

Photography Club of Greater Cincinnati
Minutes
April 24, 2024

Welcome!

- Guests
- New Members

Events and Announcements

- **Cincinnati Zoo Blooms** – April 1-30
- **Art In Bloom – Cincinnati Art Museum** – April 26-28, 60 Floral arrangements paired with fine art throughout the museum
- **Louisville Zoo – Wild Lights Lantern Festival** – March 23 – May 19, Thursday – Sunday, 7:00-10:00 pm – (\$16-\$26) www.louisvillezoo.org/wildlights2024
- **Farm Fest at Gorman Heritage Farm** – May 11, 9-3:00
- **Birding Photography** – May 25 - Cincinnati Nature Center from 8-10 am; and The Raptor Center from 10:30-12:00 pm – contact Gary Lord
- **Cleveland Public Library (main downtown library) – “The Archive”** – through May 31, A hanging display you walk through of 500,000 dried, floating flowers
- **Krohn Conservatory – Annual Butterfly Show** - May 14 - July 1, Open daily, 10:00 am -8:00 pm, Designated photographer nights have been available in past years (but sell out quickly) – no current word on sign-ups. You can bring lights & tripods at these “photographer” events.

Call For Artists

- **Roebling Bridge Photography Contest** – Start taking photos for the contest later this summer – See Mark for more information
- **Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park** – As part of FotoFocus 2024, this year’s theme is “Stories of the Land” which asks artists to submit a lens-based work that interrogates the many stories that emerge on the land on which we all live. As always, we’d like to introduce new artists to this region, feature local artists, and exhibit everyone, from more established to emerging artists, in tandem. *All accepted art will be eligible to win an award up to \$500.*
Entry deadline is May 3rd. Entry fee is \$25. Up to 3 images may be submitted.
Exhibit will run from 8/16 - 11/22. Images will be for-sale (20% retained by exhibit). Visit <https://www.pyramidhill.org/art> for more information and application.
- **Evendale Cultural Events Center Exhibit** – May thru August or September
 - 14 members have expressed interest in exhibiting images
 - Each member can submit two images each, no larger than 30x30”
 - Images will be due on Wednesday, May 15 between 9:30-11:00 am
 - Bring images to ECAC with name, title, and selling price on back – will need this information in advance of the show for making placards to hang with the images
 - Prefer no glass – plexiglass, metal, lightweight acrylic, canvas
 - Wire hanging on back
 - Will be able to sell your images
 - Evendale will advertise the exhibit on their Google Business listing and on their Facebook page

Program Announcements: Glen

Upcoming Presentations:

- **May 8** – Frank Harrison – Photographer Ernst Haas
- **June 26** – Hank Erdman – Nature Abstractions
- **July 10** – Melvin Grier – Photojournalism and Street Photography
- **September 11** – Carol Sheppard – Using Textures to Increase Interest In Your Images
- **October 9** - Frank Weiwandt – Image Processing

Photo Walks:

- Photos from the Washington Park and Eclipse Galleries can be seen on our website – on the main page click on the Galleries tab and scroll down to the specific gallery you want to view
- Monday, May 6 – Wegerzyn Gardens in Dayton
- Ideas for May, June, July – Oakley Graffiti Alley, Kentucky Horse Park, Yellow Springs (Glen Helen, John Bryant SP, Clifton Gorge), Fort Ancient, Hocking Hills
- August – Cincinnati Triple Steam Water Plant, Music Hall tour
- Other ideas for future photo walks

Current and Upcoming Club Competitions

- **Tonight - “Pick a Subject” - Pets, Domestic (Farm) Animals or Wildlife**
- **May 8 – Print – due 4/24 – “Open – One Color”** - The image can be of any subject. The image must be all one color. It CANNOT be a black and white or sepia image – it must be one color of various tones. Incidental shadows and highlights are permitted. An example of a one-color image would be blueberries, in a blue bowl, with a blue napkin, on a blue background.
- **May 22 – Digital – due 5/8 – “Architectural Elements”** - When doing architectural photography, it’s easy to get lost in the grandeur of buildings – yet the details matter, too. When photographing buildings, the best approach is to make use of architecture design elements such as shape, line, color, pattern, texture, and space. This image should be of the elements or details within the design of the building and can be inside or outside of the building or structure. It just cannot be the whole building or structure. Examples would include staircases, doorknobs, patterns in floor tiles, windows, doors, etc.
- **May 22 - Digital - due 5/8 – “Creative Image Competition”** - Up to two images may be entered “...focusing on creative images and permitting unlimited manipulation and processing techniques.” Artistic or creative effects can be created in camera during shooting of your subject or in processing your image in the computer. Members will vote for the winners by choosing their two favorite images. These can be fundamentally different from what members typically enter in competitions.
- **June 12 - Print – due 5/22 – “Long Exposure”** - Long exposure photography is a technique that involves capturing a single image over an extended period of time. It’s all about controlling the amount of time the camera sensor “sees” the world. While stationary subjects remain unchanged regardless of the shutter speed, subjects in motion start to reveal more movement as the exposure time increases. This creates a captivating contrast between sharpness and blur, resulting in images that evoke a sense of fantasy and reality combined. Long exposures can be of anything moving – cars, people, water, clouds, plants blowing in the wind, etc.

Old Business:

- Replacement for Audra – Digital Competition Coordinator

New Business:

- Dues increase needed in 2025

Presentation: Critiquing and Judging Images

Susan Milinkovich

Critiquing and Judging Images

- We all ask the question: “Is this image good enough to keep in my files, post on social media, enter into camera club competitions, or submit to a call for artists for a photography exhibit?”
- How do we know what is good or not?
- How do we learn to critique our own work – and then the work of others?
- Knowing that photography is subjective – what should we pay attention to when submitting our images?

PCGC Guidelines for Judging

- Composition
- Technical
- Impact
- Scale of 1-5

What Do Judges Look For?

- **Technical-** Is the image well-composed and executed from a technical perspective:
 - Focus – sharp, especially on main subject
 - Exposure – lighting exposure should suit scene and mood. Shadows and highlights properly exposed.
 - Lighting – is light used effectively to highlight the subject and create the intended ambiance
 - Composition/arrangement – are compositional techniques used to create balanced, appealing images
 - Color and contrast – vibrant, well-balance colors, effective tonal range from shadows to highlights
- **Originality and Creativity** – is the image imaginative, unique, experimental – do they offer new ways of seeing
 - Unique perspective – interesting or unexpected angles and viewpoints
 - Creative techniques – utilize in-camera effects, multiple exposures, slow shutter speeds, zooming, panning, etc.
 - Imagination – convey original concepts and imaginative interpretations of themes
 - Style – having a consistent style or approach can make your work stand out
- **Emotional Impact and Storytelling** – look for moments that convey joy, sorrow, awe, the human condition, or a thoughtful narrative
 - Evokes emotion – images that created an emotional connection with the viewer tend to stand out
 - Interesting narrative – conveys a story or makes a statement beyond just a pretty picture
 - Captures a moment – freezes a meaningful moment that viewers can relate to
 - Is it eye-catching?
- **Relevance to Theme or Category** – how well does the photo fit the specified theme or category – closely matching it gives you an advantage

- Category – read the descriptions closely
- Theme – interpret the theme creatively, but stay true to the essence
- Subject matter – choose appropriate models, props, and locations that align with the theme

25 Questions To Ask Yourself

1. Does the image have a message, purpose or feeling?
2. Is the subject presented in an effective way?
3. Is the photo unique?
4. Is there a fresh or creative approach or is this image merely documentary or a snapshot?
5. Does the image tell a story? Can you say it is compelling?
6. Does the image focus on the subject or interaction of subjects?
7. Are the colors used pleasant and harmonious?
8. Was it taken in good lighting?
9. Was the best angle or point of view chosen?
10. Is the DOF appropriate or adequate?
11. Is the image noisy?
12. Are there distracting elements or mergers?
13. Would a different aspect ratio improve the image presentation?
14. Is the image lacking visual interest?
15. How are the tones in the image? Is there depth to the image?
16. Is there implied movement?
17. Does the subject have room to move in the direction of travel?
18. Is the subject doing something interesting?
19. Is the background pleasing, working with the subject, and appropriate?
20. Is the horizon line level? Was it intentionally skewed?
21. Is the image sharp?
22. Was selective focus used?
23. Is the subject in focus?
24. Is the subject properly exposed?
25. Is there contrast? Or is the image flat?

Effectively Receiving a Critique

- Leave your ego at the door
- Remember that an image critique is based on that person's experiences and opinions – but a different perspective may reveal aspects you may have overlooked
- Do not take them personally – they are not an assessment of your overall skill or ability
- Explain what your goal for the image was if possible
- Share your thoughts, ask questions, learn from constructive feedback

Effectively Giving a Critique

- Study the image based on competition guidelines – what appeals to you, what could be improved/enhanced
- Evaluate the elements of lighting, color, contrast, composition, and DOF – are there any adjustments needed
- Describe any emotional response the image evokes
- Explain why identified elements need improvement
- Suggest processing advice and why they would help
- Start and end positively with suggestions in the middle

Digital Photo Competition:

“Pick a Subject” - Pets, Domestic (Farm) Animals or Wildlife

- The subject of the image must be either pets (e.g., fish, birds, dogs, cats etc.), domestic (farm) animals (e.g., cows, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, chickens, alpaca, etc.) or wildlife.
- Wildlife can include mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles or fish - *in the wild*.
- Any images may include people in addition to the pets, domestics, or wildlife.
- The images must be taken between February 28th and April 10th.
- *Captive zoo animals (except for petting-farm domestics) and insects are excluded from this topic.*

Tonight’s Judge: Daniel Schloemer

Winners:

- 1st place – Patty Bertsch - Bad Hair Day
- 2nd place – Brian Forschner – Feathering the Nest
- 3rd place - Neville Duffield – Leaping Heron
- 4th place – Joel Belsky – Man’s Best Friend
- 5th place – Mo Henning – Short-eared Owls in a tussle
- 6th place – Kelly Brunarski – The Scottish Deerhound
- HM – Valerie Baxter – Inspecting the mushroom logs
- HM – Lisa Meili – Is the party over yet?
- HM – Karen Kindness - Ginny
- HM – Candace Cook – American Woodcock
- HM – Alane Susan Shoemaker – My Granddaughter’s Lizard Freddie
- People’s Choice – Frank Harrison – Behind Bars

*“If we had no winter, the spring
would not be so pleasant.”*

~Anne Bradstreet

Have a great evening
and happy Spring shooting!