



IN FOCUS

Newsletter of the Northside Creative Photography Club

Newsletter
September 2009

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Photo: Lake George, Susan Buchanan.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations are in order: we have reached a membership of 106. It is a wonderful accomplishment and I would like to express my thanks to members who have been instrumental in bringing in new recruits. A possible difficulty with a large membership (and I know that I have mentioned this is the past) is staying in touch with everyone; ensuring that needs are being met. So, may I ask that new members make themselves known to me, to the committee and to other members? Don't wait, don't hang back – we don't bite! Be vocal in making your needs known; be the squeaky wheel!

Saturday was the last formal meeting of the portfolio participants before submission of their finished work on October 7th. The full glory of the portfolios will be on display at the meeting of October 21st. I guarantee that you will enjoy the breadth of subject matter and appreciate the passion and sheer hard work that has gone into its production. Hints of the camaraderie, laughter, insights, and sense of accomplishment may also be detected, if not in the work then in the authors! Make sure that you set aside that date.

There has been a strange convergence recently in my reading material: my son has developed an interest in the Neurosciences and photographic resources have pointed me in the same direction. "...the miracle of art was not its ability to simulate reality, but to train the observer to see the world afresh. The artwork invites the individual not only to look outside but also within, to the subjective memories, ideas and emotions that form his interpretation. This capacity of art to help us look within our own minds has captured the interest of some of the world's leading neuroscientists." (Embracing the Wide Sky – a Tour across the horizons of the human mind by Daniel Tammet) Certain of these scientists "claim to have discovered eight universal principles of artistic experience that 'artists either consciously or unconsciously deploy to optimally titillate the visual areas of the brain'". Due to lack of space, I am unable to reveal these principals here – and I will save them for the next newsletter (another form of titillation!). Cheers and good luck in the coming competition.

Susan Buchanan

President, Northside Creative Photography



CONTACTS

POST:
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WEB:
www.ncp.org.au

EMAIL:
Contact via email is available from the
'Contact Details' page on our Website.

THE CLUB MEETS AT:
St David's Uniting Church Hall,
Pacific Highway,
Lindfield.
(Corner Provincial Road.)
On the 1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each month at 7.30 for an 8pm start.

PRESIDENT:
Susan Buchanan: 0428 446 495

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NATIONAL CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2009

"Some people still ask "Is photography art?" The answer is, of course, "No". Photography is a medium just like watercolour or painting. Many say there is no art, only artists. Each artist chooses his or her medium and some choose photography." - Gordon Undy, *Point Light*

These days too of course "creative" photography is sometimes thought of as synonymous with digital photography but this too is a misconception. Creative photography starts in the photographers head not with the click of the shutter. Pre conception of an image or just being able to see what the camera may be able to help interpret are parts of the creative process. Some photographers strive to capture what they envisage with a minimum of post production work while others use the power of traditional darkroom techniques or digital manipulations to create the work the of art wish to achieve. Whichever way you work photography is an exciting medium and opens up opportunities for creative people to display their visual talents. The National Creative Comp had humble beginnings when there were not many opportunities for creative photographers to test their talents against a judge's critical eye. Today there are many competitions local, national and international but the NCP Committee believes there is still room for another opportunity for people, particularly within the amateur field, to push the boundaries and display their talent. So put on your creative thinking caps and start to put some ideas together for the national Creative. Entries close 13 Nov and an entry form is available on the website ncp.org.au or contact competition convenor Jan Glover on ncp@ncp.org.au or 02 9498 3916.

FESTIVAL OF THE FLOWERS: KURING-GAI WILDFLOWER GARDEN

After the generosity shown to us by the Ku-ring-gai council over the past few years, there was no question of not responding to their call for assistance to help with a "Reconnect with Nature Photography Walk" last Sunday at the Wildflower Gardens in St Ives. Susan, Carolyn Pettigrew and Jacques Roussel made themselves available (many thanks!) for the 40+ participants in an attempt to instil some tips and techniques for nature photography. Of course it was a stunning day with bright sunshine and gusty winds – the worst possible conditions for nature photography! We did our best and hope to be invited back next year. This image is from one of the exhibits on display – enjoy!



OCTOBER COMP - CREATIVE

Our Oct "Creative" competition is a lead up to the National Creative Comp in Nov, but in this monthly comp, the normal rules still apply. Mini prints should have no manipulation other than adjustments for colour balance and exposure. Collages/montages and mixed media are permitted in colour and mono prints, but not in mini prints. Whilst this presents some challenges for the mini print workers, there are many ways to do creative work "in camera" such as underexposing, overexposing, using slow shutter speeds, panning, or using coloured or creative filters.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

We invite you to contribute to InFocus. If you have images you would like to see appear or a story with or without accompanying images, we would like to hear from you. To ensure our newsletter goes out on time, please have any submissions emailed to Jan Glover at editor@ncp.org.au

MATERIAL DEADLINE: 2nd October 2009 or prior.

Muogamarra nature reserve

It was for me another well hidden treasure to be discovered in and around Sydney.

Being opened to the public only six weeks each year it can of course easily be missed but many Sydney siders seemed to know about it and the parking lot could not have accommodated one more car.

About a dozen of us gathered at the information centre to plan how to best spend our time and choose which tracks to travel.

Under the relaxed and very knowledgeable guidance of Don Gould we walked to the Lloyd Trig lookout in the morning and the easier and shorter walk "The Loop" in the afternoon.

The weather could not have been kinder, the breeze was very light and the only clouds we could see were very high and fuzzy. Whist the young families climbed up and down steps and rock formations like gazelles I negotiated them up at a more cautious pace.

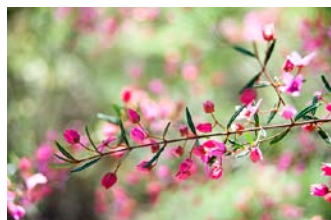
We all enjoyed many stops to admire and photograph the stunning wild flowers. It was a good reason to take regular breathers and forget how tired our legs were.

Never in my life have I seen so many wild flowers in full bloom.

I tended to use both very small apertures to record greater sharpness and very wide ones to diffuse the background. Looking back at the results I felt most rewarded when I used f3.5/4.5 as it gave a beautifully diffused background in a stunning spectrum of pastel hues.

It was a very memorable club outing.

Jacques.



Photos: Jaques Roussel, Jan Glover, Don Gould.

Daniel Linnet presentation

Daniel Linnet, an AIPP Master of Photography was our guest presenter on 19th August. From a background in art and painting (and real estate) he found his way into photography after being seduced by a Mamiya camera.

His inspirations included the old reportage photographers Doisneau, Cartier-Bresson, Salgado, as well as Helmut Newton and Richard Avedon. His personal work has included projects in India, Egypt and a social documentary series on Australian rural life.

Inspired by fantasy photographer David LaChapelle, he spent many hours planning one of his personal projects titled "Marquee", which Daniel showed to us on the night. We were awed by the amount of planning and time, and the imagination which went into each image. His "Marquee" gallery can be seen on his website www.linnetfoto.com along with more of his advertising work.

Daniel runs photography workshops at the Arthouse Hotel, Pitt St, Sydney, and Sydney Photographic Workshops www.sydneyphotoworkshops.com.au/



My Portfolio 2009

The Portfolio 2009 journey is almost coming to an end and what a journey it has been. Initially 42 people signed on to participate. Not everyone has been able to continue but the experience everyone will agree has been worthwhile.

Des Crawley (he needs to be cloned) began with some thoughts as to what the portfolio experience involved and some notes from that meeting are available on the NCP Forum www.ncp.org.au/forum/viewtopic.php?f=30&t=181

The way in which participants' ideas and skills have been honed is remarkable. But more of that later when the portfolios are viewed in October.

What has been wonderful is the sharing of ideas between the participants not only at the sessions mentored by Des but also at the two informal workshops. Difficulties and road blocks, both creative and technical, have been discussed and people helped to overcome these by receiving stimulating feedback to resolve the issues. So rewarding has been the experience watch out for some exciting developments in the NCP 2010 program.

So here's the timetable for the completion of the 2009 journey.

- 7th Oct - Portfolios submitted. Judging by a panel of three experienced judges will take place over the following two weeks.
- 21st Oct - All portfolios will be on display and the judge's feedback on all portfolios will be given at that meeting

Carolyn Pettigrew



shots @ the Arthouse

Daniel Linnet is running a number of photography workshops at the Arthouse Hotel in the city. A few members from Northside attended his "Composition & Light" workshop on Tuesday 25th August along with approx 40 other like minded photographers

The evening usually starts at 6pm with those present able to spend some time photographing the model before Daniel starts his presentation. Unfortunately there was a mix up last week and the model hadn't arrived at the start but Daniel quickly called another model who arrived soon after 7pm.

Daniel's presentation was a combination of him talking, displaying various images to assist with explaining a point and then some time allocated taking photos of the model to put his suggestions into practice.

The talk was structured to assist those just beginning their photographic journey as well as providing helpful hints to more experienced photographers.

Daniel discussed a number of characteristics of Light including the Quality, Intensity, Direction & Colour. Composition covered a range of aspects including the various lenses available and why you would use one over another concluding with Daniel's 10 simple rules.

The 3 hours went very fast and the evening finished at approx 9:15pm, with any one wishing to take further shots of the model able to stay behind and do so.

The model, Olivia, was very professional and handled 40 cameras pointing at her from all directions. She was constantly changing her pose and her position to present everyone the opportunity to take some great shots.

The cost of these sessions is \$30 and in my opinion is very beneficial. I certainly came away with some extra tips and the conviction that I will use RAW more often and no longer set the camera to AWB.

Further scheduled sessions of Shots @ the Arthouse include:

Tuesday 8th September - Flash Dance - natural + creative

flash techniques

Tuesday 22nd September - Capture the Moment - photographing people

Tuesday 6th October - The Main Event - bringing life into event coverage

For booking or extra info, check out the Arthouse Hotel web site at

<http://www.thearthousehotel.com.au/index.asp?id=100>

Peter Sambell



What to photograph in September/October

Leura Gardens Festival 2009 Saturday 3rd October 2009 to Sunday 11th October 2009 inclusive. Open 9.30am to 4.30pm daily. www.leuragardensfestival.com.au

Floriade, Canberra Sat 12 September to Sun 11 October Commonwealth Park, Canberra. www.floriadeaustralia.com

Bowral Tulip Festival 24 September to 7 October www.southern-highlands.com.au/tuliptime/index.html

Muogamarra Nature Reserve (Pacific Highway, Cowan)

If you missed our recent club outing to Muogamarra, you still have time to visit the reserve, which is open on Saturdays and Sundays only from 15th Aug to 20th Sept. Wildflowers (boronia, eriostemon, waratahs) were prolific on our recent visit, and there are spectacular views to the Hawkesbury River. Refer to last month's In Focus for directions to the reserve. For info on guided walks see: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/parktours.aspx?id=N0456

Competitions / Workshops and Exhibitions

Mosman Festival Photography Competition

Entries close 25 September. Entrants can submit up to 2 prints - either A3 or A4 size. There is no entry fee. There are separate sections for amateur and professional photographers.

Entry forms available at www.mosman.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Photographic Workshops

www.sydneyphotoworkshops.com.au

Landscape Photography Workshop

17 Oct, 09 Tutors: Michael Good & Daniel Linnet. Fee: \$395

People Photography Workshop

19 Sep, 14 Nov, 09 Tutor: Daniel Linnet. Fee: \$395

australian centre for photography

257 Oxford Street, Paddington

Tue - Fri: 12 - 7pm, Sat & Sun 10am - 6pm

The Lake: 28 August - 10 October

Narelle Autio, Jane Burton, Rebecca Dagnall, Murray Fredericks, Alexander James, David Mackenzie and Craig Bender, David McDowell, Troy Ruffels and Martin Walch. Curated by Malcolm Smith

The Australian landscape has been depicted by artists and writers as a haunted wilderness since colonial settlement. The 'dark continent' at the end of the world was a blank page onto which Europe could project their gothic fantasies. In this exhibition ten contemporary Australian photomedia artists have created a series of works that respond to this idea in a range of different ways.

Many of these images have been created in and around Australian lakes - Lake Eyre, Lake George or the man-made lakes resulting from the damming of Tasmania's rivers. But on another level, The Lake also represents places that are at once seductive and dangerous, on whose mirrored surfaces our dark desires are reflected back at us.

Michelle Lord: City of the Immortals

28 August - 20 September

Acclaimed British artist Michelle Lord has an ongoing fascination for fictional environments. Working non-digitally and using simple materials such as card and paper, she creates her images from meticulously handmade models. Through the eye of the camera, these models are transformed into sprawling imaginary cityscapes.

Nairn Scott: The Glomesh Project

28 August - 20 September

The Glomesh Project traverses the complex symbolic nature of gold; a precious metal, a colour, a prize, a status symbol. In this exhibition valuable gold fob watches and tasteful candelabra are lined up alongside gloriously cheap gold nick-nacks from the Two Dollar Shop or plastic lucky charms from Chinatown. It's impossible to view them without making a series of personal judgements about value, authenticity and taste.

Workshop Term 3 Student Exhibition

24 September - 7 October

Experience new and time-honoured approaches to photographic practice in the Workshop Term 3 Student Exhibition. The students' work is displayed in ACP Gallery 3, providing students a platform to showcase their work, share ideas and take pleasure in what has developed through the duration of the workshop.

Blender Gallery, 16 Elizabeth Street Paddington

Tue-Sat: 10 - 6pm.

Far to Here: Until September 15th

Far to Here, a joint photographic exhibition documenting the lives of Darfuri refugees now residing in Australia.

In part one of the exhibition, photojournalist Kabir Dhanji captures the inner strength of the older generation who fled the conflict. In part two, Darfuri youth tell their own story, recording their day-to-day experiences on donated cameras.

The Far to Here exhibition, which previously opened at Parliament House in Canberra to celebrate Refugee Week in June 2009, illustrates the moving stories of those who fled the conflict in Darfur in search of safety.

The exhibition features black and white portraits of Darfuri community members, taken by photojournalist Kabir Dhanji. Kabir Dhanji has worked for BBC East Africa, covering Sudan, Kenya and Somalia. He has also worked for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Los Angeles Times. These portraits are coupled with photos taken by Darfuri youth in photography workshops, capturing their day-to-day experiences in Australia.

This project has given the Darfuri community in Australia the opportunity to creatively tell their stories.

Upcoming Events : September/October 2009

Wed 2nd September : Competition: Open - Judge: Jenny Turtle

Wed 16th September : Presentation: "How to make an AV" by Steve Mullarkey

Muogamarra outing competition

Sat/Sun 19/20th September : Weekend away : Port Stephens

Wed 7th October : Competition: Creative including Freestyle

Submission of Portfolios

