

Bits & Pixels

March 2022

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P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

www.padretrailsccl.org

Creative Fine Art Winning Images — Group Blue



1st "Boogieboarding at Sunset" *Chris Johnson*

The Creative Fine Art category was repeated this year because of our members' strong response to last year's competition. One attraction to this wide-open challenge is the freedom it provides to dig deep into our creative selves and experiment with original ideas and expressions of the beauty we see around us. The winning images shown in this issue, judged by local fine art photographer, *Tracy Valleau*, were found to have most vividly represented the successful translation of our members' artistic creativity into photographic images with a fine art quality.

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My Two Bits

Erin go Bragh!

by Ken Jones

On the 17th of March we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day, an observance dating to the 4th century marking the death of the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Interestingly, Patrick's birth name was *Maewyn Succat* — doesn't have the same ring to it — and his birth country wasn't Ireland.



Saint Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, of course, but not in the United States. The only other country to have made Saint Patrick's Day a public holiday is Montserrat. The small island nation is nicknamed the "Emerald Isle of the Caribbean" due to its topographic likeness to the coast of Ireland and its predominantly Irish population.

Since there are an estimated thirty-five million people in the U.S. with Irish ancestry, it's no wonder the celebration has been such a popular party since the 1700s when Irish immigrants proudly brought their heritage to the States, determined to keep them alive and well. They've succeeded famously.

Today, we wear the green, quaff a green beer or two, watch a parade, and consume corned beef and cabbage. Some also adopt a brogue of sorts for the day, and feel as if they've been blessed with the "Luck of the Irish."

Though sometimes meant ironically, as far as I can tell, that saying, *Luck of the Irish*, most often refers to good fortune. Who knows how it originated, but it's interesting to note that the timing of the California Gold Rush roughly coincides with the movement of Irish immigrants to the U.S. and other counties to flee the famine and unrest in their homeland. It seems that the Irish miners were pretty good at striking it rich. This was naturally attributed by others to luck, rather than their hard work.

Take your lens cap off...

Ken



Back to the Future

Spring Ahead, Sunday, March 13th

If you're looking for a rabbit hole to crawl down, go looking for a consistent origin story for Daylight Saving Time, or Daylight Savings Time, or Summer Time.



The fact that the event/period/phenomenon has so many monikers may be a clue to its multiple-choice beginnings.

Regardless of where or when it started, on the second Sunday of March we'll all be time travelers, and we won't need a DeLorean. We'll instantly be living one hour in the future, our new present.



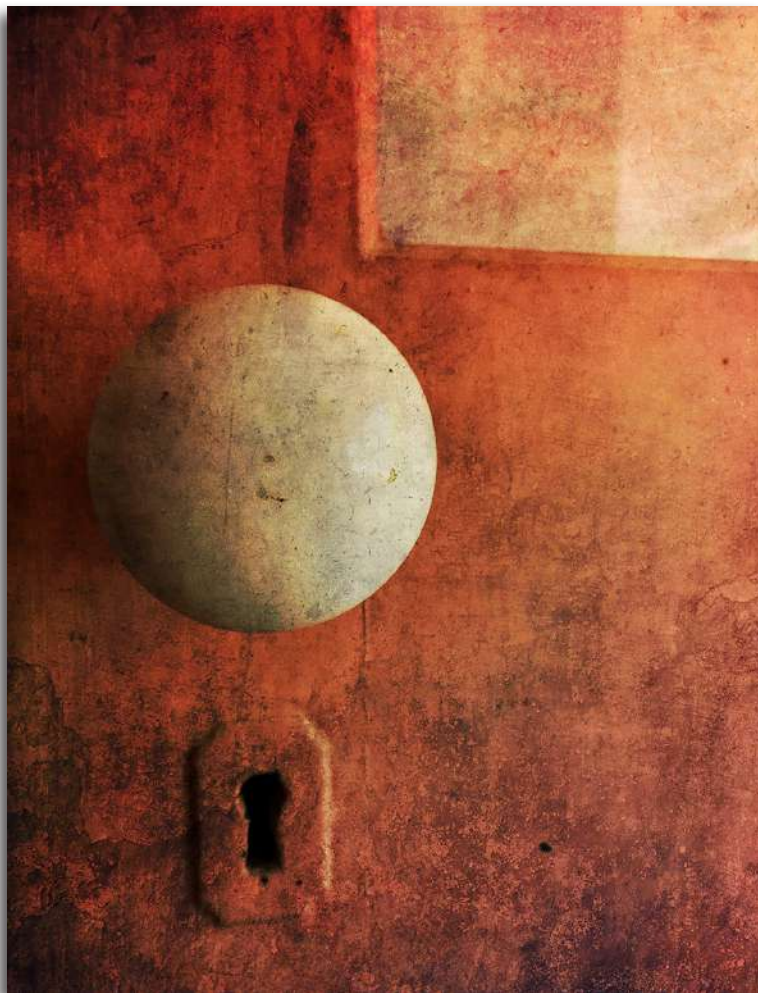
Tracy Valleau, Judge for Creative Fine Art Competition

As a teenager, I was told by my teachers that I was going to be a great painter. Coming from a family of artists, it was a little depressing to discover that I was in fact, horrible at painting. I set aside the world of art for the things of youth. Some years later, in a moment of quiet reflection, I was struck by how amazing it was that the universe evolved a way to look at itself: people. With that realization, sharing the experience of life became important to me, and I saw the world of art in new terms. Unfurled each day was a series of moments, little tableaux, and I realized photography, not painting, was ideal for capturing these.

It did not take long to recognize the difficulty of capturing a moment in a fraction of a second that was also art, and which communicated something universal between the artist and viewer. As with any art form, learning the craft, and then the art, takes years, but I continue to enjoy the process. (Excerpted from the artist's statement at: <https://valleau.art/>)

Creative Fine Art Winning Images *(Continued from page 1)*

Group Blue



2nd "Open to New Adventures" *Carol Silveira*



3rd "Black-legged Kittiwake on Water, Alaska" *Kent VanVuren*

Creative Fine Art Winning Images

Group Blue



HM "Withered Sunflower" *Mary Ann Avera*



HM "The Stillness of Water and a Leaf Floating on Water" *Margret Cordts*



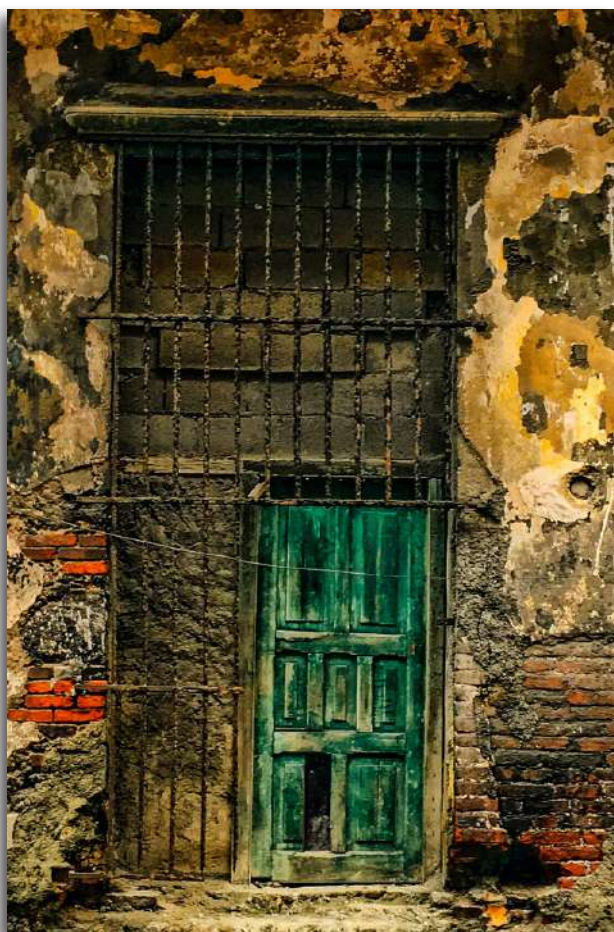
HM "Yellow, Red, White Onions" *Jerry Heisel*



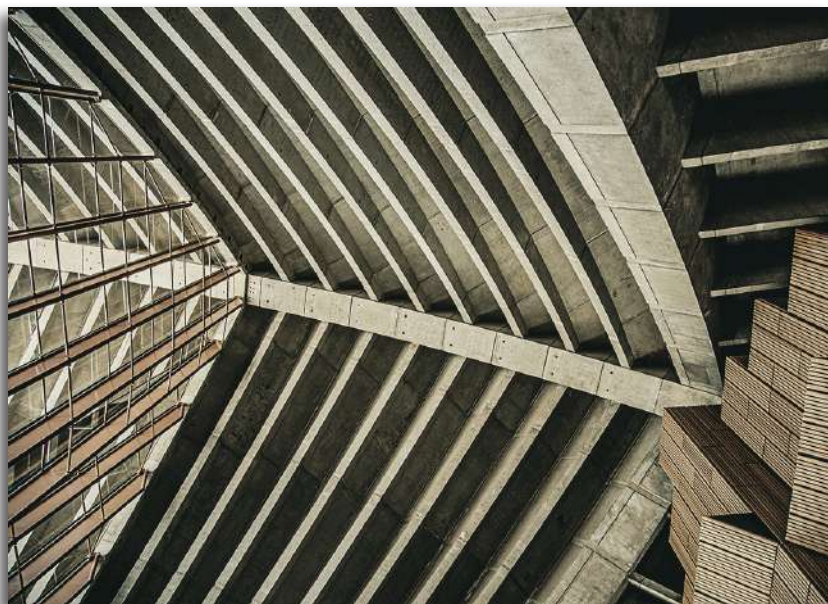
HM "Two Flashlights - Three Gels - 14 Seconds" *John Avera*

Creative Fine Art Winning Images

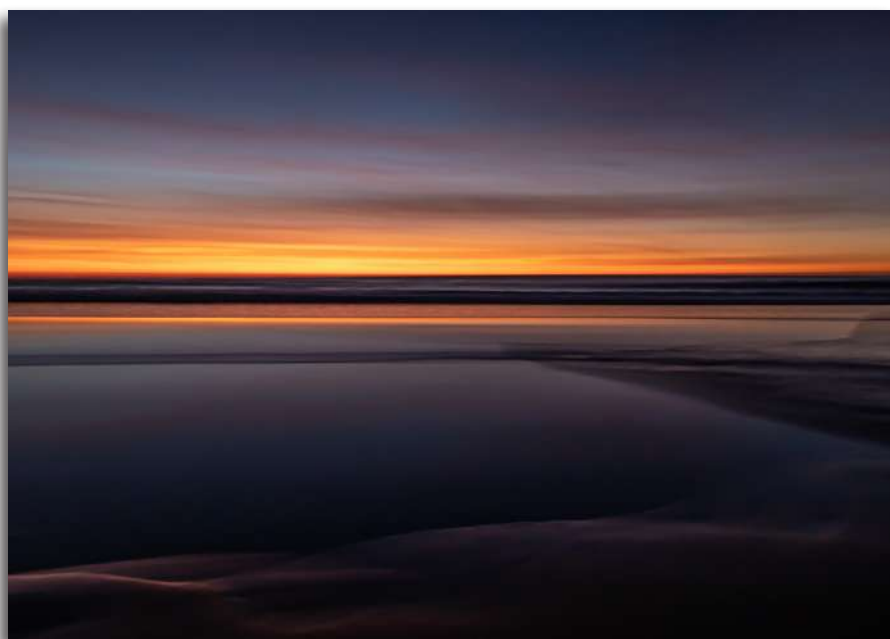
Group Green



1st "Green Door in Havana, Cuba" *Bill Shewchuk*



2nd "Intersections" *John Drum*



3rd "Dreamscape" *Janet Azevedo*

Creative Fine Art Winning Images

Group Green



HM "Three Calla Lilies" *Lillie Grossman*



HM "Planet B Landscape" *Janet Azevedo*



HM "Solo Calla Lily" *Charlie Gibson*



HM "Out Past Curfew" *Patricia McKean*



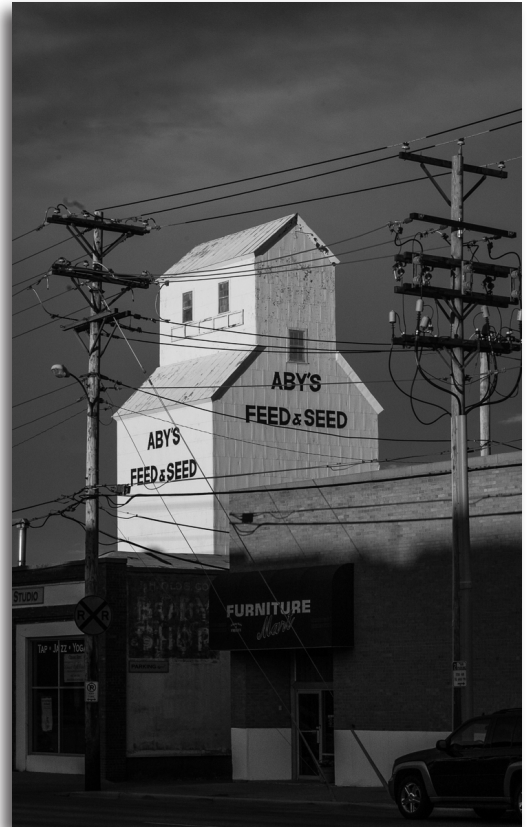
HM "Snowy Dawn" *Bill Brown*

Creative Fine Art Winning Images

Group Red



1st "A Patch of Blue" Brooks Leffler



2nd "Feed and Seed" Frank Penner



3rd "On the Quay" Ken Jones



HM "Back Door, Los Luceros, New Mexico" Brooks Leffler

Meeting Recap & Preview

February & March

We began February with a very special guest, award-winning fine art photographer, and former PTCC member, *Eduardo Fujii*. On February 2nd, Eduardo shared many of his images and techniques and provided good insight into how his photographic style evolved over time. Today, the quality, power, and flexibility of the iPhone has given Eduardo his preferred platform for creation. Of particular interest was Eduardo's use of layers, textures, long exposure times, and other ethereal treatments to create extraordinarily unusual and compelling imagery. He attributes his success to experimentation, and what he terms "happy accidents." Thank you, Eduardo.

On February 16th, we enjoyed the returns of our own Fine Art competition, judged by *Tracy Valleau*. As expected, the judging was fair and honest, but also firm when critiquing our members' work against the subjective assessment of an image's universal artistic communication. The evening was enjoyable, informative, and educational. Artistic expression is not automatic. It requires thought, vision, and the willingness to put your work out there. It also asks us to absorb knowledgeable criticism such as that provided by Tracy's comments, and to learn from them. Thank you, Tracy, for a stimulating learning experience.

March will kick off on the 2nd with an Open Projector night. Our open projector evenings give everyone an opportunity to show work that hasn't been seen in competitions, or for which they would like some friendly feedback. Since we're meeting via Zoom for the time being, we won't be showing prints, but that will come when we're all back in the same room. Open Projector nights are always eclectic, surprising, and fun.

On March 16th, we'll see the returns of our Human Hand in Nature competition, judged this year by PTCC Pro-member, *Doug Steakley*. This challenge asks members to capture the intersection of human activity and the natural world. Images traditionally depict nature's adaptation to people, but often also show how human construction and behavior have adapted to protect and preserve nature. The restrictions imposed on nature photographs by the *Photographic Society of America* (PSA) do not apply to this competition.



Major Print Exhibit

Seaside's Avery Art Gallery

July 9 through September 9, 2022

Padre Trails Camera Club members will be mounting a major print exhibit in the Walter Lee Avery Art Gallery in Seaside this summer. The exhibit will include images from the virtual *Look*

at Seaside! exhibit currently on Seaside's website as well as those from the August 2020 print exhibit that was



cancelled when Seaside's public buildings were closed due to COVID. Our 2022 exhibit will also include new images across a variety of themes and styles. The emphasis is on displaying our members' creativity and

photographic artistry to the fullest.

The working title for this exhibit is: *The Way We See It: The Vision of Padre Trails Camera Club*.

It will open at noon on Saturday, July 9, and runs through September 9, 2022. An artists' reception is scheduled on Friday, July 22nd from 7:00pm-8:00pm.



Seaside City Hall - Home of the Walter Lee Avery Art Gallery

Food for Thought

From the Fort Dearborn Camera Club

by Carol Fuessenich

The following is an extract from a letter written by *Ira W. Martin* to the *Fort Dearborn Camera Club* that was published in *The Fixing Bath* in 1931. It contains much food for thought for the pictorialist.



“It pleases me to know that they [the pictures] were of interest to you and your people. I am also glad to know that you say there were some you did not care for. I believe that every one should look at all things from their own personal point of view and always preserve that personality in his own work, not allowing other personalities to influence his own tastes. I did not send a single print to a salon for over five years when I started pictorial work - not until I could stand having them all returned and still like them myself. So, I repeat, I am pleased to hear you say you did not care for all of my pictures - stick to your own choice of picture material and making, and your work will have your personality.”

The *Fort Dearborn-Chicago Photo Forum* (the current name of the PSA-affiliated club) was organized in 1886, and claims that *Ansel Adams* was once a member. One sentence from the Forum's website is worth repeating:

“... we share a fascination with life seen from the perspective of the camera.”

What's the club up to today? Here is a sample of their very busy calendar:

Outing to the House of Illusions; Winter Outing to the Lincoln Park Zoo; Outing to the Botanical Gardens; *Fix My Photo* (interactive meeting where members offer work to be improved with live instruction); Model Shoot; Cloning in images that are believable; Using textures and overlays in Photoshop and Lightroom; Presentation of Abstract Photography.



B&P Editor's Note: Ira Martin's belief that we should all remain true to our own aesthetic, as expressed in the quote above, is particularly relevant to photographers in today's social-media-driven, hypercritical world. Visit: <https://monovisions.com/ira-martin-the-family-archive/> to see images from the Ira Martin Family Archive.

Upcoming 2022 Submission Dates

All competition submissions are due by midnight.

- Sunday, February 27th: Human Hand in Nature
- Sunday, March 27th: iPhone (People)



Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
via Zoom

All Officers and Activity Chairs can be reached via email at: info@padretrailscc.org

Membership information can be found here:
www.padretrailscc.org/ptcc/ptccmembership.html

2021 - 2022 Officers

President - *Ken Jones*
Vice President - *Charlie Gibson*
Secretary - *Dick Light*
Treasurer - *Judi Clayton*

Activity Chairs

Awards & Hospitality - *Chris Johnson*
Competitions - *John Drum and Bill Brown*
Judge Coordination - *Joni Zabala*
Greeter - *Nicole Asselborn*
Media Relations - *Bill Brown*
Membership - *Chris Johnson*
Newsletter - *Amy Sibiga and Ken Jones*
Points Accounting - *Carol Fuessenich*
Star-rating Accounting - *Rick Verbanec*
Submission Review - *Bill Brown, Jared Ikeda, and Brooks Leffler*
Website - *Jared Ikeda*



Member Club Since 1948

