
ROUND 2 IN-CLUB AND THEME RESULTS

There were over 70 entries in the Round 2 In-club competition. The top-scoring photographers in each category were:

- Nature: Rick Pierce and Norm Bader, each scored 25
- Fine Art: Ken Macpherson, 24
- Landscape: Zoran Sekaric with 2 images, both scored 25
- Urban: Ken Macpherson, 25
- Portraiture: Glenn Paulley with 2 images, Carol Rawlings and Ken Macpherson, each scored 23
- Travel: Ken Macpherson and Darlene Lamb, each scored 24
- Other: Darlene Lamb with 2 images, both scored 23

Winners of the the Theme competition, "Framing", were Adam Gagnon and Larry Martin with digital submissions, and each scored 24.

Congratulations to all! Images featured in this issue of "In Focus" are some of the top scoring images. Many thanks to Ken Macpherson who built a light box for displaying the prints - this helped tremendously during the judging.

Round 3 images are due on February 6. The theme for round 3 is "Negative Space" (See Alex Wilson's article on page 3.)

DEPTH OF FIELD

On a recent Saturday afternoon we attended a kids' Christmas party, with all the usual attractions: face painting, crafts, games, and of course, Santa. Naturally I took my camera (35mm Canon) to document the day; the lenses of my Mamiya TLR are too slow for the lack of light inside the main gymnasium at the Conestoga Institute of Technology.

Sure enough, there were a number of parents in attendance who forgot their cameras at home, and were looking for someone to take a shot of their child with Santa. With my camera bag over my shoulder, I attracted some requests, and of course I said yes. What was interesting, though, was their second question: was that a digital camera in my hands? And when I replied in the negative, all of the parents who asked simply replied "Oh, never mind, I'll find someone else, thanks".

To me, that response spoke volumes about the state of photography today. It didn't matter what my skills were, or that I had a variety of top-quality equipment in my bag. Rather, I surmise that I would have been asked to take photographs of these kids if I simply had a point-and-shoot 3.2 megapixel Kodak. Not simply because the camera was digital per se, although I believe that did play a role in my repeated rejection. But also because digital images can so easily be distributed, retouched, emailed, colour-corrected, printed, and so on.

Would it have been a better image if it was digital? Arguably

yes, though there are several variables to the comparison. On the other hand, there is a quote by Brooks Jensen, the editor of Lenswork Magazine, that I really like: "All famous pictures were made with technology significantly more primitive than what you own". The book I'm currently reading illustrates that point extremely well: it's entitled simply "Andre Kertesz", and it's published by Princeton University Press (ISBN 0-691-12114-1). The authors, Sarah Greenough, Robert Gurbo, and Sarah Kennel, present a retrospective of Andre Kertesz's life and work as exhibited at the US National Gallery of Art early this spring.

The photographs within the book, most of which were taken between 1920 and the beginning of the Second World War, are amazing in several ways. Firstly, the composition of the images is astonishing. Kertesz, far from being comfortable in a studio, learned the technique of reportage photography very early in his career while still in his native Hungary, before he moved to Paris and became internationally known. There are wonderful candid photographs of Hungarian and French street scenes that each tell a story. There are also several self-portraits in this collection.

But secondly, the technical quality of these photographs is excellent. Period. Without even considering the period in which they were made. The prints in the book are almost universally black-and-white, and are stunning for their tonal range.

There. Now I feel better.

- Glenn Paulley

HGCC BOARD CONSIDERS MOVE TO BUTTON FACTORY FOR 2006

The HGCC Board has evaluated an offer by the Waterloo Community Arts Centre (located in the "Button Factory" in downtown Waterloo) to join as a member organization. The



Snowshoe Hare – Nature (25)

Norman Bader

SHOW OFF YOUR PHOTOS!

What's a photography club without pictures? Show off your photographs on the HGCC website - it couldn't be easier! Or maybe you'd like a little feedback on some of your images. You can submit up to 5 images to the Critique Request folder.

Click on the "Upload Image" link under the Participate menu. Type a title for your image, choose the folder you want your image displayed in (either the Member Gallery or Critique Request) then click on the browse button to select the image from your computer. You can add a description and choose whether you'd like ratings or comments then hit the Submit button. It's that simple!

The website restricts your image width to 1024 pixels so you'll need to resize first. Microsoft has a very cool utility on their "Power Toys" page - Resize Image - which allows you to resize an image from your windows browser with a right click. You can download it from the Microsoft website for free at www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx

A really great thing about this utility is that you can resize "on the fly" so if you're uploading to the website you don't have to resize first. You can create the resized image in the browser window by right clicking on the image you want to upload, and choose resize. This will create a smaller image in the window that you can upload. Cool huh?

Not ready to put your images on line? That's okay - but check out the photos that have already been posted. Make a few comments or helpful suggestions. Your input is always welcomed.

Carol Rawlings



Portage la Prairie - Travel (24)

Darlene Lamb

Board is recommending that the club move its functions to the Button Factory beginning September 2006. At the regular club meeting on Monday, 19 December, this issue will be brought before the entire membership for discussion.

The advantages of joining the WCAC include:

- higher quality space on the 2nd floor for club meetings, at a lower cost
- storage space for some projection equipment on-site
- permanent mailing address
- home for club trophies
- staff at the Button Factory to handle inquiries about the club during office hours
- greater exposure of the HGCC to the arts community in Waterloo Region

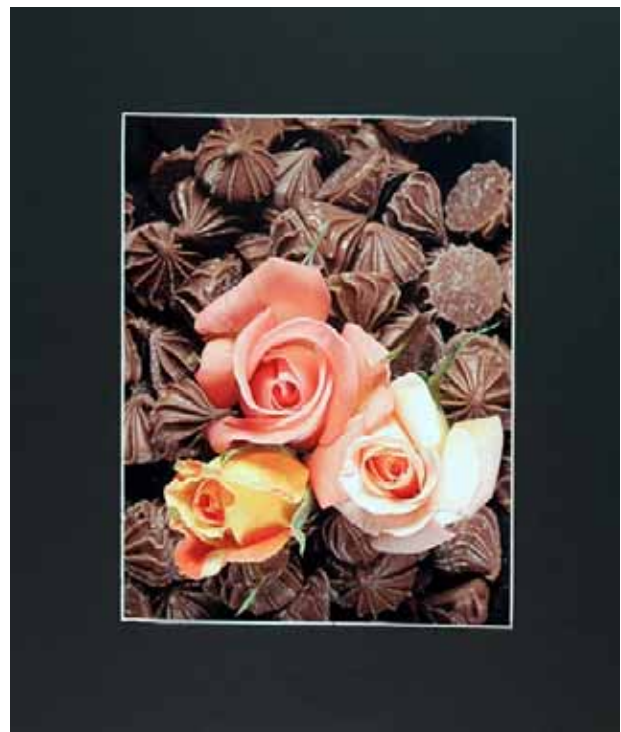
The Waterloo Community Arts Centre (WCAC) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run, charitable organization, that exists to promote all forms of art programs in the community. You can learn more about the WCAC at their website: www.sentex.net/~wcacweb/index.htm

Also being considered by your Board is having the banquet on a Monday night. All suggestions for suitable location will be considered!

At the recent meeting of the Board the proposal to join The Greater Toronto Camera Club was ratified. Representatives of HGCC will attend one of their meetings in Toronto to be accepted into this large association of camera clubs. Being part of a larger club will open a number of opportunities for our club members, and club executive. For more information on the GTCC, visit their website at www.gtccc.ca

These topics will be discussed with the members at our meeting on December 19. If you missed the meeting you can add your input on the website or contact a board member.

Glenn Paulley, Carol Rawlings



Rosebuds - Fine Art (24)

Ken MacPherson



Mist - Landscape (25)

Zoran Sekaric

NEGATIVE SPACE

The third round theme competition, due February 6th, has the subject "negative space".

In a photograph, the area that is not the subject defines negative space. The shape and area of the subject or foreground make the positive space, and what is left is the negative space. The negative space is also defined by the edges or frame of the photograph, which is important to keep in mind.

Certain factors make the background have greater separation from the subject: Selective focus, differences in colour or luminance, etc., all make the distinction between positive and negative space greater -- which not only reduces obvious distraction, but makes achieving a balance between positive and negative space easier.



Untitled 1 - Portraiture (23)

Glenn Paulley

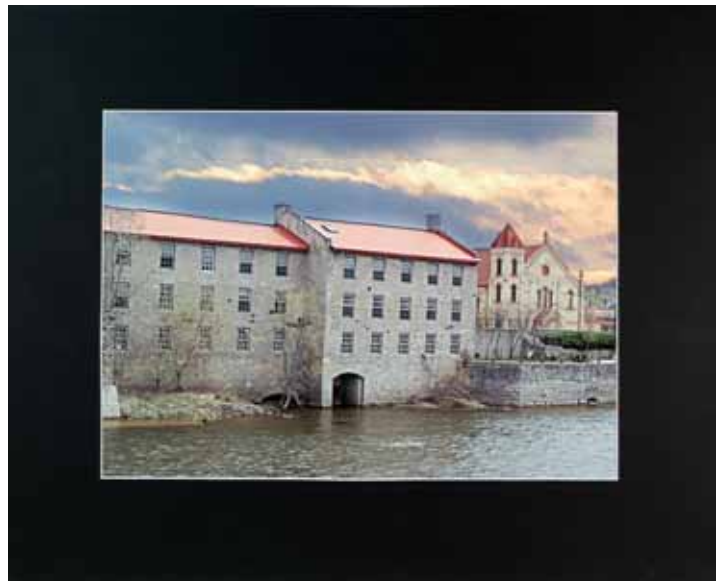
The balance between positive and negative is determined by their sizes and shapes, as well as how they relate to the shape and edge of the photograph's frame. When it comes to composition, negative space is not just "empty space", but it has visual substance and mass, even though it contains nothing of obvious interest. Good balance between the two will create a stable and pleasing image, while a carefully crafted imbalance can be very effective for a dynamic image.

How can you control the negative space in your photographs? Careful cropping, either in-camera or after taking the picture, is an important skill when it comes to using negative space effectively. Pick the size and shape of the frame carefully to achieve the balance you want, and be careful of the space between the subject and frame, as that affects the shape and flow of the negative space. Use selective focus and other techniques to control the separation of background and foreground. Large amounts of negative space can exaggerate the feeling of a lonely or isolated subject, while minimal amounts can help give the feeling of the subject filling or overflowing the frame.

What makes "good" use of negative space? Balance is important, but other compositional techniques can be used by treating the negative space as a shape and figure itself: Rhythm, pattern, proportion, symmetry, and reprise can all be applied to the negative space and relationship between the negative and positive spaces. For example, the negative space can contain the same shape, or be symmetrical to the subject.

The goal for the third round is show images that effectively use negative space to make a strong image. Have fun!

Alex Wilson



Galt - Urban (25)

Ken Macpherson

FOR SALE

Can you believe it? Days before Christmas and nobody has anything for sale! It's not too late though - you can still list your items on the website.

DIGITAL GROUP

Will there be a digital camera or scanner under your tree this year? Or maybe you're already thinking Boxing Day Sales!!! Either way, you're welcome to join the Digital Group on Monday evenings (alternating with regular club nights).

The first part of each meeting we take some time to address individual questions and share solutions and ideas. We then have an instructional portion covering such topics as Photoshop techniques, scanning and file management, followed by another open Q&A session. Our lively group is made up of photographers of all levels of interest and skills, using both digital and film cameras and everyone has a chance to participate.

Meetings are held on Monday evenings alternating with regular camera club nights, at 7:30 pm, at Grand River Credit Union, 168 King Street South in Waterloo. Park anywhere in the big lot at the back, and come to the ATM door. All club members are welcome to join - just drop in to a meeting or call Carol Rawlings or Alex Wilson.

- Carol Rawlings



Courtney - Portraiture (23)

Carol Rawlings



Just Like Mommy - Theme: Framed (24)

Larry Martin

Happy Holidays!

Do you have something to share? News, photos, reviews, opinions, links - have your say! Contact Carol Rawlings (747-1514 or carolrawlings@hotmail.com) or post a note on the HGCC website! Next Newsletter: January 23 – submissions due about a week before.



Hates Pictures - Other (23)

Darlene Lamb



Watching - Theme: Framed (24)

Ken Macpherson