



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

November 2012

Can you believe how quickly 2012 has gone? There are just two more monthly meetings, one outing and one last on-line theme for the year. However, for the next month and a bit there will be lots of opportunities to photograph Christmas lights. If you're not already a pro at this you should have a better understanding after the next meeting.

Program

November 22: Guest speaker Brian Holness will present a program on "Family Photos, With and Without Flash". With the traditional holiday reunions approaching, this is an excellent opportunity to pick up some tips. We will also show the results of the latest theme competition.

December 4: Our annual Christmas social with an assortment of yummy food contributed by the members, some entertainment and the famous Silent Auction.

Outings

Although the October Halloween outing was cancelled due to unpleasant weather, Derek Carlin the club webmaster, managed to scare up a couple of ghosts in a local cemetery. He submitted 7 photos to the website. If you haven't seen them yet go have a look at Past Outings under Activities.

Coming soon is our second official outing for 2012. What better way to beat the rainy winter blahs than to take photos in this lovely indoor setting. Be sure and read the detailed notes on the trip logistics on the website: <http://nwphoto.org>

Under the Domed Sky

November 25, 2012

Practice macro and nature photography in the shelter of the Bloedel Conservatory in Queen Elizabeth Park. Even for non-floral lovers, the roof, the architecture and even the view are worth the visit. There are over 100 birds inside, tall trees and lots of colour and texture from the diverse plant materials.

Refreshments

It seems the plan to eliminate those Styrofoam cups is working well. I'm finally starting to remember to bring my mug into the meeting from the car. I've seen many people using theirs as well. We've had good participation with the snack sign-up. A big thank you to those members who have brought in such yummy snacks so far. Let's continue the momentum. If you haven't signed up yet check the list for the new year and add your name.

Themes

Our last theme for the year, *Two Roads*, closes for submissions December 16. You still have lots of time to submit your entries, but don't wait for the last minute.

**N W P C – Print Competition****Judge – Brian Holness****23 October 2012**

Image	Title	Artist	Rank
1	Tall Ship Reflecting	Nancy Matheson	2
2	Lake View	Jim Furey	
3	Remembering a Zoo	Nancy Matheson	
4	Storm Over Canada Place	Glenn Marcus	4
5	Doubts	Glenn Marcus	
6	Russett Lake	Mike Garson	9
7	Winter Slough	Karen Justice	10
8	Eiffel Tower Clone	Tim Stewart	8
9	Fruit Fly Dining	Robert Jost	
10	Ugly Duckling ?	Robert Jost	
11	First Snow	Keith Griffiths	
12	Industrial Face	Karen Justice	7
13	High Tower	Peter Ellis	1
14	Into The Light	Peter Ellis	
15	Serenity	Ben Whiting	
16	The Lone Prospector	Ben Whiting	5
17	One	Keith Griffiths	
18	Mountains and Trees	Tim Stewart	6
19	Happy Family in the Stein	Mike Garson	
20	Olympic Torch	Jim Furey	3

**N W P C – Digital Competition****06 November 2012**

Image	Title	Artist	Total	Rank
5	Wood Duck	Jim Furey	27	1
12	Piper Parade	Jim Furey	27	1
23	Truth is Found in Reflection	Derek Carlin	25	2
27	Church Window	Peter Ellis	25	2
6	The Bridge	Glenn Marcus	24	3
10	Industry Cast Adrift	Derek Carlin	24	3
17	Morning Mist	David Love	24	3
19	Smooth!	Peter Ellis	24	3
14	Continuity	Monica Rosales	23	4
18	Heron In Flight	Brenda Fairfax	23	4

What Wins? – by Shona LaFortune

Assigning point scores to art can be a little arbitrary, with the results subject to the same confusion you sometimes feel viewing a juried painting exhibition, i.e. "How on earth did that get in?" What wins, whether selected by experienced judges or photographers new at evaluation, depends on many factors. Obviously, when your image comes up, you want the viewers to say "Wow!", not be thinking about what you need to do to fix it.

There are so many considerations, that you should never take the opinions of one set of evaluators as the final decision on your photography. In any given competition, even the club's most experienced or best photographers may not score in the top 10. If you have an image you are happy with, ***stay happy***. *Enter it in another competition or ask for some feedback from other experienced photographers.* We often become attached to the photographs that wow us, forgetting that jaded old judges may have seen that photo before, or that inexperienced evaluators might have just taken a guess.

There is no one secret formula for getting higher scores, but there are guidelines. What we commonly call, **technical quality** can gain or lose points. *Focus, exposure and composition* are the big ones, although those are often all inter-related. To simplify books of information is impossible, but I boil it down to **Where does your eye go?** There are so many effective ways to lead the viewer around the photo or to the centre of interest (leading lines, colour, selective focus to name a few), that if you compose your image, for example, so that an obvious main subject is out of focus, you may lose points no matter how arty you might think your image is.

You will also lose points for distractions. Everything in the frame should be part of your story. If it does not add to the necessary information, then it should be eliminated. Distractions might also include digital noise, bright areas away from the subject or even a stick in the corner.

Light is everything has been tossed around a lot over the years, and aside from the obvious point that film and sensors are equally useless in total darkness, good lighting can make or break a photo. What is good lighting? You know it when you see it! Think interesting stage lighting, backlit flowers, rim-lit hair, long evening shadows, neon reflections on wet streets, and so on. Subjects that often look better in softer light are forests (no distracting bright spots) and portraits, especially of children (light balances mood).

Emotional impact is huge. You have to work a lot harder to keep a viewer's attention on a flower or waterfall (to name two subjects considered overdone) than on a portrait (human interest) or any rarely seen subject or viewing angle. As an aside, rarely seen, doesn't automatically mean travel photos. Orchid instead of petunia - maybe. Stand on the Kodak X at Lake Louise: maybe not so much. In other words, the same guidelines apply, although portraits and rare animals might get you a few extra points. For those who don't get away much, you can create unique photos in your own neighbourhood.

Tied in with emotional impact and light are those atmospheric effects you often find by getting out in interesting weather. Fog can transform a boring landscape into magic. Slow shutter speeds and wind are also an interesting match.

And that brings us to, **in camera manipulation**, such as long shutter speeds, panning, camera motion, and zooming during exposure. Many of these tried and true techniques come and go in popularity, but they can be very effective with a good subject/treatment match.

Post-processing manipulation (and by manipulation, I mean more than just a tweak to the colour or exposure) might seem like the fast track to the winner's circle, but in fact most of our winning images are not manipulated. Judges can go either way, depending on how far the treatment has gone, and how appropriate it is to the image. Sometimes they score higher on the wow factor or lower for the "huh?" reason. Judges are often put on the spot because a favourite reason for manipulation is experimentation. Just as we used to play with our new Cokin filters on film cameras, so we experiment with the built-in filters in image software. "Oooh, that's cool" often results in someone entering the image to see if the judges feel the same way. Another reason is saving a weak image, and usually judges see through that, as the original composition/story etc. of an image will usually not be enhanced by technique, although that depends on the skill of the application. Some filters will create sharp edges on an otherwise out of focus bit of an image, thereby saving an almost good, shot. A good reason to manipulate an image is to enhance the mood. A soft, delicate subject may look even more enchanting with a delicate watercolour filter applied, just as underexposure or a grungy filter may contribute to a dark or frightening mood. And finally, creating art, where the artist has a preconceived idea and uses filtration, layers, multiple images, etc. to create their vision. (See paragraph one).

As in any other type of art, each artist has his or her own style and possibly preferred subject matter. If you **stay true to yours**, evolve in a direction that is comfortable for you, and consider the feedback your images get (always considering the source), your scores will reflect your improving skills.

Practice helps, so be sure to enter every club competition and take part in the online **Themes**, where you get feedback on every image.

For those newer to the club, Shona was part of CAPA's original Learn to Judge Committee, taught the course frequently and judged for other clubs and national competitions for around 25 years.

FYI

Bill C-11 has been passed, and with it changes to the Canadian Copyright law. It has an effect for photographers in regards to commissioned work.

In the past, if you were commissioned to create a photographic work, without any other wording in your contract, then the copyright belonged to the entity commissioning the work -- this was something specific to photography. With C-11, this has changed.

With the bill passing into law recently, this now means that by default, the copyright for commissioned works remains with the photographer unless they specifically release it via contract.

Some links about Bill C-11 (which also affects digital rights):

- The actual text of the bill: http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Bills/411/Government/C-11/C-11_4/C-11_4.PDF
- Summary for photographers: <http://www.petapixel.com/2012/11/07/canadian-photogs-now-officially-own-the-copyright-to-all-of-their-photos/>
- Summary about changes to digital rights: <http://www.mp3newswire.net/stories/2012/C11.html>
- And other tidbits about what the bill changes: <http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=07df14bc-393e-4ada-b699-b79aa5ea4af2>

Member's Corner

Your information goes here.

Questions

Useful info about a favourite technique

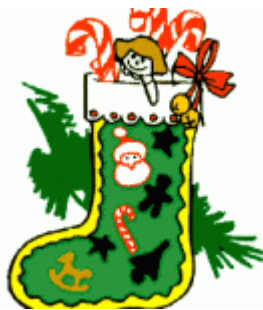
Buy, sell or trade

FYI

Tutorial

...anything photography related

So I'll start it off with a list of local Christmas events (in no particular order) where you can take your camera!



Canada Place – Dec 8 -30; Many activities including Sails of Light and Christmas Trails tree display
2012 Vancouver Christmas Market – Nov. 24- Dec. 24; 11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza

Bright Nights – Stanley Park Christmas Train - Nov. 28 – Jan 2 - ...over a million twinkly lights...

Festival of Lights – VanDusen Garden – Dec. 2 – Jan 1

Vancouver Tree Lighting Celebration – Nov 29, Jack Poole Plaza

Winter Solstice Lantern Festival – December 21- in 5 Vancouver neighbourhoods; East Side, Yaletown, Granville Island, False Creek, Chinatown

Labyrinth of Light – Britannia Comm. Centre & Roundhouse Comm. Centre, 6:00 – 11:00 pm

Rogers Santa Claus Parade, Vancouver – Dec. 2, 1:00 pm; starts at W. Georgia/Broughton St.

CIBC Christmas Parade of Lights, New Westminster – Dec. 1, 4:00 – 7:00 pm; starts at 4th and Columbia and ends at Hyack Square.

Christmas Cheer at Irving House – 511 Royal St. New West., Dec. 8, 9, 15,16; 12:00 – 4:00 pm

Burnaby Village Heritage Christmas – Dec. 15 – Jan. 4; 12:00 – 9:00 pm

Announcements

Burnaby Photographic Society 17th Annual Showcase – Sat., Feb 2, 2013

James Cowan Theatre, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, 6450 Deer L. Ave. Burnaby

tickets: Lynda Kerr – kerr2000@telus.net; 604-433-0826; info: burnabyphotographicsociety.com

29th Annual North Shore Photographic Challenge – Competition of BC & Yukon Photo Clubs

Sat., Mar. 2, 2013, 7:00 pm; Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts, 1700 Mathers Ave. West

Vancouver. tickets: 604-981-6335, www.kaymeekcentre.com

info: www.nspc.ca; email - 2013nscnfo@nspc.ca