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AUG
2019

The Shutterbug
a newsletter of Trinity Arts Photo Club

Inside: The Secret Sauce of
Photography



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www.trinityartsphotoclub.org



meetup

Have something to contribute?
Email darrenwiedman@gmail.com



August Meeting

Monday, August 26

Program Speaker:

Edgar Miller

EdgarMillerImages.com

Edgar Miller is a native Texan living in Fort Worth. He has appeared in photographs since 1968 and has taken and developed photographs since 1979. He earned his bachelor of fine arts degree in 1992 and has an extensive knowledge base in science and math along with the visual arts.

Edgar is currently a commercial and fine art photographer and educator working out of a studio on the Near Southside of Fort Worth. His work has been shown and awarded in several Texas and national exhibitions. He has taught photography and art for the last 20 years and is always looking for new ways to help his clients learn.

Edgar is also a member of the Texas Photographic Society and the Texas Artists Coalition. He has been a juror for many local photography clubs and is active in the Fort Worth Community Art Center. With influences from his late father and his college photo professor, he continues to find interesting light on interesting subjects.



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Edgar's Secret Sauce of Photography

Ingredients included

"What's the secret sauce of photography? It is what I consider to be the essential knowledge ingredients to helping produce a great photograph. It has to all come together in the right mix for a successful image."



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Mark R Lenz ©2019

Ooooooh. Aaaaaah.

Here are a few more amazing shots from TAPC photographers found on our Facebook page. The Friday night fireworks over Lake Grapevine will continue through September 20. The shows start at 9:30 p.m., but get there early to set up. Visit our [Facebook](#) page for more shots and information.

Meet Our August Judge

Frank Hamrick is an associate professor at Louisiana Tech University. His work mixes photography, storytelling, handmade books, and found objects. His work is housed in collections including The Art Institute of Chicago, The Amon Carter Museum of American Art, and The Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

www.frankhamrick.com

Trinity Arts Photo Club Competitions

August Topic: Emotion

For February of last year, we did “It Makes Me Feel” as a topic. This is similar, but this time let’s try to capture an image that shows emotion; NOT what causes emotion. This could be one of our more challenging topics.

Entry Deadline: August 29

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

Judge: Frank Hamrick

2019 Competition Topics

- September Open
- October Procrasinator’s Delight
- November Hands, Feet, Paws or Claws

2020 Competition Topics

- January Open
- February Macro/Close Up
- March Black & White
- April Reflections
- May Open

7 Non-Technical Tips for Improving Your Photography Right Now

by Jim Hamel

Seems like every time someone gives tips about improving photography, they start with something technical. That is understandable; there is a lot of technical stuff to learn in photography. At the same time, it seems like there should be some non-technical things that could be done today—right now—to improve.

Turns out, there are. Here are seven non-technical tips you can use right now to make your photographs better. Try them out next time you are photographing. I guarantee instant improvement in your outdoor photography.

1. Fill the frame

This cannot be overstated enough.

We all tend to put some background elements in our picture so that our viewers will recognize the location or context of the picture. The trouble is, beginners always put way too much context in the picture and it dilutes the subject. In any event, we humans are amazingly perceptive and can place context of the photo with only the tiniest of clues.

Next time, try to include *just* the subject.

2. Make it darker

Different levels of exposure create different moods. This is especially true of underexposure. It creates a sense of drama and sometimes mystery. Another benefit of slightly underexposing your images is that it makes your colors appear more saturated. Don't overdo it, but next time try to knock the exposure level down a touch.

3. Get close

A close cousin to the "fill the frame" tip (it bears repeating) is to get close to your subject. Now get closer. Now get closer still. You actually still might not be close enough. Keep at it.

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Keeping the exposure dark adds some drama to this photo of an old barn.



Using tree branches to frame in two sides of a photo of a windmill at sunset.



© James Hamel

Do it today

These are all tips you can put into action today. You don't need any special equipment. The total cost of all extra gear needed to put these tips into action is \$0. So give them a try and you should see immediate improvement.



Jim Hamel is not just a great photographer, writer, and teacher, he's also one of our very own TAPC members. Check out his free photography guides and tutorials at

Outdoor Photo Academy. You can also see this original unedited article (with three more tips) and even more images.

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4. Wait for action

So, you've got a great scene lined up. Maybe it is a landscape, maybe an urban scene. Go ahead and take the shot, but then recognize that you probably just got the same shot as everyone else.

The scene isn't going anywhere. Wait for an interesting development. That might be a person walking through the scene. It might be a flock of birds. It can be anything, so keep your eyes open. That extra something can be the thing that sets your picture apart from countless pictures of the same thing.

You don't need to wait around all day, but another minute or two might make all the difference.



© James Hamel

5. Frame the subject

Oftentimes you will find yourself before an interesting subject, but with no interesting background. A great solution to this problem is to use a frame within your frame. It can be a complete frame, or a partial. The most obvious examples are doorways, windows, and tree branches, but almost anything can be used.

6. Fortify yourself

Right before you go out to take pictures, look at the best photography you can find. If you don't already have your favorite place(s), start with the Popular page at 500px. Doing this right before you head out seems to always lead to better pictures being taken.

I know you don't believe me, but it makes a BIG difference. Try it and you will be a believer.

7. Take multiple exposures

Don't just take one picture and walk off, assuming you've nailed it. Take pictures from different angles. Get low, then get higher. Get behind your subject and then in front of it. Pros call this "working the scene" and it is not uncommon for them to take dozens of pictures of the same thing from slightly different perspectives.

Remember that with digital photography it costs nothing to take pictures—so take advantage of this and take a lot of them.

A nice photo of the Rock of Cashel made much more interesting by a bird flying across the frame.

Trinity Arts Photo Club June Contest Winners

Beginner – “Broken”



© Jeanne Crockett

1st Place *Shattered* Jeanne Crockett

*“My original intention was the reflection of a person, but the mirror shattered rather than cracked and had to stay horizontal. Hence the reflection of the sky.”
(f8, 1/2000, ISO 100)
- Jeanne Crockett*



© Mangesh Sangapu

2nd Place
Eggcellent
Mangesh Sangapu

© Greg Richards



3rd Place *It's Hurricane Season* Greg Richards



© Jan Stout

Honorable Mention
Basketball Hoops
Jan Stout

Trinity Arts Photo Club June Contest Winners Advanced – “Broken”



© Janet Cunningham

1st Place *Every Seashell Has a Story* Janet Cunningham
“Many people will discard a broken seashell, but I find beauty in them. This shot was taken in Gulf Shores, AL in afternoon sunlight.” (f/5.6, 1/1000 sec, ISO 100 using a 35mm lens)
 - Janet Cunningham



© Terry Barnes

2nd Place
Farm Truck
 Terry Barnes

3rd Place *Patio Home* Lana Macko



© Lana Macko



© Dick Graves

Honorable Mention
Need a Spoon Dick Graves

People’s Choice Award
Seven Years Darren Wiedman



© Darren Wiedman



The Story Behind the Photo

"This shot was one of about three hundred that I took for our 'Motion' competition many months ago.

"One Saturday afternoon, to my wife's delight, I spent several hours dropping dice on a glass table with my right hand while simultaneously pressing the shutter release cable with my left.

"It took a while to get the lighting right and not have odd reflections on the glass. Timing was also a huge issue. I was trying to capture the dice in a way where some were still falling and others were bouncing back off the glass. But the dice would often ricochet out of the shot.

"I included the wall in the background to give a sense of depth, but later I realized that the harsh line was a bit distracting. But it did help if one of the dice was crossing the line. That issue eliminated a lot of otherwise good images.

"I wanted to give a sense of motion while still having the dice remain sharp, so I 'dragged the shutter.' This is done by using a flash to freeze part of the action, while keeping the shutter open long enough to capture more of the subject with ambient light.

"This was a lot of fun, and I could've done it much longer. But I ran out of daylight and my wife ran out of patience."

- Darren Wiedman



© Darren Wiedman

Fuzzy Dice II Darren Wiedman (f/4.5, 1/80, ISO 400, 78mm)