

# inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

June 2023



**INSIDE:**  
Coming Up  
Commemoration  
Field Trips  
Competition Corner  
Competition 6A



## What Do YOU Want?

Since the pandemic began we've been meeting exclusively on Zoom, and by and large that has been a great success. Zoom is very easy to use, and other than the occasional minor glitches (usually around unmuting or figuring out how to share a screen), things have gone smoothly. Not having a geographical restriction has opened up the whole world to us, and we can get speakers from everywhere these days. The quality and quantity of our external speakers has increased. Similarly, with the exception of print, our competitions have made the transition to Zoom fairly well and we've been able to get judges from greater distances. However, unlike the days when we had a carefully calibrated projector to view the images on, each viewer's experience is subject to their personal computing situation and limitations. But we seem to be doing well enough.

That said, we are still missing some key components of the WPS experience. We don't see each other in person and socialize before meetings in the same manner, we don't celebrate birthdays with cake, we don't have in-person mentoring sessions, etc. We've been saying how we hope eventually things will get back to "normal." But what is the new normal? Probably not identical to the past. We've floated the idea of "hybrid" meetings where some people participate in person and others over Zoom, we've thought about having some types of meeting in person only (member presentations/sharing, maybe print competitions, etc.), but we have not figured out the logistics yet. We've been keenly following what our peer clubs are trying, seeing some successes, and trying to plan our future.

We've been looking at venue options and our calendars to see how we should take that first step to get our feet wet. At the recent Annual Meeting in April I asked all present for their thoughts. And I came away quite disillusioned. What I heard was that those of you who showed up that day on Zoom by and far have no desire to meet in person anymore. Zoom is more than sufficient and comfortable. No more late-night driving. When someone suggested a weekend daytime meeting, others said their weekends were already booked. I got the sense that people offered suggestions about how others could meet, but they themselves were probably unlikely to attend. That lack of enthusiasm and commitment makes it hard for us to have a mandate to spend time, energy and money (space rental, additional A/V equipment we may need).

So I am back to wondering what WPS's new normal should be. Should we be a club with world-class guest speakers and online competitions only? Between NYMACC and Meet-up we are attracting a lot of guests, though very few become dues-paying members. Competition participation is also declining, as are our membership numbers. Very few people show up for field trips. Exhibition submissions are lower. We've lost many members over the past few years. What do YOU want from WPS? Please let me know. Send me an email, or call me. Don't tell me what you think others might want, I want to know what YOU want.

Till next time, may you always see beauty in your viewfinder.

Fuat Baran, *President*

## COVER PHOTO

### NEPAL STREET SCENE

By Al Sarnotsky

I like to take pictures that tell a story. This is a little girl in a pretty pink dress playing amid the rubble of a devastating earthquake in Katmandu, Nepal. Frequently, the context of an image is as important as the subject. Unfortunately, to fit the 9.5 x 10.5-inch format of an "In-Focus" cover, much of the context had to be cropped. A full-size version of the complete image can be found here.



## inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web Edition

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#### Hospitality Coordinators

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#### Competition Evaluation

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newsletter: [infocus@wpsphoto.org](mailto:infocus@wpsphoto.org)  
[www.wpsphoto.org](http://www.wpsphoto.org)

#### Westchester Photographic Society

Meets 12 months a year, on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm (excepting school holidays). Meetings are virtual now until further notice. Start time is 7:30 pm.



Member of



## FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

**June**

- 2 Brooke Shaden, "Start to Finish: Surreal, Conceptual Art"
- 9 Competition 6B (Theme: Still Life)
- 16 Members Process Same Image in Color and B&W
- 23 EOY Competition
- 30 How I Did It

**July**

- 7 Caleb Hoover, "Urban Wildlife"
- 14 Members Critique
- 21 Members Showcases
- 28 Kenny Salstrom

**August**

- 4 Members Process Stock Photo
- 11 YouTube Videos
- 18 How I Did It
- 25 Matthew Christopher, "Abandon America"

**September**

- 1 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 8 Chris McGinnis, "The Little Things"
- 15 TBD
- 22 Competition 1A
- 29 Dennis Thornton

**October**

- 6 Competition 1B (Theme: TBD)
- 13 TBD
- 20 Members Critiques
- 27 Competition 2A

**November**

- 3 Arik Gorban, "Street Photography"
- 10 Competition 2B
- 17 TBD
- 24 No Meeting: Thanksgiving

Check the WPS website ([wpsphoto.org](http://wpsphoto.org)) for recent changes.

**Contact Information**

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and should be addressed as follows: If concerning the WPS Newsletter, In Focus, address comments to the editor at [infocus@wpsphoto.org](mailto:infocus@wpsphoto.org). If concerning our website, address comments to our webmaster, Dick Budnik, at [webmaster@wpsphoto.org](mailto:webmaster@wpsphoto.org). All other comments should be addressed to our President.

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## COMING UP



## Brooke Shaden on June 2

**Start to Finish: Surreal, Conceptual Art**

Brooke will walk through the ideation, shooting, and editing, in detail, on a recent project, showing how she takes a small idea and brings it to life. From shooting and editing techniques to insights into how we create art that truly connects to others, this program will go in-depth into her process and mind to illuminate a deeply connected way of creating.

**Bio**

*Brooke explores the darkness and light in people, and her work looks at that juxtaposition. As a self-portrait artist, she photographs herself and becomes the characters of dreams inspired by a childhood of intense imagination and fear. Being the creator and the actor, Brooke controls her darkness and confronts those fears.*

*Brooke's passion is storytelling, and her life is engulfed in it. From creating self-portraits and writing to international adventures and motivational speeches, she wants to live a thousand lives in one. She keeps her curiosity burning to live a truly interesting story.*



## Coming Up

Caleb Hoover on July 7

Kenny Salstrom on July 28

### AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

**Metropolitan Museum**  
([www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org))  
Berenice Abbott's  
New York Album, 1929  
Through Sept 4

**Museum of Modern Art**  
([www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org))  
Archives

**International Center for Photography**  
([www.icp.org](http://www.icp.org))  
Many Exhibits  
Continuing

**Fotografiska, NY**  
<https://www.blind-magazine.com/events/hip-hop-conscious-unconscious-at-fotografiska-new-york/>  
Many Exhibits

**New York Photography Diary**  
<https://ny-photography-diary.com/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/>  
Hip-Hop Conscious, Unconscious

**Edward Hopper House**  
<https://www.edwardhopperhouse.org>  
Kibbitz & Nosh: New York City's  
Vanishing Cafeterias  
Through June 25

### WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

**Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center  
Northern Westchester Hospital**  
*What Can Grow—What Can Fly*  
April 4-September 26

### WPS FIELD TRIPS

<https://www.wpsphoto.org/members-field-trips>

**More Photo Opportunities  
in the Field Trip area.**  
Stay tuned for more  
information on these  
upcoming trips!

[Presby Memorial Iris Garden  
Montclair, NJ](#)

[Stonecrop Garden, Carmel](#)

[Wave Hill, Bronx](#)

[NYBG, Bronx](#)

[Rockefeller State Preserve  
Pleasantville](#)

### SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Please log on to websites  
to see the entire schedules.  
Many events are available online.  
Also see last page.

**Hunts**  
<https://edu.huntsphoto.com>

**B&H**  
<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp>

**Adorama**  
<http://www.adorama.com/alc/events>

### SPECIAL INCENTIVES

#### A MEMBERS-ONLY DEAL!

Susan Magnano has offered special  
pricing on many of her workshops.

If you are a WPS member,  
click [HERE](#).

### WPS EXHIBITS

The NWH Cancer Center is pleased to offer an exhibition by the  
Westchester Photographic Society titled:

## What Can Grow – What Can Fly

April 4 – September 26, 2023



**What Can Grow** - refers to an image that shows a plant, flower, tree, fruit, vegetables  
or landscapes.

**What Can Fly** - can refer to a photographer's image of a bird or insect in flight, nesting  
or on the ground.

Northern Westchester Hospital Cancer Center, 400 Main St, Mt Kisco, NY 10549  
Telephone (914) 666-1200

Please call-in advance for admittance and exhibit hours.

### MEMBER EXHIBIT

**Jane Gordon**  
currently has an exhibit

## “THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY”

showing in Somers at the  
Victorian Mansion,  
Coldwell Bankers Realtors,  
338 Route 202, Somers, NY.

This is the third month of the  
exhibit and it is scheduled  
to close on June 27th.



**HAPPY SUMMER!**

## Commemoration

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### Jean Dolen

Jean Dolen was a valuable asset to WPS. She was faithful in always providing a judge for our competitions, and even worked wonders to provide one when an unforeseen cancellation occurred. As an avid cross-country skier, she shared her trail photos with us. Jean was also a marathon swimmer. Her main outdoor activities revolved around her strong association with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. She was a board member, and led many hikes upstate in New York, in the Rockies, and along the Appalachian Trail. She also helped maintain the Appalachian Trail. In her job as a state park ranger in the Rockefeller Preserve she was office manager, organized and led hikes, and wrote articles for the preserve magazine. Her untimely passing in the summer of 2022 was a great sadness to all who knew her. Jean's heart was as big as all outdoors and she will be sorely missed. If you visit the Preserve, look slightly to the left as you're heading towards the path which leads to the lake setback, and about 6 feet from the path, you will see a monument with a plaque to both Jean and her companion cat.



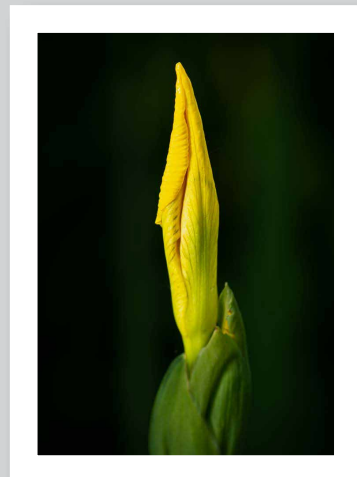
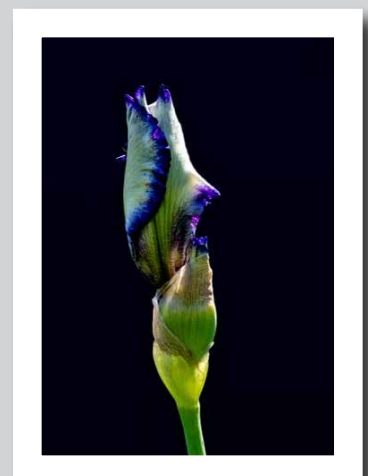
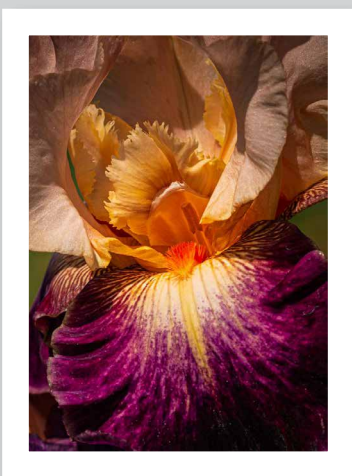
# Field Trips

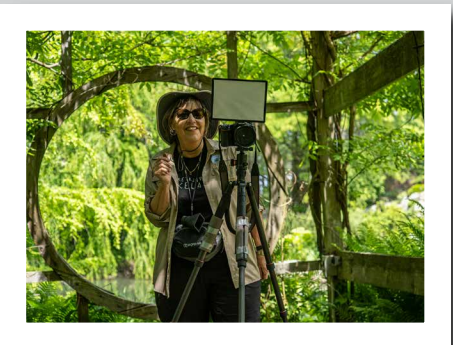
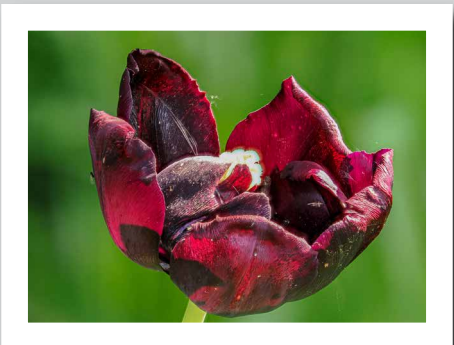
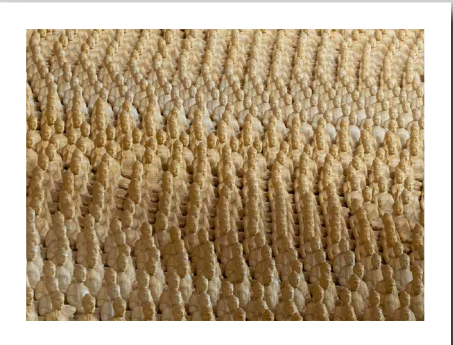
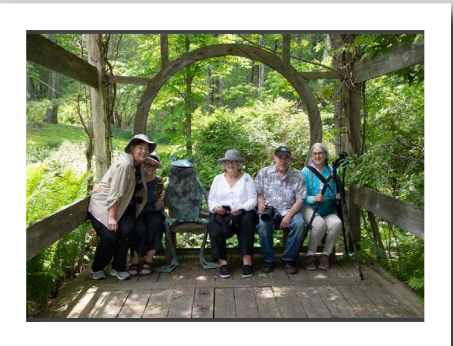


Jackie Ross led field trips to Presby Memorial Iris Garden on May 16 and Stonecrop Gardens on May 22. Dr. Pete Lekos and his wife, Lora, were at Presby, where they gave tips on photographing flowers. Dennis Thornton also gave tips on how to capture Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) photos. That was a great day!

May 22 at Stonecrop was a beautiful day, sunny in the morning and then over-cast in the afternoon, perfect for photographing flowers. There were lots of photo ops, which included very large frogs and black snakes. There were also plenty of opportunities to try out ICM techniques. We had a wonderful picnic lunch, and then moved to the Chuang Yen monastery five miles down the road where we photographed the very large Buddha! There were more flowers, birds and some wonderful coye!

Both trips were great days of photographing with friends. Photographers were Jackie Ross, Roger Chenault, Dennis Thornton and Mitchell Druck. We're looking forward to more field trips! Check the website: <https://www.wpsphoto.org/members-field-trips>.





# The Competition Corner



By Dennis Thornton

This issue will attempt to clarify three competition issues. First is the understanding of what is meant by the term “traditional” appearance as it pertains to the Color Digital and Black & White categories. The second issue relates to the process of challenges. And the third issue relates to the role of the judge.

As “Traditional” competition categories both Color Digital and Black & White require that submitted images look as if they have not been strongly manipulated in post-production nor having been captured in a manner that would depart from a normal/regular appearance of the subject matter. Images that depart from this normal are best submitted in our Open Mind category.

In the 6A Color Digital competition, the image presented was challenged because it was viewed, by other members, as too divergent from the required traditional look. It is a lovely floral image that presents as a dreamy pictorial. The challenge was not about the subject matter, quality, or aesthetic of the image but about its appearance, as it relates to the required “traditional” look.

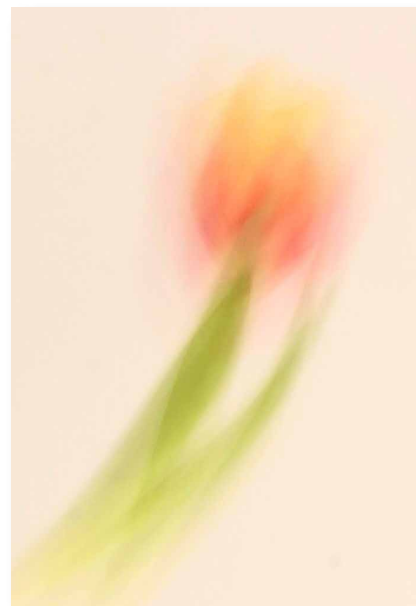
Consequential to the challenge, a three-person panel was assembled to review the relevant Competition Guidelines sections (3.0, 3.1 & 3.2) and then assess the image in light of those stated criteria. In this instance, the panel, in conjunction with the competition chair, agreed that the identified image was too divergent from the required “traditional” appearance. The image was then disqualified and the initially awarded score reduced. This type of event is unfortunate as every maker puts considerable effort into their image and will be understandably disappointed if their submitted image is disqualified.

**Note:** Full text of rules can be found on the WPS website ([www.wpsphoto.org](http://www.wpsphoto.org)) under “What We Do” > “Competition” > “Competition Guidelines”

Challenging an image may be a difficult decision for some. However, challenging perceived errant images is the club’s mechanism to help maintain compliance with competition rules. Self-governance of any rule(s) is dependent on membership participation. Members have 48 hours to submit challenges directly to the competition chairperson. This approach ensures that the name of the challenger will remain known only to the competition chair (See section 13.0 “Challenging an Image” for full details).

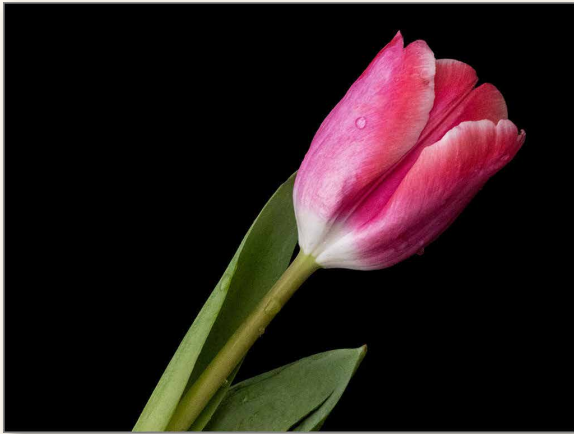
The final point to be reviewed here concerns the role of the judge. An abbreviated description of the criteria for image inclusion is read before each competition category. This is for the benefit of the members, to remind them of the criteria, and as a general orientation for the judge. However, it is not the judge’s role/responsibility to know or to adjudicate our rules. That responsibility falls to all members and is arbitrated through the challenge system. Therefore, even if a judge evaluates and scores an image this does not mean that the image is to be considered wholly acceptable. Image compliance with WPS competition rules is ultimately determined by your fellow members.

By educating yourself about the Competition Guidelines you will contribute to all members striving to keep within the stated category criteria, and reduce the need for future challenges. Active participation in all aspects of the competition process will help make it a better experience for all.

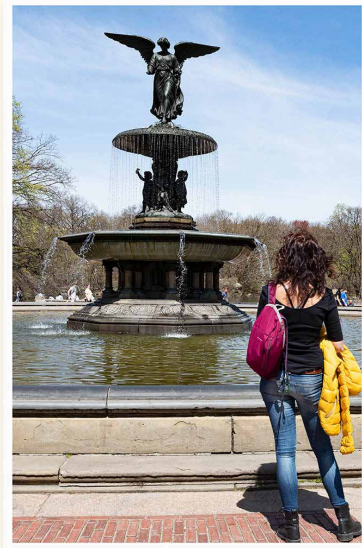




DIGITAL COLOR B



**Barbara Pollack, First**  
*Pink Tulip*



**Patricia Davis, Second**  
*Faithfulness*



**Patricia Davis, Second**  
*Graffito*

DIGITAL COLOR B



**Barbara Pollack, Third**  
*Jane's White Iris*

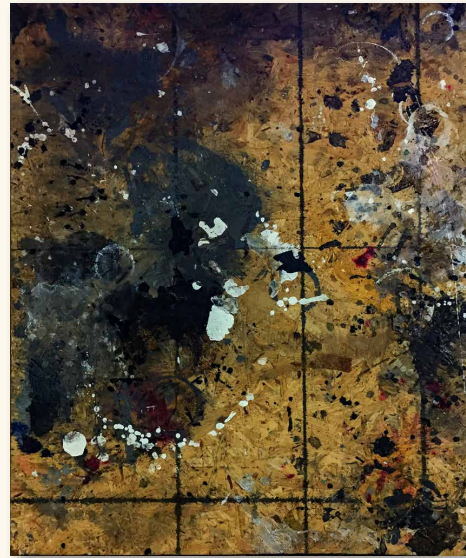


**Serge Migdal, HM**  
*Can't Sleep*

DIGITAL COLOR A



**Roger Chenault, First**  
*Great Egret*

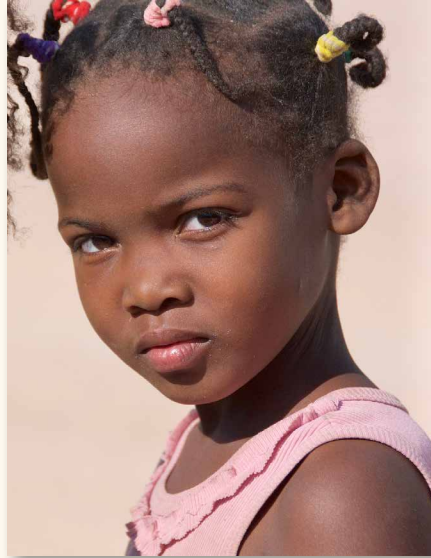


**Roger Chenault, Second**  
*Drippings*



**Jackie Ross, Third**  
*Bad Hair Day*

DIGITAL COLOR A



**Betty Leung, Third**  
*Herero Girl in Damaraland*



**Betty Leung, HM**  
*Sunset at the Port*

DIGITAL COLOR SALON



**Carlotta Grenier, First**  
*Mandarin Showoff*



**Carlotta Grenier, Second**  
*Flower Underthing*



**Carolyn Colella, Third**  
*Hat and Lavender*

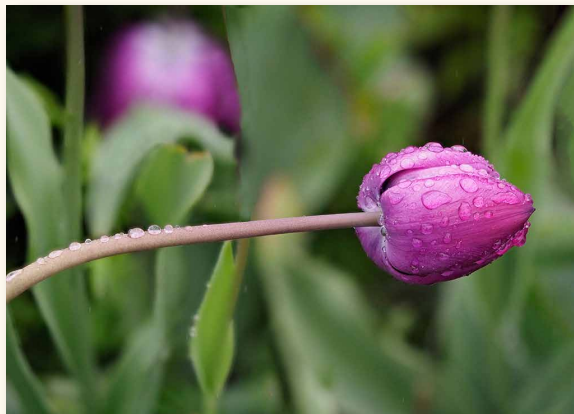
DIGITAL COLOR SALON



Linda Austrian, Third  
*Welcome Inside*



Anastasia Tompkins, HM  
*Greedy Sibling*

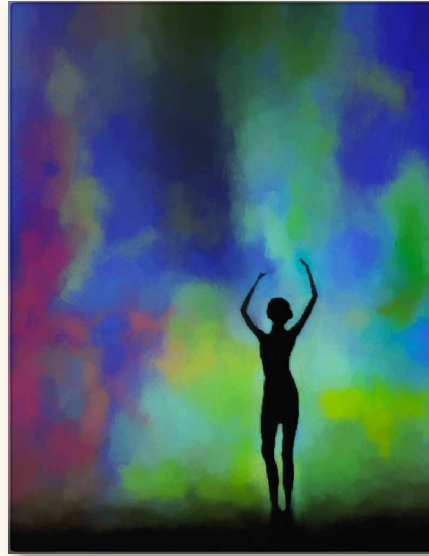


Linda Austrian, HM  
*Take a Bow*

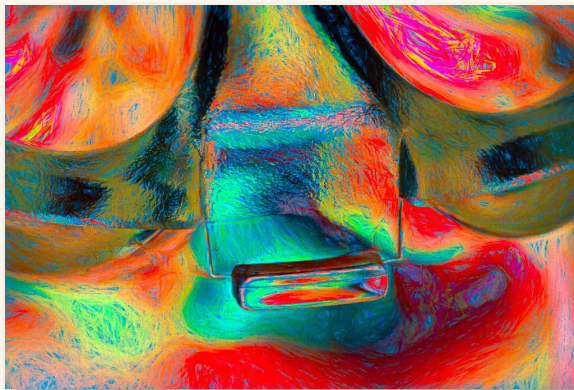
DIGITAL OPEN MIND



**Anastasia Tompkins, First**  
*Plate Face*



**Anastasia Tompkins, Second**  
*Apex Dancer 3*

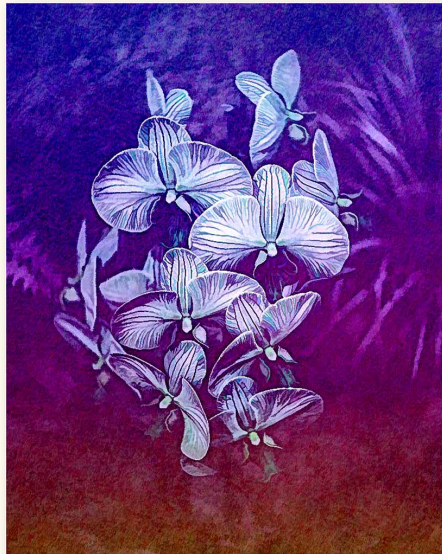


**Dennis Thornton, Third**  
*Self-agency of Man's Creation*

DIGITAL OPEN MIND



**Barbara Pollack, HM**  
*Amaryllis Cutouts*



**Barbara Kapetanakes**  
*Orchids*



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Ron Carran, editor

P.O. Box 405, Ossining, NY 10562

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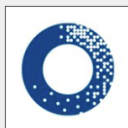
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