

# The Aperture

Newsletter of the Johnson County Camera Club

Established April 1963

[www.jococameraclub.com](http://www.jococameraclub.com)

**Meeting: December 14, 2009 (second Monday)**

**Time: 6:30 P.M. (chat time), 7:00 P.M. meeting**

**Location: Asbury United Methodist Church**

**Music Room**

**75<sup>th</sup> 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.)

## **Meeting Agenda - Marla Craven, Program Committee Chair**

Our December meeting is strictly a social event. Please bring an 8x10 or larger matted print of one of your images, wrapped or covered, to exchange. Each print will be given a number and we will draw to see which one we get to take home!

Drinks and food for the evening are provided by the membership. Sheri Stanberry and Jayne Rudish are supplying the drinks, ice, and paper goods. Ladies, if you need someone else to pitch in please contact one of our members. The rest of us can bring treats to eat-homemade or otherwise.

Beverly Ross has worked hard to create a new website for our club. If we can get an internet hook-up at the club meeting we will take a look at it. If not, we'll give you all the information and how to submit images to the site.

We should also have time to look at the show-and-tell submissions that were turned in at the November meeting. Hope to see everyone there .

## **Notes from Our Last Meeting**

- Paul McMillian was the guest speaker for the evening. He showed images from his Swope Park show that closed in September. He also led a discussion on why we photograph what we do. Paul had asked that members bring either print or digital images of something that they were "passionate" about.
- In the second part of the meeting more member work was to be featured. Members brought 5 to 7 images on any topic for show and tell. But since there was not sufficient time left, it was decided to save them for the December meeting.
- Marla Craven and Jerry Kolb were the only members who showed up for Field trip to Bishop Spencer.

## **At The Galleries – Michael Stone (Photography currently on display)**

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.

Belger Arts Center, 2100 Walnut, KCMO (816-474-3250).

Hours: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday noon-4pm.

"The Oxford Project" In 1986, photographer Peter Feldstein photographed nearly all the residents (673) living in the small rural town of Oxford, Iowa. Twenty years later he, and journalist friend Stephen Bloom, returned to Oxford and tracked down 200 of the original subjects. Feldstein took new photographs of each of them, and Bloom recorded the stories they began to tell - Closes December 31.

Sherry Leedy Contemporary Gallery, 2004 Baltimore, KCMO (816-221-2626).  
Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 11am-5pm.

"Habitat" by Carl Corey - Closes January 2

Harry Truman Library and Museum, 500 West US Hwy 24, Independence, MO (816-833-1400).  
Hours: Monday thru Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm.

"Capture The Moment, The Pulitzer Prize Photographs" A traveling collection of winners of the most prestigious prize for photojournalism - Closes January 24.

Central Public Library, 14 W. 10th Street, KCMO (816-701-3400).  
Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

"The Test - The Tuskegee Airman Project" Nationally recognized photographer, Jerry Taliaferro, takes a look at the first black combat aviators who served during World War II and opened up opportunities for black people in and out of the military - Closes January 31.

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art - Block Building, 4525 Oak, KCMO (816-561-4000).  
Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 10am-4pm, Friday 10am-9pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm.

"Hide & Seek: Picturing Childhood" Children have always been popular subjects for the camera, a phase of life to which we can never return. Forty-five works, by 42 of the most recognized figures in the history of the medium, explore our fascination with childhood as it has been pictured throughout photography's history and up to present day - Closes February 21.

### [The Editor's Corner – Bill Staudenmaier](#)

Cindy Hoedel, one of the writers for Kansas City Star magazine, recently interviewed David Hume Kennerly, Pulitzer award winning photojournalist, in conjunction with and exhibit of his work at Digital Labrador. One question she asked caught my attention; Kennerly had been quoted previously as saying that in photography "everything can be taught except how to see." Her question requested that he define this way of seeing that *can't* be taught. His response was that "It's what comes out of your own heart and soul as translated by your eyes. Everybody sees differently." Essentially, that each professional photographer is hired for his or her specific skill set. "What makes a photographer or painter or writer great is a way of seeing things that you either have or you don't. It can't be taught, although it can be improved with practice."

Certainly technique, composition, lighting and personal vision contribute to this ability to "see." Perhaps it is also the gut feeling you have making an image; or the viewers response to certain images in your portfolio. Does a grab shot negate your skill to see, or is it an example of this faculty refined for instantaneous recognition of the opportunity offered? Certainly as a photojournalist Kennerly must respond quickly. Is every photo you create part of your unique capacity to bring together all these elements? Perhaps.

In today's digital age we sometimes have a Photoshop mentality and an equipment junkie's approach to photography. With film you had to wait for development, but with digital we have instant feedback, a definite advantage. Yet considering the quality of today's cameras why should a computer program even be needed, except for minor adjustments, to tweak your vision. Certainly digital with all it's bells and whistles offers much more "automatically" than film ever did. However there is always some editing that can be done later. But that doesn't absolve the photographer from thinking through the image prior to capture?

Seeing? Nothing to it right, look through the viewfinder, push the button, several times if necessary, maybe you'll get that one good shot, piece of cake; that's why you got this camera. But what are you seeing, if anything, when you do this. Certainly all the auto features should free you up to concentrate more on the subject; but will you? How many times have you shot pictures that are just snapshots? If you first survey the area where you are planning to shoot, take some shots, and then go back again and again, I think you begin to achieve what Kennerly is talking about. You begin to "see" the parts of a dilapidated building, not just the whole structure. Perhaps the way the sun reflects off a broken window glass rather than the entire rotting window frame. A missing window becomes an invitation and conjecture on the interior.

Michael Busselle published a series of books in the late 90's that I think address this issue in photography. Richly illustrated with beautiful photographs, each photo's text accompaniment is written as if he were talking to you as he explains the how and why of the subject at hand. The text is divided into paragraphs titled, *Seeing*, *Thinking*, and *Acting*. You get to follow his thought process as you study the image on each page. His, *Rule of Thumb*, is a small side note that offers general knowledge of the subject photographed. In addition each image has the technical information listed below it. With each photograph in these books, you can begin the process of improving your approach to "seeing" and knowing what you want in and from your image.

Who hasn't tried to imitate Ansel in the way we approach and capture light in black and white? Surely he had a great gift for being able to "pre-visualize" the final image and what it should convey. But as with Photoshop use today, his final image was the result of much darkroom work.

For the most part, good photographers do have this ability to "see" instinctively, and do attempt to "see" and often succeed, at bringing across their *vision*. Too often however, if it is an assignment, there may be the temptation to just fulfill the requirements. Perhaps we should offer ourselves the benefits of *self-assignments*. Besides just offering an opportunity to get out and shoot, these proposals can often be fruitful, in the sense, that the execution of the task is helping us learn what it means to really "see" the world around us.

**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.

<b><u>2009-2010 Year-End-Contest Subjects</u></b>		
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.***

<b><u>Overland Photo Supply, Inc.</u></b>	8967 Metcalf,	Overland Park, KS 66212	(Gateway 2000 Plaza)
(913) 648-5950,	FAX (913) 648-5966,	e-mail – <b><u>sales@overlandphoto.com</u></b> ,	Hours: M-F 10-7,
Sat 10-5			

<b><u>Crick Camera Shop</u></b>	7715 State Line Rd.	Kansas City, MO 64114	(816) 444-3390,	e-mail -
<b><u>crickcamera@sbcglobal.net</u></b>	<b>Established in 1946</b>			

**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:*

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Program Committee Members - Gretchen Cole, Pat Woods, Judy Burngen, Dona Corben, Steve Wall