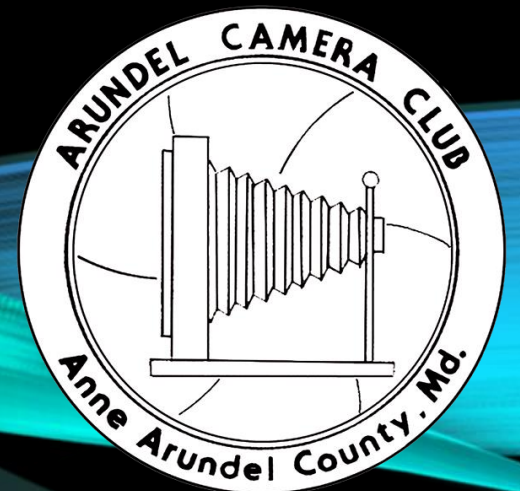


ARUNDEL CAMERA CLUB

How to get the most out of critiques and competitions

Mike Thomas and Ron Peiffer



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF COMPETITIONS

- Monthly Digital Contests
- Monthly Print Contests
- Planning for Contests
 - Selecting and Tracking Contest Images
 - Preparing Digital Images for Submission
 - Preparing Prints for Submission
- What do you make of it all?



MONTHLY THEME SCHEDULE

Open Competitions : September 2023, November 2023, January 2024, March 2024

October 2022 Theme: **Flowers**

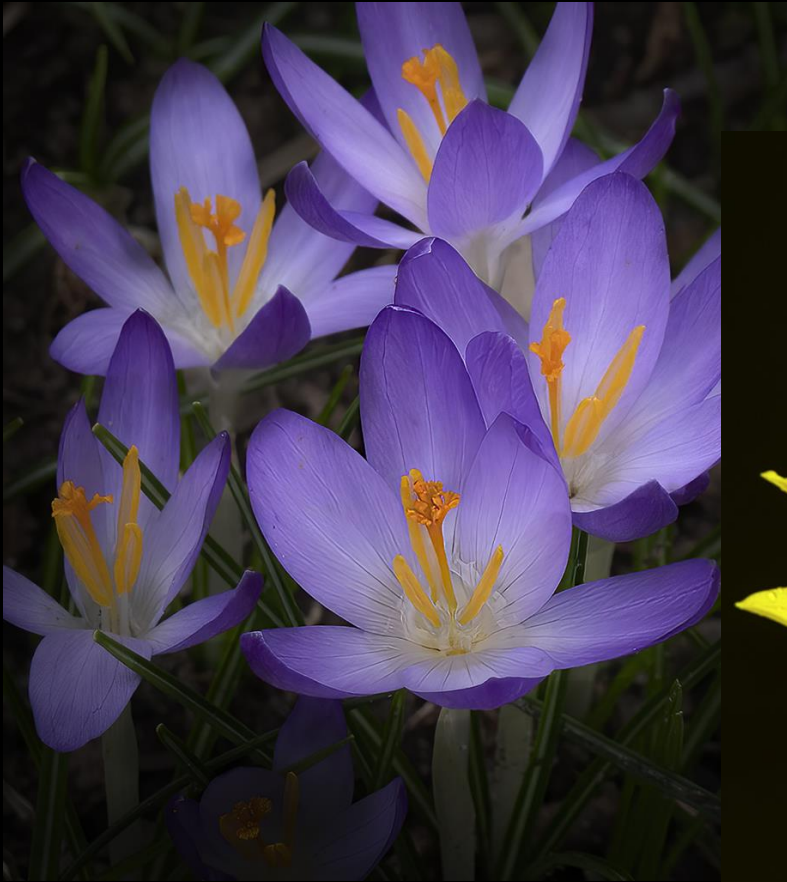
December 2022 Theme: **Craftsmen, Artisans, Musicians**

February 2023 Theme: **Sacred Places and Places of Reverence**

April 2023 Theme: **Night**



OCTOBER THEME: FLOWERS

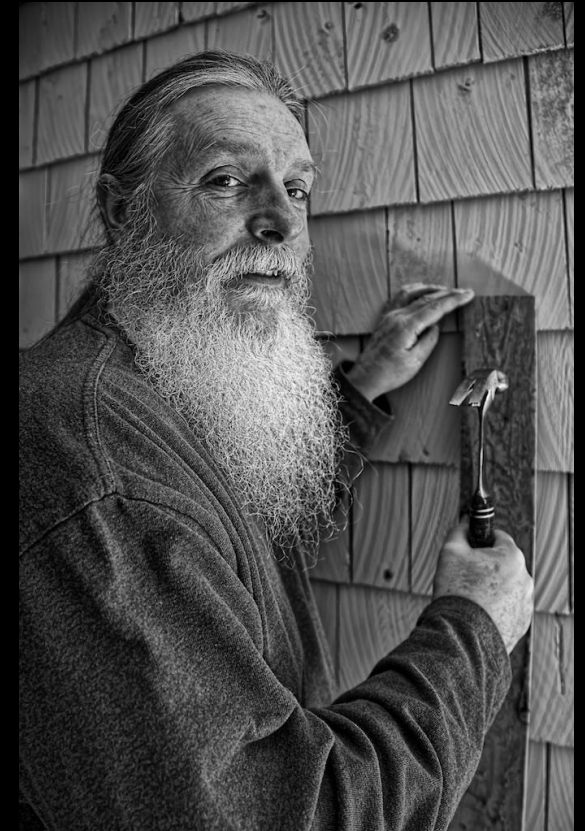





OCTOBER THEME: FLOWERS

Flower photography challenges the photographer to capture the beauty, colors, and intricate details of various types of flowers. Employ composition techniques, experimenting with angles, perspectives, and framing to create visually captivating images. Focus on a single flower or incorporate multiple flowers to add depth and complexity. Utilize different lighting conditions to emphasize the unique colors and textures of each flower. This genre of photography aims to celebrate the natural world's beauty and intricacy, showcasing the transient nature of life and evoking a sense of wonder and appreciation for nature's splendor.

DECEMBER THEME: CRAFTSMEN, ARTISANS, MUSICIANS





DECEMBER THEME: CRAFTSMEN, ARTISANS, MUSICIANS

This theme focuses on capturing the essence and creative spirit of individuals excelling in artistic pursuits. It highlights their dedication, skill, passion, and craftsmanship, showcasing the artistic process, attention to detail, and unique personalities of these individuals. The theme involves intimate moments and interactions, capturing artists at work, their tools, materials, and techniques, as well as the environments where they create. Lighting and composition are carefully utilized to accentuate textures and details, while framing creates a visual narrative of the artists' journeys. Ultimately, this theme celebrates creativity and diverse artistic expressions, offering a glimpse into the world of talented individuals who bring beauty and inspiration to the world through their crafts.

FEBRUARY THEME: SACRED PLACES AND PLACES OF REVERENCE





FEBRUARY THEME: SACRED PLACES AND PLACES OF REVERENCE

This theme focuses on capturing images of locations that hold deep spiritual or cultural significance. Photographers aim to convey the sense of awe, tranquility, and spiritual connection associated with these places. The theme encompasses a wide range of sacred locations, including temples, churches, mosques, memorials, and cemeteries. The photographs emphasize architectural beauty, details, and artistic elements, while light plays a crucial role in creating a transcendent atmosphere. Photographers may also focus on the human aspects of rituals, ceremonies, or the interaction between worshippers and the space, conveying the profound connection between humanity and the divine.

APRIL THEME: NIGHT





APRIL THEME: NIGHT

Night photography revolves around capturing images in after the sun has set. Highlight the distinct qualities of nighttime lighting and the enchanting atmosphere that emerges in the darkness. Mastering low light photography techniques, such as utilizing tripods, adjusting camera settings, and incorporating artificial light sources, is crucial. The challenge is to create images that evoke a sense of atmosphere and mood, including creative lighting, color manipulation, and thoughtful composition. The focus is on capturing the vibrant cityscapes, starry skies, or moonlit landscapes to celebrate the unique characteristics of nighttime environments.



CONTEST ENTRIES

- A photograph may be entered into a maximum of five monthly contests through the course of its competitive lifetime.
 - Furthermore, the image may only be entered into any given category a maximum of three times.
 - For example, a photograph may be entered three times as a monochrome image, once as a color image, and once as a digital image before becoming ineligible for future monthly contests.
- Once a photograph wins 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th place it is ineligible for any other monthly contest. This includes photographs entered into different categories in the same month or on the same night.
- Photographs which win an Honorable Mention are eligible for future contests until they win a placement ribbon or surpass the maximum entry limit.



MONTHLY DIGITAL CONTESTS

- Digital contest dates: 9/14, 10/12, 11/09, 12/07, 1/11, 2/08, 3/14, 4/11, 5/09
- Separate contests: Novice and Unlimited photographers
- Can be color or monochrome
- File size: 2048 pixels on the longest side
- File Naming: n or u_Image_Title_Initials.jpg
 - For example:
 - u_bridge_on_the_river_kwai_cb.jpg
 - N_Beautiful Flower_mt.jpg
- Submit digital files via our Club website portal
<https://arundelcameraclub.org/competition/digital-contests/user-gallery/>



MONTHLY PRINT CONTESTS

- Print contest dates: 9/28, 10/26, 11/30, 12/21, 1/25, 2/22, 3/28, 4/25
- Separate contests: Novice and Unlimited photographers
- 3 monochrome images and 3 color images per photographer
- Prints must be matted and labeled
- A monochrome image is defined as having varying shades of no more than one color (various shades of that color from very light to very dark) but it may be any single color. Multi-toned images (various shades of two or more colors) and greyscale images with an added accent color are not acceptable. Monochrome prints which are toned (sepia, selenium, cyanotype, etc.) will be considered monochrome. Prints displaying more than one color must be entered as color prints. In the event of a dispute the Contest Chairman's application of this rule will be final.

MONTHLY PRINT CONTESTS: PREPARING PRINTS

Print + matte no larger than 20" on one side

EXAMPLES:



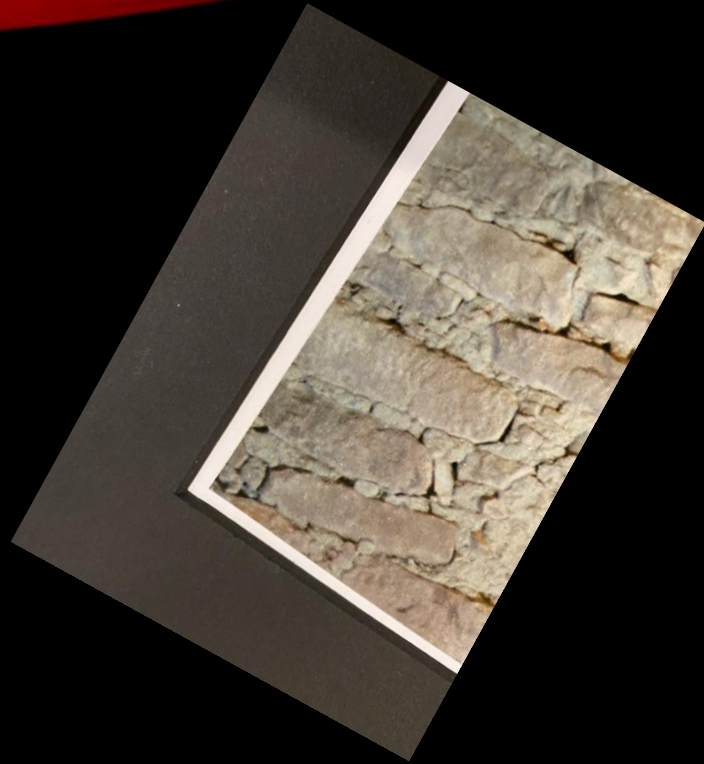
MATTE YOUR PRINTS



Matte photo with matte board as if you were going to frame it.

Also put a backing board on it to protect your photo and the photos of other photographers in the stack.

TAKE CARE WITH YOUR MATTES



Make sure the photo is straight with no white borders showing.

Make sure the photo is straight and taped in place.



Back the photo and mat with a mat board to protect your photo and the photos of other members.



LABEL PRINTS

- Label back of print with title, novice or unlimited designation, photographer, date...
- You can download labels from the website at <https://arundelcameraclub.org/print-competition-labels/>

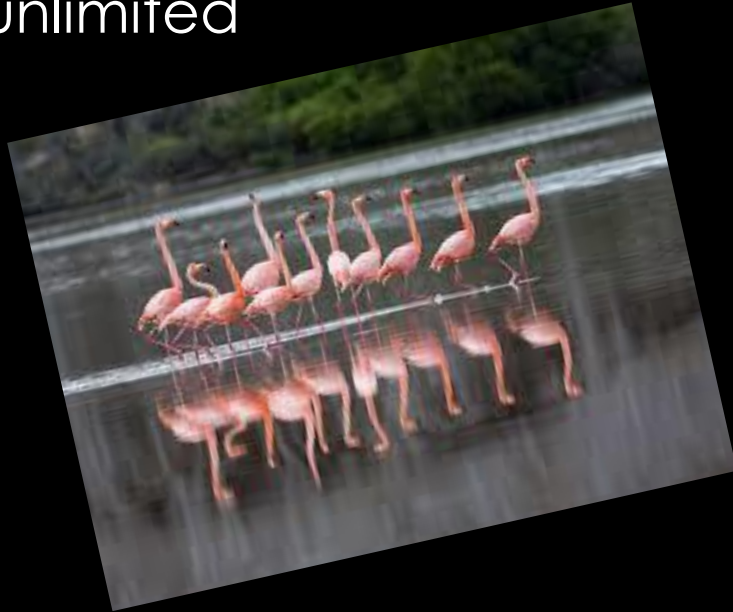
Morning Becomes Andromeda
Unlimited
Mary L. Photographer
January 6, 2022

Frankly, My Dear...
Novice
Joseph M. Photographer
February 3, 2022



ANNUAL AND LIFETIME POINTS

- Points: 1st=**8** points, 2nd=**6** points, 3rd=**4** points, 4th= **2** points, HM=**1** point
- Points from any monthly contest image wins contribute to the end-of-year points award competitions AND your lifetime total of points.
- When you accumulate 50pts in a category, you are promoted from novice to unlimited



PLANNING

- Start thinking about themes ahead of time.
- Establish a work calendar so you can submit photos on time.

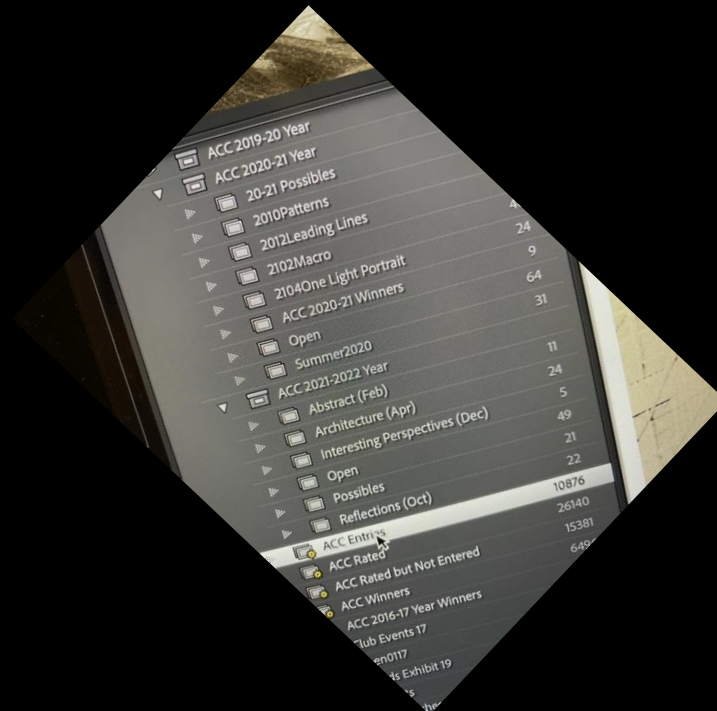
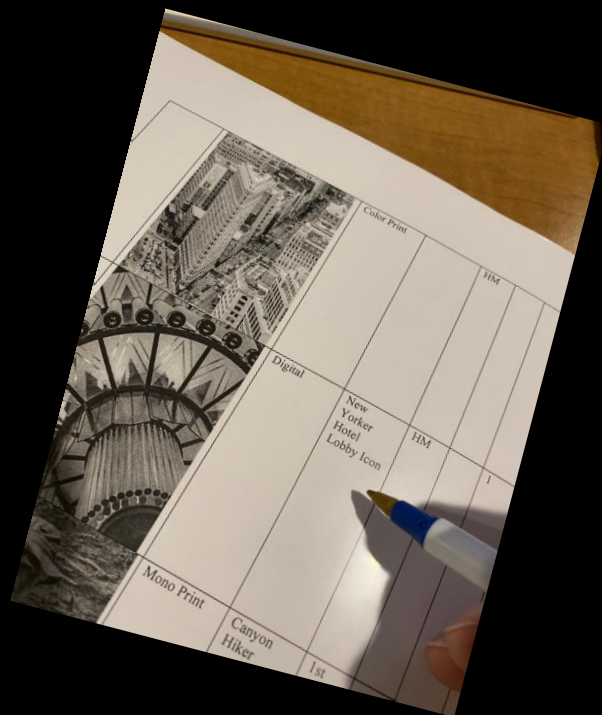


PLANNING AND TRACKING

Be sure to also track your winning photos and points.

Plan and track the photos you submit each year.

Create folders in Lightroom to hold photos you are thinking about for contests.



PROCESSING FOR COMPETITION

- Crop
- Remove Distractions
- Clean up tool marks, noise, and edits
- You can use single images or composited images
 - You cannot use any image you did not take (e.g., stock, textures, skies, A.I. generated, etc.)
- Size and format file properly.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- When it comes to AI modification of an image:
 - if the modification is of the creator's content or uses the creator's content it is permissible
 - Examples
 - Adobe Content Aware Fill
 - anything generated from a library that the creator didn't shoot or creates new content is not permissible
 - Examples
 - Adobe Firefly, Midjourney, DALL-E,
 - Stock Images
- The final image generated must be in the spirit of traditional photography.



SUGGESTIONS

- Try out photos on others first—photographers, friends, or family. See what catches their eye and what doesn't. (Don't just ask people who will say they like it.)
- Lay the images on the dining room table or on your phone and look at them now and again.
- Pay attention to the rules of thirds and leading lines, but don't feel you absolutely have to abide by them.
- Don't forget: In the end, it's **your** photo. If you believe in your photo, then submit it!



SUGGESTIONS

Enlarge the image on your desktop to look for missed details

- flaws that detract from impact
 - Tool marks
 - Halos around sharp edges
 - Out-of-focus eyes
 - Noise
 - Distracting objects that need to be removed
- details that help to enhance the impact of the photo

SUGGESTIONS

Pay attention to the rules of thirds and leading lines, but don't feel you absolutely have to abide by them.





LOOK FOR

IMPACT

Does it make you say **WOW!!!** ?



SUGGESTIONS

**In the end, it's your photo.
If you believe in your photo, then submit it!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ArundelCameraClub.org

contests@Arundelcameraclub.org