

VIEWFINDER



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Photo credit: John Fraser

“Invest in knowing the people that you photograph, gain their trust and respect, then you will be able to show a window of their lives”

Muhammed Muheisen

National Geographic Photographer

Meet the Editor – John Fraser

Viewfinder is the Etobicoke Camera Club newsletter. Its goal is to share our members' success's and the events at the club that help us on that journey. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please consider submitting it. Our members will appreciate it.



The Etobicoke Camera Club introduced me to the Art in photography. No longer satisfied with just memory photographs, the club helps me strive for photographs that others will also enjoy.

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What's in Malta for Photographers?

by June West



One of over thirty Bronze Age megalithic temples in Malta, this is on its sister island of Gozo. The Temple of the Giants, “Ggantija”, was considered until recently to be the oldest free standing archaeological monument in the world, predating Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Egypt. This was taken in March, 2020, just before I decided to shorten my three week holiday because of the pandemic. “When will be my next trip, ever?” I wonder.

I arrived late in February to take advantage of off-season rates in an island that has virtually no rain in winter, and temps 15-20 C. I saw one morning of rain. Part of British Empire until 1964, with its many beaches and diving locations, Malta is a favourite holiday spot for the Brits. Friendly locals all speak English as well as Maltese. While there are lots of tours and hop on hop off buses, I mainly used local buses which are frequent and cheap. For walkers there are ancient tracks and footpaths, many which follow the sea cliffs. Like numerous Mediterranean islands, Malta too has a blue grotto, which is just as lovely.



Two weeks later, I might have caught some birds migrating north from Africa, but wildlife was not the focus of this trip; Malta, inhabited since 5,200 B.C.. is the ninth most densely populated place in the world, with very limited natural spaces.

What it does have is a rich history recorded in its architecture and museums. Located just south of Sicily, it commands the sea lanes between Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Since 1000 B.C. it

Feature Article

June West (continued)

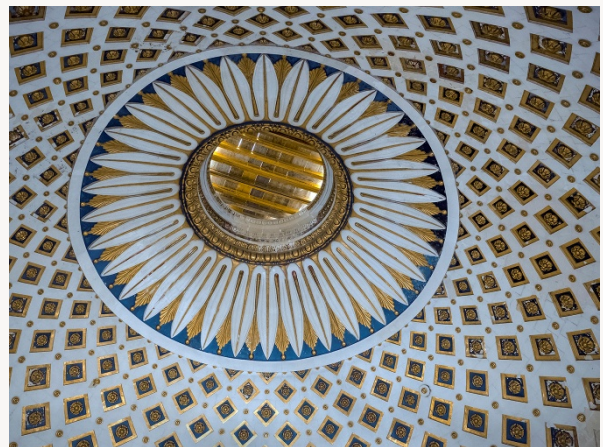
has been plundered by pirates and conquered by a long succession of rulers: Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantians, Arabs, Normans, Spanish, Knights of St. John, French under Napoleon, and British. No wonder Valletta, the capital, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the most fortified cities in the world.

This photo of Fort Ricasoli was taken from Fort St. Elmo in Valletta. Together they guard the Grand Harbour entrance. The Grand Master of the Knights of St. John strengthened Valletta's walls so it withstood a long Turkish siege to "cement" the Knights' control for over two hundred years.



Besides the fortifications of Valletta, the other outstanding monument to the Knights' wealth and power is St. John's Co-Cathedral. Here the orders of each language group vied to create the most lavish and beautiful chapel bearing its coat of arms.

A very Catholic country since St. Paul was shipwrecked there, Malta's numerous churches also compete to be the biggest. The impressive dome of the Rotunda in Mosta is only slightly smaller than the Pantheon dome in Rome.



Feature Article

June West (continued)



At the island's centre is the fortified town of Mdina. Arab influence is evident in its twisty, shaded, narrow streets where traffic is prohibited.



Colourful banks of oriel windows, called "gallariji", are a sort of veranda above street level, another example of Arab influence everywhere.

Malta's bomb shelters, beneath extensive catacombs used for burial, are very interesting. Each family lived in one cramped room, hastily scooped from the soft limestone when Mussolini sided with Hitler. Malta withstood two years of heavy bombing and was the site of British headquarters for the invasion of Italy.



Feature Article

June West (continued)

Salt pans, depressions in the soft limestone where salt water evaporates to form salt, are found everywhere along Maltese shores. Both the Romans and Knights promoted the salt industry. This is a photo from Xwnenji Bay close to Marsalforn, Gozo, where over a kilometer of basins have been created by hand or machine and salt is still painstakingly harvested by local families.



Everyone, especially the children, dress up for Carnival in Valletta in Feb. for colourful and often funny street photography. In addition, every small village has a procession on the feast day celebrating its patron saint.

Ford Mustang from the National Antique Car Collection in Qawra, sometimes on view outdoors.



Reacting to Rick McKenzie's Presentation by Christine Kobielski

I was amazed by the work of Rick McKenzie, and I wondered about my work as it didn't even include thinking about shadows and perspective.

I thought about the art world and how when photography was invented, the art world totally dropped realism and began to paint to capture feeling. No longer were artists interested in how real things looked. Photography could do it better. Shadows and perspective would not be important to them. If they put someone in shadow it would be based on a feeling, perhaps an evil person lurking. If they made someone too big, it would be because they wanted the person to stand out. Impressionism was born out of the invention of photography and began a whole new movement towards total abstraction.

Rick created his stories by first imagining them and sometimes sketching them and then starting with a blank canvas. He had various creative home set ups and his very obliging wife as a super-model. I saw some of this type of work on the internet where photographers would set up elaborate scenes and hire models in costumes. I preferred Rick's work. It is my understanding that most of his learning came from youtube vides and a very keen observation of the world around him. I loved the way he pushed himself towards perfection. Of course I could not work the way he does, as I prefer to take photos that stir me and use those photos to create a story that awaits deep within me. Mine are more philosophical and psychological.

When I heard that Rick would be joining us for Unlock Challenge I saw a perfect opportunity to perhaps have some time with him and maybe get more insights into his work and mine. In this first piece I tried his technique of extrusion in 3d. to create the shadow. I thought I had it right as the light came from the left and the shadow was on the right. Rick pointed out that the shadow would not go through the railing, but it t would go up the side of the railing and would only show on the railing. His wife who sat beside him happily knitting, interjected with a story about her husband and how he was always observing different types of shadows as the sun changed throughout the day.



Feature Article

Christine Kobielski (continued)

I tried to cut off the shadow and move it up the railing but I realized I was out of my element as I was not sure what it should look like going up the railing rather than through. Did I have to consider refraction? Just making it perpendicular was not working? I don't know if I will have a need to use much shadow in my work, but I know I'm intrigued and want to become more of an observer of shadows and be ready for it if I need to use it.

I showed Rick an image I had done for our newsletter a few years ago to see what he might have to say about the perspective in the image. It was the year The Graduate Picasso Style won for Image of the Year. You can see the Picasso on the wall. I had taken the image of myself at the year end banquet off the camera club web-site (not sure who took that image) and put myself into the Picasso background and then took the hand out of the Picasso and had the hand tap me on the shoulder. I called it Tap!Tap! To me it was the creative tap on the shoulder. I wondered how Rick would respond to the perspective. " He said what I expected he would say, that although the image is not in perspective, it does not matter, as this is a highly creative image.



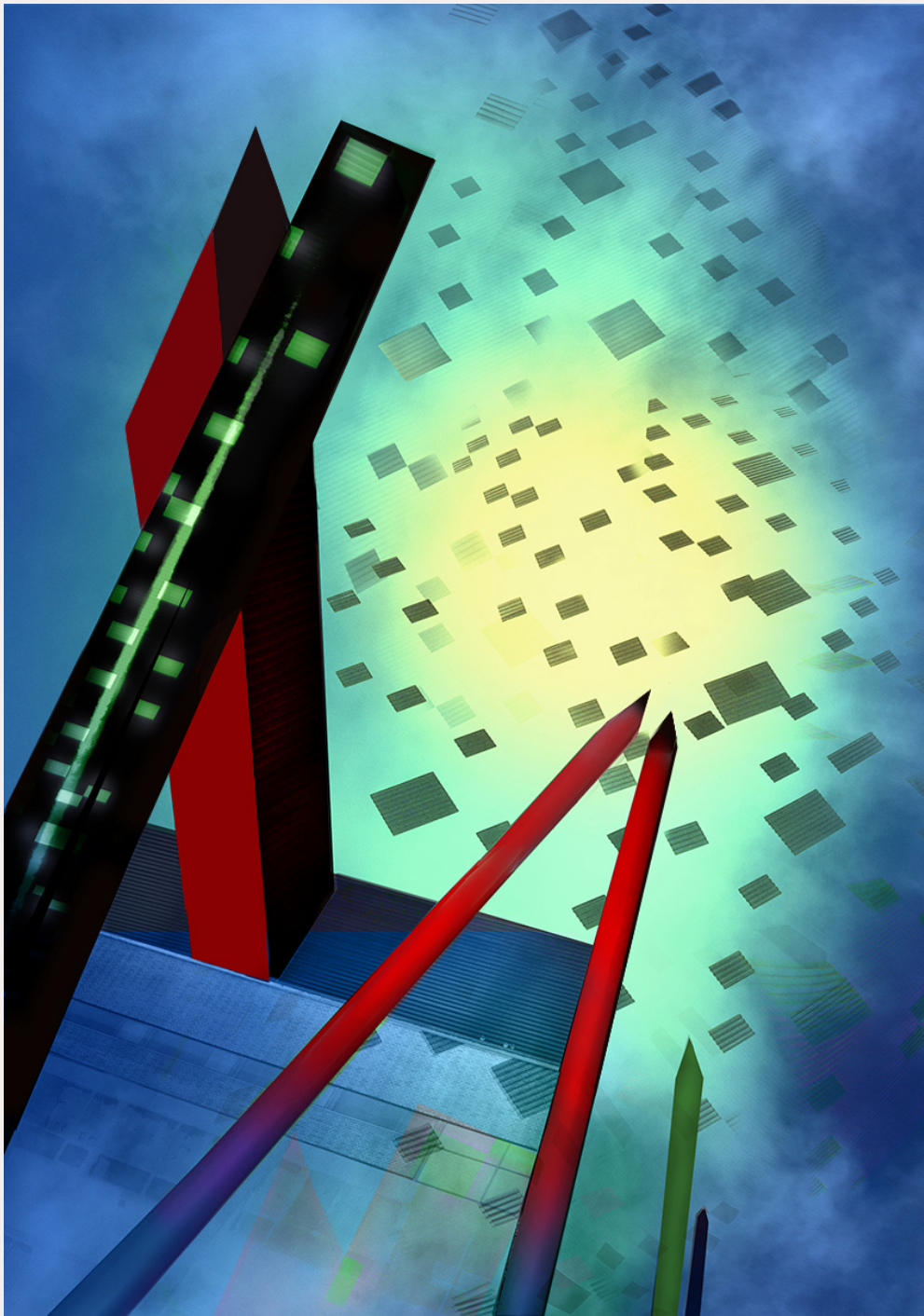
What way of working is better, realistic or based on feeling, or maybe a combination of the two? I'd say the way that works for you. Rick's presentation has stayed with me, and I'm very excited to say that he will be back for another lockdown challenge on story composition in a few months.

Thank you Rick. You have opened my eyes.

Abstract

Competition Results and Highlights

All competition images may be viewed on our [Website Photo Gallery](#) or www.etobicokecameraclub.smugmug.com



Gold & Gold of the Month - Superset "Diagonals" by Christine Kobielski



Gold - Advanced "First snowfall" by John Crhak



Gold - Intermediate "Toronto Skyline Abstract" by Leanne Hay

RESULTS OF ABSTRACT THEMED COMPETITION held FEB 2021

Level	Full Name	Title	Score	Ribbon
INTERMEDIATE				
I	LEANNE HAY	Toronto Skyline	25	GOLD
I	CELIA FERNANDES	Paper Abstract	24.5	SILVER
I	SAM ELOGIO	Shades of light	24.5	SILVER
I	SAM ELOGIO	A splash of pink	24	HM
I	KELLY LETROS	Convolutad	23.5	HM
ADVANCED				
A	JOHN CRHAK	First snowfall	25.5	GOLD
A	RALPH KROMAN	Celestial	24.5	SILVER
A	ANETA ZIMNICKI	Fiery blade	24.5	SILVER
A	SHARON EYOLFSON	Oval Wave	24	HM
A	LESLEY KINCH	splash of orange	24	HM
A	KAREN YOUNG	Too hot to touch	24	HM
A	ROMAN GDYCZYNSKI	dreamscape	23.5	HM
A	ANETA ZIMNICKI	Watery	23.5	HM
SUPERSET				
S	CHRISTINE KOBIELSKI	Diagonals	26.5	GOLD & GOM
S	CHRISTINE KOBIELSKI	Elemental	25.5	SILVER
S	CHRISTINE KOBIELSKI	UpDown	25	HM
S	BRUCE BARTON	Percolation	25	HM
S	LARRY MCCARTHY	Oil & Water	24.5	HM
S	JOHN FRASER	Take Hold	24.5	HM
S	RICHARD MORENCY	AGO building blocks	24.5	HM

Level	Submitted	Accepted
Intermediate	32	32
Advanced	32	32
Superset	72	72
Total	136	136
Judges		
Gerda Grice	Toronto Camera Club	
Nella Pascal	no club affiliation	
Tom Stephens	Latow Photographers Guild	

AV

Competition Results and Highlights

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Gold "The City Behind the City" - Ralph Kroman



Toronto Sunrise

*We need to be reminded sometimes
that a sunrise lasts but a few minutes.
But its beauty can burn our hearts eternally.*

-R.A. Salvatore

Silver "Toronto Sunrise"
Aneta Zimnicki



ECC AV Competition

Jan-21

Title	Member name	ann alimi	Sunchie Yang	Pat Zuest	total score	
The City Behind the City	Ralph Kroman	81.5	96.0	83.5	261.0	GOLD
Toronto Sunrise	Aneta Zimnicki	80.5	88.0	87.5	256.0	SILVER
Prince Edward County Memories	June West	78.5	90.0	77.5	246.0	HM
This was 2020	John Fraser	77.0	90.0	75.5	242.5	HM
No Charge	Lesley Kinch	88.0	86.5	67.5	242.0	HM
Urban Reflections	Bob Walling	74.5	83.0	77.0	234.5	
Flower Fantasy	Sharon Eyolfson	80.0	84.0	69.0	233.0	
Trees	Elaine Singer	78.5	74.0	74.5	227.0	
Blooms	Linda Smith	75.5	76.5	74.0	226.0	
Getting Dirty	Paul Cordingley	77.5	84.0	62.5	224.0	
Rain and Bubbles Fantasy	Eva Michalak	71.0	85.0	64.5	220.5	
Flowers in Bloom	Dario Di Sante	75.0	83.0	60.0	218.0	
Carry On	John Crhak	74.0	74.0	61.0	209.0	
A Walk in European Cities and Towns	Michael Brown	70.0	72.0	65.0	207.0	

Landscape

Competition Results and Highlights

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Gold & Gold of the Month - Superset "A Windy Day at Georgian Bay" by Gina Jiang



Gold - Advanced "Northern Lights" by Karen Young



Gold - Intermediate "Aurora Moon" by Leanne Hay

RESULTS FOR LANDSCAPE COMPETITION held February 2021

Level	Full Name	Title	score	ribbon
INTERMEDIATE				
I	LEANNE HAY	Aurora Moon-Canadian Landscape	25	GOLD
I	SAM ELOGIO	Peyto Lake - Canadian Rockies	24.5	SILVER
I	LEANNE HAY	Sahara-Dune with a View	24.5	SILVER
I	PAUL CORDINGLEY	Tehachapi Hillside	24.5	SILVER
I	MARION WOODMAN	Alaska Reflection	24	HM
I	SAM ELOGIO	Pink Skies Over Jasper	24	HM
I	CELIA FERNANDES	Zabriskie Point	24	HM
I	MARION WOODMAN	Sunshine Meadows	23.5	HM
ADVANCED				
A	KAREN YOUNG	Northern Lights	26.5	GOLD
A	RALPH KROMAN	Early Winter Calm	25.5	SILVER
A	ALEX KONYUKHOV	Malinge River, Jasper	25	HM
A	HUGUES DEMILLEVILLE	Sunrise in Georgian Bay - Franklin Island	25	HM
A	JANUSZ SZUFNARA	Fog at Lake	24.5	HM
A	ALEX KONYUKHOV	Lower Falls of Vankoughnet, Muskoka	24.5	HM
A	ALEX KONYUKHOV	Oxtongue Rapids, Algonquin Park	24	HM
SUPERSET				
S	GINA JIANG	A Windy Day at Georgian Bay	27.5	GOLD & GOM
S	JUNE WEST	Norwegian Reflection	26.5	SILVER
S	BILL RANEY	Blue Lagoon	26	HM
S	THERESA BRYSON	Zebriski Point	26	HM
S	JUDY PRESTON	Badlands Zabrinski Point	25.5	HM
S	GEOFFREY PIERPOINT	Dillon Pinacles, Evening	25.5	HM
S	DAVID WESTLAKE	Laguna Tuyajto - Atacama Chile	25.5	HM
S	MICHEL GAGNON	Mount Rundle at Sunrise	25.5	HM
S	GINA JIANG	Franklin Island	25	HM
S	JUNE WEST	Rainbow, Sun and Mist	25	HM

Level	Submitted	Accepted
Intermediate	34	30
Advanced	38	37
Superset	69	65
Total	141	132

Judges	Affiliation
Tony Florio	Barrie Photography Club
Virginia Stranaghan	Hamilton Camera Club
Robert Zakrison	Toronto Digital Photography Club

Member News

Hughes de Milleville, one of our club members, received 2 acceptances in the 127th Toronto International Salon of Photography with “Osprey flying away with catch” and “Red fox black morph playing with catch” last fall.

The Toronto Camera Club received a total of 5702 entries from 64 different countries. This resulted in 1195 acceptances, 142 honorable mentions and 90 gold, silver and bronze medals. He was a little disappointed to receive only 2 acceptances out of 4 entries, but when he looked at the data, the average acceptance rate was just above 20 % and his 50% acceptance rate is well above the average.



Because he doesn't enter these International Salons too often, he made a big mistake that cost him the possibility of another acceptance. One of his entries was of a cooper's hawk chasing a squirrel. It is an excellent action shot, hard to get. When he chose it, he was emotionally involved with the difficulty of that picture and how sharp the hawk was, but neglected the fact that the squirrel was running in front and not quite sharp enough due to the depth of field. Any little detail is enough to be disqualified, even if the story and the overall picture are good. The lesson? In case of doubt about a picture, do not hesitate to contact a fellow club member who is good in that category and ask for advice or confirmation.

The competition followed the rules and qualified for CAPA, FIAP, IAAP and PSA members. Other categories were: family pets, architecture, portraiture, people in action and pictorial.



Darren Creighton Presented

“For the Love of Black & White”

on Monday, February 1, 2021



Through his passion for black & white photography, he spoke about reasons to shoot black & white and how colour is a distraction. The importance of line, texture & simplification. How black & white effects the emotional weight of an image and how it can work as an artistic tool. Shooting & processing techniques were covered along with thought processes of images from start to finish.

Darren Creighton is an enthusiastic and insightful photographer, In 1997 he picked up his father's 35mm Minolta, made his first print in the darkroom and was hooked. His past experience in the traditional darkroom and his passion for the craft is evident in both his imagery and his presentations. Accomplishments include a cover story for Niagara Magazine, teaching photography at the Pumphouse Gallery in Niagara on the Lake, numerous awards & print sales to private & corporate clients. Darren sees photography as an exploration of your vision and ideas mixed with light, composition, storytelling, technique & sometimes luck.

Color is a Distraction



Speakers

Darren Creighton continued

Line & Texture

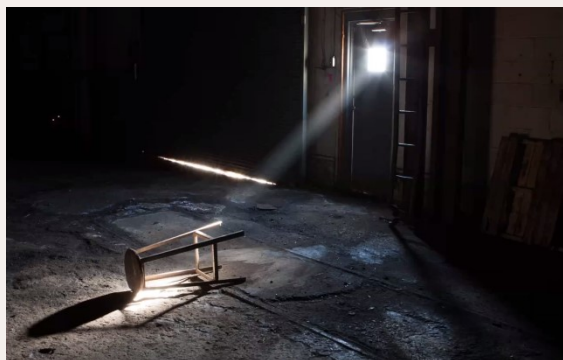
Simplification

Emotional Weight



Speakers

Darren Creighton continued



Rick McKenzie Presented

“Photo Compositing, Putting More into Your Images”

on Monday, February 8, 2021



Rick spoke about the history of compositing, the importance of the story, and techniques: extraction of image components, lighting, shadows, perspective, and colour matching. Together these elements are necessary to make the final composite look as authentic as possible.

He uses both the camera and computer to produce photographic art. The camera is employed as a tool with the intention of imparting a sense of realism to the scene while the computer allows for modifications to the story which can present the viewer with a different perspective on the world around them. In each image, he hopes to help the viewer feel that they are seeing the familiar, but in a different way.

Rick received gold medals from The Canadian Association of Photographic Art (CAPA) and has also had his work featured in CAPA magazine - Canadian Camera “Making a Splash-Water Drop Photography” Summer 2018, “Photo Caricatures”, Autumn 2020 and in several juried shows including: The Burlington Audio Visual Festival

Composite Imagery

Key to Good Composite Images

- Perspective -Horizon line should match
- Lighting -Direction of Light must be Similar
- Shadows -Anchor the subject
- Colour -Match Background and Subject
- Story -A Reason ie. Story in the Image



Rick McKenzie continued

What is Compositing??

Composite images are usually made up of two or more photographs, which are combined for artistic effect

All the same principles of any good photograph apply

Combination Printing

Photomontage is the process of cutting, gluing, rearranging and overlapping images into a new image

Today we call it Photoshopping



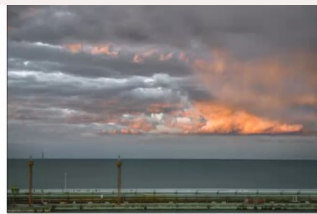
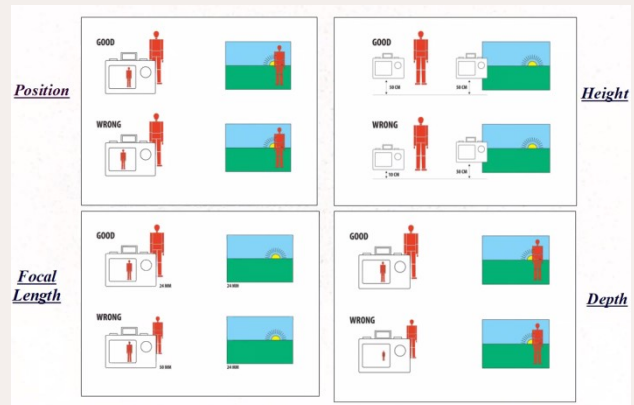
Rick McKenzie continued

Eight Key Things to Consider When Preparing to Shoot a Composite Image

****Think as if You are Painting the Picture**

- Camera Height
- Position
- Depth
- Focal Length
- Perspective
- Lighting / Shadows
- A Story (a reason for the composite)

When these are properly addressed the photo will appear consistent





Past Issues of the Viewfinder can be found at

<https://www.etobicokecameraclub.org>