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Portland Photographers' Forum

Newsletter

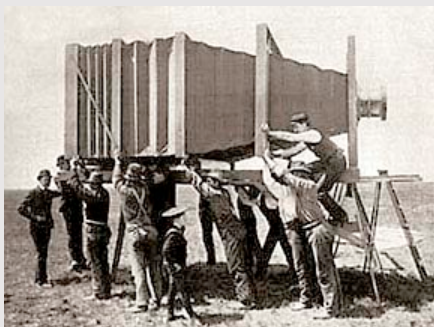
Portland Photographers' Forum meets from 7-9:00 p.m., Monday, May 16, in Room 30 of the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 Southwest Capitol Highway, Portland. [See map](#)

May, 2011

President's Message

The Quest for Wall Space

by Pete Gomena



I want to congratulate the 25 PPF members whose entries were accepted for our June group show at the Multnomah Arts Center Gallery. Show coordinator Loren Nelson has repeatedly said that the quality of the images is high, and I can't wait to see the exhibition hung.

If your ego is a little bruised after the selection process, take heart! Consider that almost 200 images were entered by 35 members, and that there is gallery space for only about 45 final images. Any image stood only a one-in-four chance of making the show before the judge even saw it!

I learned a few things from the selection process. (I personally batted one-for-six, a measly .166 for you baseball fans.) Looking back at my entries, it's likely I need a stronger cliché filter, and I certainly needed to take a harder look at other images I could have submitted that might have been better choices.

Having entered a few competitions over the years, I can make one observation: You never know what the judge or jury will choose. He or she is free to create the show from the entries. Personal taste, personal standards for image quality, and a half-dozen other unknown-to-you criteria go into the selection process. You can't possibly guess what the judge will like, and you have no idea what the other photographers have produced. You enter the competition blind, which is fair to all. Enter your best work and take your chances.

The overwhelming majority of images in our show were entered in the nature, landscape and "other" categories. Very few images of people were submitted. The competition therefore was steepest in the three most popular categories. If you enter a similar show in the future, entering a good people shot may take you farther.

If your picture didn't make the cut, please go see the pictures that did. Make a learning experience of this event. What is different or better about the images on the wall? Did you enter your pictures in the right category? What other pictures might you

have that were stronger than the ones you entered? What is it about the content of the pictures in the show that make them stand out? How did you handle light, time, composition, contrast, and other technical or aesthetic details? Talk with the other members of the group. Share your work, get some feedback and try again next year!

As a group, we don't compete and choose "pictures of the month." We're not a camera club. June's gallery show is a first for PPF, and we plan to have an annual judged show in the future. *It serves as a good point of comparison for the level of work we as a group and as individuals can produce.*

Remember, too, that PPF has an annual group show and sale each year at the Cedar Hills Recreation Center in Beaverton. This non-juried, all-member show runs from the first of November to the end of the year. Whether or not your picture is on the wall next month, whether or not your picture wins a prize or finds a buyer, hang your best work in the year-end show and be proud of it!

Please spread the word about our show, and join us at the opening reception June 3. Help us celebrate our friends' achievements.

This Month's Meeting

Jody Ake

Wet-Plate Collodion Images



©Jody Ake

Join us for a presentation by Jody Ake, who will show and talk about his striking modern/primitive wet-plate photography.

Hand-made imagery and the interest in antique photographic processes has exploded over the past few years, in many cases as a reaction to the perceived "sterility" or mechanical nature of digital photography.

Ake became fascinated by the wet-plate collodion process early in his career and it continues to be his chosen medium. He hand-coats large format glass plates with an emulsion of his own making and displays the resulting negative images as ambrotypes.

Jody lives in Portland and has lived and worked in New York, where his portrait and fashion photographs were published in several magazines and won several prestigious awards. To see his work and links to information about Jody and his background, visit his website at jodyake.com.

The Sunday School of Photography - Saturday, May 21

Silver Falls State Park

Canyons and Waterfalls



South Falls © Steve Blair

This month we visit one of Oregon's scenic gems, Silver Falls State Park, about 2.5 hours from Portland in the Cascade foothills east of Salem.

We will meet at 9 a.m. in the main parking lot at the park's south entrance. ["Click here for map."](#) Plan to pack a lunch and drinking water. Anticipate muddy trails.

There are several loop trails in the park, some of which are all-day hikes. We can coordinate vehicle parking to enable folks to make shorter hikes if they choose.

This event is open to the public. If you are not a PPF member, c'mon along! Please register for this event by e-mail so we know how many are coming and who to look for at the park. (["Click here to register."](#))

PPF Group Show at Multnomah Arts Center Gallery

Come See the Show!

Opening Reception Friday, June 3



Denali © Andy Greenhill

Plan now to attend the opening reception for PPF's group show, 7-9 p.m., Friday, June 3 at the Multnomah Arts Center Gallery. Light refreshments will be served during the reception.

Show judge Julia Dolan, Photography Curator at the Portland Art Museum, chose 44 images for the exhibit, and will choose the winners in the landscape, nature, people and "other" categories. She has the option of choosing a print for the Museum's collections

should one fit the collections' scope and needs, or a "best in show" image.

The show runs June 3-29. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Show ends at 5 p.m. on June 29. The gallery is in the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 S.W. Capitol Highway, Portland.

Notes & News

Quinalt Rain Forest Workshop

with Mel and Janell Huffman

PPF members Mel and Janell Huffman have scheduled a rain forest photography workshop based at Washington's historic Lake Quinalt Lodge, October 6-9, 2011.

Photographing in the Olympic Peninsula rain forest highlights this annual workshop, which includes photography instruction and a Sunday morning visual review and critique of participants' favorite images. For more information and reservations, "[click here.](#)"

Lensbaby Needs Caps

Recycle Your Discards

Novelty lens manufacturer *Lensbaby* is asking you to recycle your plastic film canister caps. Lensbaby uses gray or black Kodak flexible film canister lids in making their aperture sets. Their usual source has dried up.

If you have a number of lids or know of someone who does, contact Jenn Tran at Lensbaby by "[clicking here.](#)"

Peter Gomena, President
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