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December meeting in-person and zoom

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*Featured Cover by Tim Aston
(see makers description on page 5)*

Notices and Coming Events

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

Next Competition - Dec. 4th - zoom and in-person

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 December will be Michael Fredrich. He says- I look for what works in an image and then suggest how it could be improved. I feel constructive criticism is important to help photographers grow. I look for technical competence with an attention to detail, but make adjustments based on the level of the maker. I look for impact and creativity, but also for images that are more subtle and might grow on me over time.

Categories for December- Besides the monthly categories of monochrome and color pictorial for projected and prints — the two challenge categories will be Travel and Nature Prints and Creative projected - see details below.

Travel - A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not permitted. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the location ... [MORE](#)

Nature - There is one hard and fast rule, whose spirit must be observed at all times: The welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in Nature competitions. Judges are warned not to reward them. Our policy on aerial photography does not permit animals or birds in their natural habitat to be photographed from a drone. ... [MORE](#)

Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. No image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept. Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker's photograph or a collection of photographs. Subject content is unrestricted. ... [MORE](#)

Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For 2023 prints will be judged in:

December Prints - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color
February - 2024 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 in Photoshop](#)

[Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)

[Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)



Past Winning Nature Image by Betty Toepfer



Past Winning Travel Image by Rick Varley

Member Biography - Susan Gutterman

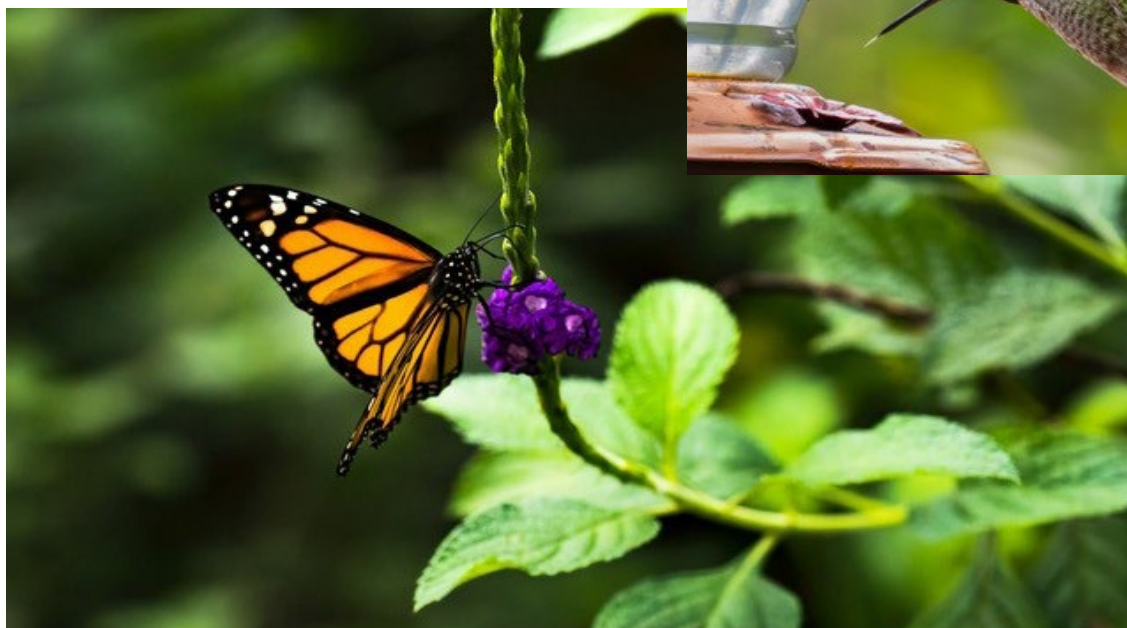
For years I was the designated “family photographer”. When I retired from a career as a diabetes educator, I bought a Canon bridge camera and became fascinated with learning as much as I could about every aspect of this art form, from figuring out my camera settings, to composing my work, to understanding light and shadows, to learning post processing.

“Joined the club in 2021 to have work critiqued and to participate in the programs”

I eventually transitioned to the Olympus family of products and am currently shooting with the flagship OM-1. I joined the club in 2021 because I wanted the opportunity to have my work critiqued by a judge and to participate in the programs that are offered.

I have not yet discovered my signature style or genre but I love shooting nature and wildlife, sometimes with a macro lens and sometimes with the longest that I own, my 100-400 mm (200-800 mm full frame equivalent). I also dabble in making some portraits in my small home studio (a converted bedroom) and creative work like light painting and water drop photography. Lastly, my husband and I love to travel and I am always re-energized when I visit new places and cultures.

I attribute much of my growth to the 52 Frames online weekly challenge (<https://www.52frames.com>). We are given a new theme, which must inspire the photograph that we submit, each week. I am proud of my six year and nine month unbroken submission record!



November Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It

Volcan de Fuego, Guatemala, February 2018. Days later the area was covered with ash. 3 months later hot ash and lava killed hundreds, Bob Downs, Photojournalism Projected ▶

I was riding in a van to another volcano, where we hiked to the top, when we noticed this volcano starting to erupt. We stopped by the side of the road and watched as the eruption grew larger. I took many shots while it continued to grow. We had no idea that the eruption would grow to a catastrophic event over the next days and weeks. Nikon D800 with an 80-400 lens at 400mm.



◀ **Curves and Shadows, Sherry Grivett, Monochrome Projected**

I love photographing benches so this modern long curved wooden bench attracted me in the San Jose Airport. I used my iPhone 12 plus pro max. I edited my image in the camera.

November Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It

An Arctic walrus (*Odobenus Rosmarus*) sleeps peacefully in front of an arctic glacier in Svalbard, international territory in April, 2023 - Kelly Zhang, Travel Projected ►

It was near Svalbard, the Arctic. We couldn't tell what it was until our zodiac sailed closer. Everybody held their breath when we realized it was an Arctic walrus, sound asleep on a piece of ice in front of a glacier. I took the shot from pretty far away using my Sony 100-400. He woke up when we approached — curious and friendly; the closest distance we got was just 10 feet away. We were so fortunate to have captured these moments.



Red Granite Sky- Tim Aston, Color Projected ►

Wandering on the polished red granite at sunset, I stumbled across this tree in an impressive state. Beyond its almost perfectly round bed with a layer of moss, it looked like it had forgotten how to grow up toward light. My guess is that when the record-breaking snowpack from the winter buried it, it did not pop back up to its previous vertical position. Fortunately, it was spry enough that it did not snap when pinned against the rock.

Single image Sony A7R4 with 24-70 f/2.8 at 40mm, ISO 100, f/11, 1.3 seconds



November Second Place Competition Winners



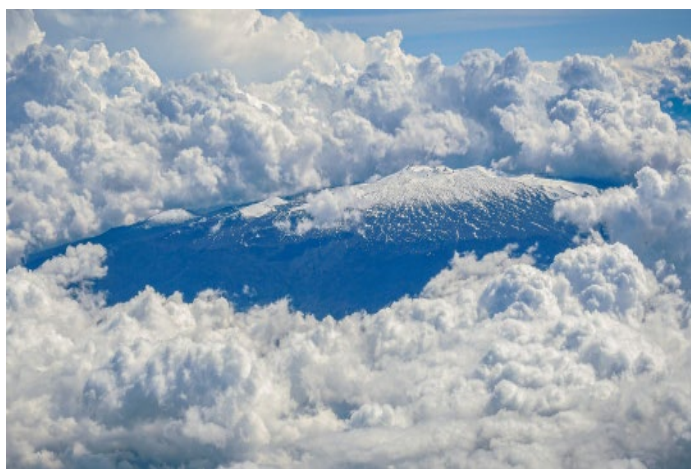
*Dia de los Muertos Dancer, Charlie, Gibson,
PhotoJournalism Projected*



The Sound of Solitude, Irina Nekrasova, Monochrome Projected



*Alert, Focused, Ready - Jaguar on the Hunt, Susan Dinga,
Color Projected*



*The summit of Hawaii's 13,803 foot Maunakea in January shows the
NASA Infrared, the Keck, and the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope
Observatories covered by heavy snows, Rick Varley,
Travel Projected*

[If you didn't already know - All results and images from a competition can be seen by clicking here.](#)

Special Interest Group (SIG)Feature

By Larry Shapiro - Seeing in Sixes ([see more on our website https://www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org/Club/News_View](https://www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org/Club/News_View))

As photography is much more than single, mutually exclusive photos, this is a desire by club members to form a group where photography is used to communicate a story or theme in a well defined series of photos constituting a project. This approach has been well defined by Brooks Jensen[1], a photographer and publisher, in a series called "Seeing in Sixes". His definition is used here as the basis for this special interest group.

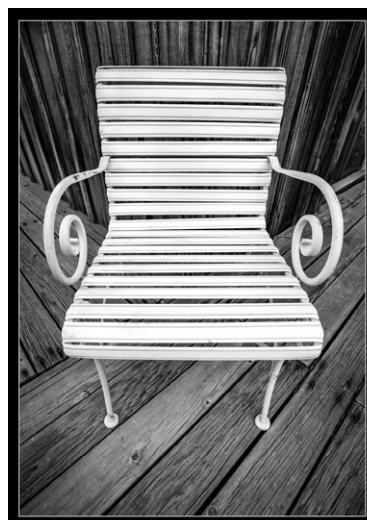
Definition

"A Seeing in Sixes" project is a compact expression of a single nature, possibly a story, definitely a theme, held together stylistically, and making a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts: tight, distilled to the essentials, impactful, deeper than what is possible with a single image."

"We looked for several things, not necessarily in this order: originality; consistency of style; engaging content that grabbed our attention; projects about life rather than about photography; images that complemented and supplemented one another instead of becoming repetitious; projects that engaged our imagination; projects that included compelling text that expands the viewing experience; projects that reflect a photographer's point of view; excellence of craft both photographic and with text; projects that create their own small world within the limitation of six images only."

The group is managed by Larry Shapiro. This manager will keep track of the active projects and be the gateway for submission of projects for review in group meetings.

Meetings are held on a regular basis dependent on the submission of projects, typically the 4th Thursday of the month on Zoom. The goal is to have 3-6 projects presented at a meeting, followed by discussion of the projects and then possibly a general discussion To join - contact kent@bossange.com Images below by Don Schremp



NANPAS Awards

by Jeremy Gray, Petapixel.com

The contest's judging panel selected "Best in Category," "First Runner Up," and a pair of "Judges' Choice" selections across each of the six categories: Birds, Mammals, 'Scapes, Altered Reality, Conservation, and Macro/Micro/All Other Wildlife. The top four images in the bird category are featured below. See all categories by [clicking here](#).



Winner | © Tim W. Oliver / Gilbert, Arizona / Anna's hummingbird attempting to quench thirst on a hot summer afternoon in Arizona.



First Runner-Up | © William Halladay / Provincia de Alajuela, Costa Rica / This Scarlet Macaw was flying by on its way to a perch when it looked over to see me pointing my camera at it. Luckily I was shooting at the precise moment it saw me.



Judges' Choice | © Owen Deutsch / Maui, Hawaii / I'iwi perching upside down.



Judges' Choice | © John Ehrenfeld / San Francisco Bay, CA / Sky Surfing'.

People's Choice Wildlife Awards

USAtoday.com - by Camille Fine [Article link here](#)

If you love to get in touch with nature by looking at photographs of big cats, birds, reptiles, mammals or ocean life, there's a photo for you among this year's shortlist of contenders for the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.

A mudskipper fish defending its territory and two mountain hares sharing a tender moment are among the scenes captured in the 25 images selected out of 49,957 entries from 95 countries by the National History Museum, London.

You can vote for your favorite now through Jan. 31, 2024 on the museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award website. The winner and top four images will be announced in February 2024.



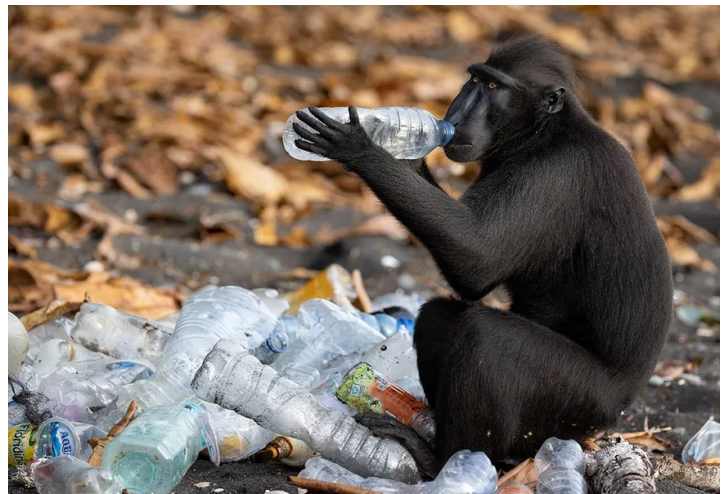
© Audun Rikardsen

Moon jellyfish swarm in the cool waters, Northern Norway, illuminated by the aurora borealis. Audun Rikardseni/Photographer of the Year



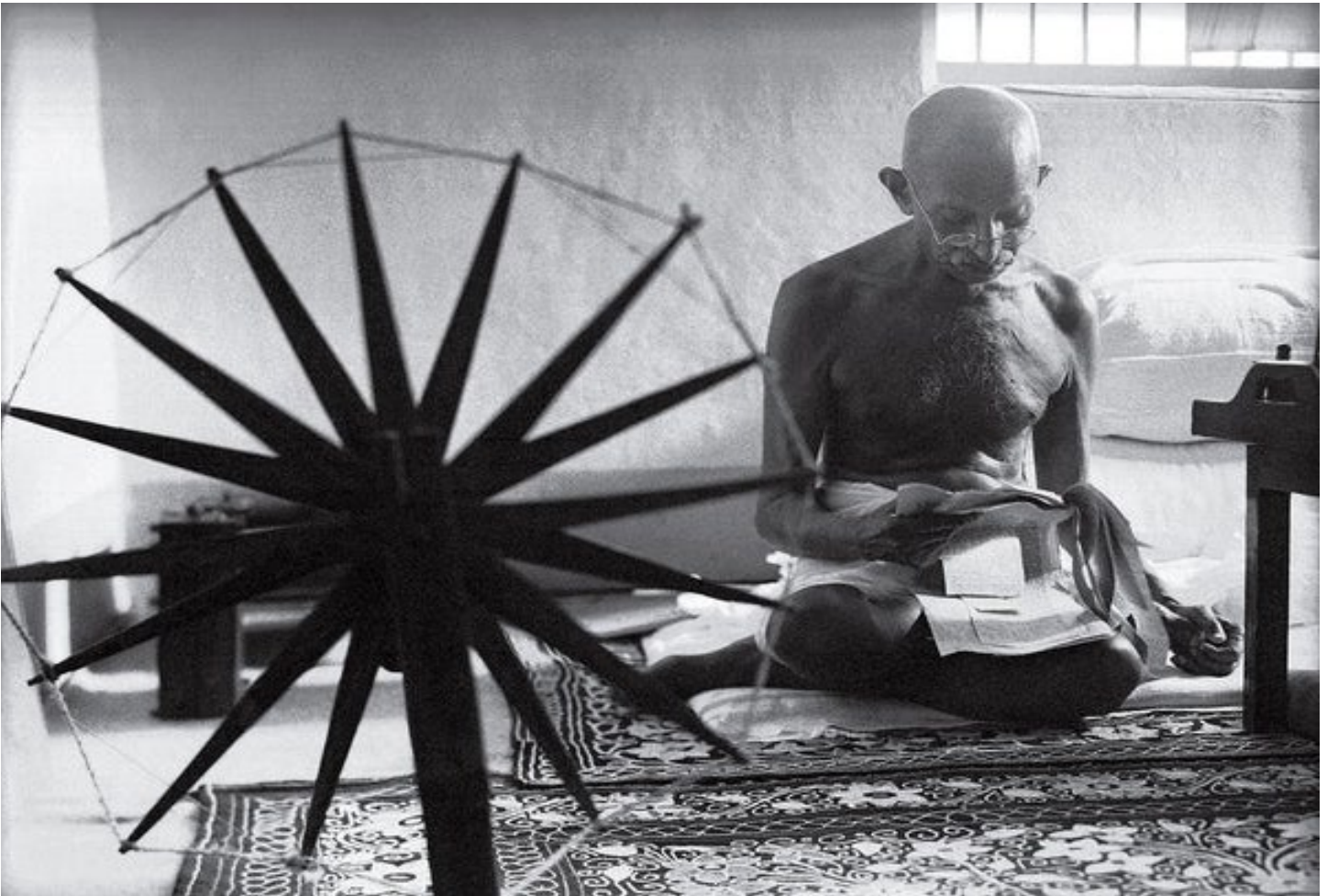
© Nima Sarikhani

A polar bear carved out a bed in a small iceberg, Svalbard archipelago, Norway. Nima Sarikhani/Photographer of the Year.



A Celebes crested macaque investigates a plastic bottle, Tangkoko Batu Angus Nature Reserve, Indonesia. Claire Waring/Photographer of the Year.

Iconic Photo Back Story



Backstory - from artisera.com by Aruni Sunil

This iconic image was captured in 1946, when LIFE magazine's first female photographer, Margaret Bourke-White was in India to cover the nation's impending independence. Before shooting what would become Gandhi's most defining portrait, Bourke-White had to face an interesting challenge – if she were to photograph Gandhi at the spinning wheel, she had to learn how to use one herself. Not ready to give up on the rare photo opportunity, Bourke-White learned how to use the wheel, and went on to capture Gandhi's most enduring image. One of the most influential figures of the 20th century, Gandhi was the face of saintly peace, with the charkha or spinning wheel symbolising India's struggle for independence.

Image and caption from [Artisera.com](http://artisera.com)

From Wikipedia — Photographs by Bourke-White are in the Brooklyn Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the New Mexico Museum of Art[31] and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, as well as in the collection of the Library of Congress. [11] A 160-foot-long photomural she created for NBC in 1933, for the Rotunda in the broadcaster's Rockefeller Center headquarters, was destroyed in the 1950s. In 2014, when the Rotunda and Grand Staircase leading up to it were rebuilt, the photomural was faithfully recreated in digital form on the 360-degree LED screens on the Rotunda's walls. It forms one of the stops on the NBC Studio Tour.

Many of her manuscripts, memorabilia, photographs, and negatives are housed in Syracuse University's Bird Library Special Collections section.

C

Clipping. The loss of information that occurs when highlights are overexposed or shadows are underexposed in a photo, resulting in regions that are captured as pure white or pure black, respectively, without any detail. Histograms can be used in cameras and software to identify and avoid clipping. Photo processing and editing programs also commonly have clipping indicators to help photographers easily identify areas where information is being discarded.

CMOS Sensor A complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor sensor is the dominant type of image sensor found in modern digital cameras (the other being CCD). Advantages include readout speed, low power consumption, and low cost (it uses traditional chipmaking processes).

Cold Shoe. A bracket designed to hold a camera flash or other accessory. While a hot shoe has electrical contacts that allow a camera to communicate with the accessory (e.g. fire a flash unit), a cold shoe does not contain electronics and therefore is used solely for mounting an accessory and holding it in place.

Composite Photograph. A photo that is the result of combining two or more different photos into a single image that is blended in some way. Creating a realistic and/or seamless composite generally requires a great deal of both skill and time.

Composition. How the visual elements in a photo are arranged within the frame. Paying careful attention to how a subject and scene are framed allows the photographer to capture an image that can do things such as direct the viewers' eyes, be more visually appealing, tell a story, elicit a feeling or emotion, and more. There are various "rules of thumb" that aid beginning photographers in creating good compositions.

Continuous Shooting. Another name for burst mode.

Contrast. The difference between a certain aspect of elements in a photo. This could be the tonal contrast between the lightest tones and the darkest tones in an image, or it could be the color contrast between opposing colors in the frame.

Contrast Detection Autofocus. A common camera autofocus method that uses the contrast between edges in a scene to achieve sharp focus. Since the contrast of two side-by-side pixels should increase if focus increases, the camera simply adjusts the lens's focus back and forth until maximal contrast is settled upon.

Copyright. The legal ownership of a creative work. A form of intellectual property that gives the creator the exclusive right, for the duration of the copyright, to copy and distribute the work they have created. A photographer automatically owns the copyright immediately after they shoot a photo, but there are advantages to officially registering your works with the U.S. Copyright Office at <https://www.copyright.gov/>.



Basic rules of composition in photography

Great Photography Articles

Symmetry in Composition - <https://petapixel.com/what-is-symmetry-in-photography/>

Using Fill Light- <https://petapixel.com/what-is-fill-light/>

Whiten Teeth in Photoshop - <https://petapixel.com/how-to-whiten-teeth-in-photoshop/>

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