

LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Volume 46 Issue 6 ► June 2024



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June 3 hybrid meeting, in-person/zoom

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*Featured Cover by Airdrie Kincaid
(see makers description on page 5)*

Notices and Coming Events

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

Next Competition - June 3rd - Zoom and In-person

Submission Rules – Members may enter a maximum of two projected images. On months with prints a total of three images can be entered into a 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.

Our meeting judge for June will be Ian Bornath. Ian has a BS in Photography from the Rochester Institute of Technology and an MFA in Photography from the Hartford Art School. Additionally, he taught photography at a college level for 20 years at multiple universities in both Connecticut and California. He has taught classes in portrait, journalism, studio, architecture and landscape. Website: <https://www.ianbornath.com/>

Categories for June- Besides the monthly categories of monochrome and color – the two challenge categories will be Journalism and Travel.

Journalism Prints

- 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 those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
- The title should give the location and complement the story and is restricted to 200 characters including spaces in this category. . . . [MORE](#)

Travel Prints/Projected

A Travel image is a portrayal of the real world we live in, as it is found naturally. There are no geographic limitations.

Content guidance:

1. If the image is predominantly or exclusively a land-, sea- or cityscape, these “scapes” must include characteristic, distinctive and recognizable physical features, although it is not necessary that the image identify the exact location;
2. Images that predominantly or exclusively depict people and their activities must illustrate a distinctive culture of a country, region, or continent;
3. Images that predominately or exclusively depict animal populations are allowed, if the animals are in their native environment and are characteristic of that country, region, or continent;
4. Portraits or other close-ups of people or . . . [MORE](#)

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Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For 2024 prints will be judged in:

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](#)

June Field Trip - Point Lobos



Point Lobos Image by Eric Gray

Check out the [Calendar](#) for the information about the Field Trip on June 22nd!

Point Lobos is a great destination for you to enjoy the style of photography you like: landscape, seascape, nature, flowers, birds, animals.

Date: June 22 (Saturday)

Time: 9am to 1 pm

Paul Dileanis, Professional Photographer, will be on site to provide guidance on your specific type of photography.

Hands-on Photo Editing Session with Debbie Sy - register to attend Tuesday, June 18, 4-6 pm at the Saratoga Library.

How to Register: - Log into the club website, Click on the event under “calendar”. Questions, email [here](#)

New retiree and a new adventure! I joined the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club nine months ago and photographing birds, especially Egrets and Hummingbirds, has become my new passion, thanks to my amazing fellow members who share their time and knowledge freely. There is something magical that happens when I'm in nature; in the stillness, I hear the birds, forget about what is going on in the world and am aware of the beauty that surrounds me.

“Besides loving bird photography, I also enjoy monochrome, landscape and macro photography”



I began my photography journey later in life. I took a Nikon DSLR class at 48 and eventually learned to shoot in manual. I continued to take classes now and then, but between raising a teenager as a single mom and working full-time as a Learning & Management Systems Administrator, my camera sat in the closet most of the time.

During this time, I discovered I really liked taking photos of people and took a portrait photography class. At one time, I thought that if I become good enough, I would become a professional portrait photographer. However, I learned that being paid for my photography added stress and took away some of the enjoyment. Then I decided landscape and macro photography might be more enjoyable and I dabbled in both.

I retired in April 2024. I joined the club and bought a Nikon Z8 mirrorless camera. I had no idea how complicated this camera would be! I spent two weeks on YouTube learning how to setup my camera – geez! – and another week learning what settings to use for bird photography. Photography is not learned in a day or even years.

Besides loving bird photography, I also enjoy monochrome, landscape and macro photography. Now that I'm retired, I'm looking forward to improving my photography skills, using opportunities to challenge those skills, and sharing what I have learned with other fellow club members who have a passion for photography.



May Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Iris in my Garden, Charles Rath,
Monochrome Projected

The Iris in my front yard landscaping has reliably produced flowers for many years. I saw it during the last hour before the sun set, its illuminated petals the perfect lure and knew what had to be done. Handheld, mindful not to overexpose the brilliant white flower, I underexposed with a 1/1500 second shutter speed, an f/9.5 to increase the depth of field, at ISO 100. The post processing adjustments revealed the highlights and tamed the background. Equipment used: Sony a6000, Tamron 50-400mm (A067) 97mm (crop sensor field of view equivalent 145mm October 13, 2019, at 6:04 pm.

Used my Samsung Galaxy Active 8, lens at 35 mm equivalent of 26mm, 1/30 of a second, f/1.7, ISO 160.

Tipsy, Irina Nekrasova, Color Projected ▶

Using a Light Painting technique allows me to creatively explore the interplay between various objects in my still life photography.

Multiple layers are processed manually in Photoshop to achieve my vision of the final image.

Canon, f18, ISO 100, 70 mm, variable shutter speeds



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



◀ Preserving a labor intensive craft dating back to the 6th Century, modern day Samurai sword makers work in a team to heat the iron and hammer it into shape,
Pam Perkins, Journalism Projected

On a recent trip to Japan we visited a forge where we could photograph swordsmiths making Samurai swords. In the sword-making process, the steel mass is heated, hammered, and folded repeatedly in order to combine the iron and carbon and draw out the remaining impurities in the metal. The impurities fly in an explosion of sparks when the hammer crashes down. My goal was to capture the explosion of sparks.

I used my Leica SL2 with a 24-70 Vario-Elmarit lens. 1/10, f8, ISO 800.

Roseate spoonbills (*Platalea ajaja*) crossing bills during courtship display Airdrie Kincaid, Nature Projected ▶

High Island on the Bolivar Peninsula in Texas sits atop a salt dome about 45 feet above the sea level and is a haven for birds especially during spring migration across the Gulf of Mexico. Houston Audubon has four bird sanctuaries there. This was taken from a platform across from an island rookery in the Smith Oaks Bird Sanctuary as waterbirds arrived in the evening to roost for the night. Roseate Spoonbills get their pink coloration from the foods they eat and are found along southeastern coast of the United States, in Mexico, and in Central and South America. Spoonbill courtship includes dancing, bill clapping, bill crossing, and exchanging nest material. On April 14, 2024, other species in the rookery including great and snowy egrets and Neotropic cormorants were past the courtship stage with eggs on the nests or chicks hatched.



Canon EOS R5 camera Sigma150-600mm lens at 600.0 mm exposure 1/1600 f/8.0 ISO 1000

May Second Place Competition Winners



Run! College students compete for annual women's 400m track at Stanford in April, 2024, Kelly Zhang, Journalism Projected



These boots are made for stalking, Pam Perkins, Monochrome Projected



Black-crowned night herons building their nest. The female (on the left) will place the stick in an appropriate position in the nest. The male just brought the nesting material to the female, Anar Daswani, Nature Projected



Wistful, Serena Hartoog, Color Projected.

[All results and images from a competition can be seen on the website or by clicking here.](#)

Club Program Night with Becky Jaffe

by Editor Eric Gray

Our program speaker for May 20th was photographer and educator, Becky Jaffe. She exhibits her photography in over forty galleries and museums nationwide, curates multimedia exhibits in community art centers and teaches “Art of Seeing” courses for fine art photographers. <https://www.beckyjaffephotography.com>

Becky’s topic for May was *Seeing Beyond* “What Kind of Camera Did You Use”. Joining in were 49 club members as she described different inspirations for taking a series of photos with the camera she has at hand. Her series on giving birth to twins was published in an international photography magazine and her images are often seen in LensWork magazine.

This program was recorded and already reviewed by club member Rick Varley. He says “Becky Jaffe is without a doubt one of the most creative and interesting people with words and a camera that I have ever seen and heard. What an inspiration!”

To watch the recording click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbOvtMcLjAY>

I look; morning to
night I am never
done with looking.
Looking I mean
not just standing
around, but
standing around
as though with
your arms open.

– Mary Oliver



Becky often pairs her poems or those of others with her images and they evoke the same senses as a fine wine with dinner.



Flower and stems frozen in water - from her freezer to iPhone images - an experimental series



From a series about her friend giving birth. She chose an iPhone to be less intrusive.

Member Styles - The Art of Light Painting

I hope to make this space a monthly feature offering insight to how a member thinks about their photography style and the sharing of tips. — Eric from member Irina Nekrasova

The technique I use in my still life photography is called light painting. Why? Well, this is one of several techniques in photography, which allows the photographer to create artistic and/or creative images.

What is light painting? Light painting is the art of setting long exposure times on a camera and using a moving light source to “paint.” Practiced since the 1880s, the technique is used for both scientific and artistic purposes, as well as in commercial photography.

One has to expose image details in dark or near-dark conditions. In this technique, the shutter is held open for seconds as you walk through the scene adding light from sources such as a LED flashlight or LED panel. Multiple exposure images are opened as layers in Photoshop. At this point I employ a masking technique to reveal all the details in the image. Your camera, lens, computer, and light sources are no more than simple tools employed in carving out light, shadows and texture in your image.

The process is similar to focus stacking in principle and I have to admit, this type of photography is time consuming. The reward is a hand crafted image created at will - by you! It is easy to surmise that there no instant gratification to be found here. Remember — challenging yourself leads to growth!



The light painted image at left is titled – Japanese Still life

Irina's image below is titled – Spilled Essence



Club Workshop – Panorama Photography

by member Larry Shapiro

The panoramic workshop began with a Zoom session where we discussed the equipment needed and how to capture images for panorama creation. We discussed how to merge the images into a panorama in both Lightroom Classic and Photoshop. The field session was two days later. The first site was the San Jose City Hall. This unusual round dome building and the curved walkways afforded the eight participants many views to test their new knowledge of panoramic creation. After about an hour and a half, we moved to the next site, the Alviso Marina County Park. It was a beautiful morning, the bay was sparkling, the water near the shoreline was a range of reds due to the salt and algae and the bonus was the numerous flowers in bloom along the shore. Ten days later a Zoom session was held to review the photos.

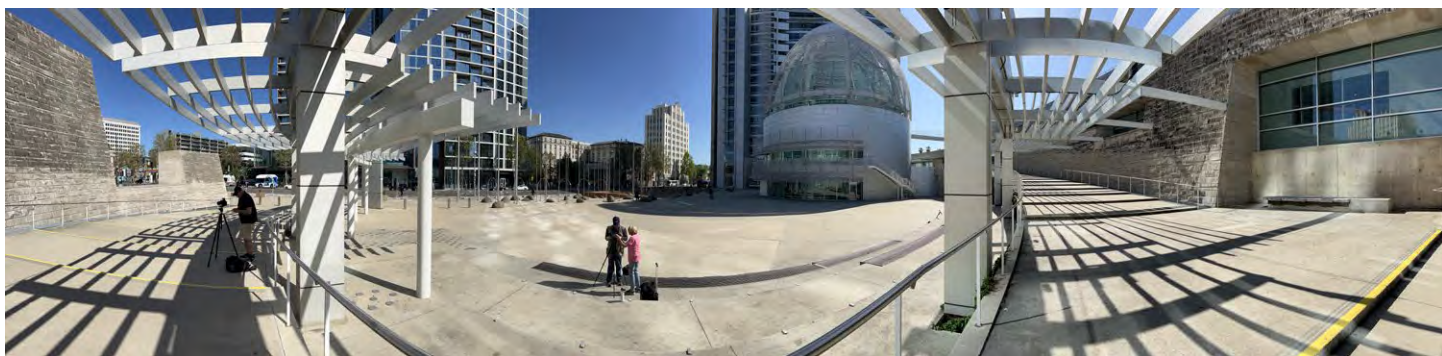


Image by Debbie Sy



Image by Paola Valenzuela

Birding Interest Group goes to Rancho San Antonio Park

by member Charles Rath

Based on a tip from a friend, members of the club's Bird Special Interest Group (BirdSIG) went to Rancho San Antonio Park & Open Space, in the hills above Cupertino and Los Altos in April to see two Great Horned Owl nests. One a short distance from the parking lot was in a Eucalyptus tree and the second was in a barn at Deer Hollow Farm, about one mile from the first nest. Both nests were occupied by a parent and two owlets. Everyone got some captures under very challenging light conditions though in both nests one owlet was hidden by the parent. Several members revisited the sites with better luck on additional captures. Members attending the field trip were Jim Schofield (leader), Mercury Freedom, David Kirsch, Susan Lane, Charlie Rath, and Kelly Zhang. The BirdSIG meets via Zoom once a month (and is listed on the LGSCC calendar). All club members are welcome to drop in see the images we share of birds both local and from trips around the world by our members. The link to the Zoom meeting is always included on the calendar.



Image by Jim Schofield



Image by Susan Lane



Image by Jim Schofield



Image above by Oscar Gustave Rejlander. In 1857 he made his best-known allegorical work, *The Two Ways of Life*. This was a seamlessly montaged combination print made of thirty-two images over about six weeks. First exhibited at the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition of 1857, the work shows two youths being offered guidance by a patriarch. Each youth looks toward a section of a stage-like tableaux vivant - one youth is shown the virtuous pleasures and the other the sinful pleasures.

Image and story from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Listofphoto>

Oscar Gustave Rejlander (Stockholm, 19 October 1813 – Clapham, London, 18 January 1875) was a pioneering Victorian art photographer and an expert in photomontage. His collaboration with Charles Darwin on *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* has assured him a position in the history of behavioral science and psychiatry. He set up as a painter in the industrial Midlands town of Wolverhampton, probably around 1846. In the early 1850s he learned the wet-collodion and waxed-paper processes at great speed with Nicholas Henneman in London, and then changed his business to that of a photography studio. He undertook genre work and portraiture. Rejlander also produced nude studies, mainly for use as studies by painters, and later it was revealed that his early work was made with the aid of a local troupe of theatrical performers.

Rejlander undertook many experiments to perfect his photography, including combination printing, which he did not invent; however, he created more elaborate and convincing composite photographs than any prior photographer. He had articles featured in the *Wolverhampton Chronicle* newspaper. On 15 November 1854 an article

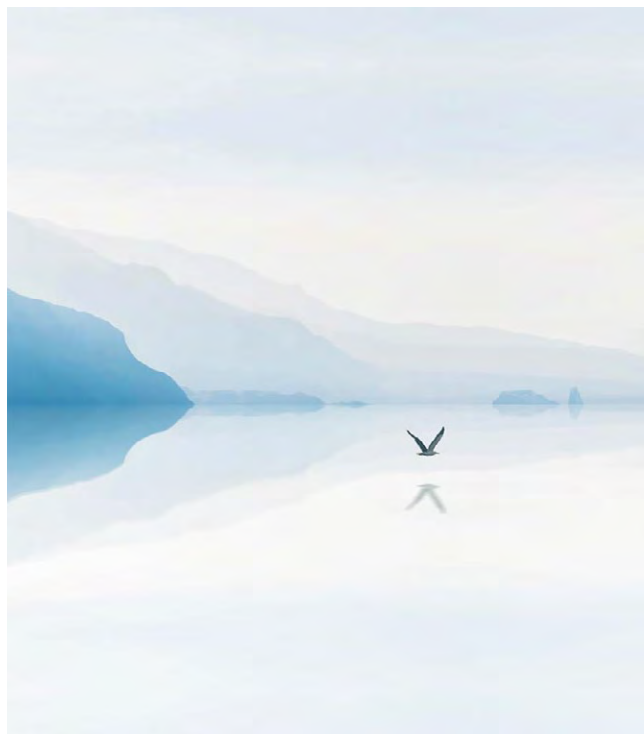
called "Improvement in Calotypes, by Mr. O.G. Rejlander, of Wolverhampton" suggests that by 1854 he was experimenting with combination printing from several negatives. He was a friend of photographer Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (better known by the pen name Lewis Carroll), who collected Rejlander's work and corresponded with him on technical matters.

The image above was a seamlessly montaged combination print made of thirty-two images (akin to the use of Photoshop today, but then far more difficult to achieve) in about six weeks. First exhibited at the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition of 1857, the work shows a man being lured to paths of vice or virtue by good and bad angels. The image's partial nudity, which showed real women as they actually appeared and not the idealised forms then common in Victorian art, was deemed 'indecent' by some. Rejlander was also accused of using prostitutes as models, although Rejlander categorically denied this and no proof was ever offered. Reservations about the work subsided when Queen Victoria ordered a 10-guinea copy to give to Prince Albert. Victoria and Albert would go on to purchase three copies of the work, all of which are now lost.

Photographers to Watch— Niko Lator

From 121clicks.com - [link to entire article here](#) Niko's Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/nikolator/>

In the world of photography, where complexity often reigns supreme, there exists a captivating niche that celebrates simplicity and elegance: minimalist photography. Niko Lator, a talented photographer with a distinct vision, has embraced this artistic approach, creating images that are both striking in their simplicity and profound in their impact.



Great Photography Articles

Video – Removing background distractions - [Matt K video](#)

Rich Landscapes - <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/beauty-of-landscape-photography-marco-capitanio>

Is Technology Destroying Photography? - <https://backcountrygallery.com/is-technology-destroying-photography/>

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