

Remembering Composition



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The Shutterbug
a newsletter of Trinity Arts Photo Club



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www.trinityartsphotoclub.org



Get answers to your questions

At the midway break of our April meeting, several of our advanced-photographer board members will be available to answer questions from beginner photographers. This is your chance to get a quick critique of a photo, learn how to resize an image for (or upload to) our monthly competition, or just make a connection for future learning.



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Since this month's guest speaker plans to discuss composition, it's probably a good idea to show his original image. The one on the cover was cropped to fit the space. See the next page for details.

Upcoming Event

April 28

Lebanese-born American Rania Matar will discuss her portraits of girls and women taken in the United States and the Middle East at the Amon Carter Museum of Art

[Learn more](#)

In Case You Missed It

Our March speaker, Gary Daniels, took the presentation part of our monthly meeting to new heights. A wonderful presenter, his aviation images and stories had everyone on the edge of their seats.

www.daniels-creative.com



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April Meeting
Monday, April 23
Program Speaker:
Michael Cummings

Of all the settings to remember when shooting photography, there is no adjustment for composition. This month, we'll look back and reflect on the basics of a strong composition when shooting.

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Michael Cummings is an educator and photographer born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He completed his Master of Fine Arts, majoring in ceramics and photography from Indiana State University. He has since worked in education for the past 14 years, where he not only taught photography and digital design, but also developed a digital photography program for a prestigious private school in Dallas.

Michael currently enjoys travel and shooting destinations from around the world. Some of his latest photography work is focused on architecture and nature, with the occasional wedding mixed in!

In addition to photography, Michael recently discovered a new artistic medium—glassblowing, which has become a new creativity outlet. You can find Michael's recent work at Bizzi's Bistro in Bedford.

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Before you click "Submit"

Our February contest judge offered some great tips on how to check an image for obvious flaws. Perhaps his advice—and a little more from the internet—will give us a better chance of winning contests.

Turn it upside down

This is one that Luke Edmonson mentioned in his critiques. The eye is usually drawn to the brightest part of a photo. To see what that is objectively, turn your image upside down. The bright spots will suddenly jump out. Keep them if they are important. If not, tone them down or crop them out.

Eliminate distractions

Ideally everything in the shot should have a reason for being there. This is a tip best heeded while you're shooting because it may be difficult to remove distracting elements in post. But if you can, do.

Flip it

Another one from Luke: try flipping the image so what's on the right moves to the left. Sometimes this will make a big difference in the composition. Obviously this won't work if there are words in the image.

Falling water

Be sure your horizon lines are level. You may have noticed this in your friend's vacation photos from the beach. Everyone is having fun



Photo by Fredrick Suwandi on Unsplash

in the shot, but your eye keeps going to the tilted ocean in the background.

Focus

The main subject of your photo needs to be sharp. Seems like an obvious point, but it's amazing how often this comment is made by judges. Remember to view your images at 100% or closer to be sure the key part of your image is sharp.

Chromatic aberration

This is a fancy term for colored fringes around edges of high-contrast subject matter, e.g. rocks against a blue sky. This can happen with lower-grade lenses and a lot of post-production work on the image.

So what?

Yet another tip from Luke, "be bolder in saying something (as the photographer) versus just simply declaring." Does your image tell a story or show something in a unique way? Are you rewarding the viewer for taking the time to look at your photo? "Find something ... and present it in a way that if you had not, perhaps no one would ever see its beauty."

Trinity Arts Photo Club Competitions

April Topic: Backlit

For this task, the common front or side lighting goes out the window as the primary light of interest on your subject will be from behind. Such lighting will usually create a highlight that separates the subject from the background.

Entry Deadline: April 26

Photos are always due by midnight on the Thursday after the meeting.

Judge: Dan Emmerman

A few of Dan's favorite things include black and white photography, the New York Giants, bonfires, winning chili contests, and breakfast meetings at Mister J's in Harrisonburg. Check out his work at dbephotography.com

May - Open (anything goes)

June - Cell Phone Shot

July - Water

August - Simplicity

September - Open

October - In the Still of the Night

November - Dinosaur

Scavenger Hunt

by Lynne Rogers Harris

It was a surprise waking to a very cold and misty morning Saturday for our Photo Scavenger Hunt, especially after 87 degrees on Friday. But 10 of us...

... showed up in Grapevine ready to shoot. We had a list of almost 50 items to look for and about two hours time to get our photographs. With it being bitterly cold and windy, most of us took off for the Main St. Bread Company for coffee before really getting started. Thirty minutes later, we all headed out in our own directions; catching up with one or two others when popping into an open store to get warm and find items on our list. We asked strangers to kiss, hold hands, make funny faces, jump in the air, etc. The strangers (now our new friends) had as much fun helping us with our list as we had photographing them. (continued on next page)



© Kathy Bezold



© Debby Hoover

© Lynne Rogers Harris



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We met at Willhoite's for lunch and provided some of our best or most fun images to be put on the computer. After lunch, we drove to the Grapevine Community Center where we showed our images on a large TV screen. We ooh'd, aah'd, and laughed at some of the images and with each other.

This was such a fun outing for the club.



© Doug Tharp



© Debby Hoover



© Dick Graves



© Dick Graves

ALERT: Free Lightroom Training

If you want to learn how to use Lightroom or want to know more about it, Ben Willmore started a free 20-day bootcamp on Sunday, April 8 at creativelive.com. Each day at 11 a.m., he will be going step-by-step through Lightroom for about 60-90 minutes. After that live presentation, the same class loops for 24 hours. So you can watch it after work or see it again if you didn't quite understand something. The entire class can be purchased for \$149. But you can watch each show daily for free.



© Lynne Rogers Harris

Jazz Age Sunday Social

Ever get the feeling you're missing out on something? If you're not going on TAPC field trips, you are. Keep an eye on the [MeetUp site](#) to see upcoming events (and more of these photos).

© Mark Lenz



© Lynne Rogers Harris



© Mark Lenz

Trinity Arts Photo Club February Contest Winners

Beginner – “It Makes Me Feel”



© Chris Scholz

1st Place Lousy rain Chris Scholz



© Leanna Mendoza

2nd Place Distressed Leanna Mendoza

“I took this picture while traveling through Huizhou, Anhui Province towards the end of the rainy season. I noticed an old lady sitting in the doorway on her bright orange plastic chair. My camera was set to ISO 200, f/8.0 at 1/60 s and pre-focused to about 2m. I opened the aperture a stop to capture some of the light inside the house, took a single exposure and moved on.”

- Chris Scholz



© Teresa Hughes

3rd Place Proud of my flag Teresa Hughes

Honorable Mention
It Makes Me Feel . . . Happy!
Bob Schafer



© Bob Schafer

Trinity Arts Photo Club February Contest Winners Advanced – “It Makes Me Feel”



© Lana Macko

1st Place *Suddenly I Felt So Small* Lana Macko

“I was sitting on a rocking zodiac and it was snowing and grey. My ISO was 800 and it was shot at 1/1600s, f/11.00 at 100mm with a 100-400mm lens.” - Lana Macko



© Debby Hoover

2nd Place *I Want My Momma!!!* Debby Hoover



© James Hamel

Honorable Mention
Anguish
James Hamel



© James Hamel

3rd Place *Keyed Up* James Hamel

The Story Behind the Photo

"I was at the park, just trying to find something to spark my photographic interest. Becoming discouraged because nothing seemed to be quite what I wanted, I started heading back to the car. Then I noticed this red slider walking (very slowly) my way. I stopped to take his photo, but I realized that to get what I wanted, I'd have to get dirty. So ... I got dirty, lying down on the ground so I could be on his level. I think he got tired of having his picture taken though. I'm pretty sure he considered me to be paparazzi. Oh well. I thanked him and went on my way, happy to have come across him."

- Amy McMurry



© Amy McMurry

What Was I Thinking? Amy McMurry