



December Meeting Recap

'About Our Judge' by *Bill Debley*

Our guest presenter, who presented on December 10th, is one of the greatest masters of "Painting with Light" to ever hold a camera.



Eric Curry graduated from Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles, in 1980. He lived in Scandinavia for twelve years where he ran his own advertising studio in Copenhagen, Denmark returning to the states in 1992. He returned to the United States in 1992. He specialized in studio still life and special effects for all those years. Later, he transitioned to location industrial

photography because it provided a much broader palette.

He currently creates photographs on location for select clients and himself, taking full advantage of the depth and possibilities afforded by each and every new project.

His dramatic slide show presentation featuring photographs from his "American Pride and Passion" series was evocative and inspiring. He showed how by lighting different details within a main composition (arranged on location), he creates scores of multiple images, numbering in the hundreds, and then painstakingly layering those same images using Photo shop to create a single incredibly magical photograph.

You can view his demo on one of his photographs at: <http://www.usa.canon.com/dlc/controller?act=GetArticleAct&articleID=3047> and view his amazing collection at: www.americanprideandpassion.com.

Everyone was riveted to the screen as each story unfolded, not to mention the amazing prints that were displayed around the room for viewing before and after the presentation.

At the end of the evening, everyone left with a sense of awe and respect for this individual's talent, passion, and dedication. And, ironically, the assigned subject for the month of February is "Painting with Light"!

December 2009

Reminders:

- Members can only submit a total of **FOUR** images per meeting for critique. In addition, only **TWO** images can be shown per category.
- Meetings have five categories:
 - Assignment Color
 - Assignment B&W
 - Open Color
 - Open B&W
 - Digital Art
- Members are encouraged to bring a guest but only members may submit images.

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Letters to the Editor

Bill Debley solicited comments from members and guests on our presenter...

"We were blown away by his presentation. He is a dedicated photographer with definitive ideas about his style and how he wished to express himself. Like all artists, he does have a wonderful opinion of himself and his work, but that is mitigated by his dedication to his art. I believe that his work should fall under the category of photographic art, however, because the end results are larger than life and cross over into that neverland of surrealism. This is one art form that the ordinary, average professional or amateur would never have the patience to do to the fullest as he does. It was a magical evening".

—Marshall

"I was inspired by Eric's presentation. It sparked new ideas for me in my photography. He was articulate and generous about his methods for achieving his works, and got my brain buzzing with possibilities".

—Marty Elcan

"Eric was a very entertaining speaker and had great stories to share. While I thought that Eric's work was thought provoking, well thought out and beautiful, there was so much work done in order to produce the fabulous images that to me it is no longer photography, but art. What I aspire to gain as a member of the club is to learn how to take amazing photographs as opposed to altering good photos in order to obtain the image that I want".

—Mimi Schector

"He has a real 'passion' for the work he produces. He has taken everything to a new level with his unique methods of producing a photography. It approach a movie set and plenty of preparation to pull off his photography. I admire his creativity, skills and his long hours in

pre and post production and preparation. How many of the F Stops members are willing to commit to a project like this? It is way over my head in creativity and patience...but more power to him. I thought his presentation was great and put together very well".

Thanks for getting him for our Dec. meeting."

—Bill Tapp

"I heard many express a desire to see how his computer work flow. They didn't understand how he combined the images. Me, I had a good time and enjoyed the images.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"

—JR

"Generally liked the presentation; he has a unique artistic vision and a tremendous amount of passion for his work. The presentation was a little long. I would have preferred it end around 8:15, take a break for refreshments, then ask questions. Since our next assignment is painting with light, his talk was highly topical".

—Dave

"We really enjoyed the presentation, especially the parts where Eric explained how he composed and shot each setting. The information on how he put the layers together to achieve very unusual lighting effects was especially interesting. Eric's works are most exceptional and are wonderful examples fulfilling the notion of "Photography as Art". Each "photo" is definitely one of a kind."

—Bob & Celia Bladow

"I thought Eric's presentation was very good. It's amazing the amount of work he does just to set up his shots. I did try a series of four night time painting shots in the backyard last night and lo and behold they combined beautifully".

—John

"The presentation was delightful, and interesting. Of course, his mastery of lighting makes all the difference in the results that he achieves. While I found the results to be outstanding representations of trains, cars, barns and diving equipment, etc. this is probably something that I will not pursue, I mean this is really a specialized form of photography. The end result reminds me more of a shooting from the field, and creating a movie set, or stage like image. Some folks described it as cartoon like in appearance. I believe that there are many in the audience that come to fstops to learn how to take better pictures, with equipment, and technique. Curry's work is so specialized that it would not serve to meet the needs of this audience, no doubt. I would like to see more field assignments, and or/speakers on technique and equipment, for landscape(s), with emphasis on use of camera controls, various suggestions for specific lenses, for time exposure shots, mirror lock up, filters, when to shoot and not to shoot, for the best landscape(s), and emphasis on subjects in the background, filters, composition, and work flow. I hope you get the idea.

Thank you, in any case for this presentation."

—Stuart Greenberg

January Meeting

by *Bill Debley*

The next f/Stops Camera Club Meeting, is January 14, 2010.

I am pleased to announce that our guest for the evening will be none other than Michael Stern. He will tutor us in the use of Photoshop to create an image/print with the look, feel and mood you want to present to the viewing public. If you are having trouble bringing an image to fruition, this presentation is just what the doctor ordered. Michael will take your troubled image and show you how to edit with an efficient and creative workflow to produce a photograph of which you can be proud.

Because of the time allotted we must limit the number of images

that can be manipulated. This will be accomplished by a "Timed Submission" process.

READ CAREFULLY! Here's how it works:

Send your "request to submit" to: michael@cyberstern.com.

E mails must be sent after 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

The first five e mails with the time stamp closest to 8:00 P.M. on 1/12/2010 will be selected!

(You need not attach the image, but you must have one file that your think is very good but are having trouble with and got stuck on how to best edit it. Save it at this stage).

Winners must bring in the file "saved as" where they got stuck, plus the camera original to the meeting on a flash memory stick or CD.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me: wdebley@socal.rr.com.

See below for a clickable link to Michael Stern's latest book.

Afterwards, time permitting; we'll hold a Q&A session for specific Photoshop issues/techniques.

As special offering, copies of Michael's book will be on hand for those interested for only \$25.00, tax included.

http://post.oreilly.com/form/oreilly/viewhtml/9z1zpt391cpe1aagptcoj2oddh1glve9hnq6l8mi8ag?utm_content=Build+a+Better+Photograph&utm_campaign=PR&utm_source=iPost&utm_medium=email&utm_mid=050360&cmp=Build+a+Better+Photograph

Dues are Due

Starting January 1st, the membership slate is wiped clean. If you want your images to be judged, you must pay your 2010 dues.

This year, the Board voted to modify the dues to further encourage guests to become members no matter when in the year they join.

Basically, you pay for the year with a sliding scale. See the table to the right.

Month you paid dues	Cost of the dues	What it covers
Jan, Feb or Mar	\$35 (a \$5 savings!)	Jan – Dec
Apr, May or Jun	\$30	Apr – Dec
Jul, Aug or Sep	\$20	Jul – Dec
Oct, Nov or Dec	\$10	Oct – Dec

So, for example, if you pay your dues in May, you would give the club \$30 which would cover your membership from May through December.

Remember, dues pay for the venue, a (very) small honorarium to the guest judge or speaker, soft drinks and water at the meeting, and a few expenses like the laminated assignment cards and name badges.

This is a lot to have to cover for so little. Rather than raise the dues amount, the Board is considering having fund raisers. If you have any ideas for curbing costs or bringing in more money, please contact Bill Debley.

Digital Art Defined

Edie Levenson suggested the following link for some inspiration for our new Digital Art category:

http://alienskin.com/eyecandy/tutorial-painterly.aspx?utm_source=newsletter-2009-12&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

Shooting Around The Internet

by Kristina and Don Jacob

This is the first in of what hopefully will be a monthly feature of in the f/Stops newsletter. It is intended to give the our membership an insight to what is available on websites relating to our passion, photography. Let us know what you think .

Photo sites:

http://photofocus.com/2009/12/09/seven_holiday_photo_tips/

<http://www.joemcnally.com/blog/>

Helpful sites:

<http://photoshouser.com>

<http://www.lightroomkillertips.com>

What's coming up:

<http://canonrumors.com>

<http://nikonrumors.com>

<http://photorumors.com>

Must see:

annenbergspaceforphotography.org

<http://www.getty.edu/museum/>

<http://www.californiacoastline.org/>

To do:

http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/newsevents/eventsdetail/photographers_night/

http://can_dofilmfest.com

Lightroom Beta 3 download –FREE

<http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/lightroom3/>

(Expires on April 30, 2010)

Website suggestions are welcome please send to dejphoto@gmail.com

Disclaimer: We have been to each one of these sites and they are valid, but we cannot guarantee that they will remain so. As always you should have a good, up-to-date anti-virus program active on your computer.

No scores this month!

“Light makes photography. Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. Know it for all you are worth, and you will know the key to photography.”

— George Eastman

“A photograph never grows old. You and I change, people change all through the months and years but a photograph always remains the same. How nice to look at a photograph of mother or father taken many years ago. You see them as you remember them. But as people live on, they change completely. That is why I think a photograph can be kind.”

—Albert Einstein

“Every artist was first an amateur.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

For Sale

by Kurt Bronner

nyuszi@sbcglobal.net

Studio Lighting Setup

- AC slave Specialist Studio flash/ 2 setups with all the cords
- Two 3 foot stands
- Two white umbrellas

Original cost \$950

Selling for \$450

Kurt Bronner

818/776 1839

nyuszi@sbcglobal.net

Out of courtesy to your fellow members and the judge, members can submit a MAXIMUM of four (4) images per meeting with no more than two (2) shown in any category. This has been in effect for quite some time but because of the good meeting turnouts and increased membership this rule will be more strictly enforced.

EXAMPLE 1: 2 assignment color, 2 open B&W = MAX 4

EXAMPLE 2: 1 open color, 1 open B&W, 1 assignment color, 1 assignment B&W = MAX 4

Also, resubmitting the same image, unless the judge recommended changes, should not be done just to see if you can get a better score from a different judge. If, for example, a judge recommended to change to a vertical crop, or to B&W, etc. this will be allowed.

Newsletter Editor in Chief &
Meeting Master of Ceremonies

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WEB SITE REPORT

A very special thanks to Pam Thompson for her tireless work and new look she has created for our website. Show your work; submit your images for the gallery. It's your website!

TREASURY REPORT

There's money in the treasury. What would you like us to spend some of it on? Make sure you touch base with Audrey and update your e mail and home mailing address. This list is useful for car pooling and field trips.

BUY OR SELL

If you want to sell or are looking for photography related items, members can list them in this newsletter. Email Bill Debley at wdebley@socal.rr.com. Listings are free for members.

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is for all club members to use. If you would like to contribute in any way just send an email to Bill Debley at wdebley@socal.rr.com.

If your image(s) score an 8, 9, or 10 and you wish you have them published in this newsletter, please do the following:

1. Resize the image to 1070 pixels at 150 dpi on the long side
2. Add your copyright into the image itself (ALT 0169 followed by your name)
3. Rename the file with your last name and category (e.g. Debley_abstract or Debley_open)
4. Email the file(s) to wdebley@socal.rr.com

2010 ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 7	Special: guest presenter Michael Stern
Feb 11	Technique – Painting with Light
Mar 11	Theme – Series (3+ shots)
Apr 8	Theme – Reflections
May 13	Theme – Contrasts
Jun 10	Technique – Selective Focus
Jul 8	Theme – Urban Decay / Loss
Aug 12	Theme – Architectural Details
Sep 9	Theme – Geometric / Patterns
Oct 14	Technique – B&W
Nov 11	Theme Craftsmanship
Dec	(no meeting but perhaps a party)

2010 DUTY ROSTER

Ken Jones has very graciously offered to bring the equipment to every meeting. We all truly appreciate this.

In 2009, the f/Stops board voted to discontinue having the club provide food because the leftovers were creating a storage problem. We encourage folks to bring snacks to share.

Drinks (water and soda) are still provided and we are always looking for volunteers with Costco memberships to help acquire and deliver beverages to the meetings. Please contact Bill Debley if you can help.