



Vignettes 160

December 15th, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. I hope you enjoyed JP Stones's Zoom talk on Monday night all the way from Mexico. A very healthy 35 members joined the session, one of the biggest Zoom turnouts we've had which was really good to see. It was a fascinating insight into how to approach image taking in creating a clear and cohesive story to the picture. In effect the conversion of Aesthetics into Narrative as the driving force by a combination of self generated rules of thumb and a keen eye for detail. All this was demonstrated through the use of indigenous local people in traditional dress from the locality. It was also good to hear how JP's journey into what he is doing today was influenced by photographers including Gregory Crewdson
<https://gagosian.com/artists/gregory-crewdson/>.

Nothing like a bit of a 'reset' if you get too seduced into the trap of making pretty pictures to satisfy a competition judge. If nothing else, I hope the evening made you think.

Two similar questions came up after the talk on the issue of using titles and written description in promoting the Narrative, the latter of course being part of the required written narrative to accompany an ARPS distinction application. Here's an image below by Gregory Crewdson (part of an exhibition) which is titled and comes with an interesting written narrative - certainly one which draws you in.



Works Exhibited



Gregory Crewdson, *Redemption Center*, 2018-19

'These pictures are a meditation on brokenness, a search, a longing, and a yearning for meaning and transcendence. The figures are surrounded by vast decaying industrial landscapes and the impinging nature—and there's a certain underlying suggestion of anxiety. But I hope in the end the theme of nature persisting, and of figures seeking out light, offers hope for renewal, even redemption.' Gregory Crewdson

Answers on a postcard on what a camera club comp judge would make of it!!

Next week - Tuesday 20th Dec, 7.00 at the Greyhound, Siddington

Look forward to seeing everyone next week. Get those thinking hats on for the quiz.

Meet the new member – Jean Thirkettle

This week it's the turn of our new lady members, Jean Thirkettle and Daphne Neale. Here's Jean:

Hi Martyn. Thanks for getting in contact. Here's a bit about me which I hope helps:

I've always enjoyed taking photographs but, until recently, I haven't had the head space to understand the technical aspects of using my camera off automatic. It's been rather a hit and miss thing so far.

My kit comprises:

Canon 5D Mark IV

Canon lenses

EF 24-70 f2.8

EF 70-300 f4-f5.6

EF 17-35 f2.8

EF 100 f2.8 macro

I also have a Panasonic LUMIX 2500 bridge camera which I bought to travel with.

My main interest is travel, nature and wildlife though I'm always fascinated by the endless shapes and colours of sunsets and clouds. A friend has a studio in Swindon and, if I'm lucky, I join him on TF shoots. We often experiment with light effects and objects and I've realised that well placed lighting can make the difference between an average and a great photo.

Our Monday evening club meetings are a good platform for me to learn (and there is plenty to learn) in an informal and friendly environment. Observing photos presented in the various

competitions (and in particular the recent Cheltenham CISP) was inspirational and I can see the direction my photos need to take which is a good starting point. Alongside this I am trying to get to grips with LRC and Photoshop so I'm one of the resizing offenders!

Jean (must try harder!)

Thanks Jean. Glad to see that you are in the Canon 'club'! Here's Daphne:

Meet the new member – Daphne Neal

Hi Martyn. Thank you for your email. I'm delighted to be a new member of CCC and here is a bit about myself.

My name is Daphne Neale and I've lived in Ashton Keynes for almost 40 years

Photography is a hobby but I take my camera everywhere I go . I love taking photos of nature and landscapes. I have a Nikon D3000 camera but sadly it's not working at the moment so I'm hoping Santa is going to upgrade it for a newer model !

Before Covid I was a member of Cricklade camera club but I thought it was time for a change and now I've joined CCC I'm looking forward to meeting new people and improving my photographic skills.

Regards

Daphne

Thanks Daphne - a Nikon that doesn't work eh? What can I say. See if you can persuade Santa to buy you a Canon! Actually, the transition from film to digital was the primary driver behind the cameras many of us now own as, whilst the film camera body became redundant, the lenses didn't and could be used on the new DSLR's. So, we just kept the lenses and carried on with the same camera brand in its digital SLR format. For those DSLR owners who didn't own film cameras, the 'which DSLR to buy' debate rages on.....! A couple of years ago we had a local camera retailer give us a talk on Nikon Vs. Canon. Rather predictably, it resulted in a draw!

Ever thought the judge was right?

For those of you who attended the last competition, you might remember seeing an image by Paul Jones, 'St Luke's Church', which was awarded a Highly Commended. The judge commented that he would have preferred to see more of the church and, as luck would have it, the snow we had over the weekend gave Paul the opportunity to revisit the scene of the crime. Here's the comp image:



Here's Paul

Hi Martyn, When the last judge said 'take a step to the right' I thought 'fat chance' in terms of the conditions. Little did I know, the attached taken when there was still snow falling heavily this morning.

best wishes ... Paul

P.S. I tried again around midday when the fall was lighter but still not the clarity I was hoping for.



So there you go. Nicely framed. The judge had a point albeit this time the flat light and low cloud weren't doing Paul any favours. Have you ever been back to a scene for after receiving a comp judge's comments?

Miscellaneous

Lightroom Tip

Brian Dinnage has been in touch with a Lightroom tip from 'Light Stalking' <https://www.lightstalking.com/> plus a link through to some training.

*One effective way to improve a flat photo in Lightroom is to use the **dodging and burning** tools to bring out a center of interest. Dodging and burning refers to the technique of selectively lightening and darkening specific areas of a photograph to create more depth and dimension. By carefully applying these adjustments, you can **draw the viewer's eye** to the part of the image that you want to highlight and create a more striking composition.*

To use the dodging and burning tools in Lightroom, open the Develop module and select the Brush in the masking panel. Then, adjust the brush size and exposure to suit your needs. You can also use the Highlights, Shadows, and Midtones sliders in the toolbar to fine-tune the effect.

Usually (but not always) you will want to make your center of interest slightly brighter than the surrounds.

When dodging and burning, it's helpful to make your adjustments gradually and to keep an eye on the overall composition of the image. Don't be afraid to experiment and see what works best for your particular photo.

One person who using dodging and burning and other adjustments extremely effectively to [bring out the details in flat photos](#) is [Matt Kloskowski](#).

<https://mattk.com/light/>

If you're interested in learning more about how to use these techniques and many other to improve flat photos in Lightroom in the same way that Matt does, we highly recommend checking out his ["No Light No Problem"](#) Lightroom course.

Clumsy lion cub wins Comedy Wildlife Photo Awards 2022 (CWPA)

Here's something after my own heart. The winner of the Comedy Wildlife Photo Awards (CWPA) 2022 has been awarded to Texas-based photographer Jennifer Hadley for her image Not so cat-like reflexes. Taken in the Serengeti in Tanzania, Jennifer just happened to be in the right place at the right time when a young lion cub made an ungraceful descent from a tree. Cats falling from trees is unusual, but luckily, Jennifer her had a camera at the ready to capture the moment.

Now in its seventh year, the CWPA was founded by Paul Joynson-Hicks and Tom Sullam who wanted to run a light-hearted competition that would bring a smile to people's faces. This year, more than 5,000 images from 85 countries were entered making it one of the most popular competitions yet. Here's a link to some cracking images:

<https://www.comedywildlifephoto.com/>

BBC pictures

Another selection from the BBC's website with a predictable number dealing with the recent snow showers:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63942122>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63936944>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-63945880>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-63940381>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63853561>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63915602>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cijq83w8vpgo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63860864>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63902414>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqv47313vjlo>

Volunteers

Here's our regular volunteer spot for in house club events over the season. It's edging forward slowly as names are added. All we need is a few volunteers to just to be part of a team for the evening. In most cases it won't be for more than 20 minutes or so. From our experience time flies at these events and there's no doubt that you learn from the experience as a presenter. Once we have enough people we will liaise on which aspect each volunteer will talk about. We'll add members to each event as we get them:

So, at the moment here's the following 'In House' events which will require member input along with the latest volunteers:

23rd January - Multiple Exposures - A timely dedicated genre which is the subject of a club competition (submission Feb). An opportunity for a few members to share their experiences, advise on techniques and we'll set some tables up to have a go.

1. Mike Cheeseman using strobe flash
- 2.

30th Jan - Speed learning - (not to be confused with speed dating!) an experienced member led workshop group discussion on different aspects of photography we can share in groups. E.g appropriate use of different AF modes, dedicated camera make menus, typical camera settings for different genres etc. Each group discussion to last, say, 20/30 minutes. Format to be finalised. All thoughts and ideas gratefully received.

Q1 from Jill - How to use the Tone Curves and Colour Grading in Lightroom.

1. Mike Cheeseman - flash
2. Shaun Little -
- 3.

6th March - Take 5 - 5 member led 20 min presentation on their burning photography issues we all might learn from. Totally diverse and open to anyone with something to share.

1. Martyn Smith - Camera bags (a light hearted look!)
2. Dave Cahill - Blipfoto
3. Paul Norris - Straight pictures – what is the ‘driver’ to enhance the image in your camera.
4. Paul Jones - TBA

17th April - The Panel Challenge(s) - The Panel Challenge is being expanded this year to provide for a dedicated Smart Phone Panel. We’re working on the rules so watch this space. No volunteers needed but just a heads up of what’s to come.

17th April - Then and now - As the Panel Challenges may not take up the whole evening we are working on a new idea from John Smith for members to revisit and capture old Cotswold postcard locations for an evening of ‘then and now’ images - watch this space. However, here’s a taster from the BBC’s website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-62820981>

Date to be Confirmed - Travelogue Night - Member led presentation giving tips on where to take great images. Short stay, long stay holidays (Uk and abroad), staying local, days out - just about anywhere you fancy.

1. Sue Gunnee - TBC.
2. Martyn Smith - Holy Island.
3. Andy Kennedy - Manhattan.
4. Paul Norris - Near and Far - what inspires me on holiday.
5. Paul Jones - New Zealand
6. Alun & Val - Tye Outer Hebrides (subject to dates)

This Season's Club Competitions 2022 - 2023

	Competition Set & Open	Submission Date	Judging Night
A	Abstract + Open	03/10/22	31/10/22
B	Reflections + Open	31/10/22	05/12/22
C	Urban / Street photography + Open	05/12/22	16/01/23
D	Fog / steam / mist / smoke + Open	16/01/23	20/02/23
E	Multiple exposures + Open	27/02/23	27/03/23
Annual	2021-22 Annual competition	03/04/23	24/04/23

Club Competitions – Set Subject A-E Definitions

A: ABSTRACT

Abstract photography is the art of capturing subjects in such a way that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colours, and textures. It can encompass a huge variety of subject matter, take us out of our comfort zone, make us question what we see, or invite us to enter another realm. The subject matter is often implied or suggested rather than overtly and literally presented. Any image that is altered reality is acceptable.

B: REFLECTIONS

“Reflection photos refer to any shot, no matter what type of photography genre, that uses a reflective surface.” This can be a landscape, building, water, windows etc.

C: URBAN or STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Urban photography is a broad genre that can include anything within a built-up, urban environment, so the image must convey an aspect of a city or town. Your image must have been taken in a built-up urban environment but does not have to include people, so things like street signs, traffic, architecture, shop facades, light trails, crowds, bridges, are all part of urban life. Your image can be a candid shot of people i.e. Street Photography which is also accepted.

D: FOG / STEAM / MIST / SMOKE

This topic can include a wide variety of images, from misty morning landscapes to smoke wisps created at home – as long as the predominant effect / subject includes Steam or Mist or Smoke or Fog.

E: MULTIPLE EXPOSURES

Multiple exposure means superimposing two or more photos to create a completely new, different image either directly in the camera or afterwards in image processing.

Annual Competitions

(Submission Deadline 03 April 2023)

Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Quenington Sculpture 5-26 th June 2022	DPI
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI
Cavendish Cup	Black and White Open	Print
Miles Shield	Open (Club outing)	DPI
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI
Pitchers Cup <u>Open to new members only.</u>	Open	Print or DPI

All DPIs to be 1600px x 1200px in sRGB colour space. DPI version of Prints must also be submitted.

NB Portrait images must be 1200px on *longest* side.

The Dropbox link is featured on every Comp submission page, along with a News item - here is the link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

Quote Of the Week

Photograph: a picture painted by the sun without instruction in art– Ambrose Bierce

That's it for this week. Catch up next week.

Cheers and stay safe

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