

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

December 2020



INSIDE:
Competition
Field Trip Feature
Members' Pictures



The Current State of the Westchester Photographic Society

In the hopefully short term absence of our new President, I was asked to fill in and write this column. I thought I might use the opportunity to review how things have changed at WPS during 2020.

Even pre-virus, we started out the year with a major crisis. After years of meeting rent free at WCC, the new administration required us to start paying rent for our meeting rooms. That created an urgent financial problem as our very low dues structure wouldn’t generate enough to keep us solvent throughout the year. December and January were spent unsuccessfully negotiating with the college. It soon became apparent that we needed to relocate the club to a new location. Fortunately we worked out a deal with UUFNW for our Friday night meetings. Unfortunately, to pay the new rent we were forced to raise our dues. We also had to reschedule our outside speakers and judges on very short notice. Just as we completed the move to Mt. Kisco the virus hit and we had to scramble again to take all of our meetings onto Zoom and once again reschedule all our speakers, judges and programs.

I thank you all for hanging in with us and renewing your memberships in spite of the dues increases. Our current membership now stands at 91 which makes us viable for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

So far the Zoom meetings have been running very smoothly and have opened up a much wider range of available speakers and judges. We worried about taking the competitions, mentoring sessions and exhibits online but so far so good. I started the year very worried about the future of WPS but with all your hard work and creative input I’m very optimistic about the long range future of WPS. Your jobs are not finished. We need you to help run this club. Please consider volunteering for one of our committees. Also we are still looking someone to serve as our President.

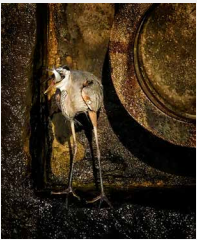
—Dick Budnik

COVER PHOTO

BREAKFAST

By Harvey Augenbraun

There is a hydroelectric dam near me where many birds gather to feed. There are great blue herons, cormorants and osprey to name a few. They feed from the rocks in the river below the dam and at the flood valves on the lower part of the dam where this image was taken.



inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web edition

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newsletter: infocus@wpsphoto.org
www.wpsphoto.org

Westchester Photographic Society
meets 10 months a year, on Friday evenings at 8:00 pm (excepting school holidays) in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester, at 236 S Bedford Rd, Mt Kisco, NY. Guests are welcome.



FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

December

- 4 Ashok Sinha, “Gas and Glamour, Roadside Architecture in Los Angeles”
- 11 Competition 3A
- 18 Arnold Breisblatt, “New in Photoshop Elements and 5 minute Enhancements”
- 25 No Meeting: Christmas

January

- 1 No Meeting: New Years Day
- 8 Competition 3B
- 15 Art Vaughn, NECCC Print Winners
- 22 Hazel Meridith, “Creativity with Textures and Composition,” Mentoring Sessions
- 29 Competition 4A

February

- 5 Harvey Augenbraun, “Long Exposure. Mentoring Session”
- 12 Rob Dublin, “Cowboy Rob”
- 19 Members’ Mix (5 and 20 min presentations)
- 26 Competition 4B

March

- 5 Outside Speaker
- 12 Al Sarnotsky, “Impressions of Iceland and Greenland,” Jerry Hoffman, “My Favorites,” Mentoring Session
- 19 Competition 5A
- 26 Outside Speaker

April

- 2 No Meeting: Easter Weekend
- 9 Competition 5B
- 16 Inside Speaker
- 23 Competition 6A
- 30 Annual Members Meeting

Please note:

Check the WPS website (wpsphoto.org) for recent changes.

MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE
Olympus OM-D 10 Mk iii w/ 14-42mm lens
condition: exellent + \$395.00
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Contact Richard Micklish at rich3638@optonline.net

COMING UP



Ashok Sinha on December 4

I love cars and I love Los Angeles for being a city of cars. Over the last decade or so, I have been intrigued by LA’s love affair with the automobile, tracing back to a time when cars themselves were objects of beauty. Those cars are no longer on the streets today but the buildings from that era remain. My interest in this story is primarily

about this car culture’s manifestation within the city’s built environment, especially its ‘surface streets’ (ordinary city streets), where there was once a time when the car and the act of driving was celebrated, and these streets once allowed a unified mental image of an urban texture to be retained—a sense which is now improbable and destroyed by freeway architecture, which has reduced entire communities to a name on the exit sign.

As an architectural photographer, I wanted to connect with that lost design history and capture LA’s carculture-induced optimism and ambition reflected in polychromatic, star-spangled coffee shops, gas stations, car washes, and others that once lured the gaze of passing motorists. These buildings were similar to advertising billboards - symbols of consumerism that sent a universal messaging to the drivers and beckoned them to come inside. They also often played a role within the social fabric of the communities that they were part of, and sometimes injected a hint of humor in the nature of the vernacular architecture itself. While some of these iconic buildings have since been lost, many have somehow endured the test of time and redevelopment, standing as sculptural icons of an era that shaped LA into one vast drive-through experience. The sites I have photographed have also provoked me to wonder if we are the last generation of “true” motorists. As driverless cars become more prevalent in American cities, and optimism about the car is focused on removing the driver from the process, it makes me wonder about the architectural message of driver-less communities of the near future. What architectural message will be relevant to self-driving cars? And if this experience is not on the visual spectrum, how will we know when we have arrived.



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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.

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

NOTE:

Some of these museums are temporarily closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check their websites for more information.

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)

Pictures, Revisited
Through May 9, 2021

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
Check website

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)

Many online exhibits
Through Dec 31

Fotografiska
(www.fotografiska.com/museums/)
Many Exhibits
Check website

New-York Historical Society
(www.nyhistory.org)
Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution
Photography Archives
See online exhibits

WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

**Northern Westchester Hospital/
Chappaqua Crossing**
"Sports/Action or Movement"
Exhibit: Nov 4 - ongoing

**Cancer Treatment and
Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital**
"Our World of Water"
Exhibit: Jan 13 - ongoing

Greenburgh Virtual Exhibit
(<https://greenburghlibrary.org/artexhibits>)
"Memories of Good Times"

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

*Please log on to websites to
see the entire schedules.
Many events are available online.*

B&H Photo
(<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp>)
check online

Adorama
(<http://www.adorama.com/alc/events>)
check online

Hunt's

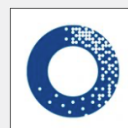
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(<https://edu.huntsphoto.com>)

WPS FIELD TRIPS

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

**We're looking for people to
suggest and organize field trips!**

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES



Adorama Free Online Photography Courses

1. [Basics of Photography](#)
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4. [Lighting 101 by Strobist](#)
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Bob Piro, First
Ballet Confusion



Jun Shihoten, First
Curve

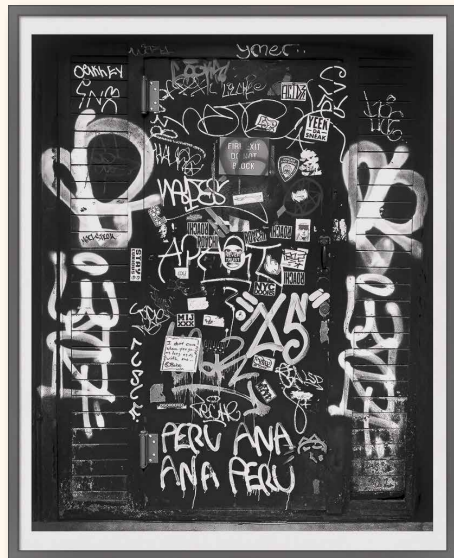


Harvey Augenbraun, Second
B&W Sunflower



Paula Pillone, Second
Open Doors

B&W DIGITAL



Tom Streppone, Second
18th Street Message



Adelaide Boemio, Third
Light Bulbs



Anastasia Tompkins, Third
Displaying Egret



Anastasia Tompkins, Third
Snuggle Time in the Bronx

B&W DIGITAL



Annette Collazo-Comito
History Down the Stairs



Paula Pillone, Third
Stormy Light



Adelaide Boemio, HM
Hanging Lights

B&W DIGITAL



Barbara Kapetanakes, HM
Cacti



Betty Leung, HM
Snow and Rock



Dennis Thornton, HM
Plum Island

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Jackie Ross, HM
Dumbo View Through the Bridge



Jim Dwyre, HM
Lounging on Park Bench

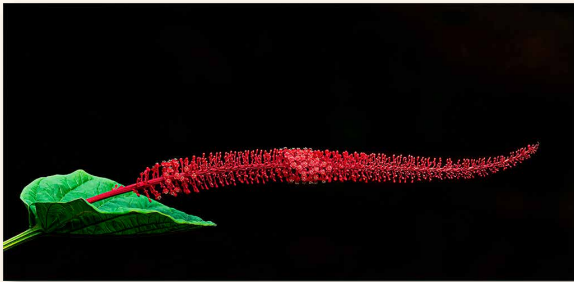


Voyin Hrnjak, HM
White Peacock

THEME: FLORA



Anastasia Tompkins, First
On Golden Pond



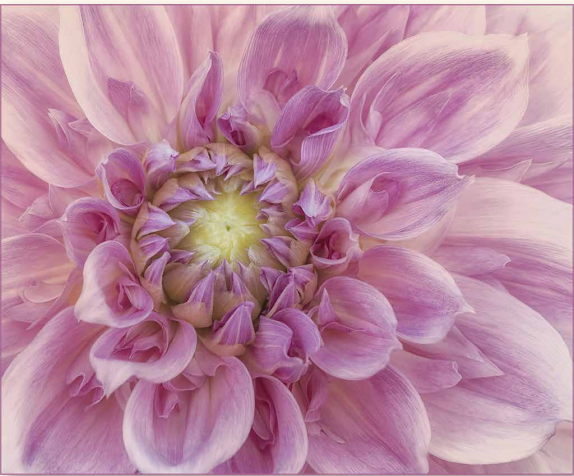
Annette Collazo-Comito, Second
Tropical



Barbara Kapetanakes, Second
NYBG in BW

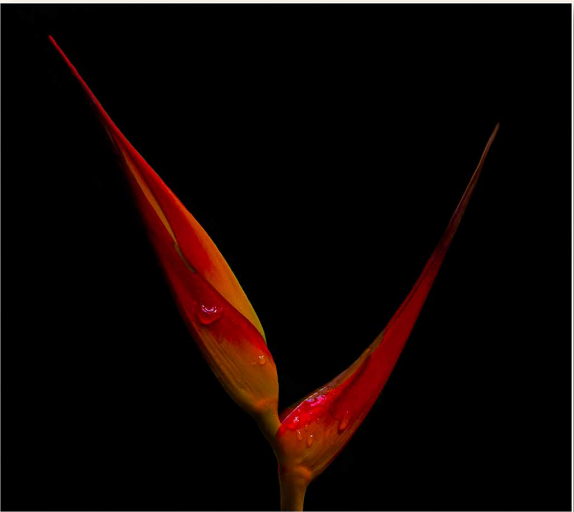


John Maccanello, Second
FLORA



Carlotta Grenier, Third
Sunshine

THEME: FLORA

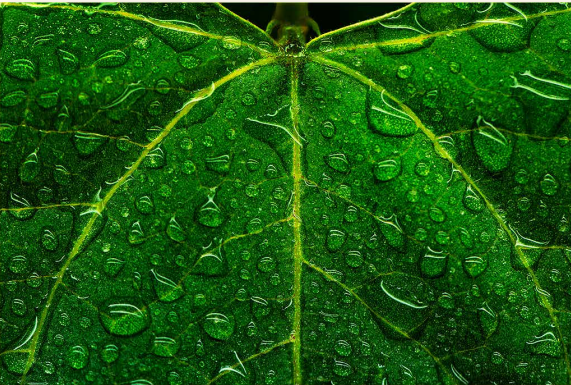


Paula Pillone, Second
Drops on Paradise



Arnold Breisblatt, Third
Flowers by Window

THEME: FLORA



Dennis Thornton, Third
Bean Leaf



Anastasia Tompkins, Third
All Wrapped Up

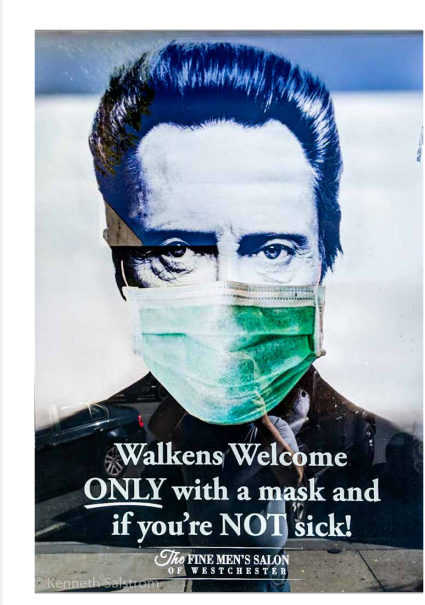
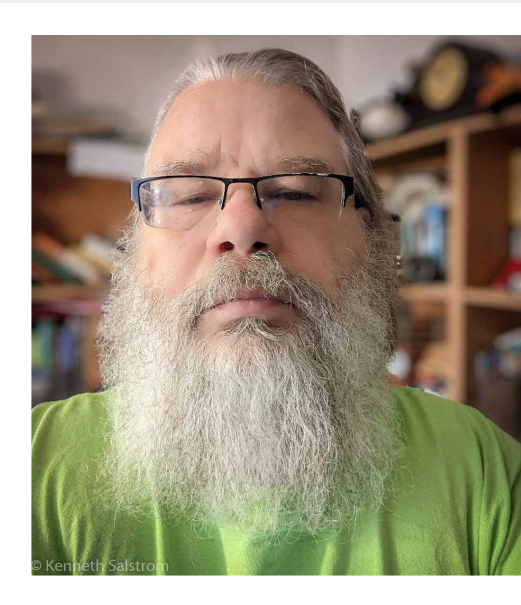


Voyin Hrnjak, HM
Passiflora

Al Sarnotsky



Kenny Salstrom





A Windy Day At Storm King

Dennis Thornton

Situated in the Hudson Valley town of Mountainville, Storm King Art Center is a unique outdoor museum. Founded in 1960, Storm King is a 500-acre track dedicated to the display of contemporary sculpture. Each of the 91 pieces has been artistically situated in the rolling hills of this estate. Some sculptures are stand-alone structures while others are integrated into the terrain. The landscape is designed with a tree-lined promenade, surrounding forest and various grasses cut in complementary patterns. One can easily spend hours just strolling around viewing these creative works of art and enjoying the picturesque setting.

Normally, you can just drive up, gain admission and spend the day casually ambling about. Then at the end of the day, head to the near bye historic town of Cornwall-On-Hudson to have a bite to eat or just browse around and window-shop.

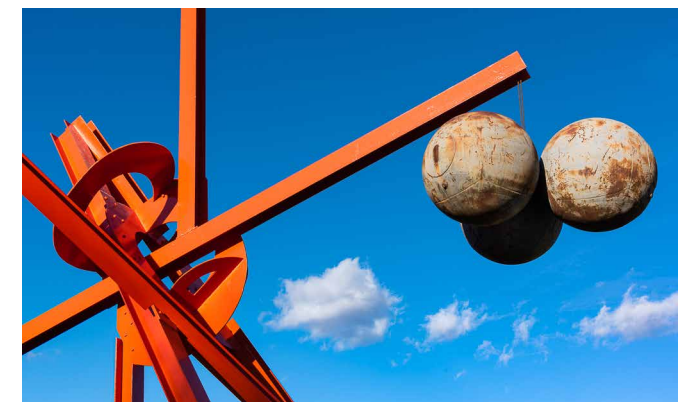
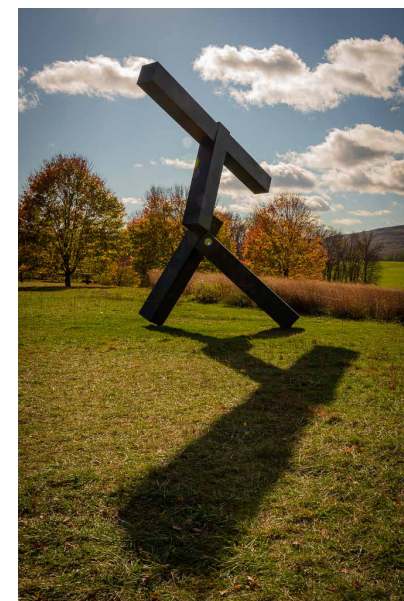
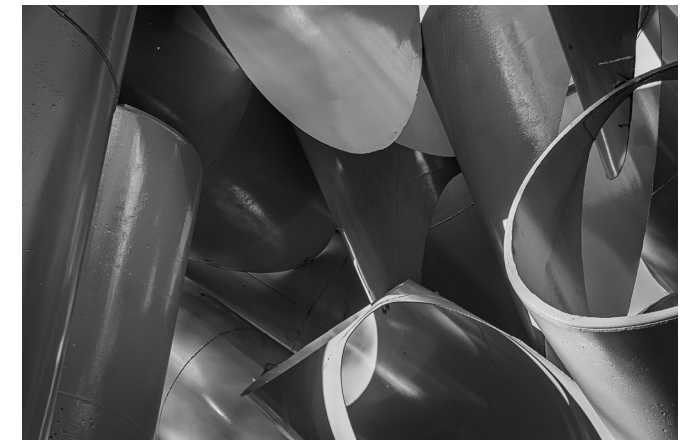
However, as we remain in the midst of a pandemic, things were a bit more complicated. The number of daily admissions was significantly limited and timed at staggered intervals. Tickets had to be purchased well in advance, via their website. Tickets for any times during the peak foliage season were sold out weeks in advance. To say that I arrived “past peak” is an understatement. Besides the day that I went was very brisk and whatever leaves had been holding onto the branches were being stripped away by recurring bursts of wind. Putting these complications aside, once on the grounds it was not difficult to maintain social distancing given the expansiveness of the space.

While the works of art are captivating, they are not so easy to photograph creatively. As during past visits, I found it a bit challenging to capture images that spoke to me and were not just record shots. Some of these metal sculptures are big, some would say enormous, modern in their design and placed in open fields. I walked around and about the various pieces looking for good angles. I opted to look for ways to isolate components of the whole in order to capture abstracts. I also took a number of long exposures and some multiple exposures too. It was a beautiful autumnal albeit windy day. Given the rapidity of the clouds scudding across the sky, I worked to juxtapose cloud movement with the stationary statues. I also tried, in vain, to capture the myriad leaves being blown



about. I had my cover bag blow off and whisked away so fast that it was lost forever. At one point, to take my camera off the tripod to scout out angles for a specific piece only to watch my tripod be blown over by a gust of wind. Good thing the camera was in my hands. These were minor challenges that added to the overall enjoyment of the day. In the end, I was pleased with some of the experiments and not so pleased with the majority of my creative trials. Sometimes you luck out by trying something new, other times not so lucky. But as they say, it's just a work in progress.

I would recommend going to Storm King, as it is a one of a kind museum. Considered to be the largest collection of outdoor sculptures in the United States. It is just a beautiful setting to stroll around, enjoy the bucolic environment and view one-of-a-kind works of art. Storm King will remain open until Dec. 13th when it will close for the winter. Hopefully, in the springtime or summer when our public health situation improves admission to this facility will be easy again.



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Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor

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