



# The Magic of Night Photography

JAN 2018 | **The Shutterbug**  
a newsletter of Trinity Arts Photo Club



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Mark Lenz, Bill Webb, Beth Wasson

Officers at Large and Committee Chairs will be finalized at the January meeting.

[www.trinityartsphotoclub.org](http://www.trinityartsphotoclub.org)



## Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2018. The New Year has brought a few changes to Trinity Arts Photography Club, including new leadership (see list) and a redesigned newsletter. As always, if there are things you want included in The Shutterbug or if you have ideas for any improvements, please send an email to the new editor: [darrenwiedman@gmail.com](mailto:darrenwiedman@gmail.com).

DEADLINE for next edition is FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

## Reminder...

Be sure to bring a check or cash to the next meeting to renew your annual membership. You're already paid up if you joined in October, November, or December. Dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, and \$15 for students.

## Trinity Arts Photo Club January Competition

Topic: OPEN (anything goes)

Entry Deadline: January 25

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

Judge: Sean Fitzgerald

Sean is a Texas-based nature and conservation photographer. Sean tries to create images that are simple, graphic, evocative, surreal and that in some way evoke a reaction, provoke an emotion, or tell a story. While his photographic subjects are widely varied, he is repeatedly drawn to nature and wildlife and the impact of man on both. To learn more about Sean, please visit his website: [www.seanfitzgerald.com](http://www.seanfitzgerald.com)



© Jim Hamel

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## January Meeting

Monday, January 22

Program Speaker:

Jim Hamel

[JimHamelPhotography.com](http://JimHamelPhotography.com)

Jim Hamel is a photographer focusing on landscapes, seascapes, and urban scenes. When job and family life left him with little time to shoot during the day, he began focusing his efforts on night photography. He spent several years photographing at night in various locations across the US and Europe, both in urban and rural settings. In recent years, he has taught and lectured about night photography across the country. He also created a popular course on night photography for Digital Photography School, the world's largest photography website.



© Jim Hamel



© Jim Hamel

Jim resides in Southlake, Texas, with his wife Susan and two daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth. In addition to pursuing his own photography business and hobby, he maintains a website to help photographers called Outdoor Photo Academy. He is a staff writer for Digital Photography School. His books include *Getting Started with Photography* and *Photographing London*. He is also teaching an upcoming course on scenic photography at the Winona School of Professional Photography.

# 12 Elements of a Merit Image

The judge of our October contest, Andrew Clark, mentioned that he assessed TAPC images based on guidelines from the Professional Photographers of America (PPA). This article from the PPA explains more about those guidelines.

The Photographic Exhibitions Committee (PEC) of PPA uses the following 12 elements as the “gold standard” to define a merit image. PEC trains judges to be mindful of

these elements when judging images to the PPA merit level and to be placed in the International Print Exhibit at Imaging USA, the annual convention. The use of these 12 elements connects the modern practice of photography and its photographers to the historical practice of photography begun nearly two centuries ago.

Twelve elements have been defined as necessary for the success of an art piece or image. Any image, art piece, or photograph will reveal some measure of all twelve elements, while a visually superior example will reveal obvious consideration of each one.

1.) **Impact** is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of these twelve elements.

2.) **Technical excellence** is the print quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, printing, mounting, and correct color are some items that speak to the qualities of the physical print.

3.) **Creativity** is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.

4.) **Style** is defined in a number of ways as it applies to a creative image. It might be defined by a specific genre or simply be recognizable as the characteristics of how a specific artist applies light to a subject. It can impact an image in a positive manner when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other, or it can have a negative effect when they are at odds.

5.) **Composition** is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.

6.) **Presentation** affects an image by giving it a finished look. The mats and borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.

7.) **Color Balance** supplies harmony to an image. An image in which the tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect.

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© Chris Scholtz

*yin-yang beans* - Chris Scholtz  
1st Place - Beginner

*One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.*

8.) **Center of Interest** is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest, when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.

9.) **Lighting**—the use and control of light—refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Whether the light applied to an image is manmade or natural, proper use of it should enhance an image.

This article was excerpted from the Professional Photographers of America website. See the full article at [www.ppa.com](http://www.ppa.com).

10.) **Subject Matter** should always be appropriate to the story being told in an image.

11.) **Technique** is the approach used to create the image. Printing, lighting, posing, capture, presentation media, and more are part of the technique applied to an image.

12.) **Story Telling** refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.

**Abandoned Treasure** - Lana Macko, 1st Place - Advanced



© Lana Macko

## Trinity Arts Photo Club Upcoming Topics

### February - It Makes Me Feel

Photographs that convey emotion and feeling are not easy to shoot. The goal for February's competition is to share an image that tells the viewer what was happening and how the person/people felt—how they were affected. These will likely NOT be posed shots but more likely candid ones. Capture the "moment."

March - Procrastinator's Delight

April - Backlit

May - Open

June - Cell Phone Shot

July - Water

August - Simplicity

September - Open

October - In the Still of the Night

# 40th Annual Heard Nature Photography Contest – 2018

Did you make a resolution to enter your work in more contests? Here's your first chance—the Heard Nature Photography Contest. First-, second-, and third-place ribbons will be awarded for each category in all four divisions. The best-of-show winners in each division will receive a ribbon and a \$100 cash prize. Several TAPC members have entered and won this contest in the past.

Adult Categories include:

- Captive Animals
- Wild Animals
- Feathered Friends
- Expressive Impressions
- Floral
- Creepy Crawlers
- Scenics
- Water
- Black & White
- Into the Night



© Bill Vansco

**Bee in Yellow Flower** - Bill Vansco

Divisions:

- Adult - Aspiring
- Adult - Experienced
- Junior Youth (Up to age 14)
- Senior Youth (Ages 15-18)

Adult Entry Fees: \$10 per image

Youth Entry Fees: \$5 per image

Deadline: February 25, 2018

More information is available online:

[www.heardnaturephotographers.com/about-the-contest/](http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/about-the-contest/)



© Sharlott Hasty

**Five Horses Running in the Snow** - Sharlott Hasty  
Best of Show, 1st place - Captive Animals, Adult Advanced



© Chanin Heyer-Green

**Virgin Creek Falls** - Chanin Heyer Green

**Gonna Getcha!** - Brian Pipe  
Best of Show, 1st Place - Insect/Arachnid, Adult Beg/Int



© Brian Pipe

## The Story Behind the Photo

Sometimes the most interesting part of a photograph is the story of how it was taken. I think it would be fun to hear from TAPC members every month about one of their favorite photos and how it came to be. Since this idea just came to me about 30 seconds ago and I don't have time to contact anyone else, I'll go first.

*"I was a member of the Nashville Photography Club a few years ago. They had a monthly contest like ours; however, the entries had to be shot within a few months of the deadline. The upcoming theme was "joints," and I had nothing that would work. While walking downtown a few days before, I'd noticed a cracked window. Thinking it might work for the assignment, I set out for the storefront with camera in hand. As I approached the building, I saw two men washing the window. While I waited nearby for them to finish, I glimpsed this little guy sunning himself on a utility box. If it weren't for the window-washing delay, I never would've noticed him. A few minutes earlier, he would've been in complete darkness. And soon after, all the shadows were gone. It was definitely a right-place/right-time moment. I learned two things: cool images are everywhere and what you set out to shoot may lead you to something even better."*

I'm sure the photographers in this club have better stories, better images, and better lessons learned. Please send in yours, and we'll feature one on the last page of each month's newsletter.



© Darren Wiedman