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*Featured Cover by Tim Meadows  
(see makers description on page 4)*



# Notices and Coming Events

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

**Mon. February 6th, Competition - Nature/Travel**  
7:30 p.m. See deadlines and more info on the website

**March 1st -30th - JCC exhibit** (see next column detail)

## Next Competition - February 6th

**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 February will be Becky Jaffe, She is fortunate to teach photography and art history internationally as a lecturer for Cal Discoveries Travel. In her dedicated practice, she uses in-camera techniques that stretch the photographic medium. Website [beckyjaffephotography.com/](http://beckyjaffephotography.com/)

**Categories for February** - Besides the monthly categories of monochrome and color pictorial the two challenge categories will be Nature and Travel) - see details below.

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

**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.

Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene and complete conversion to monochrome . . . [MORE](#)

## JCC Photo Exhibit Details

All members of LGSCC are invited to display their best photos from March 1 through March 30 at the JCC on Oka Road in Los Gatos.

Photos will be hung on February 28 and taken down on March 30. An Opening Reception will be March 5th.

Theme: None... but please be inspired to display your best. Four photos allowed per member. Be aware that may change depending on the number of entrants and space restraints. Open to all categories and mediums.

Only photos not previously displayed at Los Gatos JCC will be accepted. There is no qualification process.

So that we may prepare the placards, **please submit the four titles of your entries along with a small jpeg of each to [kent@bossange.com](mailto:kent@bossange.com)** All title entries must be submitted by Sunday, February 12. With the title, please include an optional caption / description of the photo, a price if it is for sale, and its priority if submitting more than one.

All entries must be capable of hanging on a hook with proper wire or other device. Be aware that large glass pieces are not recommended and are best used with plexi.

Keeping in mind weight requirements there are no size restrictions, but diptychs will count as two entries.

As in the past, I will not accept photos that are dirty, scratched, or have damaged frames. We trust you to display your best. The JCC is not asking for a commission, but donations are always appreciated.

**Volunteers will be needed to hang the exhibit on the 28th of February and for food/drinks for the reception Mar. 5th.**

Please take this opportunity to show how truly great we are as photo artists. I am constantly amazed by the creativity and passion of our members and trust that you will only display your best.

Rick Varley - VP Exhibits

## 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](#)

## January Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

### Couple walking narrow path through water in high wind and hail storm, Airdrie Kincaid, PJ Projected ►

We often had wild weather on a U.S. Lighthouse Society tour to Australia and Tasmania last November, which was spring there. When we arrived at Griffiths Island Reserve in Victoria, the wind was blowing around 40 miles per hour. I was afraid I would get blown off the narrow path through water to the Port Ferry Lighthouse on the island and decided to view the lighthouse at a distance from the shore.

While I was sitting inside the opening of the shelter / interpretive building at the start of the trail, it began to rain and then hail. I used a high ISO to freeze movement and photographed various tour participants struggling to get back to the bus. This photo of the tour leaders rounding the bend was my favorite. I cropped the right side of the image to eliminate other people in front of and behind them on the path to isolate them more.

Canon EOS R5 RF70-200mm F4 L IS USM f/8.0 200 mm 1/1600 ISO 1250



### ◄ Long Blonde Hair, Sue Anawalt, Monochrome, Projected

This portrait of my granddaughter was taken several years ago. She was in bed reading and with the light streaming in on her, I hoped for a photo. She agreed and sat further up. When I instructed her to glance out the window, she allowed a lovely cant of her head which tousled her hair down the front of her shoulders.

I saw the photo in color until just recently when I decided to make it a monochromatic image. And then it occurred to me to translate it into dark sepia in Nik Silver Efex. With the light and her blonde hair, I felt it was a match.

F/5.6, 52mm, ISO 800, 1/80 sec.

### Visages at the Window, Tim Meadows, Pictorial Print ►

This shot is a different perspective of the same window at Ft Point that won a first place award in color last year. I originally was intending to make a panorama of the entire window bay, but was intrigued with the light quality at this particular window, so chose to crop in. The base image is made with a set of 3 exposure bracketed images (+2, 0, -2) processed with HDR software Photomatrix Pro. I then ran the resulting single HDR image thru Photomatrix Pro again which heightened the contrast and increased the apparent depth of the shot. The next step was to convert the image to monochrome using Silver Efex Pro 3. Contrary to what the judge said, I thought the shot needed some additional interest and I elected to add a silhouette image of my wife and daughter appearing to peer through the window using Photoshop.

Nikon Z7, 24-70 f4 lens at 24mm, ISO 100, f16.





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



### ◀ Passing Through, Ling-Kuo Lee, Pictorial Color Projected

This photo was taken in Bhutan a few years back when I was on a tour group visiting Nepal and Bhutan. This photo is of a famous temple named Punakha Dzong, also known as Pungthang Dewa Chhenbi Phodrang (which means “the palace of great happiness or bliss”). It is the administrative center of the Punakha district in Punakha, Bhutan. We were wandering in the temple taking a lot of interesting pictures. Then, I happened to see two monks walking through a door, and the first monk just gave off this feeling of peace and mindfulness. I immediately took a shot of the monks when one of them was just walking through the door.

I used a Nikon with AF-S 24-120mm, f/4 lens in Aperture Priority mode and the aperture set to f/9 to give it enough depth of field. I set the camera to auto ISO. The camera set the ISO to 1/1100 and the shutter speed to 1/320 second. I used Lightroom for post-processing. Other than some basic adjustments, I also used the transform tool to correct the perspective and the crop tool to crop the image.

### Hand Painted Ballerina, Serena Hartoog, Creative Projected ▶

The ballerina was a UC Berkeley dance department student. I took the original image at the school dance studio a few years back. Recently I use this image as reference to hand paint in Photoshop.

Original image shot at ISO 100, f/8.0 1/200 sec.



### ◀ Weston Beach Puzzle, Larry Shapiro, Creative Print

In December I was at Point Lobos State Park and while at Weston Beach, I saw these interesting patterns in the rocks. I later realized that just one image was not enough to show the beauty of these forms. I decided to montage ten of these images together as layers in Photoshop. I could then move them around till it felt right. Looking at the result, it looked to me like a puzzle. I added a layer style of a black line to each layer. Then, I masked out part of each layer creating the puzzle piece look. I added a texture and a color to them to complete the image. The 13x19 inch print was printed out on Red River Palo Duro Etching paper which has a matte finish and a soft texture.

## End of Year Awards

by Eric Gray

From the nearly 300 images that won awards in 2022 an independent judge chose 60 as the best of our six competitive categories. Below are a small selection of images that won awards.

See all award winners here - <https://www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org/g/832ff6b4-2304-41b4-abc4->



*At left, Image of the year by Craig Colvin - Underwater Society*

*Below - Contemplation on Strength, Balance and Fragility by Irina Nekrasova*



*Healing Waters? Unhoused person sleeps under the Vaillancourt Fountain, Justin Herman Plaza, steps from San Francisco's Embarcadero*  
Image by Steve Green



*Avocets post mating ritual - Crossing of the Bills by Anar Daswani*



## End of Year Awards (continued)



*Sardine Catch, Taqah, Oman, by Bunny Laden*



*Woman outside her home is from the Hamar Tribe in the Omo Valley of Ethiopia, by Jerry Held*



*View of the Bridge, by Don Schremp*



*Sunrise on Moonscape Overlook, Utah, Rick Whitacre*



## Carolyn Ramsay Award Winner

Carolyn gave very generously of her time, talent and personal resources to anyone who had a need or interest in doing something at which she was already accomplished. Carolyn set the standard for a well functioning camera club and how to be a friendly, helpful and participating club member.

When she passed away May 2006, Carolyn left the club a monetary gift. To be considered for this award, a club member must:

- Demonstrate photographic skills by scoring amongst the highest point levels of the year in our competitions.
- Have held at least one officer position
- Helped the club with extra effort as such occasions arose.
- Always friendly and congenial.
- Work to improve the club's operation

Mercury Freedom - this year's winner has been a club member since 2014 and received awards in every competition category. He has been a key member of the Board of Directors and his welcoming personality has made it easier for new members to feel comfortable in our group. See a few of his images below.



Mercury America Freedom - 2022 Carolyn Ramsay Award Winner



## 10 Rules for Beginner Photographers

by Liam Collins, [petapixel.com](http://petapixel.com)

**Rule 1.** Hold the camera properly. Hold it with both hands and close to you. DO NOT hold at arm's length.

**Rule 2.** Use the viewfinder (if it has one). Do not use the LCD screen. DO NOT hold at arm's length.

**Rule 3.** ISO: How low can you go? Go as low as you can go without introducing camera shake (see Rule 4).

**Rule 4.** Shutter speed: 1/125 and above for everything. It gets rid of camera shake. The smaller the fraction the faster the motion captured can be. If you start to use longer lenses, then use the reciprocal rule in order to eliminate any camera shake: make sure the shutter speed is at least as fast as the reciprocal of the focal length you're using (i.e. one divided by that number).

**Rule 5.** Do not shoot in manual mode. It's too complicated for you, you don't need to know it. If Martin Parr doesn't bother using it, why should you? See video top right.

**Rule 6.** Composition: Study. Look at great photographers, study the history of photography, study all the other visual arts. Think about what is in the frame and what is not in the frame. If in doubt, see Joel Meyerowitz. Video just below.

**Rule 7.** It's all in the edit. I mean edit in both senses of the word — edit as in cut out the crap pictures and edit as in learn how to post process. Robert Frank took around 28,000 photographs for *The Americans*. The final book contains 83 pictures. I've worked it out – 99.7% of that project was left on the cutting room floor or in this case, the darkroom floor.

Post processing is easier and smarter than ever. With AI and computational photography swiftly advancing. Photoshop, Capture One, Affinity, Gimp, learn how to use one or several. It's not cheating and anyone who tells you it is, is either a liar or a bad photographer or both. People have been 'editing' photos in the darkroom since early in photography's history. Photography is not reality it just looks a lot like it. Learn how to do it well and don't make it obvious.

**Rule 8.** Point the camera at something you care about. Whether that is yourself, your family, friends, your pets, a burning injustice, a burning car, a classic miniature car. Alec Soth puts it best: "Try everything. Photojournalism, fashion, portraiture, nudes, whatever. You won't know what kind of photographer you are until you try it."

**Rule 9.** Technique is sometimes subjective. Think of Robert Frank's use of unconventional framing and exposure in *The Americans* and his later near total deconstruction of the medium. Or Trent Parke and Narelle Autio pushing film to its limits to create the grainy, high contrast images in *The Seventh Wave*.

**Rule 10.** Break the rules.





## Close-up Photographer of the Year

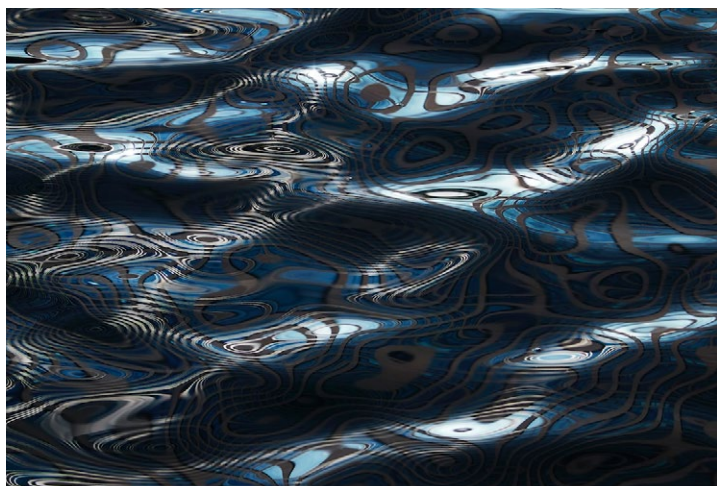
by Jessica Stewart, MyModernMet.com



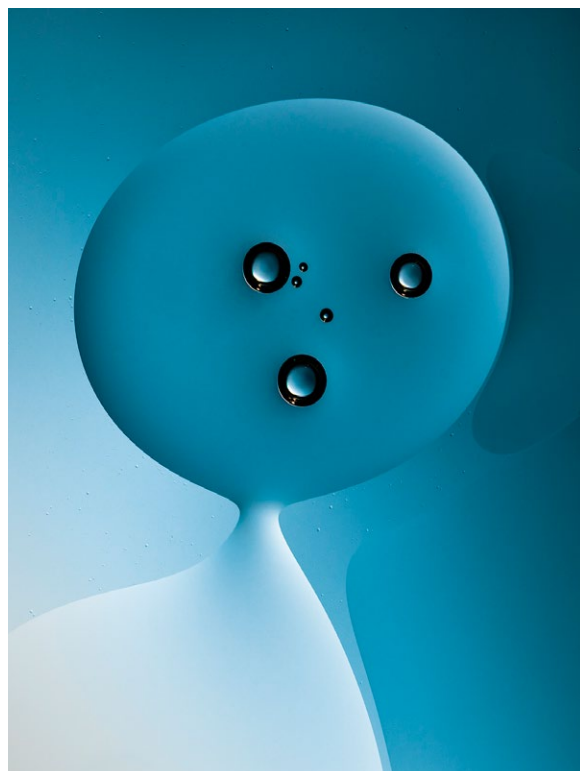
*"Nature's Pitfall" by Samantha Stephens (Canada). Overall winner and Winner Animals. "Northern Pitcher Plants (Sarracenia purpurea) are carnivorous, instead of drawing nutrients up through its roots, this plant relies on trapping prey in its specialized bell-shaped leaves, called pitchers. Typically, these plants feast on invertebrates – but one recently caught juvenile Spotted Salamanders.*

Canadian photographer Samantha Stephens was named Close-up Photographer of the Year 04 for her striking image of two salamanders being consumed by a carnivorous pitcher plant in Algonquin Provincial Park, Canada. Stephens' image beat out over 9,000 other entries from 54 countries to take home the title and cash prize of £2,500 (approximately \$3,000). Full article at:

<https://mymodernmet.com/cupoty-2022/>



*"Frequency" by Mike Curry (UK). Winner, Intimate Landscape. "This is a reflection of a building at Canary Wharf in London. The water was moving in a very fluid way and I shot with Sony RX100M6*



*"Oil & Water 44" by Matt Vacca (USA). Winner, Manmade. "This picture was captured as two drops of oil were merging.*



## Lensculture Black and White Photography Awards

By Mee-Lai Stone, [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

Black and White Photography Awards in Pictures - Full article here

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2023/jan/04/lensculture-black-and-white-photography-awards-in-pictures>



Patrice Quillard: *Gelada* (Juror pick, Singles) - 'During a trip to Ethiopia, I wanted to photograph these magnificent monkeys. The wind was strong that day. It seemed an obvious disadvantage but I realised that the weather became an asset in the long hairs of the large males. I spotted one who seemed particularly annoyed by the violent gusts blowing over the highlands. With each squall, his long hairs rose in all directions. There was this moment when his gaze went insistently in the direction of the wind with a grimace that seemed to express all his nervousness'



Jaume Llorens: *Starlings Take Flight* (3rd Place Winner, Singles)  
'This is a negative image of the moment when a flock of starlings took flight from poplars near the lake of Banyoles [in Catalonia].'



Cote Baeza Pooley: *Fury* (1st Place Winner, Singles)  
'This picture shows Calbuco, a volcano in southern Chile, erupting and making the surroundings look small even though they aren't.'



## Iconic Photo Back Story

### Explosions at the Boston Marathon - 10 years ago



*From Wikipedia -*

The Boston Marathon bombing was a domestic terrorist attack that took place during the annual Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013. Two terrorists, brothers Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, planted two homemade pressure cooker bombs, which detonated 14 seconds and 210 yards (190 m) apart at 2:49 p.m., near the finish line of the race, killing three people and injuring hundreds of others, including 17 who lost limbs.

Three days later, on April 18, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released images of two suspects. They were later identified as the Tsarnaev brothers, who were Chechen Kyrgyzstani-Americans. Following their identification, at 10:35 p.m., they killed an MIT policeman. At 11:00 p.m., they kidnapped a man in his car. At 12:15 a.m., on April 19, the man escaped. At 12:45 a.m., they had a shootout with the police in nearby Watertown, during which two officers were severely injured (one of whom, DJ Simmonds, died a year later). Tamerlan was shot several times, and his brother Dzhokhar ran him over while escaping in the stolen car. Tamerlan died soon after.

An unprecedented manhunt for Dzhokhar ensued with thousands of law enforcement officers searching a 20-block area of Watertown. Residents of Watertown and the transportation system and most businesses and

*Caption from CNN -*

*Boston Globe photographer John Tlumacki was near the finish line when 78-year-old runner Bill Iffrig was knocked down by the first explosion at the Boston Marathon on April 15. The bombings left three people dead and injured more than 100. Iffrig got up and finished the race. Tlumacki's image of the fallen runner was widely published and selected for the cover of "Sports Illustrated."*

surrounding communities were asked to stay indoors, and public places closed. Around 6:00 p.m., a Watertown resident discovered Dzhokhar hiding in a boat in his backyard. Dzhokhar was shot and wounded by police before being taken into custody.

During questioning, Dzhokhar said that he and his brother were motivated by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, that they were self-radicalized and unconnected to any outside terrorist groups, and that he was following his brother's lead. He said they learned to build explosive devices from the online magazine of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. He also said they had intended to travel to New York City to bomb Times Square. On April 8, 2015, he was convicted of 30 charges, including use of a weapon of mass destruction and malicious destruction of property resulting in death. See full article here [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston\\_Marathon\\_bombing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombing)

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## Kenya's Maasai Mara Wildlife Reserve

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From [atlasobscura.com](https://atlasobscura.com) by Sarah Durn

Along the shores of Lake Victoria in the southeastern corner of Kenya is one of Africa's greatest natural treasures, the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Stretching across 580 square miles of wilderness, the reserve is home to a diverse array of wildlife. Elephants stomp across the grasslands. Hippos bathe in the muddy banks of the Mara River, the park's only year-round water source. And lions prowl the plains looking for prey. Between July and August, the park plays host to one of the

largest annual animal migrations in the world. Known as the Great Migration, more than one million wildebeests, along with zebras and gazelles, travel from the Serengeti in Tanzania to the Maasai Mara in search of greener pastures during the dry season. The spectacle has been heralded as one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Wildlife photographers flock to the park year-round hoping to capture a moment in the Maasai Mara animals' lives. Whether it's a lioness carrying her squirming cub in her mouth or a leopard having a nice long stretch, the perfect shot takes patience, an excellent guide, and a good bit of luck. [Entire article here](#)



*Clockwise - Images by Abderazak Tissouka, Vicki Jauron, and Andrew Lui*

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### Great Photography Articles

HSL Adjustments with Pop - <https://fstoppers.com/lightroom/simple-technique-make-your-photos-pop-624199>

Video - New Masking Tools Lightroom - <https://fstoppers.com/lightroom/how-lightrooms-newest-tools-623472>

Video - Does Topaz Sharpen Work? - <https://fstoppers.com/photoshop/how-well-does-topaz-labs-new-photo-ai-sharpen>

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