LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos–saratogacameraclub.org

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Featured image by Will Belknap
(see makers description on page 4)

Notices and Coming Events

See the Calendar on our web site for updates or details.

Mon. January 9th, Competition - *Creative/PhotoJournalism*
7:30 p.m. See deadlines and more info on the website

Mon. January 23, End-of-Year Awards

Next Competition - January 9th

***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 print categories.*

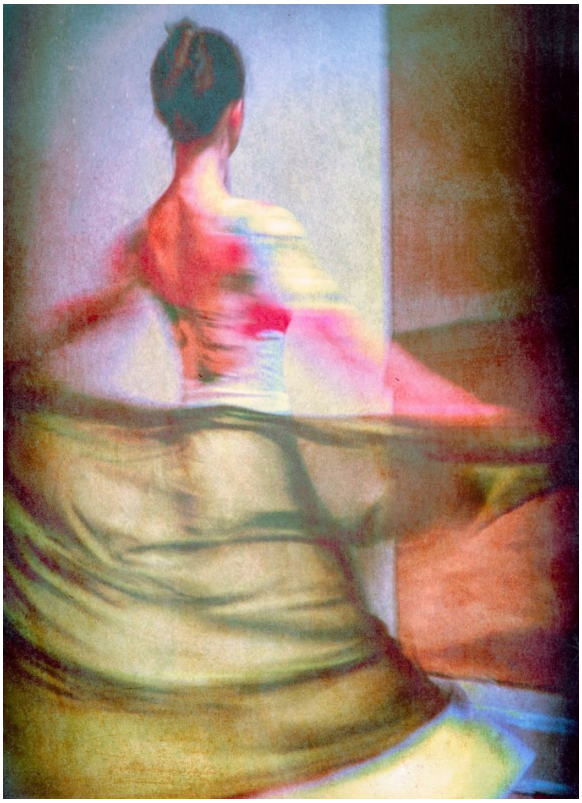
Our meeting judge for January will be Ian Bornarth. Ian's approach to judging looks for a balance between the technical and aesthetic aspects that create a successful image based on the intent on the photographer and the category being considered. His website https://www.ianbornarth.com/

***Categories for January** - Besides the monthly categories of monochrome and color pictorial the two challenge categories will be Creative and PhotoJournalism (PJ) - see details below.*

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. HDR w/o further changes are not considered "Altered Reality". . . . MORE

PhotoJournalism - Journalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world to include human interest, documentary and spot news. 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.
Techniques that add, relocate, replace, remove or change any element in the original scene, except by cropping, are not permitted. All images must look natural. The only allowable modifications are removal of dust, scratches or digital noise and restoration of the appearance of the existing scene, or complete conversion to greyscale/monochrome.. . . MORE

Previous Challenge Category Examples



Creative image by Larry Shapiro

PhotoJournalism image by Betty Toepfer

Special Interest Group Links below

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

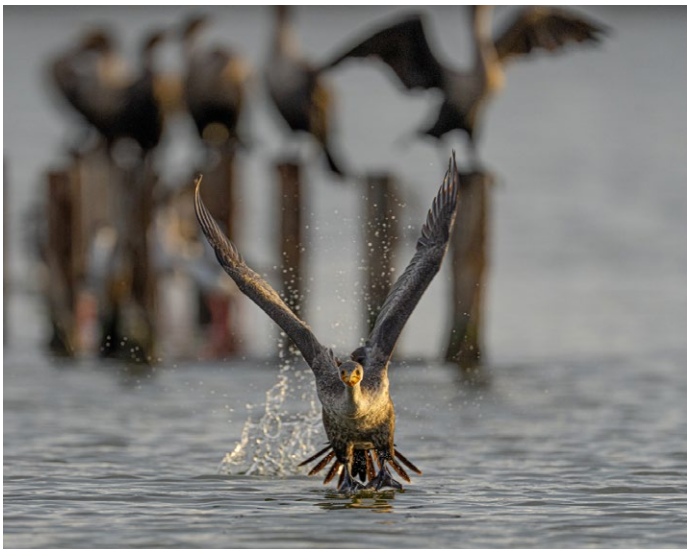
Member Biography - Kelly Zhang

I am a beginner in photography and started in 2019 after the Pandemic. The variety and beauty of wildlife in the Bay Area has been an educational experience. I wish to learn from fellow club photographers and contribute to bringing awareness of Bay Area wildlife with my photos.

"I am currently a script consultant for a Hollywood studio."

Born in Shanghai and came to the U.S. in 1987, I have a journalism background with two masters in Broadcast Journalism (USC) and Political Science (ASU). Having worked in corporate and media for over 25 years, I am currently a script consultant for a Hollywood studio.

I use a Sony A1 and 600mm lens. My favorite places to go for wildlife images are Shoreline Park, Ed Levin Park, and the Coyote Hills.



Kelly joined LGSCC in June of 2022 and has already made a name for herself in the nature category. In December's competition she took first place for her image of an American Kestrel catching a dragonfly. (See page 5 for a detailed description)

December Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

Detail of the Wall of Ripped Posters,, Bunny Laden, Pictorial Print ►

While visiting Seattle at the end of July, I went to the Seattle Pike Street Market. My intention was to photograph the gum wall, but I got sidetracked by a wall that is used for event posters. Most of the posters had been ripped off the wall and the resulting collage was quite interesting to my eye. I captured many closeups because these little snippets reminded me of art that I've seen in contemporary galleries.

I handheld a Panasonic Lumix DCG9, 14/140 LENS, 200 ISO, 1/15sec @ f/5.6, 52mm. I made minor adjustments in Lightroom. I choose Hahnemühle Torchon fine art paper to make the image look more like an art piece than a photograph.

◄ Zion Canyon, Wall Street in fall, Will Belknap, Color Pictorial, Projected

This image was taken in late October, 2019 in Zion National Park, Utah. I was participating in an Aperture Academy class along with Tim Meadows. As part of the program we suited up in chest high waterproof bib overalls and water boots, put our camera gear in waterproof bags, and started hiking/wading up the river. Quite chilly that early in the morning. The water was waist high in several spots so challenging to negotiate without dunking all our gear especially with cold, numb feet. Luckily the outfitter had provided tall, sturdy walking poles which turned out to be critical to maintain balance walking on the cobblestones and boulders.
This shot was taken looking back downstream around 11 am with a Nikon D750 and a Sigma 14 - 24 at 1.3 second exposure. The light was fairly flat due to the slot canyon and some cloud cover, but the sun was hitting the yellow foliage at the top of the canyon to provide a contrasting backdrop.

Located on the Continental Divide, at the border of Alberta and British Columbia, Mount Lefroy, Banff Canada, Jim Katzman, Monochrome Print

My wife and I were celebrating our 50th anniversary (2 years covid-delayed) with a Backroads trip hiking through the Canadian Rockies for a week. This shot was taken in Banff National Park during a hike from Lake Louise up 1300 vertical feet. Our destination was the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House. The hikes on this trip were arduous and we had two walking poles to climb and my camera backpack. Every picture taken required a stop so I did that often! Mount Lefroy was near the top of our climb. To give perspective on how high we climbed this second picture was taken from the same spot looking back at Lake Louise in the distance. Shot with a Sony ARiv and a Sony 24-70 GM lens at 70 mm; 1/160 sec, handheld; f/9.0; exposure bias -3/10 EV; processed in Lightroom and DxO Silver Efex Pro 25.

◄ **Precision: An American Kestrel (falcon) strikes to a dragonfly in Ed Levin Park, Kelly Zhang, Nature Print**

I thought it was a hummingbird from afar when I spotted it while entering Ed Levin park in Milpitas. It was a day in early September, the weather was still hot and dry; many dragonflies were flying around. Walking closer, I realized it was a male kestrel, the size almost as small as a fist. When it charged down, I was amazed by the size of its wings, its speed, and the precision of catching prey - dragonflies. It took me many, many times to catch one "precision" shot. I was lucky.

Sony A1 with 600mm lens

Train Collage, Larry Shapiro, Creative Print ►

In late June of 2021, I was able to visit the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California about an hour north of Lake Tahoe. The main attraction is the large number of locomotives and rolling stock of all types. I spent several hours photographing many of the outdoor engines and cars but when I returned home and viewed the images, I was unhappy with results. The individual images just did not give a sense of either the railroad or the place. I let the images sit and after about a year decided that maybe I could elicit the "sense" of the place with a sequence, that didn't work either Finally, I thought of doing a collage of multiple images. I imported five images in Photoshop as layers. I added a layer mask to each image and then started "painting with black" on the mask to eliminate areas that didn't work. I found that the hard light blend mode was helpful in merging the images. I had to reposition the individual layers to get the image to merge. With the composition set, I saved that file as a PSB since it was too big to create a tiff. I made a copy and used Topaz Studio to simplify some of the details then added a texture and a border. The image was printed on Red River Polar Matte paper.

December Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

Into Bloom, Serena Hartoog, Creative Projected ▶

The original, is one beautiful purple magenta dahlia flower, wide open with one bud that was growing from the same stem.

I grew it in my garden with other Dahlias of different kinds. I took the picture in my studio using a Canon Mark 4 DSLR with a Canon 100mm macro lens. Photoshop was used to add other flowers to the main flower. These are all a single flower repeated at different sizes, orientations and other adjustments. Then I insert the ballerina, from another picture, into the foreground.

◀ **The varied diet of different birds, Anar Daswani, Nature Projected Sequence**

I love photographing birds especially when they are doing something interesting like hunting for their next meal. I saw this Willet doing just that with some beautiful light on it and watched it catch a crab and then devour it. The Great Blue Heron was fishing in a lake and I was surprised to see the size of the trout that it managed to get. The White Ibis was photographed in Florida near the Blue Cypress Lake.

Luck at the World Cup

from BBC News

A photographer whose image of Lionel Messi became part of the most-liked Instagram post ever said it was "simple luck" that he caught the moment. The footballer chose Shaun Botterill's photo of him celebrating Argentina's World Cup win as the first image in a gallery to celebrate the achievement. The post has received more than 72 million likes and the number is rising. Mr Botterill, 55, from Northampton, U.K. said getting the shot involved "a bit of planning but an awful lot of luck". Full article here - https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-64075826

Footballer Lionel Messi chose Shaun Botterill's photo of him celebrating Argentina's World Cup win for an Instagram post. Getty Images

Image from EPA -

Photographer Shaun Botterill was at the final after six weeks in Qatar, and, as Getty was contracted by Fifa, he was able to be on the pitch at the end.

"There was a bit of a lull after the initial presentation," he said. "[Then] all of a sudden [Messi] gets up, grabs the trophy and starts walking towards the fans, and [at that point] you've kind of got to make a decision where to go, hoping that it's going to come your way. "He ducked under the goal, because they'd ripped the net out to keep as a souvenir, and he literally appeared close [to me] about one metre away."

Mr Botterill said getting the photo was "luck, as simple as that".

Low-tech Digital Camera for Kids $40

by Marah Eakin, Mashable.com

Kids love to take pictures. Just ask parents, caregivers, or anyone who's ever had to pry a newly-smudged and crudded-up iPhone out of their preschooler's hands. Little fingers are quick to take hundreds of selfies given the chance, a practice researchers say is indicative of just how delighted kids are with themselves. (They also like seeing all the ways they can move their faces.) Strangely, though, the kid-friendly camera landscape has long been lacking. Offerings from companies like VTech and Polaroid have seemed either too expensive or too gimmicky, with so many accessories that the cameras skewed more toward tablets than picture-taking devices. Lower cost options were available — something particularly alluring considering kids' butterfingers — but they often produced photos that were so low res that they looked like they were taken on a Motorola Razr circa 2005.

Cameras for kids don't have to produce Canon quality images — kids, after all, are generally more concerned with quantity than quality when it comes to their snaps — but as a parent you still like to feel like you're getting some bang for your buck, especially if you secretly hope your kid is the next Annie Leibovitz.

The Seckton Children's Digital Camera seeks to solve all those issues, offering decent-quality images, a select amount of kid-friendly features, and overall durability, all for around $40. (It even comes in different colors, lest a pink-loving princess be forced to sully themselves by owning something in any other hue.)

Having heard the hype, I snagged one to test out with my twin 4-year-olds and found myself pleasantly surprised. Here's what I learned after putting the handy little camera to the test. Full article here-

Example of an up-the-nose photo my child took. Credit: Marah Eakin / Mashable

My daughter got to turn herself into a princess with this camera. Credit: Marah Eakin / Mashable

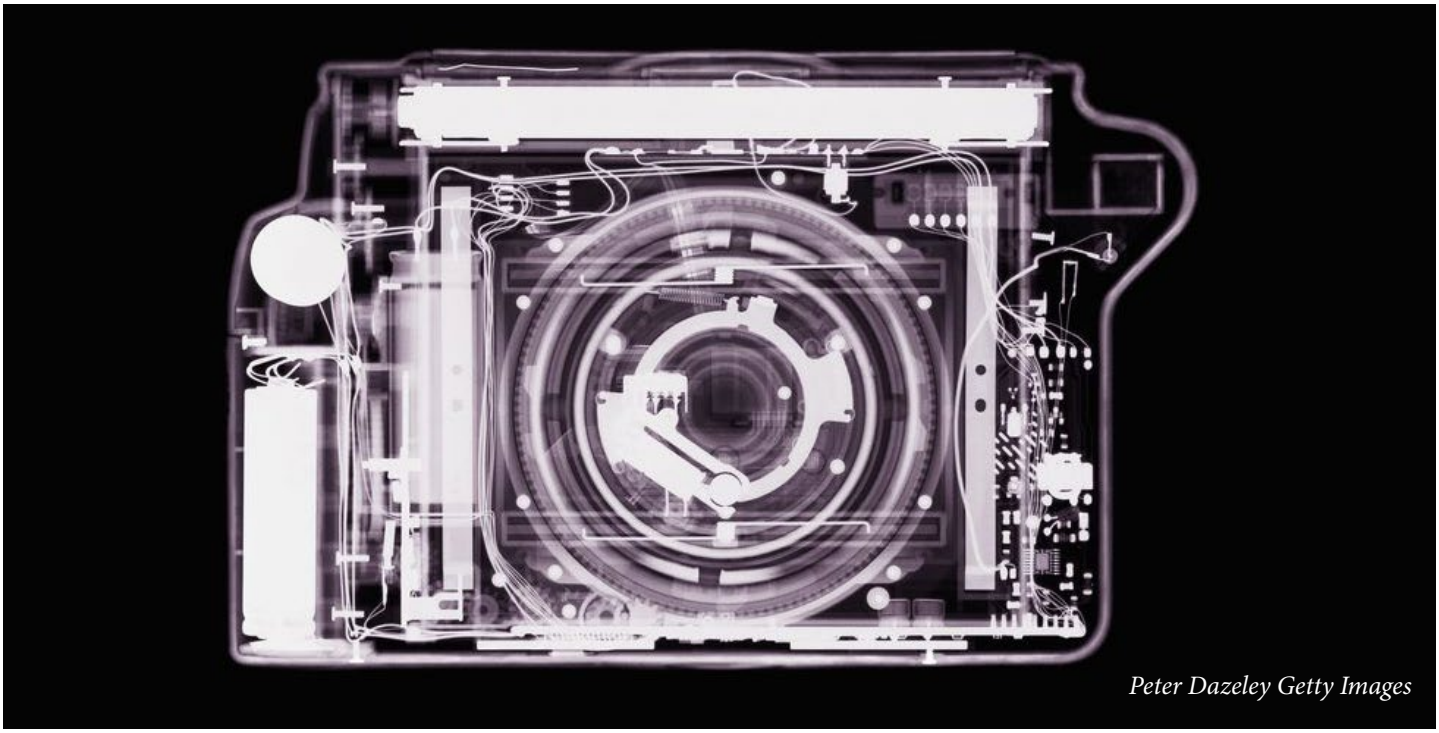
What could be better

Honestly, there's not much I didn't love about the Seckton Children's Digital Camera — most cons were things I could live with, like the resolution. I was a little annoyed with the camera's timer function, which is accessed via one of the buttons on the device's back and allows the user to hit the shutter button and then wait two, five, or 10 seconds before the camera actually takes the photo.

My other minor quibble is with the photo offloading process. Every picture my kids took was stored on the camera's 32GB micro SD card, which is included and can actually hold quite a lot of photos must be downloaded via card reader.

DLSR vs Mirrorless Explained

by Tucker Bowe, **GearPatrol.com**



Peter Dazeley Getty Images

There's no doubt that mirrorless cameras are the future and DSLR cameras are, well, about to become "vintage." That's because after a nearly three decade run, which stretched from the late '80s to the late 2010's, the vast majority of camera manufacturers — including Nikon, Canon and Sony — have announced that they are (or have already) ceased production of DSLRs so that they could focus solely on mirrorless cameras.

A DSLR (or "digital single-lens reflex") camera is essentially a digital version of an SLR film camera, which predated it. The two types of cameras work almost exactly the same, relying heavily on an optical system and a mirror mechanism, but DSLR cameras capture the image digitally (via a memory card) rather than on film. In SLRs, digital or otherwise, light comes in through the lens, which then gets reflected via a mirror into the optical viewfinder, showing you the exact image you're going to capture. When you hit the shutter button, that mirror flips down, exposes the light to digital sensor (or film in the SLR's case), and the image is captured.

A mirrorless camera works differently than a DSLR camera mostly because, as the name suggests, they're no mirrors involved. Instead of reflecting the light from the lens up into a sensor via a mirror, when you hit the shutter button the light is exposed directly to the mirrorless camera's sensor and the image is captured. Because there aren't any mirrors, a mirrorless camera relies on an electronic viewfinder instead of a DSLR's optical viewfinder. So instead of seeing the exact image, you're relying more on the mirrorless camera to electronically generate an image of what you're going to capture before you hit that shutter button.

Mirrorless camera sensor

Full article at https://www.gearpatrol.com/tech/a42232742/mirrorless-vs-dslr-cameras/

Big Sur's most Elusive Shot

By Katie Dowd, sfgate.com

For a few short weeks, professional and amateur photographers have a shot at capturing Big Sur's most beautiful and elusive image: fingers of piercing gold sunshine reaching through Keyhole Arch. Even on an ordinary day, the arch is one of the Central Coast's most photogenic spots. The incredible natural archway, formed by the pounding surf of the Pacific Ocean, sits just off Pfeiffer Beach. Each year, in late December and early January, Mother Nature aligns and the waning sun shines right through the hole of the arch. Entire article here

There are no guarantees of creating the perfect shot, however. Cloudy conditions can ruin your chances, and the National Weather Service has rain in the forecast for the next few weeks. Pick a day when sunny is forecast and you may want to try your luck as soon as possible.

And don't take a bathroom break — the serendipitous combination of sun and arch usually only lasts a few minutes.

Pfeiffer Beach is about a 15-minute drive from the town of Big Sur. It costs $12 to park there.

Iconic Photo Back Story

Black Power salute 1968 Summer Olympics - dozens of photographers took very similar images and this one was by **Angelo Cozzi/Mondadori Portfolio/Getty Images**

From Wikipedia - During their medal ceremony in the Olympic Stadium in Mexico City on October 16, 1968, two African-American athletes, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, each raised a black-gloved fist during the playing of the US national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner". While on the podium, Smith and Carlos, who had won gold and bronze medals respectively in the 200-meter running event of the 1968 Summer Olympics, turned to face the US flag and then kept their hands raised until the anthem had finished. In addition, Smith, Carlos, and Australian silver medalist Peter Norman all wore human-rights badges on their jackets.

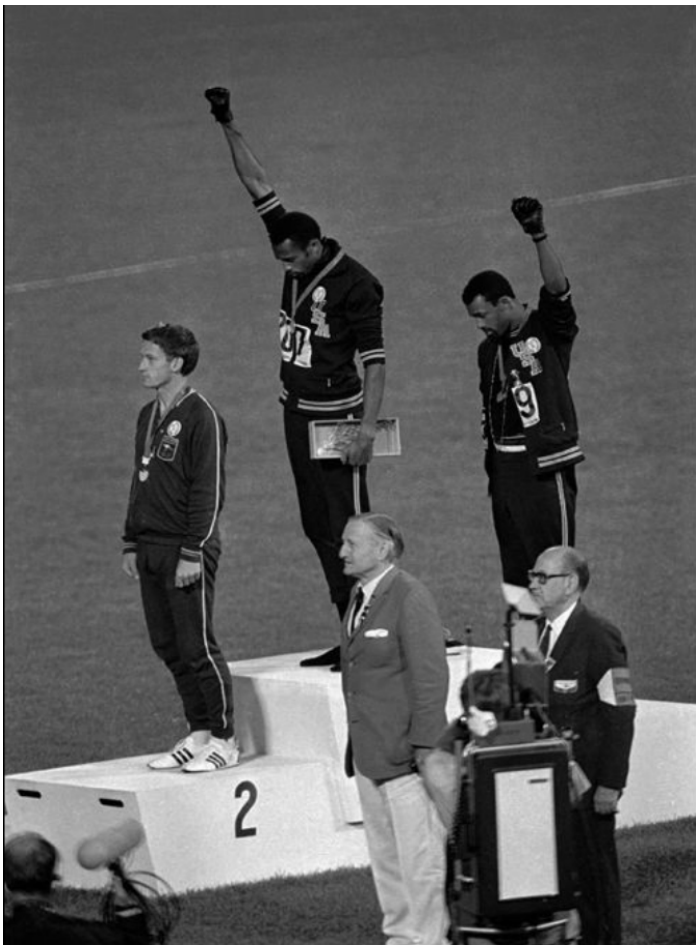
In his autobiography, Silent Gesture, published nearly 30 years later, Smith revised his statement that the gesture was not a "Black Power" salute per se, but rather a "human rights" salute. The demonstration is regarded as one of the most overtly political statements in the history of the modern Olympics.

International Olympic Committee response

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Avery Brundage, himself an American, deemed it to be a domestic political statement unfit for the apolitical, international forum the Olympic Games were intended to be. In response to their actions, he ordered Smith and Carlos suspended from the US team and banned from the Olympic Village. When the US Olympic Committee refused, Brundage threatened to ban the entire US track team. This threat led to the expulsion of the two athletes from the Games. However, contrary to a common misconception, the IOC did not force Smith and Carlos to return their medals.

A spokesman for the IOC said Smith and Carlos's actions were "a deliberate and violent breach of the fundamental principles of the Olympic spirit." Brundage, who was president of the United States Olympic Committee in 1936, had made no objections against Nazi salutes during the Berlin Olympics. He argued that the Nazi salute, being a national salute at the time, was acceptable in a competition of nations, while the athletes' salute was not of a nation and therefore unacceptable.

Brundage had been accused of being one of the United States' most prominent Nazi sympathizers even after the outbreak of the Second World War. His removal as president of the IOC had been one of the three stated objectives of the Olympic Project for Human Rights.



Caption from CNN -
American athletes Tommie Smith, center, and John Carlos raise their fists and hang their heads while the U.S. national anthem plays during their medal ceremony at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. Their black power salute became front page news around the world as a symbol of the struggle for civil rights. To their left stood Australian Peter Norman, who expressed his support by wearing an Olympic Project for Human Rights badge.

Aftermath

Smith continued in athletics, playing in the NFL with the Cincinnati Bengals before becoming an assistant professor of physical education at Oberlin College. In 1995, he helped coach the US team at the World Indoor Championships at Barcelona.

Carlos' career followed a similar path. He tied the 100 yard dash world record the following year. Carlos also tried professional football, was a 15th-round selection in the 1970 NFL Draft, and later played in the Canadian football league. See full article here - https://en.wikipedia.org/

Pushing Boundaries with AI

From globalvoices.org *by Janine Mendes-Franco*

Image by Jason Audain, enhanced using artificial intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in photography is becoming more and more common, expanding from its main role of automating tasks like photo editing, enhancement and organisation, to facial recognition and 3D effects, to now creating the images themselves. While some professional photographers may rue the day AI began to have such an impact on their profession, autodidact Jason Audain, who is best known for his striking images of traditional Trinidad and Tobago Carnival characters, has been exploring its potential as a tool to take his photography to the next level. Jason says –

"I didn't want to become like Blackberry — technology changed and they didn't change with it. So I started looking into AI and it can help people see your vision, and you yourself can use it as a template to make sure the final product looks as close as possible [to what you want]. I also have things in my head that are not real, things I dream and think about a lot, and AI helps me make it real. I punch it into Midjourney until I get something close to my vision." Entire article here

Great Photography Articles

The End of Stock Photography- https://fstoppers.com/stock/end-stock-photographer-621731
Best Drawing Tablet Wacom - https://petapixel.com/best-drawing-tablet-for-photo-editing/
Video - Select and Mask Techniques - https://fstoppers.com/photoshop/everything-your-need-know-about-select-and-mask

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