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January 6, zoom only 7:30

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*Featured Cover by Chris Cassell
(see makers description on page 6)*

Notices and Coming Events

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

Next Competition - Mon. January 6, Zoom only

Submission Rules – Members may enter a maximum of two projected images. On months with prints, a maximum of three images may be submitted as three prints or a combination of prints and (up to two) projected images.

Our meeting judge for January will be Greg Geren. The impact of a picture is often more than just the sum of the components of the scene. The technical details are important, but not always necessary to convey the impact of the moment.

Categories for December- Besides the monthly categories of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Creative projected and Journalism projected.

Journalism

- 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 events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
- The title should identify the activity (answer who, what, where, when and why) and complement the story as shown in the image and is restricted to 200 characters including spaces in this category.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Removal or correction of elements added by. . . [MORE](#)

Creative

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. Images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit. The image should have strong composition, pleasing quality, and . . . [MORE](#)

Hands-on Photo Editing Session with Debbie Sy - register to attend Wednesday, January ____ time & date TBD at the Saratoga Library.
How to Register: - Log into the club website, Click on the event under "[calendar](#)" Questions, email [here](#)

Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For 2025, prints will be judged in:

February - Journalism, Travel Monochrome, Color
April - Nature, Creative, Color, Monochrome
June - Journalism, Travel Monochrome, Color
August - Nature, Creative, Color, Monochrome
October - Travel, Creative, Color, Monochrome
December - Journalism, Nature, Color, Monochrome

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](#)



2017 Journalism Image by Don Schremp



"I wish that I had taken more photographs."

The experiences of my recent years, travel and otherwise, are pretty well documented. My interest in photography, rekindled around 2015, has resulted in terabytes of experiences which will serve to remind me that yes I lived. While there are a variety of pre-2015 photos from various life stages, there are not enough. "If only" I had been inspired to the point of obsession with photography when young. As I inspect my collection of photos, I recall the occasion and the relevant people to each one. Faded Polaroids from my childhood; amateurish self-indulgent photos from adolescence.



"I do a lot of travel photography as we are in our - Go Go Years"

My interest in photography became somewhat more intense when I was in law school and acquired an Olympus OM 1. Perhaps I needed a distraction from my studies. My souvenirs from that part of my life consist of boxes of unidentified negatives which I have little desire to explore.

After law school I worked briefly in Monterey where I attended some photography classes at the local JC, learned my way around a dark room and actually produced some photos which I treasure to this day. The instructors were of the Ansel Adams/Weston school of photography. I continued my photographic journey in San Francisco where I acquired a Bronica medium format camera when in search of greater resolution. Seems silly in hindsight. Explorations in photographic techniques took a seat at the back of the bus after marriage and children but the OM 1 came in quite handy and those years are fortunately well-documented.

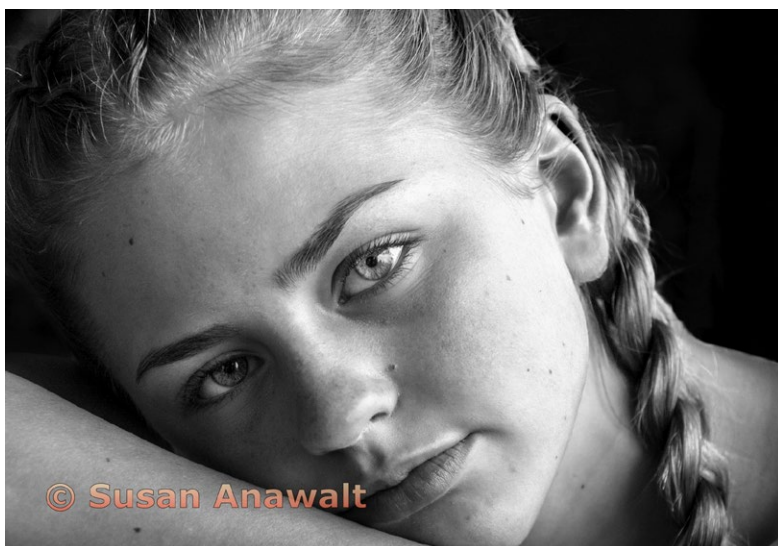
As my wife and I began to travel I acquired a Sony RX 10 which had a fixed lens with a very long zoom and a 1-inch sensor. Pretty good camera which served me well. My bucket list included a trip to a location which would allow me to photograph the northern lights. This trip was pivotal as in order to accomplish my objective I believed (and still do) that I needed a better camera and lens. I elected to purchase a Nikon D750 with a 20mm 1.8 lens and came home with a treasure trove (to me) of images. At this point I do not have a specialty. I do a lot of travel photography as we are in our "Go Go Years". From time-to-time I dabble in infrared photography. I feel life more intensely through photography. When engaged in photography my "focus" and concentration are stepped up and my experience of the moment amplified. When I look at photos, I recall the occasion, people and my feelings at the time.

I must admit that my enthusiasm for photography continues to wax and wane. While I have a decent understanding of Lightroom I have pretty much forgotten what knowledge I had once acquired of Photoshop. I think I would benefit from more intense self-improvement programs through self-study and classes. However, that level of intensity is currently occupied by my studies of Spanish. I need to get out more. Photography, at least to me, is similar to playing a musical instrument. If you don't practice/play regularly one is unlikely to improve and the skills once possessed likely to atrophy. One of my New Year's resolutions will be to "get out there and shoot with my new Nikon Z8".

Looking forward to photo expeditions in 2025 to Baja, Botswana and Brazil and more club outings.



December Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made



◀ Gwyn, Sue Anawalt, Monochrome projected

This photo of Gwyn was taken several years ago. She was tired, relaxed. She put her head on her arm stretched down on the table between us and continued to talk with me. Light from a nearby window illuminated her young face. A perfect moment for my camera.

I rarely do any portrait work under lights. For one thing I don't have a studio. I also like working with natural light. Often my photos require work on the background. In this case there was a Christmas tree lit up behind her. I had to darken the background in order to eliminate that distraction behind her.

Camera settings: ISO 1600 65 mm F/5.0 1/125 sec

Fun in the Sun, Alan Levenson, Color Projected ▶

This waterfall on the Island of Bali is a favorite playground for the local children who entertained themselves and me and my companion with their antics.

Nikon Z8; Tamron 100-400@125mm; ISO 125 f/5, 1/1000



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



◀ **The Crossing.** Wildebeests cross Maisa Maze river to migrate to a greener land. Serengeti National Park, Kelly Zhang, Creative Projected

This photo was taken in Serengeti's Masai Mara National Reserve when wildebeests migrated across the Mara River in October, 2024. There were at least ten thousand wildebeests across the river bank, and it was a long wait. The crowd, the nervousness in the air, the panic, and the noise... It was an incredible experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

I used the Sony A1 with 600 fixed lens and 1.4x extender for this photo.

Ringed Kingfisher with Catch, Pantanal, Brazil, Mercury Freedom, Nature Projected ▶

Image was taken in North Pantanal Brazil in September '23 ... my wife had signed us up for this Fantastic Trip through Pantanal Photo Tours ... our guide Larrisa was amazing at putting us in situations where we could 'capture' the wonderful & abundant wildlife found there; in this situation we were (group of 6) gliding in a boat when this Ringed Kingfisher showed up on the river bank opposite us — I caught him there, then in this photo just as he launched. I'd set the camera on only 1/800 shutter speed as I hadn't anticipated fast action & was pleased to find a sharp capture that also blurred the wings. Sony A1, 200-600 mm Sony zoom, f/8, ISO 200 ... shot at 600 mm.



◀ **Foggy Evening, pedestrian bridge crossing Pudding Creek, Fort Bragg, CA, Chris Cassell, Monochrome Print**

I took this on 9/11/24 shortly after arriving in Fort Bragg for a short vacation/road trip with my wife. This is an early attempt with my new Laowa 10mm lens, with which I'm having a lot of fun. Yes, huge keystone effect, but who cares? Interestingly, straight lines appear to stay straight. Processed in Photoshop and SilverEfex.

Nikon Z8 with Laowa 10mm, f/2.8 lens at f/8, ISO 2500, 1/200 sec.



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



◀ **Homebound.** A short-eared owl mom came home with a prey to feed three of her babies. Kelly Zhang, Nature Print

This photo was shot on an Arizona ranch in summer, 2024. It is a screech owl mom who has three chicks in her nest. She goes out more than a dozen times each night to catch insects, birds, mice to feed her babies. Flash photography was used for this photo.

The equipment was a Sony A1 with 600 fixed lens and 1.4x extender.

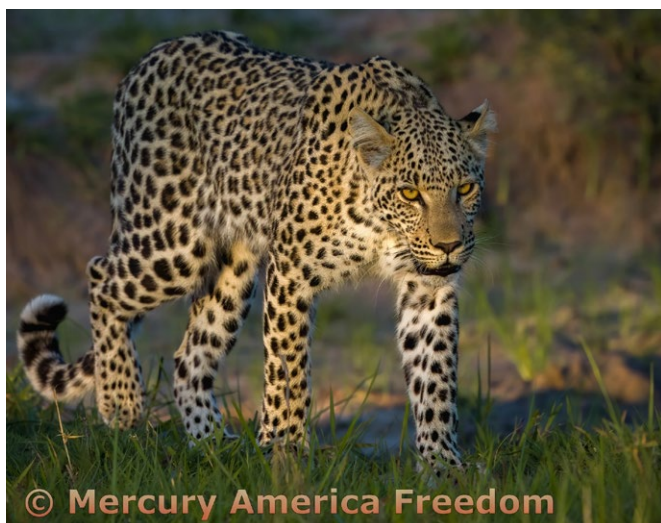
Milky Way over Twin Lakes, Eastern Sierra, Chris Cassell, Color Print

I took this near the campsite where I was staying with friends at 9:20 pm on 9/29/24, after a long day of activities with them. The Milky Way photo in Glacier NP I took a few months earlier had so little foreground light that I needed to composite two different exposures to form the image. Here, there was more foreground light; likely due to the man-made sources off-camera but perhaps also due to the earlier hour. So, I formed this from a single capture, though sky and foreground were adjusted differently in Photoshop.

Nikon Z8 with Sigma 14mm lens at f/1.8, ISO 4000, 13 sec, manually focused on stars.



December Second Place Competition Winners



All results and all images from a competition can be seen by [clicking here](#).

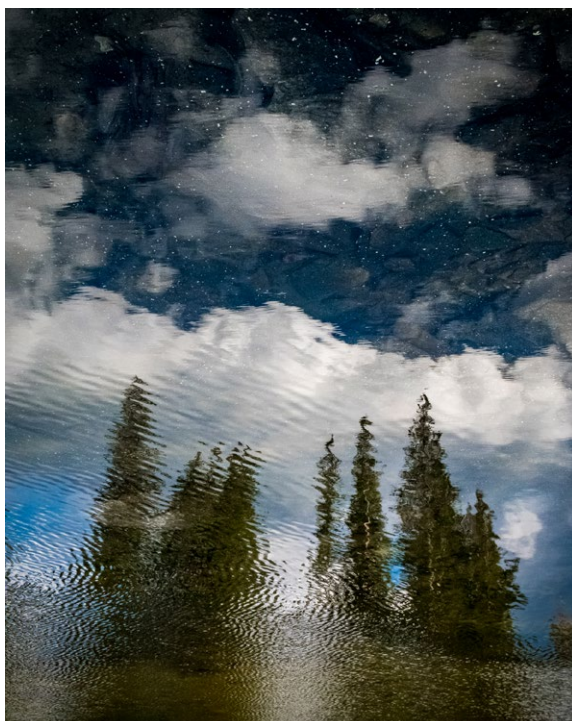
Looking for Reflective Perspectives

This space is a monthly feature offering insight into how a member thinks about their photography style and the sharing of tips. — Eric from member Tim Meadows

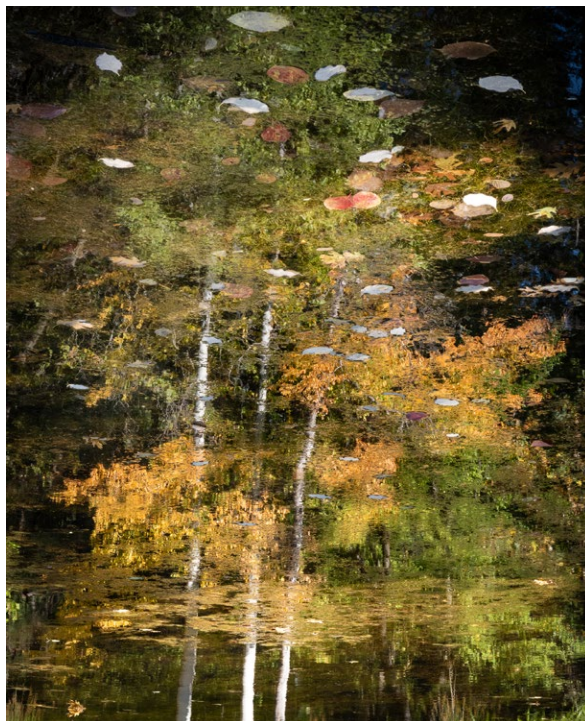
Reflective Perspective is the name I give to a photographic technique whereby a reflection is shot and then inverted, creating a new view of a scene. It can create an ethereal effect or warp reality particularly if the reflection is wavy due to wind. I'm now convinced that the impressionists must have used this technique when painting.

Successful reflective perspective shots require you to look for reflections, the best of which are puddles of water in the shade, where the reflected image is most vibrant and glare on the water is minimized. Here's some more tips:

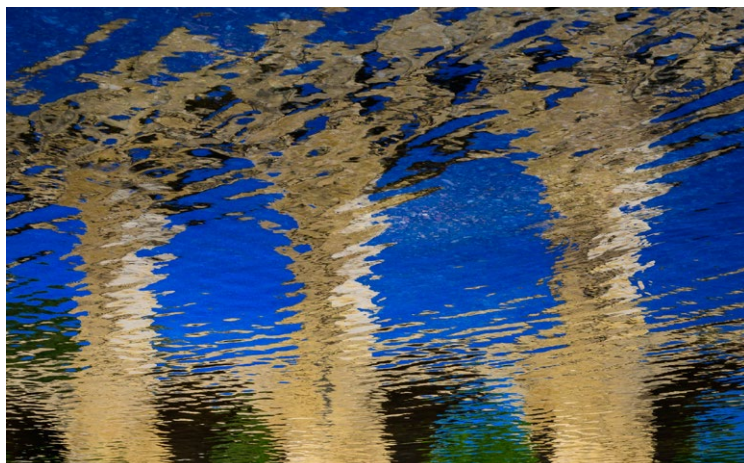
- Look down, not up
- Use saturation and vibrance to bring up color, a polarizing filter can help
- Shoot reflection to minimize cropping, use the border of the puddle to create a frame
- Try flipping vertically and horizontally till you get desired effect
- Windier days can create more interesting reflections, particularly of buildings



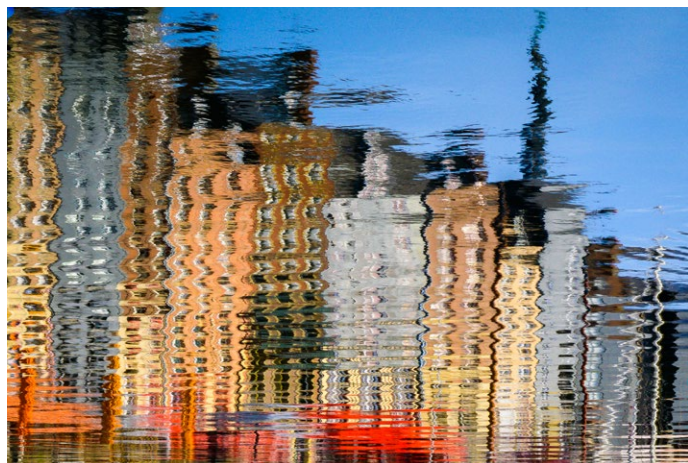
Night Sky in Daytime Reflection – backpacking near 1000 Island Lake. Pollen on water looked like stars



Fall Reflection – pond in front of Ahwahnee Hotel. Leaves floating in the air...



Pont du Gard – outside Nimes in Provence. You probably have seen this famous Roman Aqueduct, but maybe never from this perspective.



Honfleur waterfront – coastal village in Normandy. Morning light, liked the varied colors of the buildings.

The Beatles

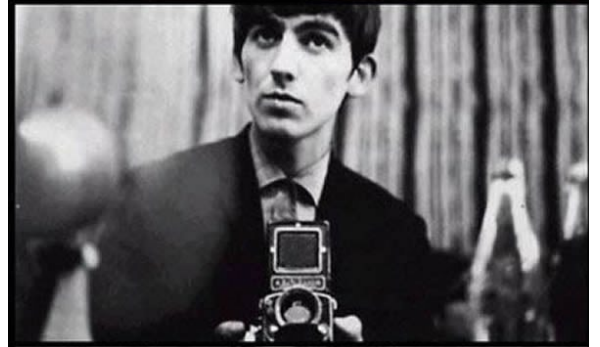
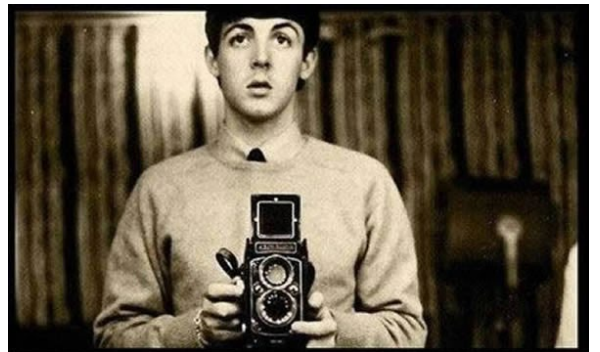
Photographs by Bill Eppridge - from <https://www.monroegallery.com/gallery/exhibits/1964-the-beatles>

In 2020, a trove of nearly a thousand photographs taken by Paul McCartney on a 35mm camera was re-discovered in his archive. A new book has been published: "Paul McCartney Photographs 1963–64: Eyes of the Storm", available in June 2023, and selected photographs from the book were on exhibit at The National Portrait Gallery in London, through October 1, 2023.

'Millions of eyes were suddenly upon us, creating a picture I will never forget for the rest of my life.' --Paul McCartney

Bill Eppridge was at John F. Kennedy airport on February 7, 1964 on assignment for Life magazine to cover The Beatles arrival at JFK airport. He was then invited to continue shooting in their room at the Plaza Hotel and during the days that followed, notably at the Ed Sullivan Show rehearsal and historic performance; in Central Park; on a train ride to Washington, D.C., for the concert at the Washington Coliseum; at the British embassy; and at their renowned performance at Carnegie Hall.

"One morning my boss said, 'Look, we've got a bunch of British musicians coming into town. They're called the Beatles. These were four very fine young gentlemen, and great fun to be around,' Eppridge recalled. After he introduced himself to Ringo, who consulted with John, the group asked what he wanted them to do while being photographed for Life. "I'm not going to ask you to do a thing," was Eppridge's reply. "I just want to be here." --Bill Eppridge



Landscape Photographer of the Year

by Alan Taylor - from <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2024/11/winners-2024-international-landscape-photographer-year/680791/>

After reviewing more than 3,600 entries from professional and amateur photographers around the world, judges of the 11th International Landscape Photographer of the Year contest narrowed the field down to a “Top 101” and then further, to award several category prizes and their top award, which this year went to Andrew Mielzynski. The organizers were once more kind enough to share some of this year’s top and winning images below. See link above to view top award winner.



Ignacio Palacios



Laura Hedien

Iconic Photo Back Story



Girls in the Windows is a 1960 photograph by Ormond Gigli (died 2019). It depicts 41 colorfully dressed women standing in the windows of a brownstone building on East 58th Street on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, and two other women on the sidewalk near a Rolls-Royce car. It has been estimated to be the most commercially valuable photograph and one of the most collected, on account of the great number of signed copies that have been sold at auction.

Ormond Gigli, a freelance photographer aged 35 in 1960, created the image on his own initiative. He wanted to preserve the memory of the distinctive brownstone houses across from his home studio that were slated for demolition. Just days before this was to happen, Gigli arranged for 40 models from an agency. They were paid \$1 each (equivalent to \$10 in 2023) for the entire shoot, and told to bring their own

hair and make-up. To these, he added two more women: his wife, Sue Ellen Gigli (in the second row, far right), and the wife of the demolition supervisor who allowed Gigli to use the building in exchange for including her (on the third floor, third from the left). Shouting through a bullhorn, Gigli arranged the women from his studio across the street, telling them to “pose as if they were giving someone a kiss”. [... MORE](#)

Photographers to Watch— Fatma Gok Salt

From <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/environmental-portrait-photography-fatma-gok-salt>

Turkish photographer Fatma Gök Salt has gained widespread recognition for her extraordinary ability to capture the human spirit through her environmental portraits. Her photographs go beyond simple documentation; they weave together the subject and their natural surroundings in a way that feels both intimate and timeless.

Salt's work is celebrated for its unique blend of emotional depth, stunning compositions, and thoughtful use of light and color. In this article, we explore her approach to environmental portraiture and the elements that make her work so captivating.

You can check Fatma's Instagram account for more amazing photos. See more - <https://www.instagram.com/fatmagoksalt/>



Great Photography Articles

SF names Street After Photographer - <https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/san-francisco-names-street-for-associated>

Biggest Photo Prize Won by 12 Year Old DLSR - <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/worlds-biggest-photo-prize>

Kate Winslet Stars as Photographer - <https://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/newswire/kate-winslet-brings-extraordinary>

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Key Contacts

President	Membership	Webmaster	Magazine Editor	
Kent Bossange	Charlie Gibson	Rick Whitacre	Eric Gray	Official publication of the Los Gatos-
kent@bossange.com	charloose1@gmail.com	whitacre.rick@gmail.com	eric@gdacreative.com	Saratoga Camera Club, a club
				member of the Photographic
				Society of America

