



In Focus

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JULY 2012

July Program- **LIFE** imitates **ART**

by Roger Hunter, HPS Program Officer

Our program for July is a group participation project. It promises to be a lot of fun and I hope that many members choose to participate. This project offers a chance to really show off your creative skills. Even if you feel like you don't have a great deal of creative skill or talent, here is a wonderful chance to begin developing it. There are no right or wrong ways to approach this project. All you do is choose a reasonably famous art object (painting, sculpture, etc.) and recreate it in a photograph. It doesn't matter if you take a serious or whimsical approach, just let those creative juices flow and have a lot of fun doing this. Camera technique and Photoshop skills are encouraged. Please submit your handiwork, along with a picture of the original art work, to rogerhunter01@bellsouth.net so that he can organize them for display at the HPS meeting on July 9th. We really want as many members as possible to participate in this project. Remember, the only objective is to have fun.

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Digital Competition at the Crossroads

by Mike Lyon, HPS Digital Competition Officer

First the good news: HPS is growing and more members are submitting digital entries.

Now the bad news: We've saturated the capacity of the current set-up and are in danger of crashing the process unless changes are made.

Here are a few numbers to help put things in perspective. Back in January of 2007 (the earliest SmugMug gallery), there were a total of 43 digital images submitted for judging. In June of 2012, there were 101. So far in 2012, the average number of monthly entries has been over 80. Two months have topped 100 entries.

Our current Knology mailbox has a capacity of only 50MB, so you can see that 100 entries, each roughly 500 MB in size (the maximum allowed by HPS rules is 800MB!) will fill up our mailbox. In fact, some of you know that this has already occurred twice this year when you received a "Mailbox Full – could not deliver" message. We have, indeed, now grown

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“I was very pleased and proud at the number of new people who entered this month’s competition, and placed. . .”

From The President

It looks like summertime is here with a vengeance, so there’s no better time to move indoors and create some interesting Geometric Shapes images for this month’s competition. Of course, you don’t have to do all of them indoors, but if you do go outside, make sure you venture out during the golden (and cooler) hours around sunrise and sunset.

If you missed Destin Sandlin’s presentation on high speed photography last month, you really missed a show; you can go to his YouTube site, Smarter Every Day, to see what you missed, plus a lot more. I’ve never seen someone with so much energy and desire to learn and teach others. He showed us how to use flashes and remote triggers to capture some very unique images. At the end, he arranged a hands-on demonstration with a pull popper and several of us who brought cameras. If you were one of those participants, don’t forget to give your files to Roger to pass to Destin, who will put them together and show us the results.

Charlie Siefried, a local corporate photographer, judged our Storefronts images this month. He really had his work cut out for him, because I’ve never seen so many interesting and beautiful images for one competition. Congratulations to all the winners – be sure and check them out in the newsletter and on our Smug Mug site.

As I said at the end of the competition meeting, I was very pleased and proud at the number of new people who entered this month’s competition, and placed (Trudy and Gayle). For you long time photographers and competitors, you may not remember how much courage it takes to enter that first time, but believe me, it does. For you beginners or new members, take the plunge and compete, because over time you will improve; I know my photos are much better than when I started, even though I rarely place. If your photo is Outed, go up to the judge after the meeting and ask him/her what you could do better. Or, find one of our Masters and ask them – I know any one of them would be more than happy to offer constructive criticism to make you a better photographer. Another thing you can do is contact Jerry Green and have him pair you with a mentor who will help you improve. Making us all better photographers is what HPS is all about!

I would like to thank Cliff Loehr for teaching a Night Photography class at the Eleanor Murphy Branch Library. The class was so popular that Cliff was asked to repeat it the following day.

Geometric shapes is the competition topic for this month. Also, our program for this month is Life Imitates Art, so pick a favorite, well-known piece of art and try to duplicate it in pixels.

Go out and take some photos!!

Eddie Sewall

Digital Competition

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too large for the process that was initiated back in 2007.

Someone might suggest that whenever an email is received and the photos are posted to the judge's gallery, the original email could be deleted, thus freeing space in the mailbox. I have found this (through trial and error) to not be a good solution. Frequent member queries regarding their submissions, and my own desire to record the receipt confirmation messages I send, has made it a necessity to keep the original email submissions in the mailbox until the entry deadline has occurred.

This month, nine members submitted a total of 24 images after 10pm on the deadline night. While this is certainly permitted in the HPS guidelines, it leaves little or no room for taking corrective action when you receive one of those "Mailbox Full – could not deliver" messages – especially when this message goes to your Junk folder that you rarely check. You would assume that your entries have been received, but they have not. The system does not give me any sort of "John Doe tried to send a message, but the HPS mailbox was full" notification, so the problem goes unnoticed and uncorrected.

Over 90% of the time, I will send out receipt confirmation notices to submitters within 6 hours of when they show up in the HPS mailbox. That's the biggest indicator that the system has worked as it should.

Digital Competition Entries

1024 pixels wide - maximum
768 pixels tall - maximum
800 MB file size - maximum

Correct file name format
YY-MM-#-FirstLast.jpg
example: 12-08-3-JaneDoe.jpg

Common file naming errors include:

Incorrect order of items
Using underscore rather than dash
Space between first and last names
jpeg instead of jpg

Images should be attachments to your email, not imbedded in the email itself

Email subject line should read "HPS Contest" -- not anything else

Deadline for digital submissions is MIDNIGHT on the third Monday of the month. That is when the gallery closes and is sent to the judge.

Do not wait until the last minute.

There are two things every digital submitter can do to alleviate this problem:

1. Do not wait until Monday night to submit your entries. Send them earlier in the week. That way, if there is a problem, there is time to address it.

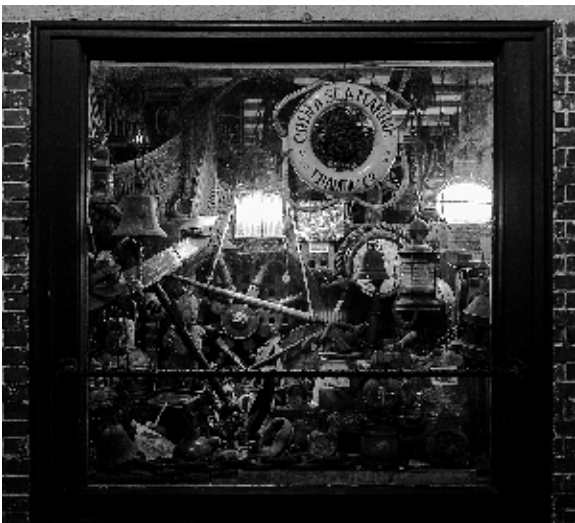
2. Contact Mike Lyon directly at his home email or phone number if you do not receive a quick acknowledgement to your submission. Don't wait until Tuesday to ask what's happened; the judge is already looking at the gallery by that time.

Should the digital problems persist, there are several options the HPS Board could take such as advancing the submission deadline (to allow more time for corrective action when problems arise); moving the HPS mailbox over to Gmail (which has a larger capacity); reducing the number of digital entries per member; etc.

If you have other thoughts or suggestions, please contact a Board member. Left alone, the problem will not solve itself, but will only worsen as the HPS grows and more competitors enter the digital foray.

June Competition Results Subject - Store Fronts Judge - Charlie Seifried			
	Digital (101)	Color Print (60)	Monochrome Print (26)
1st	Ben Evanko	Ron Atchley	Ron Atchley
2nd	Diana Davidson	Trudi Gardner	Diana Davidson
3rd	Diana Davidson	Barbara Montgomery	Diana Davidson
HM	Barbara Montgomery	Carol Blue	Liz Smith
HM	Barbara Montgomery	Carol Blue	Ron Atchley
HM	Dave McGuinness	Ron Atchley	Don Wolfe
HM	John Kirwin	Roger Hunter	
HM	Joy Henderson	Geri Reddy	
HM	Geri Reddy	Henry Smith	
HM	Gayle Biggs		
HM	Martha Teal		
HM	Virginia Gilbert		
HM	Emily Saile		

First Place Winners



Digital by
Ben Evanko



Color Print by Ron Atchley



Monochrome Print by
Ron Atchley

JULY JUDGE -

Cara Fuller, www.carafuller.com

Name	2012 points	2012 wins
Ronald Atchley	44	14
Diana Davidson	42	14
John Kirwin	19	10
Barbara Montgomery	19	11
Martha Teal	15	9
Joy Henderson	14	5
Henry Smith	14	6
Margaret Phillips	12	6
Ernie High	9	2
Geri Reddy	9	9
Ben Evanko	8	2
Tim Solomon	8	2
Don Wolfe	8	5
Tom Bryant	7	3
Emily Saile	7	5
Don Bennett	6	3
Jerry Green	6	6
Barbara Staggs	6	2
Sam Tumminello	6	4
Veronica Beaudry	5	5
Bill Courtney	5	2
Trudi Gardner	5	2

Name	2012 points	2012 wins
Jens Lambert	5	5
Susi Stroud	5	2
Sarah Curtis	4	2
David Edens	4	2
Bart Fay	4	1
Judy Fleming	4	1
Cliff Loehr	4	2
Gayle Biggs	3	3
Virginia Gilbert	3	3
Carol Blue	2	2
Mike Lyon	2	2
Liz Smith	2	2
Peter Ashley	1	1
David Blue	1	1
Robert Fox	1	1
Barbara Hitt	1	1
Roger Hunter	1	1
Dave McGuinness	1	1
Richard Modlin	1	1
Alan Montgomery	1	1
Eddie Sewall	1	1
Bob Topp	1	1
Walt Tyszka	1	1

Upcoming HPS Mini Classes

Please contact Geri Reddy if you need a ride or would like to attend seminar as a group (there is no group discount).

Photo Op

Rogersville Bluegrass Festival, July 19 -21. For event schedule go to www.rogersvillealabama.org/

July/August Mini Classes

The July and August HPS mini-classes will be two sessions of "Progressing from Snapshots to Art" given by Henry Smith. These will include an introductory series of subjects covering the Mechanics of Digital Photography, Photographic Composition and Approaches to Photography. The goal is to explain and simplify some of the technical aspects of digital photography and to provide some basic guidelines allowing you to improve the artistic quality of your photographs. Classes start at 6:00 p.m. before Competition meetings (4th Monday of the month).

Adobe Photoshop CS6 coming to Nashville

Adobe Photoshop CS6 for Photographers is coming to Nashville on Monday July 23 for a one day seminar. Event fee is \$99, (NAPP members \$79) and starts at 10:00 a.m. The instructor, Scott Kelby, will cover everything from getting your color right to the pros' secrets for sharpening images. The seminar also includes today's hottest Photoshop special effects for photographers and how to work faster, smarter, and more efficiently in Photoshop. To register go to http://kelbytraining.com/event/nashville-tn-2/#./?&_suid=1341106268458027191909176732143.

Please let me know if you are interested in going and would like to make this an HPS field trip. Send an email to Geri Reddy at hpseditor@bellsouth.net.

2012 Meeting Info

- July 9– Art Imitating Life by Roger Hunter
- July 23– Geometric Shapes Competition
- July 30– Members Forum (Texture Class)
- Aug 13– Anartica by Joy Henderson
- Aug 27– Fences Competition
- Sep 10– Photoshop/Wildlife by Larry Perry
- Sep 24– Open Competition
- Oct 8– Emotion and Style by Tom and Pat Cory
- Oct 22– Weather Competition
- Oct 29– Members Forum
- Nov 12– 3D Photography by Lee Pratt
- Nov 26– Barns Competition
- Dec 10– Best Of Year Dinner

Fifth Monday Meeting–Texture Class

Veronica's texturing workshop will be on July 30th at the 5th Monday meeting. This will be a hands-on workshop so bring your laptop. Please be ready to go at 7 pm. We will begin right after the opening announcements. Veronica uses Photoshop CS5 for Mac. For those of you who use Elements you will probably need to be pretty comfortable with that program in order to follow along. If you are planning on attending the workshop, and want the files that we will be using, email veronicabeaudry@gmail.com to request said files. Please make sure to reference the texture class in the subject line. (The files have been resized for easier transfer.) Veronica has 4 projects prepared. If we don't have time for all of them, we can always do another class for anyone who needs/wants it. Here are two of the projects we will work on.



Two of the websites for textures are:
Free textures---- Shadowhouse Creations <http://shadowhousecreations.blogspot.com/>
Textures for purchase---- Chasing Dreams <http://cmooney1.photobiz.com/store/>



Huntsville Museum of Art Exhibit

The Huntsville Museum of Art has asked HPS to again exhibit our beautiful work. The tentative date of the exhibit is late October, and it will last 3-4 months. We will be able to show 50 photos, and they will be in the lower part of the Museum, as before. To start the jurying process, each member will be able to enter up to 5 images, subject is open, and the Board will then select up to 70 to present to the Museum to choose the final 50. As of now, your entries will be due to the Board by August 15. Submission details will follow, but will be similar to our competition process. Once selections are made, final prints may be any size above 8" x 10" but less than the frame size of 18" x 24"; the museum's preferred size is 12" x 18" prints. The August newsletter will have more details, but this should get us started.

“To start the jurying process, each member will be able to enter up to 5 images.”

Huntsville Photographic Society
Von Braun Civic Center
700 Monroe St
Huntsville AL 35801



HPS website:
www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org



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Website for Digital Competition results: www.HPSPhotos.smugmug.com

Meeting Information:

HPS meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library-Main Branch, 915 Monroe St.

Annual Membership Dues: \$20.00 due Jan 1st (\$18.00 if renewal paid before start of the Calendar year).

Membership required to submit entries in monthly competitions.

