

The Viewfinder

JANUARY 2022

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President's Message

Welcome to the first View-Finder of 2022. I hope your holidays were pleasant and safe and that the New Year will be a happy and healthy one for you, your family and your friends.

The year ahead will be our third under pandemic restrictions. I am confident that we will continue to flourish despite that handicap thanks to the incredible talent of our members and the quality of our programs, even at a distance through Zoom.

I always look forward to what our photographer members "see through their lenses" and how they interpret life with their images. Included in our program lineup will be presentations from Alan Agdern and Roni Chastain.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Stay healthy and keep on taking those great pictures. Once again, my thanks to Barry for this newsletter.

Bonnie Forman-Franco

A Short History of Lenses

The history of lenses is a long one, dating way back to 984 with the discovery of refraction by Ibn Sahl. It is re-

markable that his lens design was free of geometric distortion. Equally remarkable, René Descartes made an aspheric lens over 400 years ago. Lenses have even been found in Viking treasures on the island of Gotland dating from the 10th or 11th century. It is unknown whether these lenses were made for jewelry or imaging.

It took the invention of the camera to spur further advances in lenses. Charles Chevalier did just that not long after Daguerre invented photography in 1839. Not only did Chevalier make the first camera lens, he made it achromatic (see side bar).

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Send articles, letters to:
EDITORTHEVIEWFINDER@YAHOO.COM

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This lens had only two apertures, $f/14$ and $f/15$ and no focusing mechanism. A year later he developed a lens with a focusing mechanism. Previously, you had to move the lens in order to focus. It had an aperture of $f/6$; very fast considering

the long focal lengths.

This reduced exposure times from hours to minutes. In the same year, Max Petzval made further improvements to the Chevalier

lens which Voigtlander manufactured and made available to the world.

The ability to control depth of field through selectable apertures was not appreciated until 1858 when John Waterhouse invented changeable apertures using brass plates with holes for apertures. The sys-

The word "lens" comes from the Latin word for "lentil," because the earliest lenses were shaped like the bean

tem was called— you guessed it— Waterhouse Stops!

The first telephoto lens, the $f/8$ Busch Bistellar was invented in Germany in 1905 .

The zoom lens was first used in telescopes as early as 1834. The first true *zoom* lens, which retained focus while zooming was patented in 1902 by Clile C. Allen. Bringing us to modern times, the first 35mm zoom was designed about 1950 by Roger Cuvillier, working for SOM-Berthiot.

And finally, the most recent innovation, image stabilization, did not appear until 1995 with the Canon EF 75-300mm $f/4-5.6$ IS and in 1999 with the Canon EF 300mm $f/2.8$ L IS USM.

What next? One has to wonder.

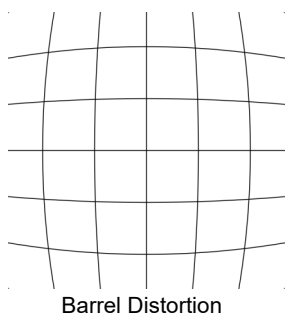
... .. Ed

Lens Aberrations

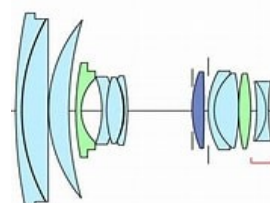
Distortions are found in all lenses and the engineering to correct them is the reason lenses have multiple elements,

special glass formulations, aspherical shapes and big price tags. Actually, lens makers must find a balance between correcting for aberrations and maintaining good contrast. Proving the "no free lunch" theory, the more elements added to a lens the more contrast is degraded due to internal reflections. This is especially true of 'micro-contrast;' the contrast between individual pixels of different luminosity. Antireflective coatings go a long way in solving that problem. Use of aspheric lens elements was a significant advance in optical design, allowing high levels of correction with fewer elements and smaller, lighter construction.

Among the most common distortions are Barrel and pin-



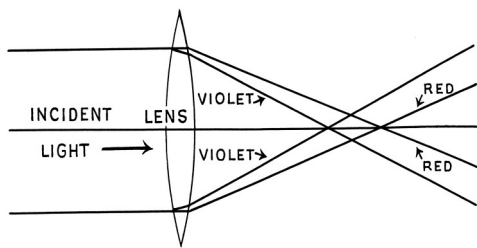
Barrel Distortion



Continued from p. 2

cushion distortion. With Barrel distortion, magnification decreases with distance from the optical axis, giving objects away from the center of the frame a barrel like appearance. Pincushion distortion is just the opposite in which the image appears pinched in the center.

Chromatic aberration is a type of radial distortion that depends on the color of



the light. Light refraction in a lens varies according to wavelength, resulting in different colors being focused at different points on the sensor with the resultant familiar fringing effect.

Astigmatism is a problem in which rays that travel perpendicular to each other have different focus points resulting in parts of

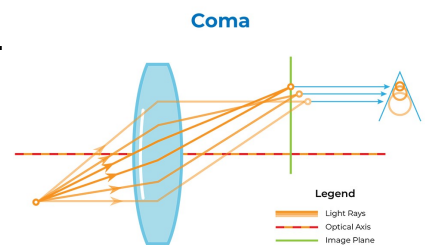
“Photographers are athletes of the decisive moment. Among the human assets a photographer needs to cultivate are boldness and innocence, quick reflexes, as well as trust, precision, grace, and the willingness to fail again and again. However, the spicy taste of the occasional success is so satisfying that it erases any memory of the moments that got away. Enough so that one is ready to go out again in the knowledge that the world will repeat itself forever, in renewed variations.”

Joel Meyerowitz

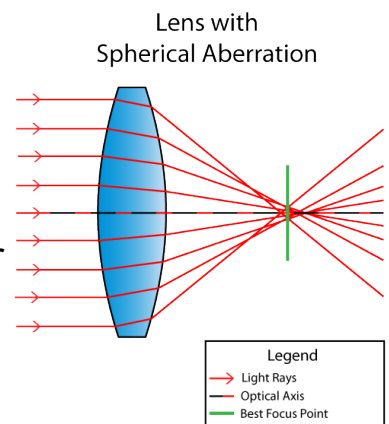
the image being blurry. As an example, in a picture of a picket fence, the vertical pickets are sharp at a focus setting different from the horizontal rails.

Coma is an aberration which causes rays from an off-axis point of light to create a trailing "comet-like" blur.

A lens with coma will produce a sharp image at the center but become increasingly blurred toward the edges.

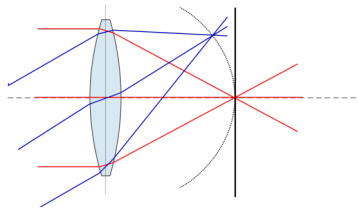


Spherical Aberration occurs when incoming light rays are focused at different points. Light rays passing through the center of the lens are refracted less than rays closer to the edge and as a result, end



up in different spots across the optical axis. In other words, the parallel light rays of incoming light do not converge at the same point. This is one of the reasons that modern lenses use aspherical elements.

Petzval field curvature, is an aberration in which a flat object cannot be brought into focus on the flat plane of the camera's sensor.



Petzval Field Curvature

Human and animal vision avoids this problem because the eye's retina is curved to coincide with

the focal points of the rays regardless of where they originate in the visual field

..... Ed

One Mans Observation

If you want a good score, follow all the rules of composition and copy the techniques of the most successful photographers and you will do well in competition and you won't have to work very hard to do it. On the other hand, you will never achieve greatness. You can also get good scores by developing your own style and getting good at it.

Good judges will recognize good work

Recommended

Photography is a science and an art and to a few, it is a higher calling. With that in mind, I would like to recommend three photographers whose work among others, can be seen on YouTube. You will find nothing about their equipment and a lot about their philosophy. It's all about the subjects, why they are photographed and how they are framed and the techniques employed. In general you will find what they look for and how they capture the essence of their subjects.

The Photographers are **John Free** and the YouTube is "*Photographing Tramps in the Los Angeles Freight Yards.*" and look at his other stuff as well.

Perhaps a better known street photographer, is **Joel Meyerowitz** - "*What you put in the frame determines the photograph*" and Joel Meyerowitz (english version)" *Les Rencontres d'Arles 2017*"



The third is **Sam Abell**- "*My Journey in Photography.*" Abell's work differs from the other two in that he does not 'hunt' for the picture, he is a tripod worker with a more deliberate style. He anticipates the photograph and then waits for it. . . . Ed

Lens Quality; What you should know

Are you paying for the name or the quality?

The Canon EF 50mm f1.8 with autofocus sells for \$125. A



Leica Summicron APO 50mm f2 with no autofocus sells for \$8,995. the



Summicron APO

Leica has no AF and is a tad slower than the Canon. So what do you get for an extra \$8,870

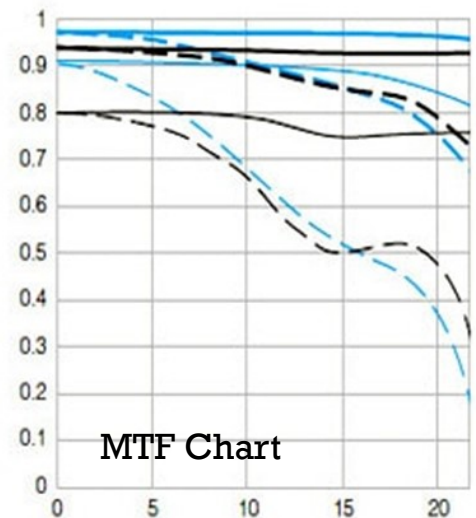
plus tax? Certainly, the By all reviews, the Canon lens is a good one. To answer that question requires a dive into what constitutes quality.

Quality is an elusive property. For some, the name Leica in the red circle is priceless, like the Gucci

on the handbag. But, to be a bit more objective, we can look at two factors that most people would associate with quality, build quality and optical performance. The latter is a tad more complex so lets address build quality first. How does it feel when you focus it? A fine lens will focus with just right amount of dampening and feel smooth. It will have distance markings and they will be cleanly engraved, the aperture ring will click solidly at each stop but still turn with ease. But wait; if you don't manually focus, who cares? On the other hand, you can drive a Ferrari or a Chevy and they

will both reach the Midtown Tunnel at the same time, the main difference is the Chevy will be more quite and much more comfortable; but if you have ever driven a Ferrari, I don't have to explain it.

Optical quality can be measured more objectively. Fortunately there is a measurement that takes multiple factors into consideration. Enter the Modulation Transfer



Function or MTF. Wait, don't go, I didn't mean to scare you. All you need

to know is the result at the end, which is a graphical representation of lens's performance.

In the MTF chart above, the x-axis (horizontal), represents the distance from the center to the corner of a full frame image. To be perceived as sharp, a lens must have good contrast and good resolution. The Y axis of the chart indicates how close to 100% the lens comes to achieving 30 lines per mm (lpm) of resolution and 10 lpm for contrast.

To rephrase, an MTF chart is a representation of a lens' contrast and resolution across the image as measured by the ability to reproduce closely spaced lines. Usually the chart will show results for two different apertures.

A score of 100 or 1.0 represents 100% or an ideal lens. Tests are carried out with both

sets of line pairs, placed at different distances from the center of the lens.

Lens' are also tested with the patterns oriented perpendicular to each other. The two orientations are called Sagittal and Meridional. Sagittal means that the test pattern lines run parallel to a line running from the center of the

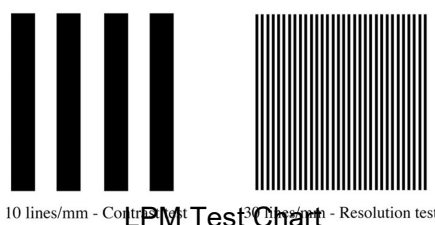


image to the corner. meridional lines are perpendicular to that diagonal.

Contrast and resolution is also tested in both pattern orientations across the width of the

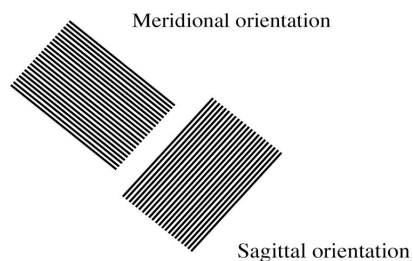


image. As the sagittal

and meridional lines start to diverge, it

Small differences in lens performance can make large differences in price. Lenses with superb build quality may not be better optically in all instances.

Hopefully this article provided some guidance toward being an informed consumer, if not a pain in the neck to the guy behind the counter. ..

. *Ed*

SCC PROGRAM LINEUP

LORRAINE PISKIN, , PROGRAMS CHAIR

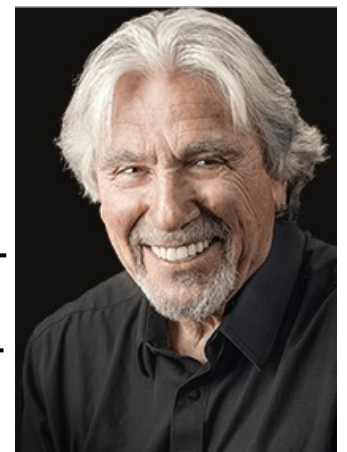
January 20 Alan Agdern- NEW MASKING TOOLS IN LIGHTROOM, ADOBE CAMERA RAW AND PHOTOSHOP

Alan is an amateur photographer, whose passion for photography started at a very young age, both for taking photographs and developing them in his darkroom. Alan provides workshops, seminars and private instruction in the use of most popular postproduction software. He is a PFLI "Hall of Fame" member. Alan is currently the SCC Zoom meeting Chairperson and jointly conducts Critiques for SCC. He judges' monthly competitions for PFLI and other Camera Clubs, His website alanagdern.myportfolio.com contains samples of his images. His images can also be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AlanAgdern> and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/snapshooter1>



February 17 Butch Mazzuca- TRAVELS TO AFRICA

Butch has taught photography at Colorado Mountain College and the Alpine Arts Center in Edwards, Colorado since 2012. His images have appeared in a number of national publications as well as on the Audubon Society's website. Additionally both Travel Africa Magazine and Africa Geographic Magazine have published Butch's photo essays. He is also a columnist and Ski Instructor.



March 17 Hazel Meredith-

Hazel is an award-winning photographer, teacher, speaker, workshop Leader. In 2007, she began teaching post-processing techniques and now teaches at camera clubs and conferences across the U.S. as well as through her own workshops. She is a frequent webinar presenter for Topaz Labs. She released her first eBook, "Working with Textures & Overlays: Turn Ho-Hum into a Work of Art" in 2015, and the sequel in April 2019. . In



Continued on next page

Programs continued

2017 she and her husband, Dave, founded the “Creative Photography Conference” in New England and now the event is moving around the country,

April 21 Nic Stover

Based in San Luis Obispo Nik focuses on landscape photography classes and workshops, His photography has taken him all over the globe. His portfolio encompasses aerial, desert, ocean, night, and mountain photography. Nic Stover photography exists to engage people of all ages, backgrounds, experiences, and desires into a dialog and journey into the natural environment and the impacts we have on this changing world.



May 19 Ronnie Chastain— Cuba and Iceland

Roni is a graduate of the New York Institute of Photography. She has photographed professional organizations & conferences. Her work has been used by the American Academy of Pediatrics & published in several books. Roni’s images have been in Juried art shows on Long Island.

Roni was the Organizer for the LI Photography Meetup for 10 years.. She arranged for photo shoots in the Tri-State region and private photography tours, including Radio City Music Hall, Citifield, Madison Sq Garden and the Wolf Conservation Center. She loves to share her experience with photography & photoshops skills.



As a long time photographer who loves to travel, Roni has been to both Cuba and Iceland 3 times. Her presentation will show the beauty of both countries, In Cuba you will see Vinales, Trinidad and of course Havana. In Iceland, you will see the waterfalls, volcanic formations and the Icelandic Horses. In the Summer of 2021, Roni did a horseback riding tour in Iceland!

Roni leads photo tours to Cuba & is working on one in Iceland.

HEARD IT FROM A MEMBER CORNER

PHOTO MEMORY STICKS - SOLUTION FOR THE DISORGANIZED?

Member Lorraine Piskin was interested in this topic, so the Research and Development Department of the *Viewfinder* did some due diligence with regard to “memory sticks.”

If you organize your photos into a single folder or a hierarchy of folders and do regular backups, no need to read the rest of this article.

If you have photos on your desktop, the pictures folder, documents, and other nicks and crannies of your digital maze, you may want to consider a class of products like Photo Memory Sticks.

Photo Memory Sticks are thumb drives with built in software that automatically search your computer hard drive, smart phone and tablet for picture files. When it finds them, it deletes unnecessary duplicates and copies all the photos to the device.

There are a number of brands with varying capacities, read/write speeds and compatibilities, so you

will have to choose carefully.

The devices listed below are some of the ones available. All will work with Windows, Macs, and Android devices and all except InfinitiKloud are compatible with iPhone. The transfer rate should not be an issue, but it is worth noting that MemorySafeX uses USB 2.0 and transfers at only 480 Mbs. Although iFlash and MemorySafeX are listed as MAC and Windows compatible, the software is for iPhone only, so if you want to back up your computer photos or if you have an android phone, eliminate those two.

Above all, make sure the gizmo has the appropriate connectors for the devices you will be backing up.

Of course, a regular computer backup regimen will not only protect your photos, but your other data as well. But you already knew that!

Product	PhotoStick Omni	iFlash	InfinitiKloud	MemorySafeX	AlbumSaver
Storage Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32GB 64GB 128GB 256GB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32GB 64GB 128GB 256GB 512GB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64GB 128GB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8GB 32GB 64GB 128GB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8GB 32GB 64GB 128GB
Windows Compatibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MacOS Compatibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
iPhone Compatibility	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Android Compatibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
USB transfer speed	USB 3.0 (transfer rate of 4.8Gbps, 10 times faster than 2.0)	USB 3.0 (transfer rate of 4.8Gbps, 10 times faster than 2.0)	USB 3.0 (transfer rate of 4.8Gbps, 10 times faster than 2.0)	USB 2.0 (transfer rate of 480Mbps, 10 times slower than 3.0)	USB 3.0 (transfer rate of 4.8Gbps, 10 times faster than 2.0)
Skip Duplicates	✓	–	✓	–	✓
Integrated Software	✓	iPhone only	✓	iPhone only	✓
Money-back guarantee	60 days	30 days	30 days	30 days	30 days

If you can't buy 'stuff' what good is money?

December Images of the Month

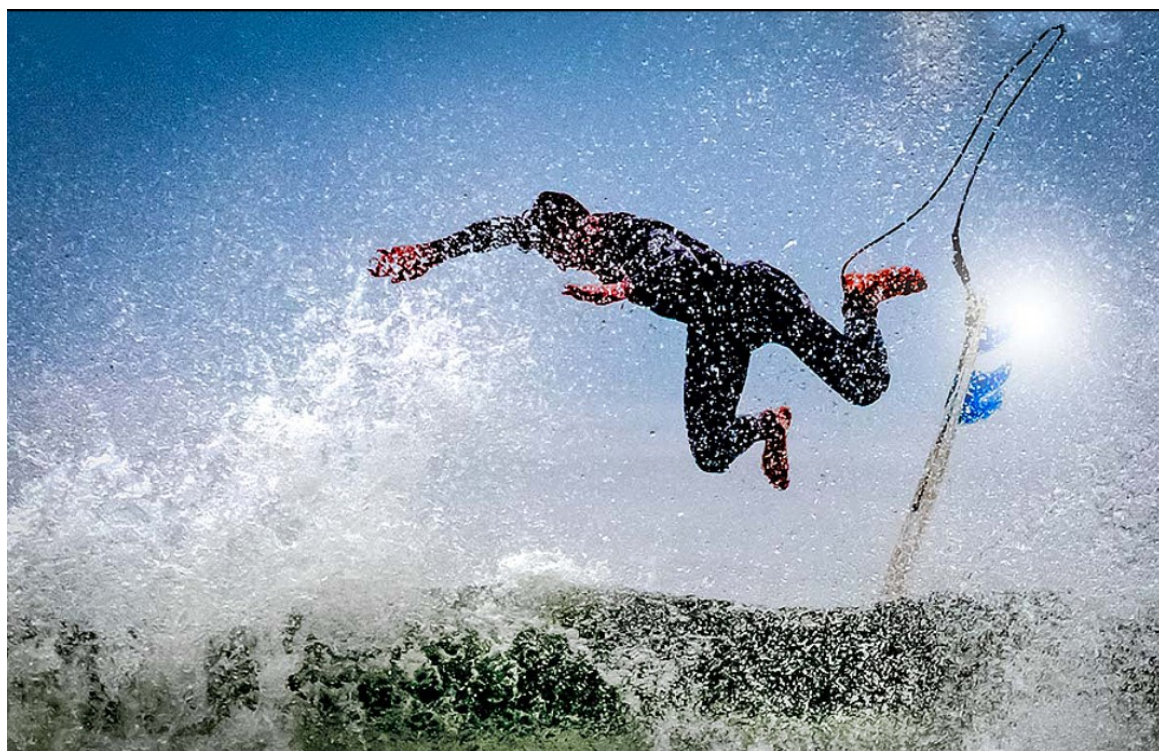
PART 1



DIGITAL PROJECTION B
ROBERT KAPLAN
"STICKING THE LANDING"



BLACK & WHITE SALON
SYLVIA GOLDKRANZ
"THE CLOSE UP"



DIGITAL PROJECTION SALON-PETER NEWMAN
"FLYING SURFER"

December Images of the Month

PART 2



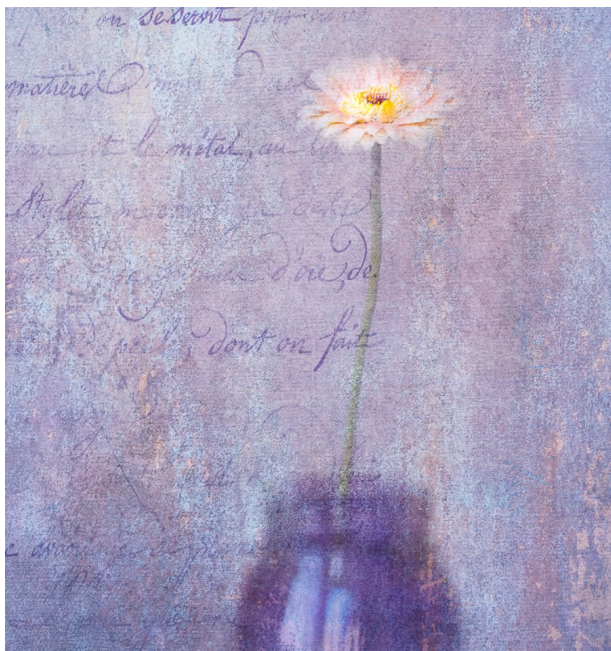
DIGITAL PROJECTION A
DOREEN ROSE
"THE CHAIR"



BLACK AND WHITE, LORRAINE PISKIN
"CAT LADY IN THE DARK"



BLACK & WHITE B
LAURIE ELLIS
"SPIRALING"



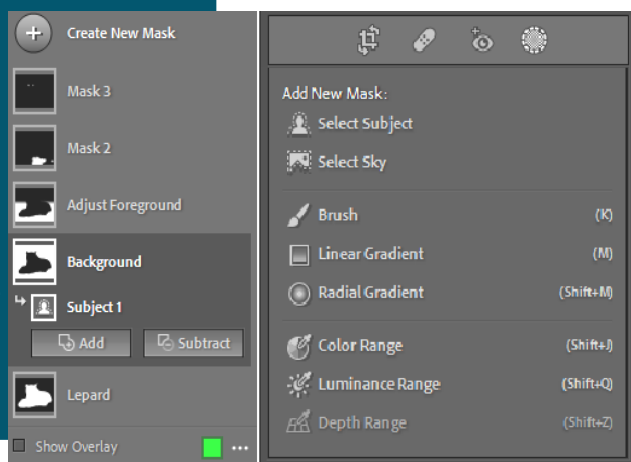
CREATIVE
SYLVIA GOLDKRANZ
"SUMMER LOVE"



Learn the new tools
in Lightroom, Pho-
toshop and Camera
Raw

Perfection is not
attainable, but if
we chase
perfection we can
catch excellence.
Vince Lombardi

New Mask-
ing Tools
Pallette



January Program Alan Agdern

New Masking Tools in Lightroom, Adobe Camera Raw and Photoshop

Confused by the changes in Lightroom and Photoshop?

Don't miss our January 20 program,

As he does in his workshops, Alan teach you the new, masking tools in Lightroom, Photoshop and Adobe Camera Raw.

These exciting new tools can significantly enhance your editing capability.

Alan will be demonstrate:

- *Mask groups for combining the various masking tools*
- *Sky and Subject selection*
- *Inversion and Intersection of selections*
- *Selective masking using techniques similar to layer masks in Photoshop.*



- *Gradient, Radial and the selective Brush adjustments*
- *Luminosity range masks*
- *Color selection range masks*

Always check your Monday email for Zoom invitations.

DECEMBER PFLI SCORES

CREATIVE

Ellen Gallagher	Golden	20
Andrew Dubitsky	Brianne	20
Debbie Garafola	Hydrangea	20
Ira Scheinerman	CircleDancers	21
Peter Newman	Fixtures	21
Sandy Sommer	Umbrella Gossip 2	21
Sylvia Goldkranz	LensBallDance	23

BLACK AND WHITE

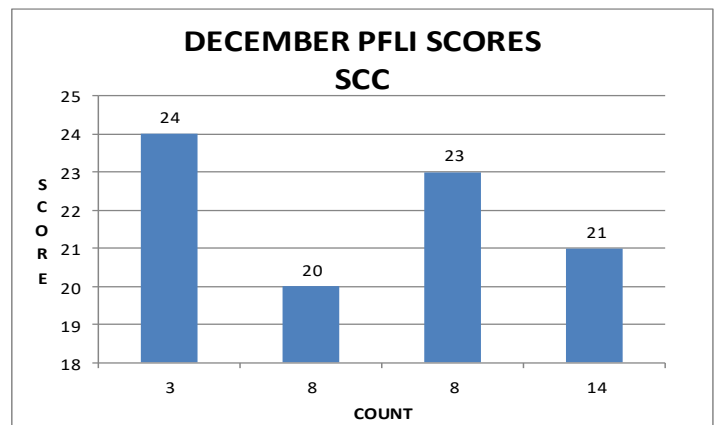
Debbie Garafola	Emerging	20
Ellen Gallagher	Striped Leaf Ab-	21
Alan Agdern	Portrait of a Man	21
Bonnie Forman	Abandoned Corridor	23
Andrew Dubitsky	Layla #17	24
Joseph Nightin-	Light House	20
Frank Kirshen-	Watching the world	20
baum	go by	20
Ira Scheinerman	The Shadow Knows	21
Peter Newman	Synchroized Flying	21
Sandy Sommer	Stormy Day at the	23
Valerie Debiase	Still Flying the Flag	20
Sylvia Goldkranz	The Barn	21

DIGITAL A

Ellen Gallagher	Harbor Reflections	21
Bonnie Forman	Auto Repair Cuban	23
Franco	Style	23
Andrew Dubitsky	Laura Seated at the	23
	Farm	23
Alan Agdern	Snow Leopard Bronx	24
	Zoo	24
Chris Ferrara	Fog	24
Frank Kirshen-	Looking for You	20
baum		
Sandy Sommer	Great Egret-2	21
Joseph Nightin-	Boats	21
gale		
Ira Scheinerman	Night of the Storm	23
Peter Newman	Charge	23
Valerie Debiase	Rust and Rails	21
Sylvia Goldkranz	Snack Time	23

DIGITAL B

Robert Kaplan	Anhinga	21
Debbie Garafola	Waiting for Dinner	21



FOR SALE

NEW- IN THE BOX

Travel tripod PHTRSSL by Prima Photo. Has 4 leg sections with twist locks, 13 inches folded size. Opens to 50.2 inches, weighs 2.65 lbs. Holds 8.8



pounds. Ball head with Arca Swiss type mount. Legs are adjustable to 3 positions from normal to flat. Best offer over \$35.

Contact bg18@live.com

GENTLY USED

Fujifilm XH1 with vertical grip. Professional quality camera. like new condition Complete with original packaging, 3 Fujifilm batteries and charger. Camera was only used a few times. 24MP X-Trans APS-C sensor, 5-axis in-body image stabilization (rated at 5EV), 3.69M-dot OLED viewfinder, Touch sensitive LCD with two-axis tilt, DCI and UHD 4K capture at up to 200 Mbps, Slow motion 1080 (from 120 and 100 fps), Internal F-Log capture, 24-bit audio capture, Eterna/Cinema Film Simulation mode, Timecode, Reduced blackout in continuous shooting, Twin UHS-II-compatible card slots, Anti-flicker shooting mode, Wi-Fi with Bluetooth for constant connection. \$850



Contact bg1958@live

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 6 Plan B – Dble Print Comp.
- 7 PFLI Competition
- 8 PFLI Print Comp.
- 13 Critique
- 20 Presentation -Alan Agdern
- 27 Competition– Gen Rudock

February

- 3 Plan B – Dble Print Comp.
- 10 Critique
- 11 PFLI Competition
- 17 Virtual Webinar: Artist Spotlight featuring Harold Davis on Lite Box Photography
- 24 Competition

March

- 3 Open

- 10 Critique
- 11 PFLI Competition
- 12 PFLI Print Competition
- 17 Presentation – Hazel Meredith: Topic to be Decided
- 24 Competition

April

- 7 Plan B – Dble Print Comp.
- 8 PFLI Competition
- 14 Critique
- 21 Presentation – Nick Stover: Topic to be Decided Inter-Club Program:
- 28 Competition

May

- 5 Open
- 12 Competition
- 13 PFLI Competition

- 14 PFLI Print Competition
- 19 Virtual Webinar: Artist Spotlight: Cole Thompson, Why Black & White
- 26 EOY Competition

June

- 10 PFLI Dig. LV Competition
- 11 PFLI Print LV Competition



PCP Frequently Asked Questions

Overall, PhotoContest Pro has been working well for our members. For the few that have had difficulty, perhaps this will help.

Q.: How do I know my image was uploaded?

A.: The area at the bottom right of your screen will show the titles of your uploaded images and by clicking "SHOW," you can see the actual image.

Q: I forgot my password. How do I find it?

A: Call the Competition Chairman 516-941-6605.

Q.: How do I prevent my name from showing with my image during competition?

A, Do not use the C26... naming convention; only the title of the image.

Q. I switched from a PC to a Mac laptop and now I can't get to the screen for uploading pictures.

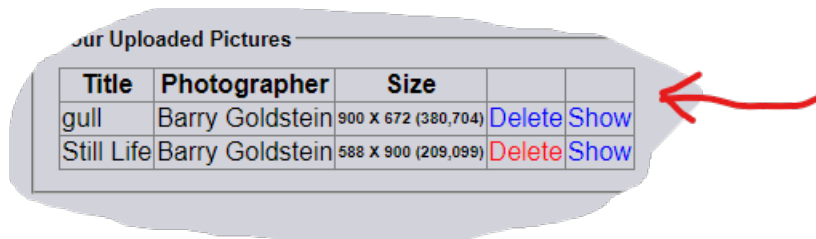
A. You are probably trying to use Method One which does not work with Macs. Use Method Two.

Q.: I selected an image and it won't upload. I checked the size and it's OK. What's wrong?

A.: Either you did not fill in the "Title" box or you already have the maximum number of pictures (3).

Q. Why can't I find the contests to enter.

A. If the contest you are looking for is not listed, you missed the cutoff date.



Title	Photographer	Size		
gull	Barry Goldstein	900 X 672 (380,704)	Delete	Show
Still Life	Barry Goldstein	588 X 900 (209,099)	Delete	Show

**Proceed to
Submit Pictures
Method 2**

(fallback for when
method 1 won't work)

RULES FOR PFLI COMPETITION ENTRIES

(Does not Apply for SCC Competition)

You may enter 1 regular, 1 B&W and 1 creative image in the monthly PFLI Competition. Send to pflisubmit@hotmail.com. Use a separate email for each entry. Indicate the category on the subject Line. You must use the following naming convention:

Example: C26-willismit-A1-Image Title.jpg

'C26' identifies the Syosset camera Club, 'willismit' is the first 5 letters of the first name and the first 4 letters of the last name, William Smith. B1, A1 or S1, is your Group and slate no.. C1 is used for Creative and for Theme images., 'Image Title' substitute your title, which may be up to 36 characters long.,

For makeups, substitute "M26" for "C26."

An image may be toned overall (monochrome) and may contain one accent color. Images specs: Jpg, 8 bit, sRB IE61966, & 900 pixels on longest side @ 72 PPI.