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August 5 meeting, in-person and zoom

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*Featured Cover by Betty Toepfer
(see makers description on page 6)*

Notices and Coming Events

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

Next Competition - August 5 - in person and Zoom

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 August will be Michael Fredrich. He says - “I look for impact and creativity, but also for images that are more subtle and might grow on me over time. I ask myself, what would I want to hang on my wall? I appreciate the “rules”, but I like to see them broken in interesting ways.”

Categories for August- Besides the monthly categories of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Creative and Nature prints as well as Creative and Nature projected.

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”. Images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit. The image should have strong composition, pleasing quality, and color, texture, pattern, and/or tone impact. The appropriateness of the technique selected to create altered reality is . . . [MORE](#)

Nature

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

- Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life/welfare of a living organism are not allowed.
- The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are . . . [MORE](#)

Print Competitions Schedule

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

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](#)

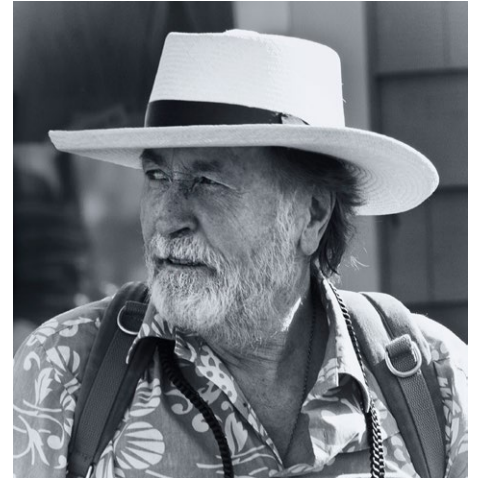


2021 Creative Image by Mary Ellen Kaschub



2019 Travel Image by Ling-Kuo Lee

I'm a retired research scientist and technology consultant. I spent most of my professional career at IBM. Just after the turn of the century I decided work was overrated. That was about the time the digital photography revolution was taking off. I was a casual photographer, making photos of vacations and kids' birthday parties. But my interest was piqued by the new technology. I quickly found that I was fascinated both by making images with the camera and post-processing in image editing programs. I was hooked.



Harlan's portrait by David Couzens

“fascinated both by making images with the camera and post-processing in image editing programs”

My professional career often required traveling worldwide which I thoroughly enjoyed. Extended travel was a drag for some people; for me, it was an adventure.

So not surprisingly my real photographic passion is travel. I love going to new places and making images of people and their environments. Recent excursions include Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Patagonia, and the villages and towns along the Rhine River.

I made my all-time favorite photo at a nighttime block party in a working class neighborhood in Trinidad, Cuba. Several of us set up a small portable printer and started making portraits of the local kids. The place went wild; these kids had never seen a photo of themselves. I made the decisive-moment image of a young girl showing her first photograph to her mother. By the end of the evening the mothers were holding the photos tight. We weren't just making photos; we were making family heirlooms.

I am not a professional photographer, but I get my work out to a wider audience through online open calls, competitions and themed exhibitions.



First Photograph - Trinidad, Cuba



Aloft - Bagan, Myanmar

July Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Happy Independence Day from New York City's Rockefeller Center, Rick Varley, Color Projected

I took three photos of this scene, one mono and two in color, and I almost entered this photo in mono as there was such a striking difference between light and dark, but hey, it's the 4th of July and our colors were required. After spending a couple of hours photographing New York City with a beautiful sunset from the Top of The Rock, we descended to ground level and 30 Rock Plaza to look up and appreciate the grandeur of this 73 story tall, 1936 art deco masterpiece known as Rockefeller Center.

As a 15 year old, I remember a trip to New York City, and seeing this building and thinking - How is something so big and beautiful created? The plaza on this night was surrounded by American flags and the wind was quite breezy. For some reason I thought if I waited for what was the perfect moment with blowing, billowing flags (doesn't really matter) that it would be, as luck would have it, a great photo.

Nikon Coolpix 7700, handheld, night scene, 1/50 sec. @ f2, 28mm, ISO 800

Territory Dispute. A rare sight of a leucistic acorn woodpecker (one in 30,000) being attacked by an acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*). Spring 2024, Kelly Zhang, Nature Projected ▶

This image was taken by pure luck. I was photographing a leucistic acorn woodpecker when another acorn woodpecker suddenly attacked. Maybe it was over a territorial dispute, maybe it was just trying to pick on the leucistic acorn woodpecker. Everything happened so fast and I only realized this moment was captured when I reviewed images on the PC back home. The image was captured by Sony A1 with 600mm fixed lens and a 1.4x converter.



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



◀ While Defending the Cheyenne Way of Life, Custer State Park, South Dakota, Betty Toepfer, Journalism Projected

The Black Hills of South Dakota. Custer State Park, Site of “Custer’s Last Stand” where the Lakota and Cheyenne annihilated Custer and his entire forces in less than an hour. The Indians retrieved most of their dead. They stripped and mutilated their dead enemy. Those who remained on the battlefield, both Indian and American, were buried where they fell. Later that year, the Black Hills were ceded back to the United States so that food would continue to the reservation, or they would starve. This exchange is still unresolved.

My image is of a head stone which reads - Kavehe Onahe, “Limber Limbs”, a Cheyenne warrior who fell here on June 25, 1876 while defending the Cheyenne way of life.

I always process my images beginning with finding the white point and black point, then shadows and highlights, some texture and clarity, then adding a slight vignette.

Camera reading, 28mm, 1/8 sec, f11, ISO 200

Triste, Sue Anawalt, Monochrome Projected ▶

I named this portrait Triste (Sad in French). This very young woman seemed vulnerable and sad to me. She was modeling in a class I took. We were each allowed a bit of time alone with her. While she had a darling smile, I wanted to capture that element of wistfulness and sadness I saw and I felt was rare in someone so yet in her youth. So during my time I talked a while allowing her to smile and relax. Then I asked her to look at me directly, and think about something which was on her mind. This was the shot I got.

Her makeup was not in conjunction with her skin tones. I made a mask of her face and reduced the clarity a little and desaturated the color so her neck and face skin would match up. I worked on the texture of her hair and brought out her pupils a little. I also decided to leave the birth mark in. I rarely take out permanent characteristics of anyone. Finally, I converted the image to black and white in Silver Efex Pro.



July Second Place Competition Winners



*Clockwise - Weston Beach Afternoon, Eric Gray,
Pride Parade - beautiful hair, Sue Anawalt
Door Dash in air, Kelly Zhang,
Los Gatos Music and Arts, Charles Rath*



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

Member Styles - Birding Photography

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 Anar Daswani

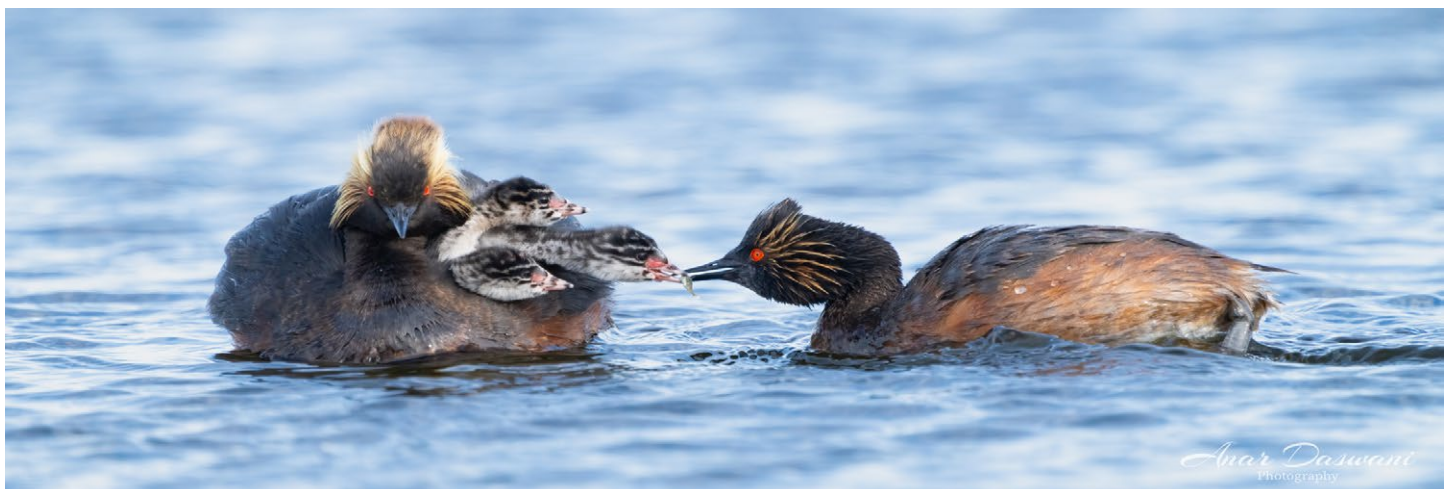
I am drawn to the gentler aspects of nature such as birds building nests, taking care of their young, etc. My approach is to get familiar with an area. I go to a location that I think might have some birds and sit quietly in that location for a while. The birds eventually get used to your presence and go about doing their normal activities.

Bird photography requires time, patience and persistence. There have been numerous times when I have come back without a single image that I would save. Also, one mistake I see quite often is people going to take photos at the wrong time of day. Even if you capture some interesting activity, if the light is bad, the image will not be appealing. Golden hour is amazing for bird photography.

I use a Sony A1 camera, a Sony 200-600 mm lens and sometimes a 1.4x teleconverter. The Sony A1 is an amazing camera for wildlife photography. It is really good at acquiring focus and supports a burst rate of 30 fps. This all helps with capturing fast moving birds.



At left, Barn swallow feeds chick. Just below, male Brandt Cormorant displays for the females and at bottom, Eared Grebes care for their young.



Bay Area Athletes at the Olympic Games

reduced edit from Rae Alexandra - KQED.org

Here are many of the incredible Bay Area athletes who'll be competing in Paris.

Artistic swimming

Jacklyn Luu (Milpitas/Stanford)

Badminton

Kerry and Annie Xu (San José/UC Berkeley)

Jennie Gai (Fremont)

Joshua Yuan (San Mateo)

Decathlon

Harrison Williams (Stanford)

Fencing

Alexander Massialas (San Francisco/Stanford)

Gerek Meinhardt (San Francisco)

Kiteboarding

Daniela Moroz (Lafayette)

Long jump

Malcolm Clemons (Oakland)

Kiteboarding

Daniela Moroz (Lafayette)

Long jump

Malcolm Clemons (Oakland)

Rowing

Ben Davison (Oakland)

Sorin Koszyk (Oakland)

Soccer

Tierna Davidson (Menlo Park/Stanford)

Naomi Girma (San José/Stanford)

Table tennis

Rachel Sung (San José)

Kanak Jha (Milpitas)

Water polo

Jewel Roemer (Martinez), Jenna Flynn (San José/Stanford)

How to watch: Paris is nine hours ahead of us, which means its opening parade will start at 10:30am for the Bay Area. Coverage of the ceremony will air on NBC and Peacock.

See entire article here <https://www.kqed.org/news/11993783/paris-2024-olympic-games-san-francisco-bay-area-athletes>

Photo: Katie Leddecki, Stanford by A.J. Mast/ NCAA Photos via Getty Images

Badminton - Twins, Kerry and Annie Xu, San José-born, UC Berkeley graduates, by Pablo Vera/AFP via Getty Images.

Kite Boarding - Daniela Moroz, Lafayette by Clive Mason/Getty Images



So What About all Those Photoshop File Types

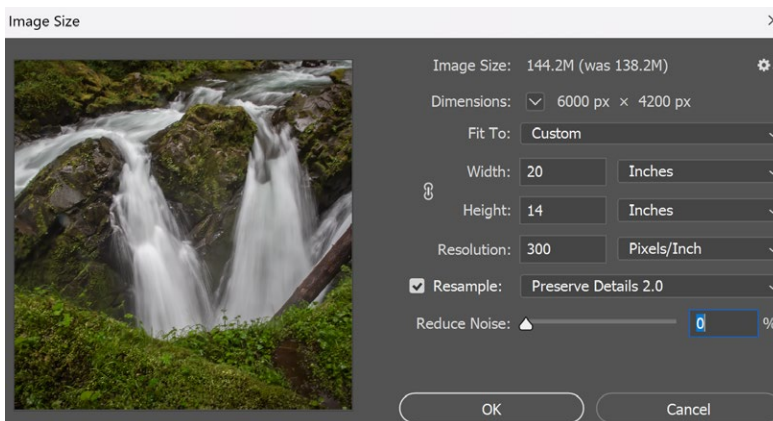
by Eric Gray

If you have ever used the - FILE SAVE AS - choice in Photoshop or Lightroom you will see a challenging list of file types to use. Some of these are for graphics professionals and offset printers but several are useful for photographers. The real key when saving is to think about who will open this file now or in the future. See file types and uses at bottom.

If you are sending to Bay Photo or some similar photographic printer I would double check my image size to be sure the resolution is set to somewhere between 240 and 300 dpi at the final size of my print and save as a TIFF, or PDF. Bay and others use high resolution inkjet printers to print on your choice of photographic papers. (See Image Size screen below.)

If you are saving for competition or to send in an email or text to Aunt Martha then JPEG would be the universal choice. The big difference in email or text vs printing is resolution and number of colors that can be viewed or printed. A Jpeg is a much, much smaller file and usually resolution choice would be 72dpi at competition size 1920 x 1200 pixels which yields a maximum of 256 colors. That also is plenty big for email that is not being printed.

A TIFF or PDF can be saved at very high resolutions in the 1000's if your original file can support that level of clarity and if you had a special use for that file. TIFF also offers up to 16 Million colors for viewing and printing. When using the image size dialog box with a TIFF being sent to print, be sure "Resample with Preserve Details 2.0" is checked and don't use reduce noise.



Photoshop (*.PSD;*.PDD;*.PSDT)

Large Document Format (*.PSB)

BMP (*.BMP;*.RLE;*.DIB)

Dicom (*.DCM;*.DC3;*.DIC)

Photoshop EPS (*.EPS)

Photoshop DCS 1.0 (*.EPS)

Photoshop DCS 2.0 (*.EPS)

GIF (*.GIF)

IFF Format (*.IFF;*.TDI)

JPEG (*.JPG;*.JPEG;*.JPE)

JPEG 2000 (*.JPF;*.JPX;*.JP2;*.J2C;*

JPEG Stereo (*.JPS)

Multi-Picture Format (*.MPO)

PCX (*.PCX)

Photoshop PDF (*.PDF;*.PDP)

Photoshop Raw (*.RAW)

Pixar (*.PXR)

PNG (*.PNG;*.PNG)

Portable Bit Map (*.PBM; PFM;*.PAM)

Scitex CT (*.SCT)

Targa (*.TGA;*.VDA;*.ICB;*.VST)

TIFF (*.TIF;*.TIFF)

WebP (*.WEBP)

Only available to Photoshop users

Files larger than 1 GByte

Older Windows file

Medical Imaging files

Encapsulated Postscript Large files

For Offset Printing Staff

For Offset Printing Staff

Small size images for web

Electronic Gaming industry file

Standard web, sharing - only 256 colors

Better quality JPEG but not universal

3D imaging file

Stereoscopic images

Old DOS Imaging Standard

Universal multi resolution, print standard needs reader

Unprocessed raw sensor files

Animated 3D files

Portable Network Graphic - can have clear background

For programmers - black-and-white images

Native file pro scanners

Old DOS image file

Supports layers, 16M colors, prints, large files

Web use small files, loads faster

Iconic Photo Back Story



Cindy Sherman's conceptual self-portraits challenge traditional notions of identity, gender, and representation. By transforming herself into various characters and archetypes, Sherman critiques societal norms and the role of media in shaping perceptions. Her groundbreaking work in the series "Untitled Film Stills" and subsequent projects have made her one of the most influential contemporary artists, reshaping the landscape of art and photography.

Story from [Wikipedia](#)

Cynthia Morris Sherman (born January 19, 1954) is an American artist whose work consists primarily of photographic self-portraits, depicting herself in many different contexts and as various imagined characters.

Her breakthrough work is often considered to be the collection *Untitled Film Stills*, a series of 70 black-and-white photographs of herself evoking typical female roles in performance media (especially arthouse films and popular B-movies).

The artist poses in different roles (librarians, hillbillies, and seductresses), and settings (streets, yards, pools, beaches, and interiors), producing a result reminiscent of stills typical of Italian neorealism or American film noir of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

She explained to *The New York Times* in 1990, "I feel I'm anonymous in my work. When I look at the pictures, I never see myself; they aren't self-portraits. Sometimes I disappear." She describes her process as intuitive, and that she responds to elements of a setting such as light, mood, location, and costume, and will continue to change external elements until she finds what she wants.

She has said of her process, "I think of becoming a different person. I look into a mirror next to the camera...it's trance-like. By staring into it I try to become that character through the lens ... When I see what I want, my intuition takes over—both in the 'acting' and in the editing. Seeing that other person that's up there, that's what I want. It's like magic." Awards 1995: MacArthur Fellowship, Induction into the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum

Photographers to Watch— Anastasia Samoylova

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anastasia_Samoylova her website <https://www.anasamoylova.com/>

Anastasia Samoylova's work investigate changes in the landscape of coastal cities in the United States and beyond. Her work is mainly focused on South Florida, where she is based, and Miami Beach architectural landmarks such as the Shore Apartments take part in her artistic oeuvre. Recent presentations of Samoylova's work were exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; C/O Berlin, Germany; Fundación MAPFRE, Spain; George Eastman Museum, New York; Chrysler Museum of Art, Virginia; The Photographers' Gallery, London; and Kunst Haus Wien, Austria, among others.



[Great Photography Articles](#)

Olympic Venues - <https://olympics.com/en/news/discover-iconic-sports-history-venues-paris-2024>

Matt K Removing Distractions - [best ways to remove distractions](#)

Poetry Camera - <https://techcrunch.com/2024/04/20/poetry-camera/>

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