

# Staten Island Camera Club

Serving the Staten Island community since 1954.

THE  
**Clix**



April 2023

## Up Coming Events: Next Competition - .

May 4th	Zoom Discussion	End of the Year Entries	What images should you enter in May
May 11th	Final Print Competition	C&M Physical Prints	Judge: Ellen Stein
May 18th	End of Year Competition	Best Images of the Year	Judge: Vinny Kempf -4 images per category
June 8th	End of Year Dinner	& Awards Ceremony	7:30 PM Real Madrid \$55.00 per person see page 2.
June-Aug	Photo Exposition at the JCC	All members are invited	Our Prints will hang in Gallery at JCC this Summer.

## President's Message by Dennis Arculeo

April has come and is almost gone, leaving only two more competition for this Camera Season, and the most important ones. It's the competitions where we pick the best of this year's images.

In our end of year Print Competition images that competed in the prior two Print Competitions can be submitted; but if you missed a Print competition you may enter new images at this time. The limit per member is four Prints in Color and four in Monochrome.

In Digital Competition there will be three best of year images from only entries from this season. One for Assigned Subject, Color and Monochrome categories. Of course there will be 2nd and 3rd place awards in Print and Digital, as well. Any member can enter up to 4 images in each of the categories to possibly take home the

bragging rights. So, start looking at what you entered this past season and make your decisions. Upload to the appropriate Contest and make sure you use the same Title you used earlier in the season. If you need a reminder of your titles just ask and we can send you your PCP list.

Contrary to popular belief do not limit your entries to only your nines. Remember that previous score was the opinion of one person and solely that judge's point of view, and not someone else's. Try and put what you think are your best images into the contest. You never know if that previously scored 6 you enter could become image of the year. It happened to me a few years back. I was as stunned by the occurrence as were some other club members. They just couldn't explain the three judges' decision, except to say "these judges saw something in it that the other one did not."

## Tips to Consider for the Summer Travel - D. Arculeo

What would a vacation be without photos? Go from just taking snapshots to making compelling photos that tell the story of your trip. Something I understand is that one of the first steps you can take to reinvigorate creativity is to change your perspective. This can be achieved by experimenting with new gear, and yes, traveling to new places.

Often stepping outside of your comfort zone and trying new things can help you see the world in a different way, and can inspire you to create new and unique images.

Travel can be difficult for photographers, but with a little bit of planning, you can usually avoid the worst of it. I'm going to tell about my experiences when traveling for photo trips. Whether we travel domestically or abroad there are many pit falls we all encounter: So let's spell out the good, the bad, and especially the ugly!

Here are some thoughts to ponder and some tips for you to contemplate as you venture out in the world this summer.

### Pack your camera equipment in your carry-on bag.

Most airlines won't insure the value of your very expensive photo gear if you check your photo bag, and many airports

around the world have problems with pilferage. So bringing your camera gear on board with you is the only way to travel safely; see later on for some important exceptions. It seems, however, that every year carry-on restrictions get increasingly draconian. We are forced to review the size and shape of what we carry on. Best to check with each of the airlines you are traveling with. The rules may be different.

Only take what you are going to use. Carrying too much gear can be a literal pain in the neck. Why drag around stuff you are not going to need or use, at the very least that can be fatiguing.

You may run into problems with overseas carriers, smaller planes, and crowded flights. For example, when flying in a small plane, stowing your camera bag in the cargo hold is probably unavoidable, but luckily the risk of theft is greatly reduced when working with a small air carrier with only a few employees.

So, always try to pack as light as you can when you travel. That said, I almost never have a problem when I carry a photo backpack or sling, as opposed to a rolling bag: if an airline is weighing carry-on bags, or asking people to check carry-ons because the plane is full, they usually don't bother people with backpacks (unless they are conspicuously huge-looking).

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**Camera Club End of Season Dinner**

**Staten Island Camera Club  
End of Club Season Dinner  
Real Madrid Restaurant**

2075 Forest Avenue

Staten Island, New York, 10314

7:30 PM Thursday June 8th

Including your choice of Soup or Salad with any entree from the following:

**Seafood**

- Paella Valenciano (Seafood cooked with chicken & Spanish sausage in a saffron rice)
  - Paella Vegetarian
- Shrimp in Green Sauce (Parsley, onion, garlic & sherry wine)
  - Shrimp Ajillo (Shrimp in garlic sauce)
- Shrimp Creole (Shrimp in a sweet red tomato sauce)
- Shrimp Diablo (Shrimp in a spicy red tomato sauce)
  - 1 ¼ lb. Lobster (Steamed or broiled)
  - Broiled Filet of Sole
  - Broiled Salmon

**Beef / Veal**

- Broiled Sirloin Steak
- Broiled Pork Chops

Veal (Slices of veal, Spanish sausage, onions & peppers in a sherry sauce)

**Chicken**

- Chicken Ajillo (Chicken in garlic sauce)
- Chicken Creole (Chicken in a sweet red tomato sauce)
- Chicken Diablo (Chicken in a spicy red tomato sauce)
  - Chicken and Rice with Spanish Sausage
- Chicken (Slices of chicken, Spanish sausage, onions & peppers in a sherry sauce)
  - Includes Rice, Potatoes and Vegetables

With Soda, Coffee or Tea

**\$55.00\* per person (includes Tip and Tax)**

**\*Wine or other Spirits available at extra cost at the bar.**

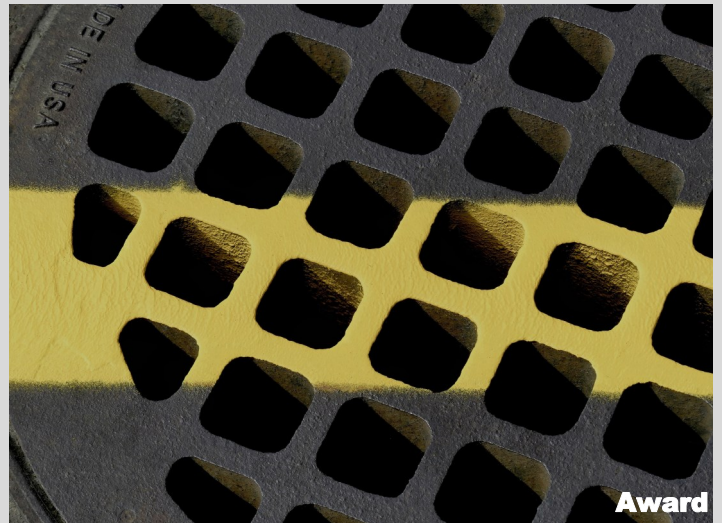
**Minimum 20 people- Required**

**Make your reservation by sending your check made out to the Staten Island Camera Club  
to: Carol Mayr - 238 Bement Ave. - Staten Island, NY - 10310 no later than 5/30/23**

## Assigned Subject Digital Gallery – One Color to Make Your Subject Stand Out



Dennis Arculeo - That Darn Photographer is Back!



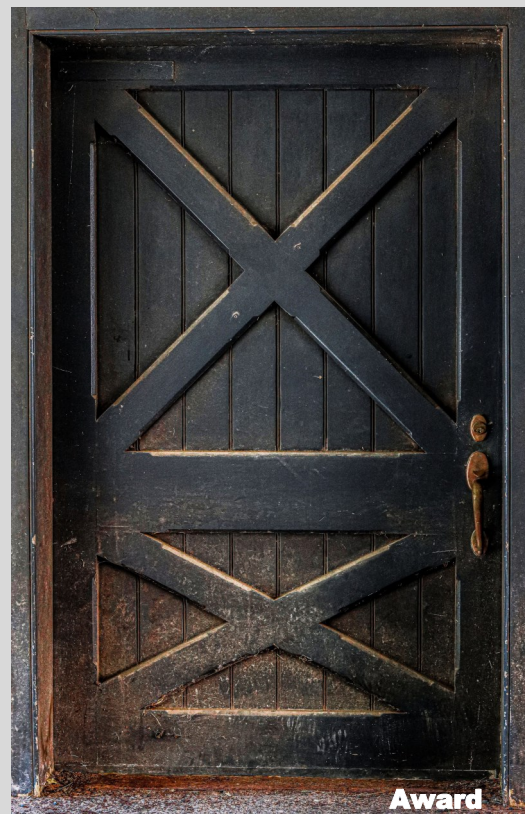
Marianne Bury- Striped



Shelley Levine - Someone helping Someone



Marianne Bury - Sewing Notions



Sue Svane - Snug Harbor Door

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

## Assigned Subject Digital Gallery – One Color to Make Your Subject Stand Out



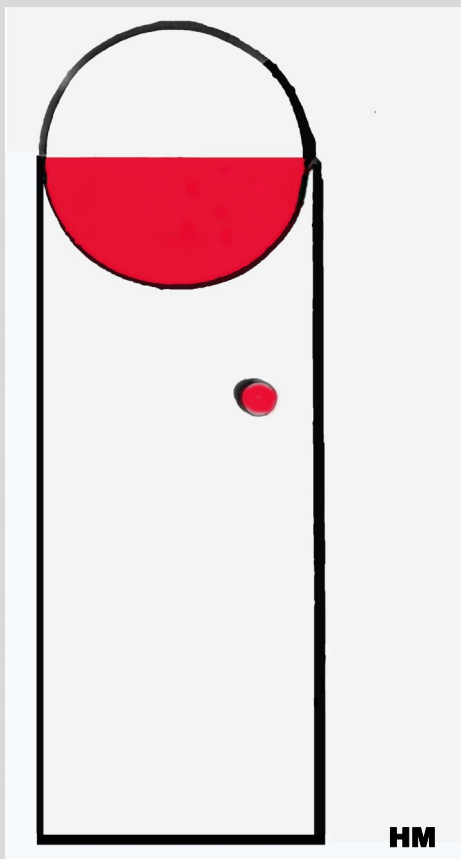
Joe Sorge - An Old Fire Alarm Box



Len Rachlin - Yellow is the Best



Phyllis Petito - Green Market



Lauren Arculeo - Enter



Len Rachlin - Glassware

**Award - First Place (9)**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**

## Assigned Subject Digital Gallery &amp; Tips to Consider for the Summer Travel



Dennis Arculeo - One Red Cent

*Continued from Page 1.*

Also, remember that most airlines allow you to bring a second, smaller bag on as well, such as a purse or a computer bag. Just make sure that your second bag is big enough to take a few extra items if you need to lighten the load of your primary carry-on. The secondary bag goes under your feet, so most airlines won't care if you stuff some heavy equipment in there. Usually, the weight restrictions are only for the overhead bins.

I also know some people who wear a photo vest, stuffing a few items in their pockets to avoid weight restrictions. Since airlines advise you not to pack expensive items in your checked luggage, if airline employees tell you that your bag is too heavy, show them what you are carrying, and they will usually try to accommodate you.

TSA guidelines are clear that you can bring tripods on board, and most airports around the world have rules similar to the TSA's guidelines. But not every airport security official knows or cares about the rules, and I've seen some photographers get told by security to go back to the airline counter and check their tripod (because it is "club-like" and can be used as a weapon). That said, unless I am traveling very light, I usually pack my tripod within my checked luggage, as well as some heavy accessories such as flash and bulky battery chargers; these items are much less likely to be targeted by thieves than cameras or lenses, and can add a lot of weight to your carry-on.

I did have an issue with a travel tripod in my checked bag, coming from the US west coast a few years back. TSA x-rayed my luggage, discovered it and did an inspection of the item. I got a note from the airline explaining the reason my luggage was detained. All was good and nothing in my checked bag was missing when we got back to NY. We had to go to TSA baggage counter to retrieve my bag.

### Make Sure to Put Spare Camera Batteries in Your Carryon.

Batteries installed in devices can be packed in checked luggage, but you must carry spare camera batteries in your carry-on bags. According to the TSA, if you're traveling with spare batteries in addition to the ones inside your devices, consider placing each battery in its own protective case, plastic bag, or package, or place tape across the battery's contacts to isolate terminals (this prevents hazards due to short-circuiting). If you must carry a battery-powered device in any baggage, package it so it won't accidentally turn on during the flight. For more information about TSA regulations regarding batteries, visit the TSA blog.

### Pack as light as you can.

I always do my best to keep my carry-on and checked luggage as light as possible, as it helps avoid weight restrictions, and nothing is worse than having to lug heavy bags around the airport and elsewhere during an extended photo trip. Spare clothing is by far the worse culprit, taking up a lot of space in your luggage and getting very heavy if you bring too much, so I always bring as little of it as I can. You can always take advantage of the washing facilities or dry cleaning services in your hotel, if available. Otherwise hand washing in the sink of your bathroom can be a wise alternative. Lastly, but more expensive, is to purchase a few extra clothing items when you arrive at your first destination and discard them when you leave.

### Do you need a passport to visit other countries?

This one seems obvious, but just in case you are wondering, you will need to obtain a passport before leaving your home country. Typically, you cannot enter another country without a passport, and you might even have trouble getting back home without one as well. It usually takes several weeks to obtain a passport, so if you don't already have one and are planning an overseas photo trip, start the process well in advance. Just know that expedited passports are available on short notice, but at a hefty extra cost.

### Don't forget to check visa and entry requirements.

Many countries offer visa on arrival for US, Canadian, and EU citizens, but some do not, so check ahead of time to see if you need to secure a visa in advance (some countries will also charge an entry fee). I have a relative who traveled to Brazil without realizing he needed to obtain a visa prior to entering the country; although he managed to sneak in, he almost got caught. But luckily the US Embassy came to his rescue.

Check entry requirements well in advance of your travel. The **US State Department** is a good place to start, as they keep detailed information regarding the location of US embassy and consular offices overseas, visa requirements, crime and security information, health and medical requirements and recommendations, dangerous "hot spots," and more.

Also, if you are a part- or full-time professional photographer, you might need to obtain a work visa before entering a foreign

Color Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Dennis Arculeo - It's all in the Look



Joe Sorge - Peggy's Doll



Len Rachlin - Still Life with Forsythia



Lauren Arculeo - A peace lily

**Award - First Place (9)**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**

## Color Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



**Award**

Marianne Bury - Busy Bee



**Award**

Marianne Bury - Game Plan



**Award**

Shelley Levine - Best New York Bagel



**HM**

Sue Svane - Prairie Sunflower



**Award** - First Place (9)

**HM** - Honorable Mention (8)

## Color Digital Image Competition HM Gallery



Dennis Arculeo - The Promise of Spring



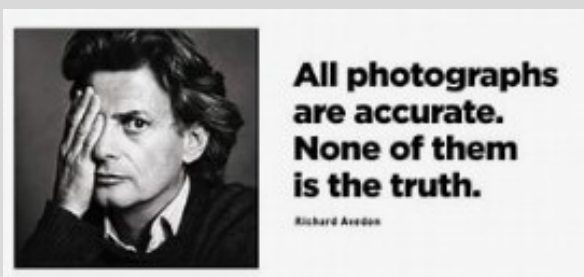
Larisa Livshits - Apple Blossoms



Len Rachlin - Beautiful Peony



Joe Sorge - The Patrice McAllister



Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)



Shelley Levine - Window reflections

## Tips to Consider for the Summer Travel - D. Arculeo

*Continued From Page 5.*

country. Typically, this is not the case if you are simply a freelancer, but if you are traveling to lead a photo tour or on assignment, a work visa *might* be necessary. Unfortunately, very few countries are clear about their work visa requirements; if you can't find the necessary information on line, the best thing to do is contact an embassy of the country you are visiting and hope for a response. Take these entry requirements seriously! The last thing you want is to ruin your expensive photography trip by being denied entry.

### **Don't forget to check for medical and vaccination requirements.**

Some countries require specific vaccinations for persons seeking entry. And many countries recommend (but do not require) certain vaccinations and/or prophylactic medicines for diseases that may be common (such as malaria). The US State Department website referenced above is a good place to start; consult with a travel clinic well in advance of your departure if traveling to an area of concern, as some vaccinations need time to start working properly. One of the most common vaccination requirements is for yellow fever.

### **Be careful with customs declarations.**

Most countries "don't" require you to declare personal photography equipment upon entry. I say "don't" in quotes because declaration requirements are rarely clear (customs forms are usually vague, and not always in coherent English), and vary from country to country. I typically don't declare my photography equipment, but when in doubt, declare what you have or at least ask a customs official before turning over a signed customs declaration.

You might also have problems reentering the US from trips abroad with photo equipment especially if it is sold around the globe, as it is possible that customs officials might think you purchased the equipment while abroad and are therefore subject to a customs tax. If the equipment is obviously used and banged up a bit, you shouldn't have any problems, but if you have recently purchased equipment with you, carrying a receipt might be a good idea to prove you didn't purchase the item while traveling.

Photographers might consider certain customs documents before leaving their home country so they don't get hassled abroad or when they return. One option in the US is

called a "Certificate of Registration for Personal Effects Taken Abroad" (form CBP 4457), but this will only facilitate your re-entry to the US. We did that when we went to Europe for 19 days in 2010 and we had no issues as we traveled from country to country.

Another option is to obtain what is known as a "Carnet" for your photo gear, which is an international customs and temporary export-import document that facilitates the movement of certain goods across borders and provides protection from import duties both home and abroad. Something I had to prepare when I was working in the advertising world, whenever we had to ship our equipment overseas. For most photographers, these are cumbersome and perhaps unnecessary steps, but if you want to avoid the risk of being fined or taxed when traveling with expensive photo equipment, both are worth considering.

**Research photography rights in foreign countries.** Remember, individual freedoms and rights vary from country to country. While most democracies around the world protect photography as a free speech/expression right, some countries frown upon people walking around taking pictures-or forbid photography in certain places altogether. Do some research first to make sure you're

not going to attract unwanted negative attention while photographing.

### **Always smile!**

If you have any problems with foreign officials when traveling, it is best to stay friendly and play dumb. Smiling while acting confused can do wonders for you, and is certainly better than acting outraged and angry. Whatever you do, don't lie to customs or immigration officials.

Of course, being honest doesn't preclude you from being vague; I keep my responses succinct and don't volunteer anything that hasn't been specifically asked for, and if a broader answer will suffice, I use it. For example, when asked my purpose for entering a foreign country, I might say "tourism" rather than "I'm here to take photographs"- both are true, but one answer reveals less than the other and might help me avoid further screening. Just be careful: you can be denied entry, fined, or even imprisoned, so don't mess around!

### **Get some ZZZZZs.**

Nothing cures jet lag better than getting a good night of sleep.



Rome, Italy June 2010 – Just before Sunset - Dennis Arculeo

Monochrome Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Shelley Levine - Windows and more Windows



Dennis Arculeo - Two of a Kind



Len Rachlin - Portrait of a Young Girl



Marianne Bury - Exit Left

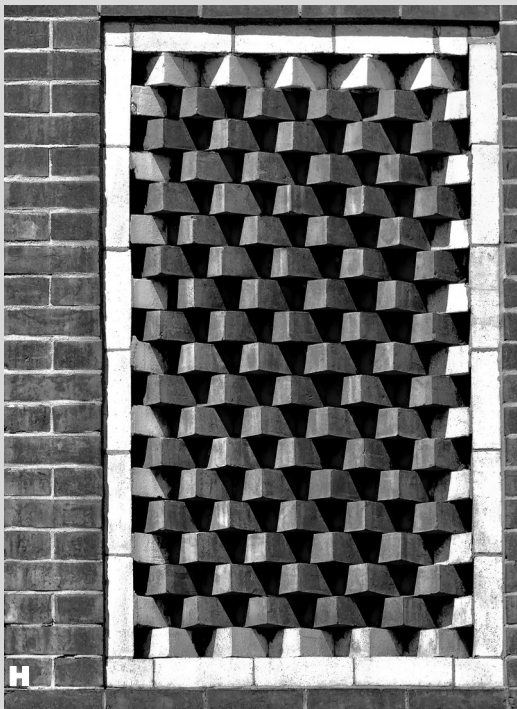


Len Rachlin - Character at Coney Island

**Award - First Place (9)**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**

## Monochrome Digital Image Competition HM Gallery



Marianne Bury- Shapes and Shadows



Herb Goldberger-Lily

**Award - First Place (9)**

**HM - Honorable Mention (8)**



Sue Svane - Helicopter

### Tips to Consider for the Summer Travel - D. Arculeo *Continued from Page 9*

However, sleeping on redeye flights can be a nightmare, so I usually bring my own travel pillow with me to make the experience slightly more comfortable. I suggest bringing a melatonin chewable or PM Tylenol or the like; which supplements the body's own melatonin production. Darkness can cause the body to produce more melatonin, which helps induce sleepiness and helps promote a regular sleep cycle when changing time zones. Adding a little more just helps insure you get the required rest you need to recover from travel fatigue.

### Conclusion

As with most adventures a little bit of planning, photo travel can be safe, fun, and free from hassle. I'm interested, however, in hearing about your good and less pleasant experiences when traveling domestically and abroad with your photo gear in tow! You may have remedies that I am unaware of, that could be even more helpful for others, that we could share.

## The Mixer Brush by Julie Powell

### What is the Mixer Brush?

The Mixer Brush is an underused and misunderstood tool in Adobe Photoshop. It can be used to over-paint on the top of photos to create a beautiful, unique and painterly look.

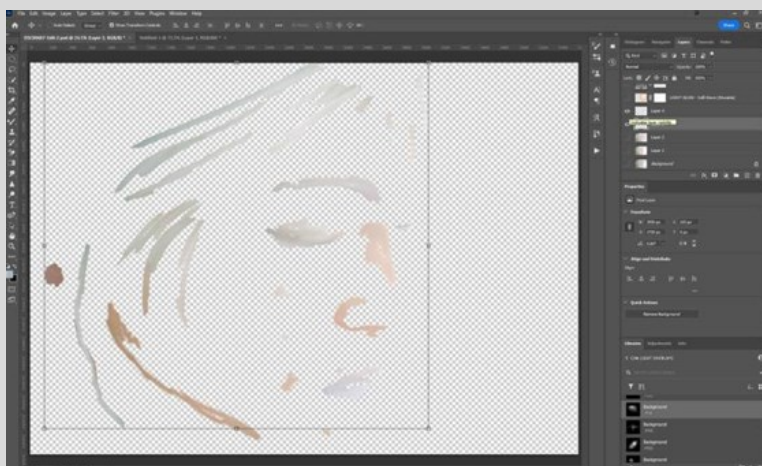
Once mastered, it can also be used to create paintings from a blank canvas, using a variety of brushes from oil to water-colors and pastels. To find the Mixer Brush, simply click on the Brush in the Tools panel and press the triangle in the corner. This will show you all the brush selections you can choose from.

### What settings to try

Open your chosen photo in Photoshop. Start with a new blank layer, and grab the Mixer Brush. Now paint all over the skin, start with the darker areas and then move into the lighter areas. Then from light back to dark, blending it all in. Don't panic if it gets a little muddy here. We are just getting in our base paint.

Start off with the following settings:

- **Brush:** 48 Oil Heavy flow edges dry (size 80)
- **Mixer Brush Combination:** Very Wet, Heavy Mix
- **Wet:** 100
- **Load:** 50
- **Mix:** 100
- **Flow:** 5



### Finish it off

I often finish it off with a texture and perhaps a gradient map just to blend everything in and make it look more painterly. .

### Mixer Brush Mini Projects

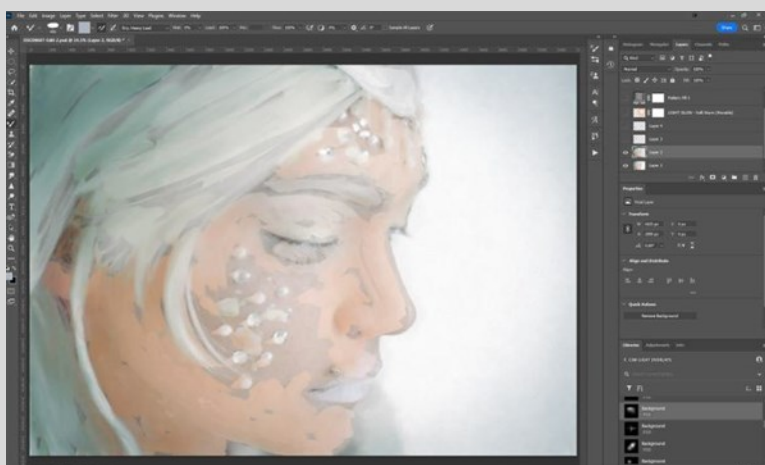
Want some more in-depth tutorials? I have [four great Mixer Brush mini projects](#). Each offers slightly different techniques for using the Mixer Brush in Photoshop. These projects are aimed at the intermediate to advanced Photoshop user, as layering, masks and adjustments are used.

In these tutorials, you will be given all class materials, including a PDF eBook with all class notes and screen captures. Plus, you'll get extensive videos that can be downloaded and kept or watched offline, as well as step-by-step videos on **HOW TO** achieve each piece.

Most projects can be completed in an afternoon or weekend. All in the comfort of your own home. From portraits to pets, birds and landscapes, try one or try them all.

### Sample All Layers: should be on.

Make a new layer and with the same settings, but adjust Flow up to 10 and paint in hair, start at the back with darker and then the lighter areas. Paint in the direction the hair grows. Play around with brush mixes and flows and get creative.



## Night Time Photography Focusing Tips



When taking photos at night, it can be difficult for a digital camera to auto-focus accurately, especially in complete darkness. Here is a helpful trick to overcome this.

Switch to manual focus mode and turn on your camera's Live View screen option.

Use Live View options and take the screen to 10x magnification and manual focus. That may help you find an object in the shot where you can make sure the edges of it are sharp.

Mirrorless cameras will show this in the viewfinder and on the back LCD screen.

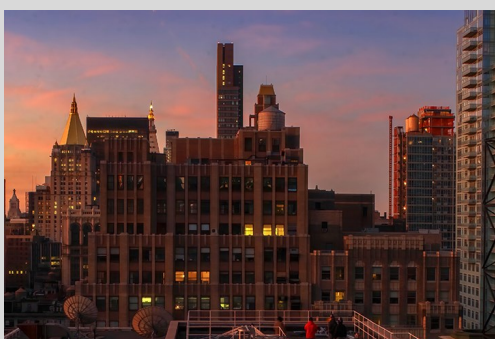
**Extra tip: Turn off image stabilization for long exposures on a tripod.** When it comes to long exposure shots, image stabilization may be your worst enemy. The problem happens when the IS motor will suddenly detect its own vibrations, causing the tripod to shift and subtly amplify the movements. If you are using a tripod, you do not need image stabilization for long exposures.

### Other techniques:

- Focus during the day, then save that focus setting. Some photographers mark their focus ring with a pencil or tape it with gaffer's tape.
- If photographing the night sky, focus on the moon first as it is usually the brightest object in the sky.'
- Have a friend stand in the distance with a flashlight and focus on them. Then have them move out of the way.



For further training on important camera fundamentals and handy suggestions, you may want to check out U-tube and find other Tips and techniques. So, now it's time to get clicking and keep that camera stable and focused at night for crisp shots.



## Gernerl Information

### Important SICC Websites

Staten Island Camera Club Website

<https://www.sicc-photography-club.com/>

Image Critique Meetup Website

<https://www.meetup.com/Image-Critique-Meetup/>

Staten Island Camera Club Meetup/FSM

<https://www.meetup.com/Staten-Island-camera-club/>

### Email us at:

[info@sicc-photography-club.com](mailto:info@sicc-photography-club.com)

Note: All [Blue](#) characters are Hyperlinks.

Ctrl Click with mouse or tap your stylist to follow the links on-line.

### Competition Guidelines

There are six categories to submit into for a monthly competition. You can enter 2 Color Digitals, 2 Color Prints, 2 Mono Digitals and 2 Mono Prints, as usual (8). And now you can also enter in the Assigned Subject category two Digital and two in Print.(Which equals a total max of 12 images per competition)

You are permitted to make up One missed Regular competition in each of the categories that you are participating in; except for the Assigned Subject Competitions, which can not be made up.

Digital entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM on or before the Tuesday evening prior to Thursday's competition, using the upload procedures established by the Photo Contest Pro website.

All print entries must be submitted and ready for Competition by 7:45 PM on the night of the Competition. Print Entry Sizes: Printed images will be no less than 8x 10", but not more than 13x19". Prints must be mounted on a board and can be single matted. Over all presentation size including the mat or backing board should not be less than 10X12" nor any larger than 17X22." Commercially available mats for 8x10" sized prints are generally 11x14" with an opening for 8x10" prints and are available in local stores or on-line.

The upper rear Left Hand corner of the print must contain our competition label filled in with the image's Title, Member's Name and the Color/Mono Category; checked in the appropriate box. Assigned Subjects are not numbered. The entry # on the Label (#1 or 2), must correspond to what is printed on the scorer's sheet.

All images, both Digital and Print, will follow the same scoring scheme. First Round entries that are scored a "6" or less will be dropped, any image scored a "7" makes it into the 2nd Round. During the 2nd Round the Judge will re-score the Photo and will either keep the "7" Score or raise it to an "8" gaining an "Honorable Mention" or a "9" which is the designation for an Best in show "Award".

Once a Photo receives an "Award" (9) it will be retired and may not be re-entered into any future regular Monthly Club Competition in the same or any other category. Any 9's earned during the season can compete with other photos in the Photo of the Year competition. Photo of the year winning images also will be retired and restricted in the same manner as above.

Any color Digital, or Print that received a 7 or 8 may not be re-entered into competition in the same season in the same category. However it may be re-entered in a succeeding season, only once, in a different category.

Competitions are held in the Harbor Room, Snug Harbor Building G, on the third or fourth Thursday of each month at 8 PM. (See our Schedule on our Website for exact dates and times.)



### NJFCC News

For IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit NJFCC

<http://www.njfcc.org/>

The New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs (NJFCC) is an association of local camera clubs embracing a membership of more than eight hundred amateur photographers in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The NJFCC is dedicated to making photography more interesting and rewarding to the individual, through service to his/her club and by pooling the resources of individual clubs for the benefit of all.

### Club Officers for 2022-2023

**President: Dennis Arculeo**

**Secretary: Debbie Kilen**

**1st Vice President: Eric Mayr**

**Clix Editor: Dennis Arculeo**

**2nd Vice President: Len Rachlin**

**Competition Chair: Carol Mayr**

**Treasurer: Carol Mayr**

**Projectionist: Lauren Arculeo**

**Events: Charlie DiBartolo**

**Print Chair: Mike Miglino**