



First Place Image – by Samuel Lee



Editors

Ken Fong
Wen-Wen Li
news@101photoclub.com

Planning Committee

President: Serena Hartoog
Vice President: Tatung Chow
Membership: Vivian Yeh
Competition: Dennis Lo
Web Master: Roscoe Shih

101 Photo Club

101 Photo Club is sponsored by River of Life Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Regular Meeting : 1st Tuesday of each month 7:00-9:30pm at River of Life Christian Church, 1177 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara, CA 95054

For details, please visit:
101photoclub.com

Events

June 7 Dynamic Landscape (p 2-4)

Resource

Interview Serena shares her photographic workflow! – by Ken Fong (p 5-6)

President's message

We held our first competition. Everyone who attended this event, regardless of whether they had submitted images or not, learned how to improve their images from Hanson Fong's detailed and constructive comments on each entry.

Most of our members are not professional photographers and do not have formal training, but all of the entries were gorgeous pictures.

Portraits are very different from landscapes. You need to take care of lighting and composition. The subject's expression is also very important.

I heard that everyone commented that they learned a lot about how to take a portrait.

This is how to grow your photography skills: Watch how images are judged and learn how to improve the details that you do not think about.

We are going to have another competition for landscape images with a different judge. Start to think about your best image for the August landscape competition.

Serena Hartoog

Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence. ...
-Vince Lombardi

The Dynamic Landscape, June 7, 7pm.

The Dynamic Landscape by Steve Kurtz is sponsored by Bay Photo Lab. Steve will teach you how to use tools and techniques to help you create beautiful and dynamic landscape photographs.

Join us on June 7 for an evening to boost your landscape photography skills. Steve will share his approach on planning, capturing, and processing landscape images. The evening presentation will cover equipment choices and techniques to create dynamic landscape photographs. Steve has been giving photographic education workshops in the last 35 years. Although Steve's photographic career focused on taking wedding and portrait images, he is also an avid nature and landscape photographer since 1970. His work has been published in many regional and national publications.



The Dynamic Landscape

With Steve Kurtz

Sponsored by Bay Photo Lab

June 7, 2016 starting at 7 PM

Chasing the Light-The path to stunning landscape images

Steve Kurtz has been giving photographic education workshops for the last 35 years. Although Steve's photographic career focused on the wedding and portrait industry, he has been an avid nature and landscape photographer since 1970. His work has been published in many regional and national publications.

The evening presentation will focus on Steve's field approach, his camera equipment and the techniques he uses to create his landscape photographs. He will also talk about postproduction of his images, including processing Raw files in Lightroom and using third party software in Photoshop. He will cover all the tools and techniques he uses to help you create beautiful and dynamic landscape photographs.

Come and experience at:

River of Life Christian Church

1177 Laurelwoof Road, Santa Clara, CA 95054

Register: www.101photoclub.com



Interview: Serena shares her photographic workflow! – by Ken Fong

With all the recent club activity in portrait photography, I thought it would be a good idea to get into the mind of one of our own professional portrait photographers, Serena Hartoog. I recently had a chance to interview Serena to see if we can get some insights into her own photographic workflow.

How do you prepare for a client?

Before even meeting a client in person, I will conduct a phone consultation to find out what the final images will be used for. This line of discussion usually leads to questions about their preferred style, mood, use of props, etc. If the client is requesting a family portrait, this consultation is where I will start to coordinate the family's choice of color/tone for their clothing. Family portraits usually adhere to classical poses; artistic poses are considered for individual portraits. I assume that most, if not all clients will not have any training in modeling or posing, so this is where I provide the value in the eventual session.

What portrait lengths do you plan for?

I usually plan for a package that consists of whole, ¾, ¼, and headshots. I DO NOT rely on post-processing to get these lengths...I capture these lengths as I am photographing.

What are the main variables that you are working with during composition?

Of course, the main variable is posing, which we have spent a lot of time discussing during the Hansen Fong series. Another often overlooked variable is the hand gesture, which can be one of the more challenging aspects of composing depending on your clients' features and behavior...what may work well for one client will not work for another. But the most important variable, which I consider to be what makes or breaks a good portrait is the facial expression. A lot of clients do not know how to manipulate their own facial expressions, so it takes a bit of coaching, coaxing, and relaxing. If a client is "too stiff", you will not get good results. Better results come when you make a connection with the client.

So what is your method of making a connection with the client?

At this point, I need to mention that the first 30 minutes of photographing a client result in images that are usually thrown away. It is not a waste because it is part of my workflow of "warming up the client" and making an assessment of what to do next. I will then offer to take a "break", where the client can either relax with a glass of wine. During this time, I will engage in small talk with the client and just chat. I have found that simply asking the client to share their story or history is enough to get them to open up and relax. Once this simple personal connection is made, their facial expressions improve dramatically. To coax or coach a client into an expression, I will use directions like "think about that happy time when..." to help match their face to the expression we are going for. Often, saying something like "look sexy" will not result in much and I will have to be specific about which muscles to tighten or loosen, or even have the client mimic my own face with a mild lip pout or pucker.

What is your favorite photographic accessory?

I really enjoy using transparent fabric...you can shoot through it for diffusion, special effects and mood, and you can use it to accessorize a client's wardrobe or create flowing leading lines or accents. Using this fabric usually contributes to a mysterious or mystical mood.

What is your favorite photographic prop?

Wind. I will use natural wind outdoors or fans indoors to help get flowing hair or fabric.

What general advice do you have for photographers who want to take their compositional skills to the next level? First, learn the basic compositional techniques (Rule of Thirds, Golden Mean, etc.) Once you have reached a good level of competency, feel free to break those rules. But don't try to start by breaking those rules...I recall looking through the photos of one individual who tried to do that and it really made me dizzy. Get those basic techniques down first.

(continued)



In the left photo, we see a client before he has “warmed up”...a bit stiff, tight facial muscles, and feeling somewhat awkward with his pose. The right photo shows the client after warming up with the photographer...the changes are subtle yet effective: relaxed facial expression and more confident posture.