

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

November 2023



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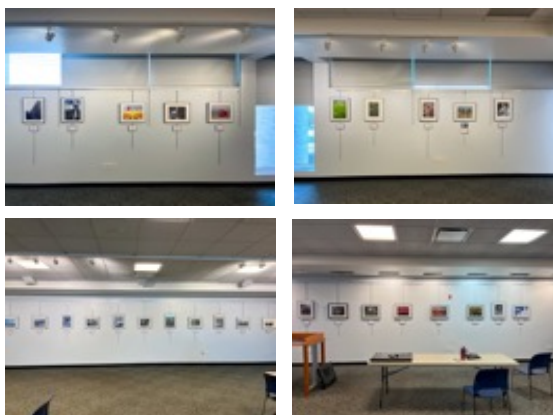


Exhibition Season

Along with the new season (please renew your WPS membership if you haven't yet!), our exhibitions have gotten into high gear. We recently opened our exhibition at the Cancer Treatment Center of the Northern Westchester Hospital with a theme of "What a Wonderful World! Oh Yeah!"

Last week I helped hang our latest exhibition at the Greenburgh Public Library. The theme there is "I Came, I Saw, I Took the Picture!" We had wonderful submissions and it was great to see some of you as you came by to drop off your photos, and even more wonderful was the chance to work and chat with those of you who were part of the crew. Thanks to Arnold Breisblatt for organizing, to Sylvie Epperly for the wonderful labels, to Jerry Hoffman for arranging the photos and to Roger Chenault, Patricia Davis, Mark Friedman, Jane Gordon, and Kenny Salstrom who helped hang everything as well. (Apologies if I left any names out.)

At the October 28th reception at Greenburgh, I was glad to see not just the photographers who have art hanging, but those who came in support and to socialize. We also had the chance to interact with the public and introduce prospective members to our club and its members. In contrast to our weekly Zoom meetings, exhibition receptions are the best opportunity for us to see each other in person, renew friendships, meet new people, and chat about all things photography and more.



In October we had Dennis Thornton's exhibition, "Vietnam & Cambodia: Jewels of the Orient" at the Ossining Public Library (ended on October 30) and in November we'll have a group exhibition there. The theme is "Do You See What I See? A Photographer's Perspective." Drop-off and hanging will be on Thursday, November 2nd at 10:00 a.m. I hope you've submitted photos for the exhibition!

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

Fuat Baran, *President*

COVER PHOTO

AS THE CROW FLIES

By Julie van Benthuysen

Farmers know that scarecrows are meant to chase away crows and black-birds who are seeking the best of the harvest towards the end of the season. We, however, walk around on 2 feet, and when we see a scarecrow, it makes us smile it brings us memories of happy Halloween treats, and, the rapidly approaching master treat of Thanksgiving with everything yummy for the tummy. Hooray for scarecrows. They give us smiles for the miles.



inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web Edition

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newsletter: infocus@wpsphoto.org
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

November

- 3 Arik Gorban, "Enjoying Street Photography"
 10 Competition 2B (Theme: Necropolis: City of the Dead)
 17 George Preoteasa, "Night Sky Time-Lapse Photography"
 24 No Meeting: Thanksgiving

December

- 1 Competition 3A
 8 Guido van de Water, "Playing with Light"
 15 Members' Showcases
 22 No Meeting: Christmas
 29 No Meeting: New Years

January

- 5 Competition 3B (Theme: Backlit)
 12 TBD
 19 Process Our Stock Photos
 26 Competition 4A

February

- 2 TBD
 9 Members' Critiques
 16 Competition 4B (Theme: Frame Within a Frame)
 23 TBD

March

- 1 TBD
 8 Competition 5A
 15 TBD
 22 TBD
 29 No Meeting: Easter

April

- 5 Competition 5B (Theme: Wabi-Sabi)
 12 TBD
 19 TBD
 26 *Annual Members Meeting*

Check the WPS website (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. If concerning our website, address comments to our webmaster, Dick Budnik, at webmaster@wpsphoto.org. All other comments should be addressed to our President.

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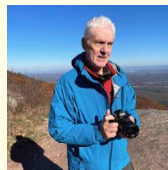
COMING UP

**Arik Gorban on November 3****Enjoying Street Photography**

In this presentation Arik will share ideas, tips, and techniques that make street photography and interaction with strangers fun and exciting and result in impactful images. The topics covered include key considerations for creative street photography, ideas for finding interesting subjects and locations, gear, techniques, dealing with difficult lighting conditions, and approaches to photographing strangers.

Bio

Arik, a past president of the Somerset County Photography Club, is a photographer and photography instructor who focuses on the creative aspects of the photographic art form. His experience covers the complete photographic process, including analog photography, dark-room work, and extensive digital imaging. He frequently judges photo contests, including multiple international Salon competitions and juried exhibitions. Arik presents photography programs internationally and exhibits his fine art photography. He also photographs events and conducts photography workshops. Arik Gorban is the recipient of numerous awards in photo contests and his work and articles have been published in the US and internationally. Website: www.agphotoworks.com

**George Preoteasa on November 17****Night Sky Time-Lapse Photography**

People don't look up enough. There are wonderful and amazing things to be seen in the sky. Photography can reveal some of them beyond normal eye perception. And the sped-up movement can be fascinating. I would like to present to you some of the things that can be photographed in the sky, especially in the night sky, still photographs and short time-lapse movie clips. Then I will cover the process that I followed, and the tools that I used to create one of the movies—from deciding on the subject to adding the music. Perhaps you will be inspired, if you are not already.

Bio

I have a degree in atmospheric physics and I worked briefly in the meteorology field but I changed my profession to computer programming when I came to the US in 1980. Though I liked my profession, it was screen and keyboard bound. I was left with a longing for clouds. I always wanted to photograph them. So in 2017 I bought my first serious camera. Then I discovered time-lapse videos by photographers like Mike Olbinski, Martin Heck, Adrien Mauduit. I started taking time-lapses with my iPhone to reveal cloud movement and change in color at sunset. I took a two hour class of time-lapse photography and bought the software to make the movies. In December 2018, I travelled to Yellowknife in northern Canada to chase the northern lights, which were amazing, but what impressed me just as much was the deep dark and clear sky with incredible bright stars. That was the experience that made me decide that I must photograph the night sky. It took many trials, watching many videos and I am still on a learning curve, but I think I have something to show at this time. I am a member of the astrophotography group within the Amateur Astronomical Association of New York City, and of the Cloud Appreciation Society.

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)
Met Collection

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
New Photography 2023
Before Technicolor
Ongoing

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)
Many new exhibitions
through Jan 8, 2024

New York Historical Society
(nyhistory.org)
Many Exhibits

New York Photography Diary
(<https://ny-photography-diary.com/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/>)
Many Exhibits

Museum of the City of New York
(mcny.org)
Many Exhibits

International Center for Photography
(icp.org)
Many Exhibits through Jan 8, 2024

WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

**Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital**
What a Wonderful World! Oh Yeah!
Running through March 2024

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!



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 Ossining Library is pleased to offer an exhibition by the
Westchester Photographic Society titled:

Do You See What I See? A Photographer's Perspective.

November 2 – 29, 2023
Reception: Saturday, November 11th 2 - 4 PM



We, as photographers see and record what is impressive to us. Other people may pass by a scene or object that never makes an impression on them. At our exhibit, we would like to show people how we see a flower, bird, landscape, seascape, or object that will hopefully inspire you to see the beauty of the world as we do.

Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 941-2416

For more information about the WPS's weekly meetings, field trips, exhibitions, and events,
please go to www.wpsphoto.org.

Note: Photos are available unframed at a reduced price. Some photos are available in other
sizes. To arrange a purchase of any picture in the exhibit, contact Arnold Breisblatt at
abreis@aol.com

FALL 2023 EXHIBITS

Northern Westchester Hospital
**Theme: What a Wonderful
World! Oh Yeah!**
From Sep 27
(runs through March 2024)

Greenburgh Public Library
**Theme: I Came, I Saw,
I Took the Picture**
From Oct. 18 to Nov. 30
Greenburgh Public Library

**Theme: Do You See What
I See? A Photographer's
Perspective**
Drop off: Nov. 2 at 10am
Pick-up: Nov. 29 at 1pm
Reception: Sat, Nov 11 from 2-4 pm
Ossining Public Library

For more information contact
Arnold Breisblatt at abreis@aol.com.



The Competition Corner

By Dennis Thornton



When is Enough, Enough. When Is It Too Much? It's in the Eye of the Beholder.

We have started another competition year, and I am pleased to see that there are more members participating in the Color Digital B and A groups. Your efforts will help make our competitions more robust and interesting.

In competition 1A, Color Digital, we had a challenge. Several individuals commented or inquired, and a formal challenge was submitted. Challenges are a healthy part of our competition process, albeit a double-edged sword. Challenges, submitted by fellow members like you, help determine the standing norms for what is considered acceptable for entry, particularly in the "Traditional" categories of Color and Black & White Digital. While helping to establish some guardrails, a challenge causes consternation to the one who submitted that image.

In this instance, it seems that there was a sentiment that the maker had pushed some of the processes of the standard digital workflow a bit too far and felt that the final image appeared "over processed" (a criterion for issuing a challenge) and therefore that the image would be more appropriately placed in our Open Mind category.

Challenges are treated seriously and respectfully. A three-member review committee was asked to adjudicate the challenge. The committee was provided with a copy of the relevant rules and the image in question. The maker was also informed of this process and was asked about the making of the image and to provide a copy of the original capture.

In a split decision, the committee ruled in favor of the maker. Therefore, the challenge was dismissed and the original score, given by the judge, stood.

While not a member of that review committee, I collaged the comments from each member. My take was that while the member might have been a bit heavy handed on saturation and contrast, it was more a matter of personal taste and artistic intent. We are trying to weave a thin line between encouraging creative interpretation and maintaining general standards that are agreeable to the majority of the participants. And, as they say; "Art is in the eye of the beholder." Another submission criteria, that is embedded in our competition rules is the concept of "photographic truth." As applied here, comparing the original capture

and the submitted image, the overall composition and crop were the same. The color palette was also present, just not as sharp, contrasty or saturated. Nothing had been done to introduce any new element or make substantial changes to the basic content of the image. The "photographic truth" was viewed as having been maintained and so it circled back to the evaluation of personal taste on the part of the creator. Again, the review committee, overall, felt that the changes made were still in bounds.

Take-home messages:

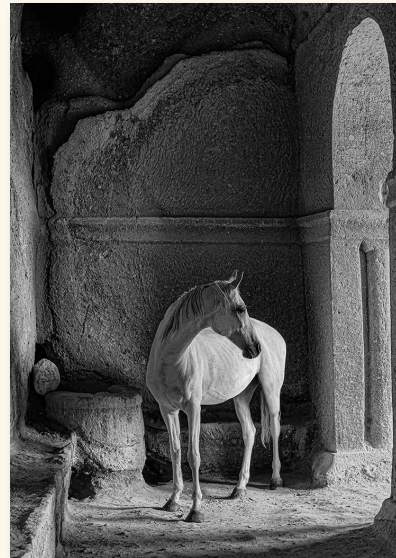
1. Challenges are a part of our competition process and a means by which you can voice your opinion about images submitted. Challenger's name are kept anonymous and your participation is critical to any process.
2. Being informed of the relevant rules and criteria for submissions may help everyone side-step having any image challenged.
3. When submitting images in our competitions where you may have pushed the sliders in order to produce a particular look, just be mindful that others may not always see your end product the same way you do. As stated, Art is in the eye of the beholder.



DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE



Anastasia Tompkins, First
Entre les Visages



Carlotta Grenier, First
White Horse in a Church in Turkey



Mitchell Druck, Second
Black Knights at West Point

DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE



Barbara Kapetanakes, Third
Enter the Water



Carolyn Colella, HM
Wooden Boats

DIGITAL THEME: STAIRS/STAIRCASES



**Carl Zucker, First
Staircase Cafe**



**Betty Leung, Second
Stairs in Alley**



**Ron Carran, Third
Venetian Stairway**

DIGITAL THEME: STAIRS/STAIRCASES



Serge Migdal, HM
Staircase



Linda Austrian, HM
Stair to Where?

It's 2023 and Drones Are Continuing to Take Off



By Scott Benowitz

(Part 2)

In Part 1 of this article which was posted in the October 2023 issue of In Focus, I discussed a number of items that you might want to think about if you're considering whether you want to purchase a drone, and which models you may want to purchase based on your interests as a photographer. In Part 1 of this article, I briefly explained how drones work, discussed different subjects which photographers enjoy photographing with drones, and talked about the kinds of batteries and memory that are used in drones. In part 2, I'll be discussing the monitors used to you view the imagery produced by the drones, prices and warranties. Lastly I'll discuss safety and legal issues regarding the operation of drones.

Monitors

All of the transmitter/receiver units included with drones have either a small LCD or LED monitor that allows you to view the images being captured by the drone's camera lens in real time.

For most buyers, monitors are probably the least important feature to consider when comparing different drone models. For those who don't like the quality of the monitor's resolution on a particular drone, but like the drone's other features, I encourage you to buy the drone anyway because you will have the option to view images via an external monitor.

Almost all available drones have USB or HDMI ports that enable you to connect a separate monitor to the transmitter/receiver unit, or you can purchase a separate bluetooth antenna to connect an external LCD or LED monitor wirelessly. If you're working on a collaborative project and several people want to view images, you can buy a splitter to connect multiple monitors to the transmitter/receiver unit. You can also connect the transmitter/receiver unit to a laptop computer, and you can stream the video footage which the lens in your drone is seeing, then use various apps to show the footage in real time to colleagues, friends or family members, who may be in other cities or countries.

Manufacturers/Brands and Prices

While people have been experimenting with prototype drones for aerial photography for more than a century, it has only been within the past 10 years that technologies have enabled electronics companies to manufacture drones which are affordable for amateur and professional photographers, and because drones which are intended for low altitude aerial photography are a relatively new product, there are a num-

ber of new companies which specialize in manufacturing drones. As of October of 2023, the brands of cameras which both hobbyist and professional photographers commonly use (i.e. Canon, Nikon, etc.) do not currently manufacture any drones. Therefore, when you go to a camera shop, an electronics store or when you shop online for drones, you'll see names of manufacturers which you're not likely familiar with.

At present, drones range in price from approximately \$200 to several thousand dollars. Don't worry if you're not familiar with the names of most of the companies which are presently manufacturing drones. If you're interested in trying low altitude aerial photography and you see a model of drone which has the features which appeal to you, I encourage you to seriously consider purchasing it. You can watch videos on YouTube of people demonstrating different models of drones if you want to see specific models in use before you make a decision about which model you may want to purchase.

The product development teams who work at the camera manufacturers which photographers use most frequently are consulting with the product development teams at some drone manufacturers to ensure that the next generation of camera models will be compatible with the models of drones which will be available to consumers within the next few years. Perhaps at some point later in the 2020's, the famous and popular camera brands will also begin to manufacture drones too. I've not read about that any of the major camera manufacturers have specific plans to produce drones, but because camera manufacturers are consulting the companies which manufacture drones to discuss compatibility and interoperability between prototype models of cameras and drones which are presently in the initial design phases, it seems reasonable to assume that it's possible that the product development teams who work at camera manufacturers are also discussing the possibility of beginning to manufacturing drones at some point within the next few years.

Warranties

If you opt to purchase a drone, remember that you are purchasing a mechanical device, and mechanical devices can malfunction. Many drones come with a 12-month manufacturer's warranty with an option to purchase an extended warranty, but the terms vary greatly between manufacturers as to what kind of repairs will be covered. Some camera shops or electronics stores may offer a warranty that will either replace or supplement the manufacturer's warranty. I strongly en-

courage you to inquire about the specific details of the drone's warranty, including its duration, before you decide on a specific model.

Built-In Obsolescence?

Buyers of computer hardware and software have known for decades that sometimes it only takes a few short years before some devices become obsolete. Therefore, it is entirely natural that some buyers wonder if they are spending as much as a few thousand dollars on a new drone that may be technologically obsolete in a few years.

Unfortunately, there's no definitive answer to this question. If you're interested in taking photos from heights of 50 to 400 feet, from angles which until recently would have been nearly impossible, most existing drone models will probably be usable for the foreseeable future. However, software engineers at drone manufacturers are undoubtedly developing new, advanced drone features that will be introduced in the next few years. It's not known yet whether you'll be able to replace specific internal components to upgrade your drone with new features, or whether you'll have to buy an entirely new drone with the more advanced features.

The Sky Is the Limit—OK, Not Really

Laws on the use of drones vary between countries, and within the U.S. laws vary between states, so it is important that you research the laws on drone usage when planning trips. Under current FAA regulations in the U.S., drones cannot be flown at an altitude exceeding 400 feet, to avoid encounters with aircraft, or higher if the drone is flying within 400 feet of a structure. You are also not permitted to fly drones within 50 feet of a building. For photographers who are interested in aerial photography at higher altitudes, you can either go on aerial sightseeing tours or consult charter flight companies about flights in particular locations.

Other Legal Issues

Some countries require you to register drones with their aviation regulatory agency, and you may be subject to sizeable fines if you fail to do so. The laws regulating the use of drones are intended to protect environmentally sensitive areas, prevent invasions of privacy, and deal with the possibility of property damage or personal injury.

Restrictions on using drones in wilderness areas or wildlife refuges are intended to protect the environment and wildlife. People do lose control of their drones, or they can malfunction and crash, so laws are intended to prevent drone use in areas where photographers might not be able to retrieve the debris after a crash. There have been instances in which drones have collided with birds, injuring the birds and destroying the equipment.

There are laws in every state in the U.S. now which prohibit the use of drones to take any images or video footage of private property without the owners' permission, so you need to be mindful of where property boundaries are located if you're

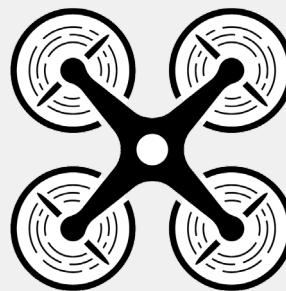
flying a drone in a densely populated area. You can fly drones over private property, but you need to make sure that you're not taking any photos until you've passed all private residences and businesses.

There are comparable laws in most countries which prohibit filming private residences and businesses without the consent of the owner, the precise terms of laws regarding the use of drones and protection of privacy vary between countries, so you will have to read about the current laws which regulate the use of drones in the countries that you'll be traveling to.

Unlike other kinds of photography equipment, a drone is a potentially dangerous device. If you're using a drone in an urban or suburban environment, and inadvertently fly it into a building or vehicle, you may not only wreck your drone, but damage someone else's property too. Incidents of people being injured by drones are extremely rare but do occur occasionally. For those who are curious about this, Wikipedia's entry on accidents involving drones, or "unmanned aerial vehicles," includes a list of incidents in which drones being used for low-altitude aerial photography have crashed into various objects or collided with people.

Final Thoughts

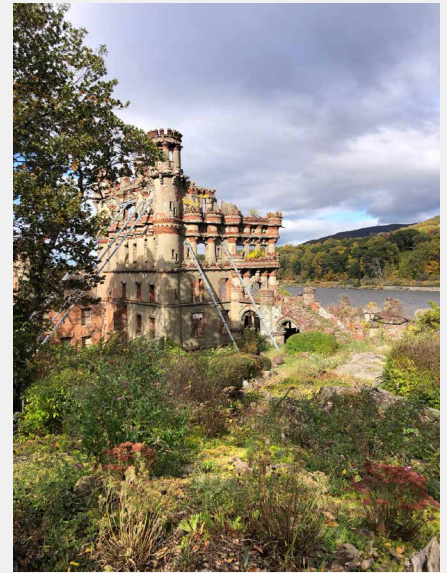
Currently, many models of drones are still very expensive, and they are all fragile. I suspect that drones will likely become more affordable within the next few years, and at some point will become almost as commonplace as cameras are now. Drones involve a steeper learning curve than lensballs, digital frames and other products that I've discussed in past articles. You'll need to familiarize yourself with how to fly them using the remote controls, and how the lenses capture images at altitude while the drones are in motion. I suggest that you spend time practicing flying your drone in meadows or in open fields before attempting to fly it in populated areas. Be sure that you're confident that you've learned to fully control the drone's pitch angle, altitude, direction, and speed. I would also encourage people interested in aerial photography to take advantage of YouTube, which has quite a few tutorial videos dealing with the technique of using drones for photography and showing the wide variety of pictures that photographers are capturing with them.



Bannerman's Castle

Our Field Trip to Bannerman was great! The light seemed flat when we arrived, but as the day went on the sun came out and we got some great images! A little windy heading back in the boat! The Hudson River was beautiful and with the light on the hills the views were magnificent! All in all it was a terrific day photographing Bannerman's Castle. What a story it is!!

Photos by Roger Chenault, Carlotta Grenier, Jackie Ross and Joe Williams





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Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor

P.O. Box 405, Ossining, NY 10562

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Hunt's Camera 1-800-924-8682

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www.huntsphotoandvideo.com

Thomson's Art Supply* 914-949-4885

184 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10601

www.thomsonsart.com

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2. [Online: Hunt's Photo Talks: A Visual Tour of Sicily](#)



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2. [Intro to Photography Part 2: Camera Basics | Hosted by Sony](#)



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