



Vignettes 251

January 1st, 2025

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you had a peaceful and happy Christmas with lots of camera goodies from Santa to show off in the new year. A very merry new year to everyone from the editorial staff at Vignettes Global Headquarters. A short 'V' this week just to remind you that we fire up again at 7.00 pm Zoom next Monday the 6th January - with Roger Hance FRPS, who will be presenting a talk on People, Portraits and Photojournalism. As always, more details are on the events listing on the club website.

Just a reminder that the submission date for our Comp D is looming (see below). Yes, it's 13th Jan. Time flies. Make sure it's not unlucky for you!

And on the subject of comps, don't forget that the Cheltenham international Salon of Photography (CISP) is with us again shortly when our friends in the Cheltenham Camera Club open its doors to its annual CISP competition. As you know the Cheltenham Club presents its CISP AV every year to us in Sept/Oct which is always well put together and a great night's entertainment. Here's the link to the Club so keep an eye out:

<https://cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk/club/cheltenham-international-salon-photography-cisp>

Global comps you can enter

On the matter of global Comps, we have started to add to the data base of previous global Competitions which we logged in the last 'Vignettes 250' following a slavish review of all Vignettes since it started to see what we had been up to. Wouldn't it be nice to get some recognition for your work? Not to mention winning a great prize, getting exposure, and having something impressive to put on your CV and portfolio? Well, you have to be in it to win it, so why not try your luck and make 2025 the year when you submit your images to a competition? Many of the year's biggest contests have already passed their submission dates for this year, while others haven't yet opened for entries.

But the prestigious photography contests listed below and taken from an online resource are all open for submissions now. And to make things easy for you they are ranked by their submission deadlines, with the earliest first.

Meanwhile, if you need some inspiration, check out a roundup of the best shots from photography awards and competitions in 2024. Here's the list:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/these-are-the-best-photography-awards-to-enter-in-2025-ranked-by-deadline>

External Competitions and Exhibitions

Nature Photographer of the Year 2024 (NPOTY)

Yes, this is one we have previously logged and if you are into Nature, there's some cracking images here. Considered by many as the "holy grail" of wildlife photography, Paolo Della Rocca from Italy has won the prestigious title of Nature Photographer of the Year 2024 with his image of two snow leopards fighting. Organized by the Nature Talks foundation, a non-profit conservation organization also hosts of the Nature Talks Photo Festival, the competition is open to everyone globally, from as young as 10 years old. Here's a link:

<https://naturephotographeroftheyear.com/previous-editions/npoty-2024-results/>

Is this the greatest street photographer you've never heard of?

Here's an interesting article about Marvin E Newman, not one of the first names that typically pops into your head when thinking of the greatest street photographers of all time. In fact, for many, his name won't be familiar at all. Publisher Taschen aims to change this by publishing a major retrospective of his work and giving him the due recognition it deserves. Take a look:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/is-this-the-greatest-street-photographer-youve-never-heard-of>

Got a Xmas pressie voucher burning a hole in your pocket?

How about a photography book? Always a subjective issue but here's one person's top ten best photo books of 2024:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/books/here-are-my-top-10-photography-books-of-2024>

Top 10 camera phones of 2024

Here's one for Colin to comment on. The best camera phones of 2024. As we've now come to expect, the camera hardware in many of this year's phones has received fairly incremental improvements compared to previous models. Instead, it's the computational side where the biggest photographic enhancements could be found this year, with all the major manufactures integrating scary-smart AI into their camera processing, and with some incredible results. Thankfully it's not just the flagship phones where you'll find great image quality, as in 2024 we've also been treated to several top-notch mid-range camera camera phones for shooters seeking maximum bang per buck. Take a look:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tech/phones/the-top-10-camera-phones-of-2024-our-standout-handsets-of-the-year>

20 famous photographers to follow on social media in 2025 (and where to find them)

This article might interest all you social media geeks out there. As the title explains, in the article attached, you'll find the 20 most famous photographers who are still active

today on social media along with the links to where you can find them. More info in the article:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tech/social-media/20-famous-photographers-to-follow-on-social-media-in-2025-and-where-to-find-them>

Camera club celebrates 50 years of helping artists

This is a nice story to report on in coming from a Camera Club similar to ours. Check this out:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c785nelrl14o>

BBC pictures

This week we are treated to some terrific images from yearly round ups and 'best ofs' on the BBC's website. Well worth a look:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg4lq14rdd9o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8dep4nnpo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c93gkqyex63o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9q7x9lzg0xo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8eqmg7qmmo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp83ele38e9o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgx8vznl6xo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cvg981xwdw4o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cd75rn804dwo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpvnr09xyewo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c983n738pp4o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgm9we43x4go>

2024-25 Competitions and information

Cirencester Camera Club General Competition Schedule 2024/2025			
	Competition	Submission date	Judging night
A	Journey + Open	30/09/24	28/10/24
B	UK Flora, Fauna, Fungi + Open	28/10/24	02/12/24
C	Golden/Blue Hour + Open	02/12/24	13/01/25
D	Still Life + Open	13/01/25	17/02/25
E	Closed + Open	17/02/25	24/03/25
Annual	2024-25 Annual competitions	24/03/25	14/04/25 and 28/04/25

Definitions of Set Subjects

JOURNEY: A journey photograph is an image captured during the course of a journey or expedition, typically depicting scenes, landscapes, people, or moments encountered along the way. These photographs often aim to convey the essence of the journey, capturing the spirit of exploration, discovery, and adventure.

UK Flora, Fauna, Fungi: A flora, fauna, fungi photograph is an image that showcases plant life (flora), animal life (fauna), or fungi found in a particular ecosystem or habitat. These photographs aim to highlight the diversity, beauty, and intricacies of the natural world. They can range from close-up shots of individual species to wide-angle landscapes that capture entire ecosystems.

Golden/Blue Hour: During the golden hour, the sun is low in the sky, casting long shadows and creating a warm, diffused light that can enhance the colours and textures in a scene, often producing a soft, flattering glow. In contrast, the blue hour occurs just before sunrise or after sunset when the sky takes on a deep blue hue, creating a serene and tranquil atmosphere.

Still Life: A still life photograph is an image that portrays inanimate objects, typically arranged by the photographer to create a visually compelling composition. It can range from simple, minimalist compositions to more elaborate and stylized scenes, depending on the creative vision of the photographer.

Closed: A photograph with the title "closed" could depict a variety of subjects or scenes, but the title suggests a theme of closure, restriction, or inaccessibility.

Summer Cup (judged by members)

This is an informal competition which takes place during the 'off season' between June and September. Members can submit an image on one or all of the three subjects, which must be taken between end of May and beginning of September. These will then be judged by the other members at the start of the season. [Exact dates and subjects will be confirmed each year at the AGM]

Ted Parrott Memorial Trophy (judged by members)

This Trophy is in memory of a long standing and valued member of the Club, Ted Parrott who passed away in 2019. Images must be of 'Sporting Action', and be submitted by the start of the season. This image must have been taken between the start of the current season and the start of the following season. [Exact dates will be confirmed each year at the AGM]

For all Competitions, please upload images via Pixoroo link below: -

pixoroo.com/public/account/login

Quote of the week

*Photography deals exquisitely with appearances, but nothing is what it appears to be -
Duane Michals*

That's it for this week.

Cheers

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

David (david.wallis@btinternet.com)

Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)

DECEMBER TOPIC

Unbalancing colour.



White balance is an essential aspect of photography, yet it can often seem counterintuitive. Here's a deeper look into how white balance settings work and how you can use them to your advantage:

1. **Understanding White Balance:** White balance (WB) adjusts the colours in your photos to make the image look more natural. It compensates for the colour temperature of the light source, which can vary from warm (yellow/red) to cool (blue). Different light sources have different colour temperatures measured in Kelvin (K).
2. **Preset White Balance Settings:**
 - **Auto White Balance (AWB):** The camera automatically detects and adjusts the white balance. This setting works well in many situations but may struggle with mixed lighting.
 - **Daylight/Sunny:** Used for clear, sunny days. Adds a slight warm tone to the image.
 - **Cloudy:** Adds warmth to counteract the coolness of cloudy light.
 - **Shade:** Adds even more warmth, as shaded areas are typically cooler.
 - **Tungsten/Incandescent:** Adds blue tones to counteract the yellow/orange light of tungsten bulbs.
 - **Fluorescent:** Adds magenta to counteract the green/blue light of fluorescent bulbs.
 - **Flash:** Adds warmth to balance the cool light of a flash.
3. **Counterintuitive Nature:**
 - **Candlelight:** Often has a warm, yellowish hue. The camera compensates by adding cool, blue tones to balance the warmth.

- **Fluorescent Light:** Has a cool, greenish-blue hue. The camera compensates by adding warm, pink tones to balance the coolness.
4. **Custom White Balance:**
- **Manual Adjustment:** You can manually set the white balance by specifying the colour temperature in Kelvin. Lower values (e.g., 2500K) add blue tones for warm lighting, while higher values (e.g., 7500K) add warm tones for cool lighting.
 - **Using a White or Gray Card:** You can set a custom white balance by photographing a neutral grey or white card under the lighting conditions you'll be shooting in. The camera uses this reference to adjust the colours correctly.
5. **Creative Uses:**
- **Artistic Effects:** You can intentionally set the wrong white balance for creative effects. For example, using a tungsten setting in daylight can give a cool, blue cast to your photos, creating a unique mood.
 - **Consistency in Mixed Lighting:** Custom white balance can help achieve consistent colours when dealing with mixed lighting sources, which can be particularly useful in controlled environments like studio photography.

By mastering white balance settings, you can ensure your photos have accurate colours or creatively manipulate the mood and feel of your images. Experimenting with different settings will help you understand how to use white balance to enhance your photography.

Brief

1. Conduct Test Shots Across Settings:

- Choose a variety of subjects under different lighting conditions (e.g., daylight, tungsten, fluorescent, etc.).
- For each setup, capture a series of images using every white balance preset your camera offers (e.g., Auto, Daylight, Cloudy, Tungsten).
- Save the images in JPEG format to observe the direct effect of each setting.
- Compare the results to understand how each preset alters the colours under different lighting.

2. Experiment with Custom White Balance:

- Use different objects as your reference for custom white balance settings:
 - Set your camera to "Custom White Balance" mode.

- Photograph a neutral surface, such as a grey card or a white patch, as the reference point for the camera.
- Experiment with variations:
 - Use differently coloured "cards" (e.g., pale blue, beige, or slightly tinted surfaces).
 - Observe how these influence the final image, noting that a pale blue reference creates warmer tones in the image.

3. Shooting in RAW

Although all the above can be done in post processing RAW images it can sometimes be necessary to have fixed colour temperature in an image.

- Take an in-camera multi- exposure image with both warm and cool colours