtain the perspective that I wanted, and I began to take some shots, fortuitously a hiker appeared between the two monuments. He stood just off the midline of the space, giving a wonderful sense of scale and humanity to a scene that would have been good, but lacklustre in comparison, without him.

Shot hand held with a Sony a7rIV, 24-105 mm, 1/125, f/9, ISO 100.

San Jose Women's March Turns Corner from Carlyle St to Almaden Blvd, 1/20/2018, Chris Cassell, Journalism print ▶

This was the 2nd of the Women's Marches; I've photographed all 4 of the San Jose Women's Marches (2017-20) for Pro Bono Photo (<https://www.probonophoto.org/>). PBP is a group of serious but mostly amateur photographers providing free photo services to social justice and environmental organizations in the SF Bay area. The San Jose Women's March organization used this photo for nearly 2 years thereafter. PBP founder, Jack Owicki, had earlier scoped out the shot location at the 3rd level of a parking garage and arranged access with garage management. Nikon D810 on monopod; 24-120mm Nikkor lens at 70mm, 1/320 sec at f/14, ISO 400



June Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)

Cultures Clash or Do They, Eric Gray, Creative Prints ►

I have had this concept in my head for several years. To bring it to fruition I sent emails showing a rough Photoshop version of the idea to the three ballet companies in San Jose. I asked if any of the dancers wished to participate in the photoshoot. I couldn't offer payment but I did provide the dancer a print and a few digital files.

This is a composite, shot in two locations an hour apart. The first image is the dancer leaping in front of this wall in downtown San Jose. The second image of the sidewalk and shadow was taken on a blank wall nearby. Nikon D750, ISO 100, f/7.1 at 1/800 sec. Nikon 24-120 zoom lens at 38mm.



◄ Time for Nectar. Two green-crowned brilliant hummingbirds enjoy nectar from hanging lobster claw in San Jose, Costa Rica, Kelly Zhang, Creative Projected

Description was not available by publication date.



Sunset on the Grand Canal - Venice Italy, Mila Bird, Travel Projected ►

The original image was taken as a JPEG back in 2001 on a Sony Cybershot DSC-F505 camera, which featured a 1/2" CCD sensor with a whopping 1.9 MP and a crop factor of 5.41. Camera settings were 38mm (35mm equiv) focal length, 1/30 second, f/15.1 (35mm equiv), and ISO 100.

For post-processing, I first converted the JPEG to DNG and upsampled it using Topaz Gigapixel. I imported the DNG into Lightroom where I made some Basic panel adjustments to bring up the shadows and tone down the highlights, used masking tools to dodge and burn specific areas, cropped the image, and did some denoising and sharpening using Topaz DenoiseAI and Topaz SharpenAI, respectively.



Fire and Flame Fieldtrip

by Eric Gray

Great fun and a fabulous challenge to all six photographers that attended the fieldtrip. Many thanks to Irina for finding the model and coordinating the event and additional thanks to Kent for his behind the scenes website support.

The event was at Panther beach just North of Santa Cruz. The trail down to the beach was steep and narrow but all photographers managed to get in around 7:00pm and out just before dark.

We were lucky to have Brooke (aka Serpentine) as our model for the hour of shooting. She listened carefully to the direction offered by photographers and provided her own ideas on poses and types of torches, poles and tools to make the most of our time. Look for a gallery of more images on our website - login and go to

<https://www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org/g/68759e42-8578-4514-be96-7fb244ce6980?o=y>



Image above by Debbie Sy



Image by Eric Gray



Image by Debbie Sy



Image by Irina Nekrasova

Is Post-Processing Cheating

by Ken Lee *From, Photofocus.com*

Historical HDR Technique

Then there's HDR. High Dynamic Range. Most people associate this with a program like Photoshop. And many first attempts were garish, often overdone for a grungy effect. But when was the first HDR? 1857. That is the first known attempt that I know of, long before Photoshop, Windows 10 or USB cables. This was a photograph by pioneering French photographer Gustave Le Gray. He combined two negatives — one exposed for the sky, the other for the sea. (shown below)



"THE GREAT WAVE"

PIONEERING PHOTOGRAPHER GUSTAVE LE GRAY TOOK THIS HDR PHOTO ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST NEAR MONTPELLIER.

LE GRAY COMBINED TWO SEPARATE NEGATIVES, JOINING THEM AT THE HORIZON.

THIS ALLOWED LE GRAY TO ACHIEVE GREATER DYNAMIC RANGE BETWEEN THE DARKER SEA AND THE BRIGHTER SKY IN THE FINAL PRINT, GIVING A MORE REALISTIC SENSE OF HOW WE WOULD PERCEIVE THIS SCENE IN PERSON.

<PUBLIC DOMAIN - PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1857>

"The camera cannot lie."

When photography was in its infancy, this was often said in magazines and elsewhere. But is it true? And what role does processing take in this?

What is purity?

There is this almost purist sort of bent among some photographers, where the general belief is that film is somehow more truthful, and that processing a digital image is somehow more deceitful. Several years ago, in fact, some photographers described images they posted as "SOOC" (straight out of camera), almost as a badge of honor.

But I believe we often forget that many photographers sent their film to a lab, where a technician made decisions about exposure, color and artistry for them. I believe we also forget that photographing "SOOC" simply means that the camera makes processing decisions for them and bakes them into a JPEG. And I believe we forget that film photographers often manipulated a negative quite a bit.

"The negative is the equivalent of the composer's score, and the print the performance." – Ansel Adams

Ansel Adams would spend as long as eight hours in the darkroom on a single image. Dodging, burning ... what he did was rather complicated, and often involved very specific notes and intent.

Processing

Is eight hours of processing negatives "bad?" Is HDR "bad?" In night photography, processing surely has become more complicated. A lot of the processing is done in an effort to minimize noise and bring out stars. Is this sort of processing bad?

Purity and realism are moving targets. If spending eight hours in a darkroom, using HDR techniques or reducing noise makes things look or feel more like the actual experience, does this make processing "bad?"

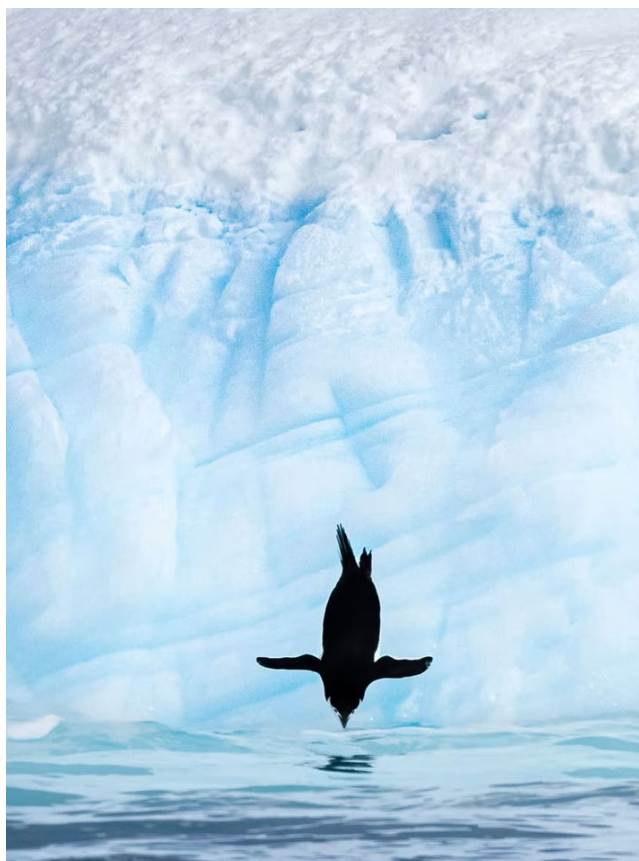
What is realism in photography?

Is spending eight hours in a darkroom to dodge and burn an image any more unrealistic than using a fisheye lens to warp a scene unnaturally? Is HDR any more unrealistic than "freezing" a waterfall at 1/1000 of a second so we can see the individual droplets of water, [MORE HERE](#)

14th Audubon Image Awards

The winners of the 14th annual Audubon Photography Awards were just announced. Photographers competed for eight prizes across five divisions, and more than 2,200 images depicting birdlife from all 50 states and eight Canadian provinces and territories were judged. The National Audubon Society was kind enough to share some of the winners with us here.

[More Images shown here.](#)



*Counterclockwise from top- Images by Sandra Rothenberg,
Karen Blackwood, Nathan Arnold,*



Iconic Photo Back Story



From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raising_the_Flag_at_Ground_Zero

Thomas Franklin shot the photograph shortly after 5 p.m. with a telephoto lens. Franklin said the firefighters were about 150 yards (140 m) away from him and the debris was 100 yards (91 m) beyond that. They were about 20 feet (6.1 m) off the ground. Franklin had hitched a ride on a tugboat across the Hudson River, arriving around noon after the towers had collapsed. The firefighters pictured were Brooklyn-based firefighters from Ladder 157), and Staten Island (Rescue 2).

The flag came from the yacht, *Star of America*, owned by Shirley Dreifus and her late husband Spiros E. Kopelakis, which was docked in the yacht basin in the Hudson River at the World Financial Center. Firefighter McWilliams cut the yardarm off of the yacht then took the flag

Image and caption from CNN - *Firefighters George Johnson, Dan McWilliams and Billy Eisengrein raise a flag at the site of the World Trade Center in New York after the terror attacks on September 11, 2001. The scene was immortalized by photographer Thomas E. Franklin and has been compared to the iconic image of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima. CNN Films' "The Flag" examines what happened to the flag at ground zero and explores its impact in the aftermath of the tragedy*

and its pole from the yacht to an evacuation area on the northwest side of the site.

Soon after its raising above Ground Zero, the flag disappeared. The city thought it had possession of the flag after the attack; Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and George Pataki signed it, and it flew at the New York City Hall . . . [More](#)

Photography Vocabulary

by Petapixel.com

A

Ambient Light. Any light in a scene that the photographer did not introduce artificially. This can include both natural light from the Sun as well as artificial light already illuminating a location. . . .[Entire article here](#) -

Aperture Priority. A camera exposure mode in which the photographer sets the aperture and the camera automatically sets the shutter speed in order to achieve optimal exposure based on lighting conditions detected by the built-in light meter.

APS-C. Advanced Photo System type-C is a format for digital image sensors that is roughly the same dimensions as the Advanced Photo System (APS) film negative in its Classic (C) format. It measures 25.1×16.7mm with an aspect ratio of 3:2. Commonly found in digital cameras, the format is smaller than standard 35mm film, so it is known as a “cropped frame” sensor, usually with crop factor 1.5x or 1.6x.

Aspect Ratio. The ratio of an image’s width compared to its height. Typically expressed as the two numbers separated by a colon. Common aspect ratios found in film and digital photography include 4:3, 3:2, 16:9, 5:3, 5:4, and 1:1.

Aspherical Lens. A type of optical lens in which the surface curves are not portions of a sphere. Compared to a traditional non-aspheric lens, the more complex shape of aspherical lenses allows light rays to more precisely converge onto a single focal point, reducing various types of optical aberrations. Typically found in higher-end camera lenses geared toward professional photographers.

Astrophotography. Astronomical photography has to do with shooting photos of the night sky or anything found within it, including space objects and events. Advancements in camera, computing, and telescopic technologies and the accompanying reduction in prices have opened the door to astronomical photos that were impossible just years ago, leading to an explosion in highly-detailed space photos from amateur astronomers and photographers.



Outstanding Astrophotography shot by Rick Whitacre is not part of this article and shown as an example.

...[MORE](#)

Great Photography Articles

5 Expensive Lenses - <https://petapixel.com/2023/06/22/the-5-most-expensive-camera-lenses-in-production-today/>

AI Guy Undercuts Photographers - <https://petapixel.com/2023/06/13/the-worlds-first-ai-photographer-undercutsphotographer->

Weird 90s Cameras - <https://gizmodo.com/weirdest-digital-cameras-from-the-1990s-polaroid-apple-1850267375>

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