

The Aperture

Newsletter of the Johnson County Camera Club

Established April 1963

www.jccameraclub.com

Meeting: October 12, 2009 (second Monday)

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Asbury United Methodist Church

Music Room

75th St. and Nall Avenue, Prairie Village, Kansas

(Park behind the church; the meeting entrance is near the corner on the back of the building near Nall.)

MEEETING AGENDA

October Program - Marla Craven, Program Committee Chair

The agenda for the October meeting has changed. Paul McMillian of VanDeusen Photography has rescheduled for November due to a work conflict. So the new agenda will be:

- 1) Jerry Kolb will show images of Bishop Spencer, review times, directions, answer questions, etc., about the Field Trip October 17th. Please e-mail Jerry or me or let Jerry know at the meeting if you will be participating.
- 2) Don Johnson will give a short tutorial on image sizing: a) how to size images for submittal at club (a Pat Woods request) and b) how to properly resize images when enlarging them for printing.
- 3) Show & Tell-You may show up to 15 images. There will be ample time to show, discuss, etc. Here is your opportunity to view and be viewed.
- 4) For the time remaining, a forum discussion of all things photographic will be held. If you have burning questions about any aspect, from the esoteric "Why do we do this?" or "What constitutes art?" to the generic "Where's the best place to buy mats?", the great gurus of the Camera Club will answer them.

Dues Reminder – Michael Stone, Treasurer

Just to jog your memory, club dues is due in September; so if you haven't yet paid your dues the amount is \$25 payable by check to JCCC.

Notes from Our Last Meeting

- President, Dick O'Kell presided over the September meeting.
- Treasurer, Michael Stone collected dues.
- Dick mentioned the numerous photography events around town that Sandeep Mehta has alerted the club to and suggested that other members also should let the club know about upcoming events they may be aware of.
- Michael gave the Treasurers report.
- Program Committee Chair, Marla Craven reported on upcoming events and field trips.
- Last year there were some misunderstandings regarding payment of dues with respect to participating in the End-of-the-Year contest, our major competition for the club year. If you join the club after January 1, the dues are \$15. Joining after March 1 you pay no dues, but cannot participate in the year-end competition. This revision was adopted by vote of the members in attendance and is to become part of the club By-Laws.
- Ken Ragan suggested the club might experiment with shooting video.
- Photos from the City Market field trip were shown and judged by members who did not participate.

- Bruce Hogle and Julie Johnson showed photos of an old 1950-rusted Ford pickup illustrating the Orton Effect.
- Photos from the City Market field trip were shown and judged
- All business concluded the meeting was adjourned.

At The Galleries *(Photography currently on display)*

Michael Stone

Campanella Gallery, McAfee Memorial Library, Park University, Parkville, MO (816-584-6785).

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8am-8pm, Friday 8am-4:30pm, Saturday 10am-8pm, and Sunday 4-8pm.

"Coloring Outside The Lines Exploring the boundary between painting and photography.
Closes October 23.

Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, 1301 Mississippi, Lawrence, KS (785-864-4710).

Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm.

"Big Shots: Celebrity Culture and The 1980s" The exhibition features celebrity photographs by Andy Warhol, Laurie Anderson, Andres Serrano, Keith Haring and Robert Mapplethorpe, all leading artists of that era - Closes December 13.

The Editor's Corner

Bill Staudenmaier

M. Stephen Doherty, Editor-in-Chief of American Artist, in one of his recent on line blogs, discussed the role art plays in healing, how it has helped individuals who paint, sculpt and draw express grief over the death of a child, spouse, friend or other personal tragedies in their lives. Some artists may have health issues, confronting their own mortality, and perhaps are striving to complete a creative project before death. Steve noted that it is well known that a positive attitude can help someone survive longer. And in the long term, "Pictures and sculptures can become permanent records of the artists' life in all its dimensions because the pieces are physical expressions that can be shared with others, thereby helping them." Through art you can express what you are feeling, which is one of the goals of a creative person.

We can all relate to this in one way or another. In my life certainly as far back as high school when I did oil paintings and pencil sketches, I was able to alleviate boredom and lose myself in art through the creation of images on canvas and paper. I became, for a brief span of suspended time, one with the painting, attempting to re-create what I saw before me across a field or in a setup for a still life. At that point in my life the vision of the starving artist, barely surviving on his art, living and working in a sparsely furnished garret, with perfect north light that allows the creation of great works, appealed to me. Add to that the vision of Hemingway ("A Moveable Feast") sitting in a café in Paris in the 1920's scribbling on tablet sheets, drinking wine and establishing the basis for the great novels that would follow. But at some point reality set in, and romantic ideals evaporated into space; finishing school, finding a job, became necessary evils.

I held on to painting for a while, but as with all things artistic you suddenly reach the limit of your ability to accomplish what you think is required, and without further schooling or seminars, the challenge of creating masterpieces fades in the mist. Events of more importance entered my life and painting was set aside, only to be resurrected at odd times of need or convenience.

Writing the other endeavor that occupied my time wasn't pursued as enthusiastically either. Again I needed direction and training at a college level, but didn't follow that road. Hemmingway was a favorite author for his ability to construct sparse, sharply descriptive sentences. As you've probably figured out by now, I like arranging words on paper. Writing a novel was a thought at one point, but I'm not a great reader of novels. I'm not sure I could really construct a story that would hold together to a satisfying ending before I got bored. A novel should provide room for individual interpretation of an author's thoughts, and an understanding of the reasoning behind

the progression through the story line. Many books are published today that offer poor story telling or cumbersome reading because of poor editing. Nowhere is this more apparent than when you listen to a book on tape. Recently my wife and I listened to a mystery that was well read, but for the most part poorly conceived. The story had really come to a conclusion about two-thirds of the way through the book, but the author persisted in carrying it through another convolution of plots to an inconceivable end. It was tedious, even with someone else doing the reading.

Photography can offer peace and contentment to a troubled spirit. Contemplation of a scene requires your attention to obtain the best composition, just as it does in painting or in writing a description of the scene. It moves your mind to thoughts of balance and lighting. Waiting for the light to be just right requires patience and the ability to see the difference. Because your mind is occupied in the act of creating art, your troubles cease to exist for that span of time, though brief it may be, before your return to reality. For that moment, you are one with the camera, having achieved a level of concentration requiring your full attention. The sounds of nature, city traffic, or some ones voice, are but static in the background.

There can be, as Doherty posits, a healing that occurs through art. It is this total involvement with the work at hand that lifts your spirit to another level and offers some purpose and enjoyment of life.

Categories for the Year-End 2009-2010 Photo Contest

Submittals for our Year-End-Contest are due at our May 2010 meeting. Only slides or digital images shot since May 2009 are eligible. There are nine subjects to choose from. You may select a maximum of six subjects with a maximum of two entries for each of the six subjects chosen. A professional photographer will judge the contest, with the results to be presented and discussed at the June 2010 meeting.

<u>2009-2010 Year-End-Contest Subjects</u>		
Intimate Detail	Damaged	Long Exposures
Minimalism	H-2-O	On The Streets
Reflecting	Night Lights	Back-lit

Please patronize the following area businesses when you need photographic supplies or camera repairs.

Overland Photo Supply, Inc. (913) 648-5950, Sat 10-5	8967 Metcalf, FAX (913) 648-5966,	Overland Park, KS 66212 e-mail – sales@overlandphoto.com , Hours: M-F 10-7,	(Gateway 2000 Plaza)
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Crick Camera Shop crickcamera@sbcglobal.net	7715 State Line Rd. Established in 1946	Kansas City, MO 64114 (816) 444-3390,	e-mail -
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The Aperture, newsletter of the ***Johnson County Camera Club***, is published monthly. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, unless otherwise announced, at the Asbury United Methodist Church. Short articles written by club members, or selected from other sources of possible interest to club members, may be sent to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter. Membership dues of \$25.00 for one year are to be paid during the month of September, which is the beginning of the club year.

For additional information or questions on the Johnson County Camera Club, activities, meetings, and membership contact the following members:

<u>President</u> - Dick O’Kell 913-341-8344 hasbeendoc@att.net
<u>Vice-President</u> - Steve Wall 913-782-6339 seeque2@gmail.com
<u>Treasurer</u> - Michael Stone 913-469-5724 stonem@noemailforme.nyet
<u>Newsletter Editor</u> - Bill Staudenmaier 913-381-0264 wstaude@sbcglobal.net
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<u>Program Committee Chair</u> - Marla Craven marlacravenphotography@gmail.com
<u>Program Committee Members</u> - Gretchen Cole, Pat Woods, Judy Burngen, Dona Corben, Steve Wall