Vignettes 197

October 12th, 2023

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. Lots of stuff this week as we enter the international comps results season. So many 'POTY's out there! We've added our Programme Sec Dave Cahill's contact details at the end of Vignettes as a permanent feature for future reference in case changes in the programme require contact with him. Here's a round up from Prog Sec Dave:

Mop Fair

Hi everyone. We had great weather, a super turnout of 30 or so members, followed by an enjoyable meet up in The Crown afterwards. I hope you got some good images - I took about 180 which I have whittled down to the mere 8 which I am keeping. My view is that we should keep this in the programme next year - if you have any views for or against this please let me know.

Next Monday - Everyone's A Judge

Next week will be an interactive evening where we will view, discuss and then rate a number of previously judged DPIs, from another camera club. It should be interesting to look at them from the viewpoint of a judge and see if we agree with the previous decisions. Image lists and pencils will be provided but it would be a good idea to bring something to rest on, a clipboard or notebook for instance, and your own pen or pencil if you wish. Full instruction and judging guidelines will be given and there's going to be a few surprises! Don't miss it.

Volunteers Update

An update on future meetings where we already have, but also need, some member involvement!

The LRPS Experience (6 November) – we are looking for some of you who have achieved this distinction, or others, or are working towards one, to share your experiences, your images etc

So far we have:

Martyn Smith - LRPS (if needed)

Mike Cheeseman - LRPS plus ARPS/PAGB - work in progress

John Crew – LRPS

Fin Simpson – working towards LRPS

We might need some more!

Take 4 (22 January)

We are looking OK for this at the moment:

David Wallis – AV presentations, including the CCC wedding

Andy Kennedy – AI

Patrick Barker – The Knife Angel

Colin Hoskins – Snapseed

New offers:

Andy Dipper – Vintage Lenses

Martyn Smith – My Latest Software

N.B, hot off the press - as a result of workload commitments, we may be putting Paul Norris's talk back to the new year so Andy and Martyn may now be filling in on Monday 27th Nov - to be confirmed

Travelogue Night (12 February)
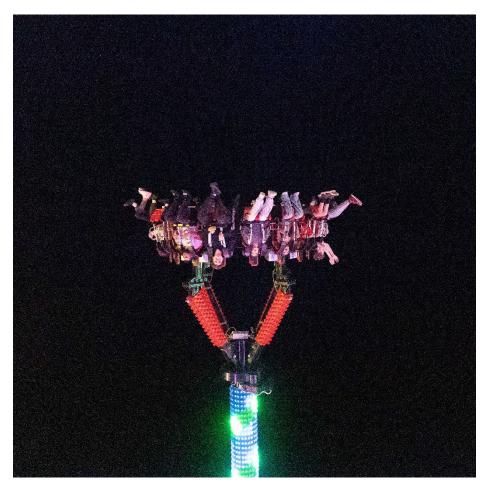
Currently we only have :

Jean Thirkettle – Botswana

Paul Jones – New Zealand

We need some more!

However, I do have a list of people who offered something last season, so please have another think about coming forward again. I may be reminding you soon if not!

Returning to the Mop Fair, having looked at my (Martyn) images from last year, I decided to risk putting my ISO on auto setting with an adjusted range of 50-102500 and control everything via shutter speed (TV or Time Value). It was inevitable that some images were going to be very grainy (noisy) but it also gave me the opportunity to test out a Denoise Plug-in I use in post processing. There's going to be an opportunity in November later to have a look at what some correcting Plug-ins can achieve which Dave is going to schedule into the prog. Here's a shot taken at ISO 102500 (!) before and after using DXO's 'Pure Raw 3' denoise software.

Studio night images of Ros - any more takers?

Sorry to flog a dead horse but I've still only had three members send me images of Ros taken on studio night. They don't have to be processed and can be any size or format as Ros can sort out the tech stuff. It would be great just to have a few more. She has loved the ones I've already sent over.

A note from our Battle Sec

Paul Norris has been in touch:

Hi everyone. Our first friendly inter-club battle of the season is scheduled for _Thursday 23 November_*. This will be against Swindon and Wantage and will be both a face to face meeting and also accessible via Zoom. Swindon has confirmed start is now 7.30 and Zoom details will be shared in due course.*

We will need to submit 20 dpi images with a maximum of 3 per author. I will look back over recent competitions and annuals for a selection but if you have any other images to be considered please can you let me have them in the next week or so.

Last year we managed to run Swindon close in the final result and it would be good to be competitive again against one of our local clubs. Look forward to hearing from you all or catch me at the club _evening on Monday_

Thanks Paul

Miscellaneous

<u>Plug ins - a note</u>

I've been investigating buying a Plug-in editor recently and have come across something you might find interesting either whether you are someone who has a plug-in editor (e.g. Topaz, DXO Pure Raw, Silver Efex etc) or whether you are thinking about buying one. Whilst the download process is pretty standard including automatically placing your plug-in into your processing software for easy access, what is more mystifying is that it is the Plug-in software author/manufacturer which initially decides where, in your processing software, it ends up. The result is that it can be hiding in a number of places so that when you go to 'Edit-in' to use your fancy new Plug-in, it might not be there. However you will almost certainly find it in 'Plug-in extras' in the 'File' tool bar (Mac). It's just the way the authors decide to do it and it has no effect on the outcome of the editing process.

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If you want to move your plug-in into the 'edit-in' toolbar so they are all in one place, here's a YouTube tutorial how to do it. It's pretty easy.

https://youtu.be/9cP3W28h93w?si=RJrVB63VK5MyIorO

Thinking about buying Topaz AI photo?

The reviews about the latest (September) version of this 'one stop shop' software have been pretty good but if you are already using heavyweight processing software like Lightroom, Photoshop, Affinity, Elements etc and you are just looking for a plug-in then Topaz AI Photo might be a bit over the top particularly at $199. Photo AI incorporates features which Topaz also offer as stand alone purchasable Plug-in options namely Sharpen AI, Denoise AI and the upscaling Gigapixel AI. However these features within Topaz Photo AI are not as comprehensive as the stand alone options. So, if you are looking for just, say, a sharpen or denoise plug-in, go for one of Topaz's cheaper and more comprehensive stand alone Plug-in options at $99. You get free updates for one year and when a new version comes out you often get a discounted upgrade offer if you feel the upgrade is worth it.

Calling all Adobe Photoshop users

It's around this time of the year that Adobe announces updates to its range of software and this year a few changes to Lightroom are coming in. Check out what's new in this article:

https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/5-cool-new-features-for-lightroom-announced-at-adobe-max

And here's a review by Anthony Morganti:

What's NEW in Lightroom Classic ver 13 – LOTSA STUFF? - YouTube

Wildlife Photographer of the Year winner announced

Well, the big one has come around again and the winner of the WPOY competition has just been announced. Both amazing and sometimes harrowing in equal measure the competition showcases the best of wilding photography from across the globe. This year is no exception. A picture of a mysterious and other-worldly horseshoe crab has earned Laurent Ballesta the title of Wildlife Photographer of the Year (WPY) 2023. The golden marine arthropod is seen hugging the bottom muds in waters off Pangatalan Island, in the Philippines.

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It is tracked by three small fish, hoping the crab's movements will expose an opportunistic meal in the sediment. Ballesta becomes only the second photographer in WPY's 59-year history to win the competition twice.

In 2021, he was awarded the grand prize for capturing a trio of groupers in the act of spawning.

I'm sure the exhibition will arrive on tour in Nature In Art, Twigworth, Gloucester next year but in the meantime here's a couple of links to the exhibition and winners gallery. Just remember that to enter and have a chance of being awarded, you've got to be able to hold your breath at Titanic depths for three months, live in a tree with flesh eating insects for a couple of weeks or play mum to a heard of Hyenas in a lifelike costume to get that shot otherwise you won't get a look in!

https://wwww.nhm.ac.uk/wpy/gallery

The Epson International Pano Awards 2023

The Epson International Pano Awards 2023 has announced this year's winners, with Spaniard José David Riquelme Peñalver emerging as the standout photographer. Riquelme not only secured the prestigious title of Open Photographer of the Year but also dominated the Nature / Landscape category with his breathtaking, diverse entries.

Riquelme's three winning images wowed the judges with their thoughtful compositions, artistic flair and diverse subject matter. The Bridge captured the majestic beauty of Iceland from an aerial perspective while Alone in the Dark transported viewers to the desolate landscape of Deadvlei, in Namibia, where a singular silhouette of a tree stood against a starry night sky.

Head over to the excellent Epson Pano website to check out some great images:

https://thepanoawards.com/2023-winners-gallery/

Into the film 'Dune'?

Here's an interesting article on the stills photography kit used to promote blockbuster films, in this case the film Dune. The unit photographer for Dune was Chiabella James, and in a recent interview it was revealed that a Fujifilm X Series camera was used to shoot the majority of the set photography used in a Photobook available on Amazon. Check out the background to the story here:

https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/another-win-for-aps-c-photos-for-dune-movie-were-shot-on-fujifilm-cameras

Winner of world's first AI art award

It's not that surprising that, after last year when Boris Eldgasen won (but rejected) the creative category at the Sony World Photo Awards, opening up a worldwide conversation about if and how AI and photography can coexist, he's now judging the the world's first AI art award. The Ballarat International Foto Biennale in Australia announced Annika Nordenskiöld as the inaugural winner of the Prompted Peculiar – International AI Prize. For the first time, artists and photographers were encouraged to use AI to generate images – and more than 100 submissions were entered, with Nordenskiöld's Twin Sisters in Love coming out on top.

It had to come and maybe there will be a dedicated AI competition featuring in Uk regional and camera clubs in the future. Take a look at some interesting images here:

https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/winner-of-worlds-first-ai-art-award-blends-surrealism-and-documentary-in-unusual-portrait

AOP Photography Awards

The AOP Photography Awards are known (allegedly) as the 'Oscars' of the photography world. They celebrate excellence in the creative photography and image-making industry. Check out the winners across a range of categories here:

https://www.aopawards.com/aop-photography-awards/

Countryfile Calendar 2024 winner

It was good to see this one of this year's Countryfile Calendar 2024 images from a photographer hailing from the Cotswolds. Check out her story and some of her other images here:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-67029398

BBC pictures

As usual some great images across the globe from the BBC's website:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-67029261

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-67029398

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-67016295

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https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-67005616

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-67017528

Club Competitions

CCC General Competition Schedule 2023/2024			
	Competition	**Submission date**	**Judging night**
A	**Glass** + Open	02/10/2023	30/10/23
B	**A Portrait** + Open	30/10/2023	04/12/23
C	**The Colour Wheel** + Open	04/12/2023	15/01/24
D	**High Key / Low Key** + Open	15/01/24	19/02/24
E	**Long Exposure** + Open	19/02/2024	25/03/2024
Annuals	2023/4 Annual Competitions	08/04/24	29/04/24

Definitions of Set Subjects

Glass: Clear, broken, cut, coloured, stained, reflected, distorted, etc – this subject offers a huge range of creative ideas - be as imaginative as you dare! Ensure the main element / device / impression uses glass so the theme is obvious.

A Portrait: A portrait photograph is the capture of the likeness of a living person or creature in which the face and expression is predominant. The objective is to display the likeness, personality or the mood of the subject. The focus is the person's or creature's face, although the entire body may be included. A portrait is generally *not* a snapshot, but a composed image of a person or creature.

The Colour Wheel: Extremely colourful images are accepted in this category, using all the colours on the colour wheel, or create an image which uses complementary colours on the wheel for added impact (ie red / green, orange / blue, yellow /purple). The main impact of the image must be the use of colour to maximum effect. Search for Colour Theory on the internet for more information.

High Key / Low Key photography make use of lighting and contrast (or lack thereof) to create a specific mood. Most of the tones will be towards the **left** of the histogram for a **low key** image and towards the far **right** in a **high key** image. Again the internet has lots of useful articles and examples

Long Exposure: The image must show the effect of using a slow shutter speed and long exposure time – it must show an extended period of time, and that the image has been enhanced by the use of long exposure. Panning of moving subjects is allowed but other ICM techniques are not. Blur introduced through post processing is also not allowed.

Annual Competitions

CCC Annual Competition categories - submission deadline 08/04/2024		
Award	**Subject**	**Format**
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Horses and People of the Cotswolds*	DPI * *At least* 1 person and 1 horse
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 Open to new members only.	Open	Print or DPI

The Dropbox link for all competitions is:

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

Quote of the week

We are making photographs to understand what our lives mean to us
– Ralph Hattersley

That's it for this week. Have a good weekend.

Cheers and stay safe

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