



Vignettes 209

January 12th, 2024

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Club News

It was great to see a healthy turnout of 35 of us on Monday night to watch an excellent Zoom presentation by Steven Le Prevost, a photographer based in the Channel Islands who holds a number of distinctions – FRPS, MPAGB, AFIAP and FIPF. His talk brought to us a whole new approach to photography which we haven't seen before. Here's Dave with a summary:

A Feeling of Impressionism

We had a good turnout on Zoom for an inspiring presentation by Steven Le Prevost.

Over the years he has developed a unique photographic style, and achieved a number of distinctions, using his camera (or phone), but then processing the images in Photoshop to create very impressionistic photographic artwork. A lot of effort went into eliminating the photographic detail that we normally strive for!

Many of his images were composites, for example taking characters captured from a distance, so no interaction, putting them into another scene, with foreground, middle ground and sky from other photographs.

Various Photoshop techniques were mentioned – object selection, blending modes, masking, opacity adjustments, the gradient tool, blur, white layers. Also warp and puppet warp (who knew!?) The use of textures was key. Grunge' was also mentioned a few times! The other thing he liked was 'breaking the rules' with even numbers of subjects, centrally placed or walking out of the frame. All very thought-provoking. The techniques he described could I think be used in other photographic genres though. So, lots of ideas for us to consider to boost our creativity. We may see if Shaun can give us some pointers in his next session in February.

Absolutely. Steven was quite candid about his creative journey from early rejections in seeking an RPS distinction. He made the very valid point that the process of creating his images and responding to positive criticism led him to consistently improve his photography. As he said, it's not the distinction which makes you a better photographer but the process of achieving it.

As Dave said, perhaps we should have a follow up on 'creative merging' to see what it's all about. Shaun.....?



Bell Ringer
2005



Ocean
2011

Next Monday 15th January - 7.00

Yes it's Comp C judging night starting at our earlier comp judging night time of 7.00 pm so don't forget. It's also Comp D submission night.

Snap Happy Every Day

Sue has been in touch about her 365 project which some of you may know she and Dave have been battling with over the last year. Here's the backstory and a reality check from Sue:

Hi everyone. At the beginning of 2023 I shared with the club my intention to start a '365 project' and encouraged others to take part. A 365 photo project, also known as a "photo-a-day" project, is a personal photography challenge where participants commit to taking and sharing one photograph every day for an entire year. There are a range of groups who also take part in a '365' if you appreciate some moral support and/or you can use a framework with themes or daily prompts. However, what I thought would work best for me (to avoid procrastination) was to set my own rules.

While I might have envisaged sharing a carefully taken image each day to show off my technical and artistic skills, the reality was vastly different! When you've not left the house because you're working from home, the weather is miserable and the days are short, there's a special sort of panic that sets in as the clock ticks round to midnight - cue hastily grabbed photos of the nearest pet. Looking back at my 365 images, though, this appears to have happened less often than I remember and there were actually a lot of blue skies to look back on.

While I'm pleased to say that I did complete the challenge, in the company of Dave Cahill - who shared his daily 'Blips' on Instagram, what set out to be an artistic venture became a lot more of a journaling project. I've decided not to carry on this year (that extra day is just one too many) but I'm not saying 'never again'.

If you want to read about someone who really has taken the 365 to another level have a look at Ken Scott's website (<https://touchingthelight.co.uk/portfolios/project-infinity/>) he's been doing it since 2008.

We'd be interested to hear how anyone else got on with a 365 project or if you've just started one. Good luck. Best, Sue

So there you are, why not get cracking and maybe form a club based motivational '365 group' to keep you 'focussed'. But you might have to buy a pet as back up! How about a club pet? On reflection maybe not.

Cheltenham International Salon of Photography (CISP) Now Open

Yes, it's that time of the year again when the CISP entries are now open. As you know, our friends the Cheltenham Camera Club give us an excellent AV talk every year displaying that year's winning and accepted CISP entries. It's a great local comp to enter and see how your images are judged in what is a pretty competitive environment. We normally achieve a few acceptances. The more images you enter, the (pro rata) cheaper it is. Why not have a go. Here's a link.

<https://pixoroo.com/salons/cheltenhamsalon/>

Got a Drone?

If you do nothing else this week, take a look at this YouTube clip of a New Year's Eve Gwangalli Drone spectacular. I think there's a few members with drones. It can't be that difficult can it. Wonder how they do it? Unbelievable.

<https://youtu.be/1O6OzbFu2ho>

Portrait Of Britain Photo Winners

The British Journal of Photography and JCDecaux UK have unveiled the winners of Portrait of Britain Vol. 6 – a mesmerizing visual journey that encapsulates the diverse faces and narratives shaping contemporary Britain. Here's the website link:

<https://www.1854.photography/awards/portrait-of-britain/vol6-shortlist/>

BBC Pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-67890757>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c28yp1d3nvlo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-67881657>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-67877244>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-67871751>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-67331416>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-67781628>

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 * <i>At least 1 person and 1 horse</i>
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

The Dropbox link for all competitions is:

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

Quote of the Week



*I didn't choose
photography,
photography
chose me -
Gerardo Suter*

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

Cheers and stay safe

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Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)

Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)