

# LGSCC Camera Club

[losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org](http://losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org)

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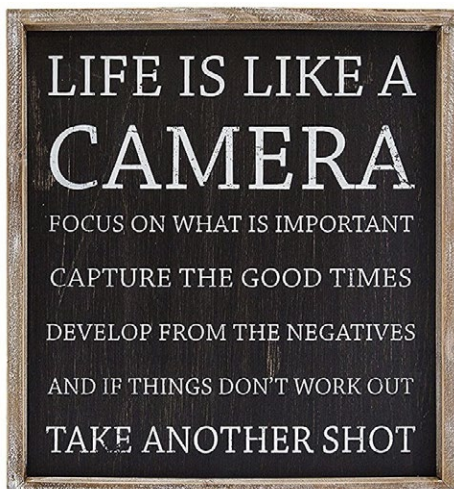
## Next Competition - Nature/PhotoJournalism May 3rd

Judge for May will be Doug Stinson, He is a member of the Photographic Society of America, the Fremont Photographic Society, and the Fremont Art Association. He studied photography at the San Francisco Art Institute and is on the Board of Directors of PhotoAlliance.

<http://www.douglasgstinson.com/>

**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 . . . [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 . . . [MORE](#)



## Notices and Coming Events

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

**Mon. May 3rd, Competition - Nature/PJ**

7:30 p.m. See deadlines and more info on the website



Previous winning PJ image by Jim Katzman



Previous winning Nature image

**Meeting May 3rd will be virtual**

Login to the [website home page](#) for zoom link

**A few points:**

- Attendance will be via Zoom meetings
- Categories – Nature, PJ, Color, and Mono
- Submit images same as usual (projected only)
- You can submit up to 2 projected images



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## Member Biography - Ken Bloomfield

I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and came out to California with the rest of my family to open a new business, Ethan Allen Furniture, here in San Jose. After 46 years in business, we sold the company and I retired in December of 2018. My photographic journey began in the early 70's, when I was taken to the PX at Ft. Ord and purchased my first camera, a Yashica SLR. A few years later, having lost that camera in Hawaii, I graduated to an Olympus OM1.

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*“I was introduced to underwater photography, and I was part of a loose group of divers that traveled to the South Pacific once or twice a year ”*

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My father was an avid traveler and photographer, and took classes in the Zone system and made quite a few field trips to the southwest. When he passed away, his closet held three or four Nikon FM bodies, numerous lenses and accessories, but most importantly, a new Nikon N90, the top consumer camera at the time. It became my first “real” camera.



Ken Bloomfield



It was about then that I was introduced to underwater photography, and I was part of a loose group of divers that traveled to the South Pacific once or twice a year. As I progressed, I purchased a housing for the N90, and should have bought stock in Fuji film. A few years later, I obtained my first digital SLR, a Nikon N70, that became a real workhorse underwater, as well as on land. I stopped diving about seven years ago, but I still have hundreds of photos -and slides- to keep the memories fresh.

My main interest is in Travel photography. My wife, Ellyn, and I have been fortunate to be able to travel frequently over the years, and have been to all seven continents. We are especially interested in countries that have not become so westernized that they have lost all authenticity, so in the past we have focused on areas like southeast Asia, the Himalayas, Ethiopia, the Stans of central Asia, and next January we are planning a trip to northern Finland to see the Northern Lights.

## April Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

### A Human and the Cosmos, Chris Cassell, Color Pictorial Projected

I was introduced to Shark Fin Cove through a field trip by LGSCC in Sept 2019. Since then I returned several times in 2020 by myself (thanks to the pandemic). This photo is from my trip on 10/15/2020, a night before the New Moon. At the time, I was wishing the guy with the bright light would leave the beach, then I accepted that I had to make him a part of the picture, and now I'm thinking he adds a lot to it. I made the image from a single raw exposure of 8 sec at ISO 4000 on my Nikon D810, with a Sigma 14mm lens at f/1.8 manually focused on the stars. Post-processing is in Topaz DeNoise AI and Capture One 20. Milky Way direction & timing guidance is from the PhotoPills app.



*The image was taken on March 10th, 2014 in the afternoon with my Nikon D800E body and the 21mm Zeiss Distagon f/2.8 lens set to 1/125 second @f/11, ISO 100.*

### ◀ Horseshoe Bend (Also Known As The East Rim Of The Grand Canyon) On The Colorado River Near Page, Arizona Where Six Deaths Have Occurred; Three Of Which Were Accidental, Bernie Weinzimmer, Travel Projected

Stan Litwin, Michael Schneider, and I flew to Las Vegas in March of 2014 and rented a four wheel drive vehicle. We then drove about 1500 miles in just under two weeks and visited Zion, Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, White Pocket, Capital Reef, Arches, Canyonlands, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Horseshoe Bend, Upper and Lower Antelope Canyon, and Bryce Canyon. We tried to go to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon but it was still closed for the winter. Stan is a daredevil and totally unafraid of heights. Despite posted warnings at Horseshoe Bend about not going too close to the edge, he walked right out and perched as you see in this image. The distance down to the Colorado River is over 1000 feet. During this trip I have many other images of Stan doing his daredevil thing and constantly scaring us to death. We've taken many photo trips before and after this one, but this was one of the best.



## April Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It (continued)

**The book- *Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*, the bird- an Amazonian seagull, the transformation - Photoshop alchemy. Eric Gray, Monochrome Projected** ►

While staring at an open book on my art table I noticed the pages curled upward like bird wings. The book, *Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*, influenced me to imagine that the pages could morph into a crow/raven flying away. I immediately started looking for crows in my neighborhood and the neighborhoods of club members that saw crows nearby. After a few days of failure to capture a great crow image, I gave up and looked at images of birds I shot while on a trip in the Amazon.

I shot the book with a single light angled to let the light fall off and fade to black. I placed erasers under the pages to lift the first two “V” curves into a pleasing shape. I then selected the top “V” curve and duplicated as a new layer.

Next I chose *transform* and began to *skew*, *motion blur* and morph the duplication to begin to take flight. For the bird shape below the actual bird I duplicated a “V” curve layer and used 3D shaping in Photoshop and transformed that layer to point wing tips and bend to begin resembling the top bird shape.



Finally, I applied a sepia tone to warm up the image a bit and retouched the seagull to my satisfaction. Still wish I had shot a great crow image. Nikon 750, Nikkor prime 50mm/1.4 at f/13, 1 sec.



© Mercury America Freedom

◄ **Pollinating Anna's Hummingbird, UCSC. Mercury Freedom, Nature Projected**

The Anna's Hummingbird Pollinating image was captured @ the U.C.S.C Arboretum this spring. Specifically, for anyone who'd like to find these hummers feeding & pollinating — there are some large shrubs with lots of red rose sized blooms. Anna's & Allen hummingbirds feed in the 'Australian Section'. Shooting them is a bit hit and miss — they're fast of course and dart around ... you just have to be patient and mobile. Arboretum opens at 9:00.

Nikon D500, Nikkor 500 mm f5.6 PF, I shot aperture priority f5.6, 1/800, ISO 1250.

## Program Speaker Cole Thompson

### A Vision in Black and White?

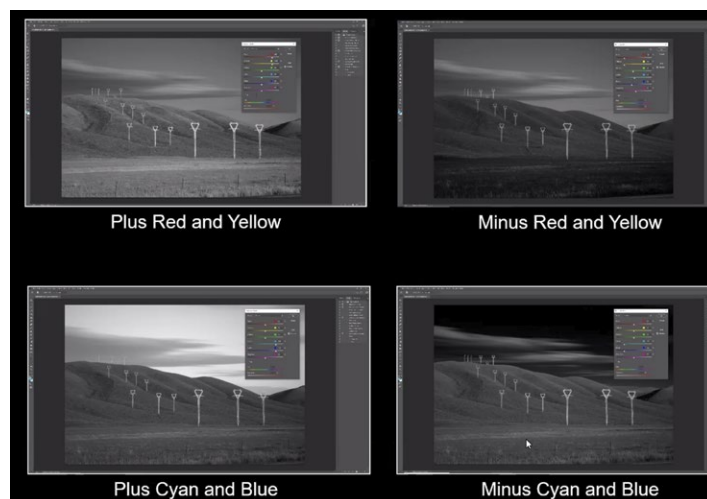
By Eric Gray

On April 19th, LGSCC and two other camera clubs joined Cole Thompson for his presentation and commentary on how he has created his *Vision* in photography.

Cole encouraged all in attendance to change how you think of yourself - Be an artist not just a photographer and yours is the most important opinion. He also described his simple approach to processing his black and white images in Photoshop.

#### Here are the six tools that I use to process most images:

1. RAW Converter – I use Photoshop's RAW converter to convert my RAW image into a 16 bit, 300 ppi TIFF file. There are also a number of image controls in the RAW converter and I try to do as much work here as possible.
2. B&W Conversion Tool – I like Photoshop's b&w conversion tool (click - IMAGE, ADJUSTMENTS, BLACK and WHITE then play with each color channel to see how it affects the different parts of my image. I tweak everything to taste. But be careful about changing the blue channels too much, they make your skies look great but add a lot of noise to the image.
3. Levels – One of the most basic secrets to a great B&W image is to have a good black and white range in the image. You cannot trust your eye and how the image looks on the monitor, you must look at your histogram to accurately determine this. I use "Levels" to set a true black and white point, then I adjust the midtone slider which can radically change the look of my image.



Cole quote -

*How can you make money in Photography?  
Sell your equipment.*

### A great image consists of:

1/3 Vision  
1/3 The Shot  
1/3 Processing

4. Dodging and Burning – This is where I do most of my processing and where I have the most fun! I feel most at home with dodging and burning because that's how I did things in the darkroom. However the primary difference today is that I can take my time and exercise minute control over every part of the image. I use a Wacom tablet to dodge and burn because you CANNOT do a good job with a mouse.
5. Contrast Adjustment – Once the image looks great on the screen, experience teaches me that it will print flat, and so I add some contrast. A monitor uses transmitted light and a print uses reflective light, so that means it will take a lot more work to get your print to look as snappy as it does on the monitor. Contrast helps.
6. Clone Tool – I use the clone tool to spot my images. Cloning is so much better than the old days when you had to spot every spot, on every single print and your mouth would taste like Spotone all day!

In sharing these six steps, my point isn't that you should imitate my workflow, but rather that a workflow need not be complicated. Did you notice that I didn't make mention of special B&W conversion programs, plug-ins, curves or layers? I also don't use monitor calibrators, profiles, RIP's or special inksets. I only use Photoshop and just six tools. Ofttimes there's beauty in simplicity!

Visit [Cole's Blogs for more.](#)

[Here is a quick demonstration video of my Six Steps.](#)





## Bird Photographer of the Year 2021

### See Great Bird Images Here

By James Cutmore, ScienceFocus.com

Now in its 6th year, the Bird Photographer of the Year competition saw over 22,000 entries from 73 different countries all competing for the grand prize.

As well as gifting us a flock of spectacular images, the world's premier bird photography contest is a strong supporter of conservation, providing financial support for grassroots projects through their charity partner Birds on the Brink.

The winners of the competition will be announced on 1 September 2021. Until then, you can fly over to their website for more great snaps. <https://www.birdpoty.com/>



*Photographed in Costa Rica. Gail Bisson*



*Photographed in Rausuu, Japan. Fahad Alenezi*



*Czech Republic. Zdeněk Jakl*



*by Tom Schandy*

## Edwin Land Predicts the Smart Phone Camera in 1970

*Edited from an article by Michael Zhang, Petapixel.com*

Polaroid founder Edwin Land was a visionary tech titan of his time, and as is common with pioneering entrepreneurs, Land had unusual foresight into where technology was headed. Here's a neat video from 1970 in which Land accurately predicts the coming age of smartphone cameras in everyone's pocket.

The film was shot for Polaroid's shareholder meeting in 1970, and it shows Land giving a tour of the company's headquarters (by helicopter) and factories (by foot). As Land walks through an under-construction factory, he discusses his company's history and where it was going (the launch of the iconic SX-70 folding single-lens reflex camera).

Land continued "if at all conceivable, cost perhaps a hundred dollars. And yet it is clear that as far as we have come and as remarkable as that achievement seems to be we are still a long way from the concept from the realization of the concept of a camera that would be, oh, like the telephone — something that you use all day long, whenever an occasion arises in which you want to make sure that you cannot trust your memory or when you want to record any object of great interest to you or any beautiful scene. A camera which you would use not on the occasion of parties only or of trips only or when your grandchildren came to see you, but a camera that you would use as often as your pencil or your eyeglasses.



*Edwin Land demonstrates the concept of having a camera that fits neatly in your pocket - [see video click here](#)*

During the monologue, starting at 10:45 in the video, Land shares his vision of the future of photography, and his predictions were uncannily accurate (emphasis ours): He said, "We have to go back to 1944, to the very first concept of a kind of photography that would become part of the human being, an adjunct to your memory, something that was always with you so that when you looked at something, you could in effect press a button and have a record of it."

It was in 1944 that land's 3-year-old daughter Jennifer asked her 35-year-old father if she could see the family vacation photo her father had just captured. The technology to instantly see a captured photo didn't exist yet, so Edwin Land invented it.

"I could see what the Polaroid camera should be. It was just as real to me as if it was sitting in front of me, before I had ever built one," Land once said. "Market research is what you do when your product isn't any good."

See the entire article at <https://petapixel.com/2021/04/06/polaroid-founder-edwin-land-foresaw-the-smartphone-camera-in-1970/>



## William Henry Fox Talbot

**Rare images by William Henry Fox Talbot, one of history's earliest photographers - *Written by Oscar Holland, CNN***

Almost 200 images by one of history's first photographers, William Henry Fox Talbot, went under the hammer in New York in May, offering collectors a rare glimpse at early Victorian Britain.

According to Sotheby's auction house, which is handling the sale, the collection is "arguably the most important lot of 19th century photographs to ever come to market." The images depict indoor and outdoor scenes, spanning architecture, botany and daily life in the 1840s. Talbot, an English scientist and inventor, also produced various portraits of family members and friends as he experimented with his pioneering camera technology. Offered at auction as a single lot, the collection comprises over 70 loose photographs and three albums of printed images. It also includes rare versions of Talbot's publication "Sun Pictures in Scotland" which documents his travels through Scotland, as well as several parts of his celebrated work "The Pencil of Nature." The Pencil of Nature is a book by William Henry Fox Talbot which was the first commercially published book to be illustrated with photographs.

He would later develop the influential calotype (or talbotype) technique, which was more complex than the salted paper process but drastically reduced exposure times. Though not as popular as the daguerreotype, which became widely used around the world in the 1840s, Talbot's technique proved hugely influential in the development of camera technology, as it produced photographic negatives that allowed images to be more easily replicated.

But while Talbot was a keen alchemist and an important figure in the science of photography, Sotheby's Emily Bierman also commended his artistic sensibilities.

"The compositions are incredibly sophisticated," she said, citing a landscape photo taken in Scotland that used the water's reflection to produce a "confluence of triangles that are perfectly centered."

"Thinking about the constraints he would have faced in practicing photography so early, to have the foresight as to how exactly you're going to translate what you see before you into a physical print is, I think, true artistry."

See the entire article and many of the images here- <https://www.cnn.com/style/article/talbot-photography-sale-sothebys/index.html>



Talbot developed his groundbreaking "salted paper" photography technique during a vacation in the early 1830s, when he grew frustrated with the limitations of sketching. Using a solution containing salt and, later, silver nitrate, he created a light-sensitive surface from ordinary writing paper, which darkened when exposed to sunlight.





## San Jose Icon Structure

by India Block, Dezeen.com

### SMAR Architecture Studio designs swaying light-up tower for Silicon Valley

Breeze of Innovation is a viewpoint for San José, California, designed by SMAR Architecture Studio featuring rods that will sway in the wind and generate the power to light themselves.

SMAR Architecture Studio won the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley competition to design a new landmark for Guadalupe Park and Gardens. The studio, which is led by Fernando Jerez and Belén Pérez de Juan and has offices in Australia, Spain and Lithuania, beat entries from 963 submissions across 72 countries. Breeze of Innovation will be a tower formed by 500 flexible rods standing 200 feet (61 metres) over the San José park.

Its swaying movement will generate the electricity required for lamps at the tip of the rods to light up at night, creating a shining attraction. The material used for the rods will be decided in the project's second stage. A conical void in the centre will allow visitors to walk through the structure and explore its multilevel walkways. Close to the top, a viewing platform will provide views out through the glowing rods and across the valley.

SMAR Architecture Studio also plans to build an exhibition space and a cafe as part of the Breeze of Innovation project. "Our goal from the beginning was to capture the ever-changing magic of Silicon Valley while also creating a deep connection with the San José community," said Jerez, who founded SMAR Architecture studio in 2009.



"This is why we came up with the idea of designing a dynamic landmark, one that is alive, moving with the wind and light, a magical space that includes a tribute to the San José electric light tower of 1881."

Click to see entire article - <https://www.dezeen.com/2021/breeze-of-innovation>



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## What Makes a Camera Professional?

by Christopher Malcolm, [fstoppers.com](http://fstoppers.com) - What Makes a Camera Professional?



Today, I'd like to discuss one of the most overused and most misunderstood concepts in photography. What exactly makes something a "professional camera"?

If you've spent any amount of time reading or watching camera reviews (and let's be honest, who among us hasn't), then it's highly likely that you've heard the terms "pro body" or "professional gear" thrown around. Usually, the reviewer is using this term as a sort of shorthand to denote what sets this particular camera apart from the other ones in the same brand's lens lineup. For instance, why does a Nikon D6 cost around \$6,500 whereas a Z 6II only cost around \$2,000? As a shorthand, some might say that the D6 is a "pro-level body," whereas the Z 6II is not.

But, setting aside for a moment whether or not I actually agree with that statement, it's also a bit misleading because it gives the impression that, in order to be professional, you need to be shooting with a "professional" camera body. It makes sense why reviewers use this as shorthand. There are features that high-end cameras have that would appeal to pros but not make much of a difference to most hobbyists. And, like most things in life, you do tend to get what you pay for, so even a \$6,500 can earn its price tag for the right customer. But, I think the more pertinent question that first has to be answered is, who is a professional photographer?

After all, lots of people are amazing photographers without being pro photographers because they choose instead to make their living as dentists, or lawyers, or factory workers. Simply having a "pro body" can't qualify you as a professional. Otherwise, all you would have to do to become a professional photographer would be to save up enough cash to buy an expensive camera. That may impress your photo friends, but I think we can all agree that you need to accomplish a bit more than being good at spending money to be a professional photographer.

Personally, I choose to go by the one unavoidable judge and jury, the IRS. For tax purposes, you are generally judged to be a professional in a given field if you make over 50% of your income from providing those services. The numbers may vary depending on your principality, but the basic equation, in my opinion, for being a professional photographer is whether or not you are able to establish a photography business upon which you can make a living. There is obviously some wiggle room in that equation as everyone's situation is different, but I'll use that as a baseline for our discussion, because I think it's an important thing to consider when discussing whether or not a camera you are considering purchasing is "pro" level or not.

See entire article here-

<https://fstoppers.com/whatmakescameraprofessional>



## 2020 Mobile Photography Awards Announced

### Stunning Winning Images of the 2020 Mobile Photography Awards - By Madeleine Muzdakakis

Great photographs are at our fingertips with the ever-improving camera phones in our pockets. However, no matter the megapixels, it still takes patience and technical skill to create amazing pictures with a smartphone. The 10th annual Mobile Photography Awards (MPA) has announced the winning images across a range of categories.



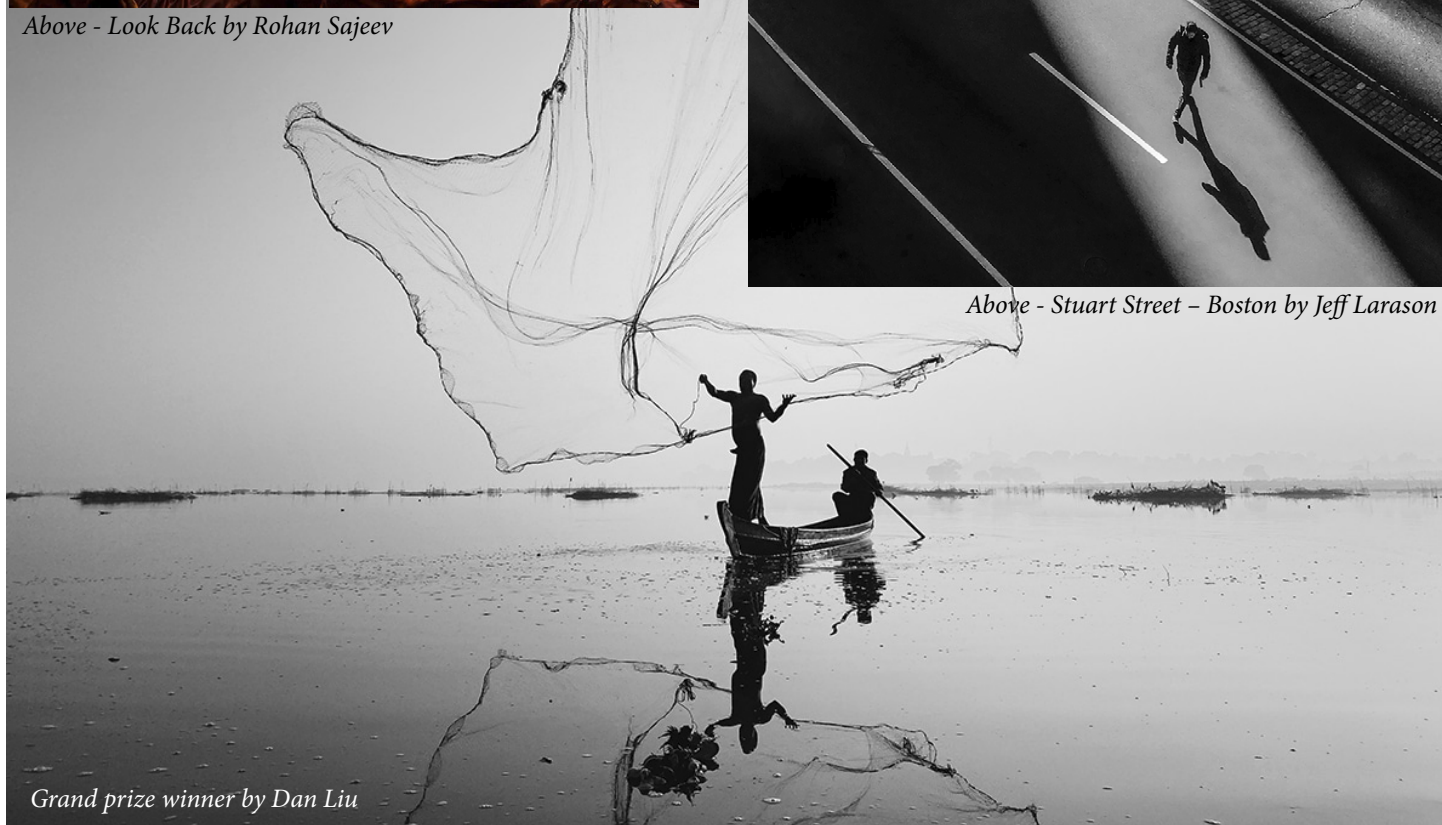
Above - Look Back by Rohan Sajeev

The 2020 Grand Prize Winner and the MPA Photographer of the Year 2020 goes to Dan Liu, who also won the Silhouettes category. Liu is a freelance photographer and artist who explores the human condition and landscape photography. Shot with an Apple iPhone11 ProMax, his images show his subjects in the midst of a story.

Liu's work was a clear winner for the judges. According to jury member Rodrigo Rivas, "Without a doubt, his mastery of composition, perspective, light, emotion in actions and portraits; together with a good choice of the decisive moment, make him worthy of the award." For this honor, Liu received a \$3,000 prize. See article here- <https://mymodernmet.com/winners-mobile-photography-awards/>



Above - Stuart Street - Boston by Jeff Larason



Grand prize winner by Dan Liu

## Information and Field Trips



### UC Santa Cruz Arboretum Field Trip

We are going on a Field Trip for the Birds (and the flowers and plants) at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum on June 7.

Lucky us! We will have one of our bird master photographers, Mercury Freedom, lead us in getting more out of our time at the arboretum.

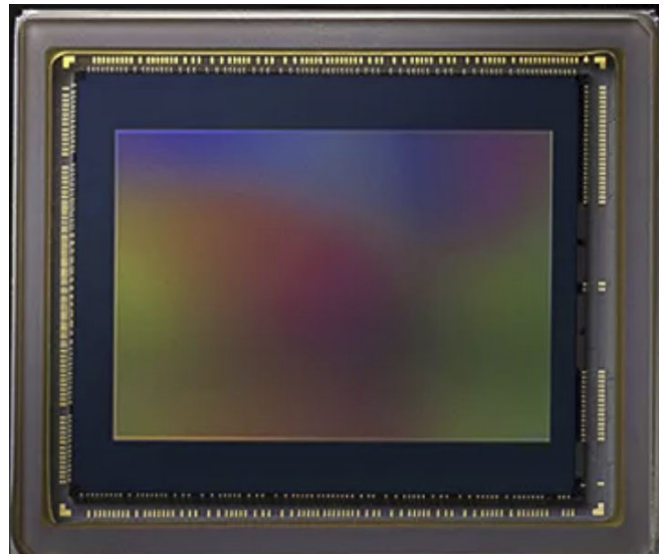
We will meet at the entrance to the Arboretum on June 7 at 8:50 just prior to opening. Admission is \$5.00 cash or check. The arboretum is 135 acres and attracts many birds, including hummingbirds. Mercury has shared some magnificent photos he has taken there.

We are not limiting group size this time. We are, however, asking that only Camera Club members join us as the pandemic is still on. We will have a pre-Zoom meeting on Thursday June 3 at 7:00 PM. Mercury will give us an overview on what to expect and what to bring in terms of equipment. On Thursday June 17 at 7 we will have a post Zoom meeting to share photos if we wish.

Many of us may be vaccinated, but you are required to wear a mask at all times and keep a six foot distance from people outside of your group. Contact Sue Anawalt



*The Allen's Hummingbird has more orange and green feathers with a translucent orange gorget.*



### The 10 best camera sensors on the market

Benchmarking site DxOMark has updated its database of the best camera sensors on the market – and there's a new entry in the top 10.

Making its debut in the DXOMark rankings is one of the best Nikon cameras, the recently released Nikon Z7 II – and its sensor received a score of 100, tying it with 3 other models for the best sensor on a full-frame camera:

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Hasselblad X1D-50c (102) | 6) Nikon Z7 II (100) |
| 2) Pentax 645Z (101)        | 7) Sony A7R IV (99)  |
| 3) Panasonic S1R (100)      | 8) Nikon Z7 (99)     |
| 4) Nikon D850 (100)         | 9) Sony A7R II (98)  |
| 5) Sony A7R III (100)       | 10) Nikon D810 (97)  |

What's curious is that the Z7 II possesses the same image sensor as the original Z7 – yet it has been benchmarked by DxOMark with a higher score (100 compared to 99). While the Z7 II's dual processors no doubt squeeze extra performance out of the system, it seems unusual to reward the sensor for something it didn't actually do. Full article click <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/the-10-best->

### Great Photography Articles

Very American Photography - <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/05/>

NFT Explained Video - <https://youtu.be/q-tH8NaAx9w>

Selfie Secrets - <https://www.diyphotography.net/selfie-culture-what-your-choice-of-camera-angle>

Swimming with Whales - <https://dentonrc.com/entertainment/movies/swimming-amid-natgeo-secrets-of-the-whales>

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