

Through the Viewfinder

www.venturacountycameraclub.com

November 2011

Ventura County Camera Club

Assigned category for
November 9 is

The End

Inside this issue:

From the Prez's Pad 1

Notes from the Couch of Photo Froyd 2

Wanted to Buy, Sell or Trade 2

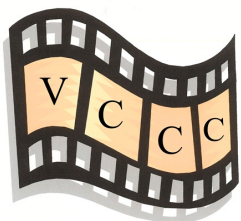
Our Judge this Month 3

Photo Events and Opportunities 3

Support Your Local Photographer 5

Merit Winning Photos 6

In the Spotlight 7



From the Prez's Pad

by Nancy Lehrer

Making a Photograph

Our October workshop, given by Greg Cooper faculty at the Brooks Institute, was a dialog about making a good photograph. There are two important words in this sentence: making and good. Greg was clear in talking about *making* a photograph as compared to *taking* a photograph. Indeed, there is an often-quoted Ansel Adams phrase "You don't take a photograph, you make it".

So what exactly goes into *making* a photograph? Greg gave two recipes and I'll include one here.

- See the light
- Set your exposure
- Compose the image
- Wait for something to happen
- Make the picture



Copyright Greg A. Cooper

See the light – here Greg encourages us to look first for the light. Look for situations where the light interacts with the scene to create texture, color, contrasts, or highlights. There is always light, but is the light creating depth and subtlety or is it flat and harsh?

Set your exposure – once you find your light, you want to ensure that that you set your exposure to use the light most effectively. If the light is isolating a specific location, you want to ensure that you expose properly for that isolation. If your light is soft and subtle, you want to ensure that you are not losing your shadow detail.

Compose the image – with your light and exposure set, your task now is to determine your perspective, angle, point of view, and field of view which will create an effective geometry of shapes and lines. You are looking at a lighted stage: will you position the light behind you, in front of you, to the side? You must evaluate the relationship between objects as you change your position and focal length.

Wait for something to happen – now what? Do you just make a picture of the light on the backdrop? No, you must wait for something to occur within that light, from the vantage point you've chosen, which creates the story and completes your image. In photojournalism (Greg's specialty), this waiting means waiting for the action or expression to take place. For a nature photographer, it might mean waiting for the wind to die down or pick up or for wildlife to come or go, or even for better light such as during a sunrise or sunset.

Make the picture – you are now ready to click the shutter. Everything has been set and you can focus on one objective, pushing the shutter at the right time to capture the lighted, composed scene as the action unfolds.

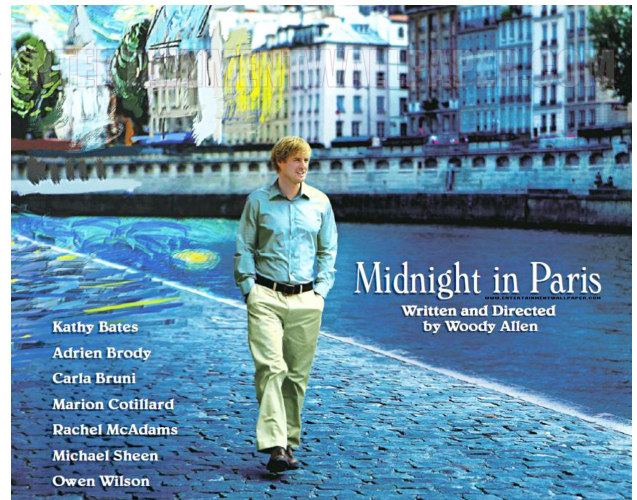
Greg Cooper offers that this approach to image making is deeply satisfying. You don't just find an interesting subject and then try to determine how to address the subject. Instead, you first evaluate how you are going to make the image by recognizing the background opportunity and only then, while waiting for the subject to emerge, can you make your image. It is a different way of thinking and something to add to your bag of ideas next time you pull out your camera.

Notes from the Couch of Photo Froyd

A night at the movies can be entertaining and at the same time teach us something about our life, dreams, ambitions and our art (photography). For the second time Old PF would like to recommend a movie, a Woody Allen movie, unlike any of his other movies. The movie is

"Midnight in Paris"

Gil, (Owen Wilson) is a writer engaged to Inez (Rachel McAdams) the spoiled daughter of a very rich family. On a trip to Paris, Gil who is bored and out of place with Rachel and her family, quickly becomes enchanted with Paris and the Parisian art community. He walks the streets of Paris at night dreaming of the "Golden Age of Art", and on one evening exactly at midnight catches a bus that transports him back in time to the Golden Age. He then comes face to face with his hero's, Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, Cole Porter, Gertrude Stein and others. He makes some discoveries, discoveries that relate directly to us, and our endeavor to create ART with our photography.



Artists are often misunderstood and at times, find ourselves alone in the quest to express ourselves through our art. Outside of our photo community most people are ambivalent to our work, plus they don't understand and worse, seldom even care what we are trying to say. Wasn't this the case with the Old Masters of the Golden Age? That didn't stop the Old Masters from creating art, and it shouldn't hinder or stop us either. We draw strength, vision and encouragement from our photographic community. Just as the old masters grouped together to share ideas, techniques, and inspiration so do we with our monthly meetings and get togethers with valued friends.

"Your image conveys a message about you..."

As artists we are always striving to create better images. Our friends encourage us to do better. However the tension of being misunderstood by people who don't know us or our vision, is the real motivation. Yes, motivating us to be more articulate with our work. This didn't stop the masters, don't let it stop you. As we look back in time to our photographic hero's, there will be people 50, 80 or 100 years from now saying that the late 20th and early 21st century was the golden age of digital photographic art. Watch the movie "Midnight in Paris" and you will come away with a different outlook about your photographic art. Maybe in 100 years from now one of your images might sell for \$50 Million

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

- Scott Adams, The Dilbert Principle

Shop local for your photo gear!

Dexter's Camera

Serving Ventura area photographers since 1960.

Located at 484 Main Street in downtown Ventura

(805)643-2172

(805)485-5815

Ask for Greg

Dexters Camera

10% OFF for VCCC members

Since 1997
RED RIVER PAPER
Premium Photo Inkjet Papers

Enter the club code "vccc" in lower case and a portion of your order will go to our club

www.redriverpaper.com/myclub

Our Judge this Month

Anne Hutton is very active with the Professional Photographers of America and has won numerous awards. Visit [Anne's website](#) for additional information.

Some of her awards include:

- Master of Photography: Professional Photographers of America
- Fellowship Award: Professional Photographers of California
- Photographer of the Year Bronze 2010: Professional Photographers of America
- Photographer of the Year Platinum 2008: Professional Photographers of America
- Kodak Gallery Award 2010



ANNE HUTTON

Once a celebrity portrait artist, Anne travels extensively delighting at the unusual architectural elements to be seen.

Photo Opportunities & Events

Moorpark 2011 - Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War

Each month we will highlight field trips, gallery showings, and contests available for our members to participate and improve their photography.

The Blue & The Gray
Gettysburg | South Mountain | Antietam | Chancellorsville

The **LARGEST** and **GRANDEST**
Civil War Battle Reenactment West of the Mississippi!

November 12 & 13, 2011

Rain Dates:
Nov. 19 & 20

Tierra Rejada Ranch, 3370 Sunset Valley Rd., Moorpark

Photo Opportunities and Events (continued)

2011 Ventura Digital Photo Contest — Take a Shot!

Enter from Jan 1 to Nov 1, 2011 - Vote Nov 7-13 - Results & Exhibit in December

Amateur, professional and school-age photographers are invited to enter their best images taken by digital or any other type of camera in the eighth annual City of Ventura Digital Photography Contest between January 1 and November 1, 2011. For more information <http://www.cityofventura.net/photocontest>.

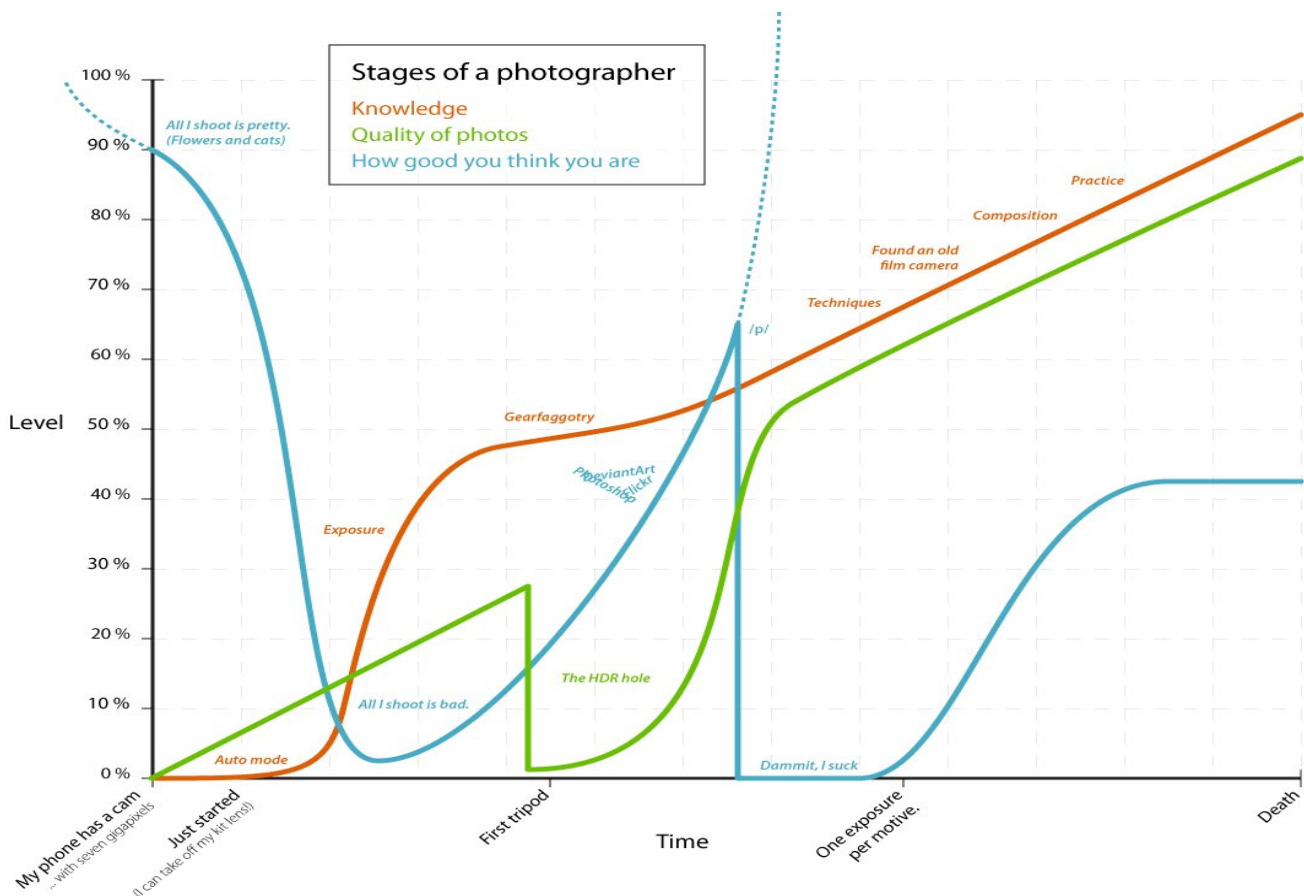
Photos must be “recognizably Ventura” and taken within our city limits. Judging in November is by photography professionals and community leaders based upon use of color, quality and clarity, illustration of theme or category, evoking a sense of place, telling a story or depicting Ventura. Capture Ventura’s beautiful environment, eclectic architecture, active people and vibrant community life, and submit your favorite photographs in these categories:

1. Environment—skylines, open spaces, beaches, parks & wildlife
2. Architecture—urban design, cityscapes, landmarks & infrastructure
3. People Portraits—of residents participating in city sponsored events & classes
4. Community Life—education, volunteer, street/nightlife, arts & cultural scenes
5. Altered Images—photos manipulated for artistic purposes
6. Photo Voice—images illustrating a community issue or problem



“Pier Sunset” by our John Ferritto was a People’s Choice award winner in the 2010 contest

The City of Ventura invited all participants of the city’s 2010 digital photography contest to attend a special reception and exhibit at City Hall, 501 Poli Street, on Monday, December 13, at 6 PM in the Council Chambers.



Support Your Local Photographer

CAMERAWHISPERER

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

educating a new breed of photographers.

Studio Channel Islands Art Center
2221 Ventura Blvd. Camarillo, CA 93010
ART EDUCATION CLASSROOM "A"
ph:805-446-6677

<http://www.camerawhisperer.com/index.html>

about lighting people on location > workshop series



About - lighting people on location > 2 day weekend workshop
Levels - Advanced prosumers and professionals > **levels 2-4**
Workshop duration - 2 days > Saturday and Sunday November 12th & 13th 2011

Workshop location - The Salton Sea > Just south of Palm Desert

Price - \$495 includes lodging and meals.

REGISTER AND RESERVE YOUR SPOT >

Deposit of \$200 or \$495 is due to hold a spot. No refunds for cancellations within 48 hours of workshop date.

Workshop Overview-

One significant approach to location portraiture is perfecting your own photographic style through understanding how to light and direct your subject. The focus of this workshop is to help facilitate this challenging goal. Learning through hands-on and real-time shooting is emphasized, with participants shooting and working with professional models. The mission is to capture unique and natural moments on location using lighting methods for outdoor location photography.

Since lighting is essential, this workshop will demonstrate lighting methods for outdoor locations. Participants will learn the proper techniques and aesthetics that create successful location portraits. Morning demonstrations will be devoted to various lighting techniques and how to direct your subject. In the afternoons, participants will work with subjects one-on-one to create their own personal location portraits.

Jansen Photo Expeditions


Yosemite in Winter

Yosemite Valley is a mystical place in winter. Very few photographers or tourist brave the cold to capture its essence. We find it the most creative time to visit. The crystalline ice forms on Bridal Veil Falls will amaze you as well as Yosemite falls. This amazing place takes on winter's beauty in it's own special way.

You'll observe wildlife as it moves quietly through the valley floor. Winter snows offer unique and special composition not found anywhere else. Photographers of all abilities are welcome. Our 2-person team offers close in-field instruction to each client in simple and easy to understand terms. Each client will receive a complete instructional evaluation long after this workshop has ended. But please, if you at all have interest register early. Accommodations in Yosemite Valley must be made long in advance! A drawing for LowePro gear will be held at the conclusion of this workshop.



Yosemite In Winter Workshop January 27-29th 2012

Sponsored By  lowepro

"Coming soon our Death Valley Winter Workshop Dec.2-4th. Inquire about Details"

<http://jansenphotoexpeditions.com/default.aspx>

Phone: Mark Jansen 805-701-8806

Merit Awards For October

Click here to see merit winning photos: <http://www.venturacountycameraclub.com/2011-merit-winners/>

Print Color

Print B&W

Pilgrimage: Albert Huen
 Bald Eagle: Susannah Kramer
 Mountain Majesty: Ed Nailor
 Pilgrimage: Albert Huen
 Rough Ride: John Ferritto
 Soaring: Hal Epstein
 To Touch A Flower: Bob Pederson

Bass Harbor: Bernie Goldstein
 Leaves Like Snow: Nancy Lehrer
 Matador Beach: Susannah Kramer
 Rabbit Valley: Roy Allen
 Silent Witness: Myrna Cambianica

Digital Open

Digital Assigned

Arroyo Burro Beach: David Orias
 Aspen Canopy: Carl Volpe
 Cadillac: Ken Macgregor
 Capitol Idea: John Ferritto
 Ginko Leaf: Myrna Cambianica
 Gracefully: Gina Ramsay
 Lee vining Creek: Hutch Hutchison
 Look At Me: Ed Nailor
 Monet Lives: Louis Wilk
 Morning Flight: Darrel Priebe
 Stone Worker: Les Ammann
 The Sky's The Limit: Rachel Allen

First Rays: Ken Macgregor
 Guiding Light: Kevin Charbonneau
 Morning Light, Darrel Priebe
 Moroccan Vendor: Carl Volpe
 Mountain Light: Hutch Hutchison
 Orange Crush: Roy Allen
 Sailor's Saviour: Anne Allen
 Sheep Herder: Louis Wilk
 Sunrise On The Lake: Darrel Priebe
 The Drink's On Me: Gina Ramsay

Digital DA

Print DA

Double Iris: Al Sarnelle
 Cocktail Time: Anne Allen

None

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Every picture tells a story. As photographers we know that there can be an interesting story about how the image was made as well. In this feature we will spotlight one merit winning photograph from the last club meeting and explore the story behind the story with the maker of the photograph.

Albert Huen contributes this month's spotlight image. This merit winning photo was shot in the WuYi Mountains in Eastern China. Famous throughout Chinese artistic history, these mountains, often shrouded in mist, represent the typical mountains in Chinese paintings. And James Cameron, director of Avatar, cited these peaks as his inspiration for his floating mountains of Pandora.

These tourists with their umbrellas are so motivated by the heavenly view that they are ascending the 828 steps carved into the stone to the summit in the rain!

Albert captured this awe inspiring photo from the peak with his Canon EOS 40D with a 24-105mm lens at 24mm, f5.6, 1/60 second and ISO 400.

Thanks Albert, for inspiring us with your wonderful travel photos.



"Pilgrimage" by Albert Huen

Ventura County Camera Club

Visitors are welcome at all regular club meetings, which are held in the Santa Paula Room of the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura. Regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM.

Image Guidelines:

Members may submit no more than 3 photos each month to be critiqued. There may be no more than 2 entries in any category. Projected images must be sized to 1024 x 768 pixels. Outstanding work may be awarded a merit by the judge. Please review the full list of requirements on the VCCC website prior to submission:

<http://www.venturacountycameraclub.com/entryguidelines/>

Email entries: digitalentries@venturacountycameraclub.com

If you would like to submit an item for the newsletter or offer other comments, please contact the editor directly:

editor@venturacountycameraclub.com

Club Officials for 2011

President: Nancy Lehrer

Vice President: Allyson Barnes

Treasurer: Susannah Kramer

Judge Coordinator: Bernie Goldstein

Website: Bob Murtha

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Charbonneau

Entry Coordinator: Anne Allen

Membership: Joyce Schoppe

Public Relations: John Ferritto

Field Trip Coordinator: Ed Pinsky, Bryan McCall

Workshop Coordinators: Roy Allen

Banquet Coordinator: Jean Castaing

Refreshment Coordinator: Patty Hester

Assigned Category Developer: Hutch Hutchison

General Advisors: Hutch Hutchison, Don Hoffman