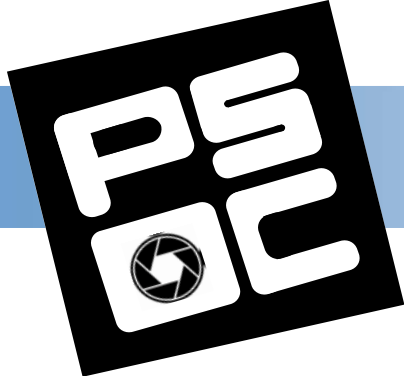




PRESIDENT'S LETTER; July 2026



Well, it is Summer... by the calendar (June 21st) and the unofficial start (Memorial Day). Let the summer fun and photos begin!

The June LENS meeting was excellent! For those of you who were not there, Barry Evans of Samy's Camera led our audience critique and did some edits right then, in real time. People seemed to love it, and we will definitely do it again. By the way, if you have any ideas about how to improve our meetings, please talk to anyone on the Board. We would love to hear your feedback.

I bit the bullet and entered photographs again this month. Still not super happy with them, but it does feel good to be entering again.

Here is what is coming up in July:

- **Assignment (to show in August) Shadows and Silhouettes** - Flyer in this newsletter – check it out!
- **July 12th (Sunday) Field Trip – Balboa Island** – Flyer in this newsletter – check it out!
- **July 16th (3rd Thursday) LENS Meeting** - **You do not want to miss this one!**
- **Member Spotlight:** Annette Globits – Fine Art Photography - Come listen to Annette's story and journey, plus, see more of her lovely images!
- **Meeting Topic:** Portraits of Resilience and Remembrance by Clifford Lester

Clifford Lester, Professor Emeritus of Photography at Cypress College in California and son of Holocaust Survivor Ursula Lowenbach Foster (who grew up with Anne Frank in Amsterdam), has photographed over 100 Survivors to honor his Mother's legacy of embracing life with gratitude and purpose.

His dignified portraits, often set against simple white backgrounds to capture raw emotion and humanity, are featured in permanent exhibitions such as Cypress College's Holocaust Survivors Gallery and Chapman University's Rodgers Center.

Pairing each image with personal stories and universal lessons of courage, resilience, hope, and respect for others, Lester's work educates and inspires, reminding viewers of the power of remembrance and the enduring spirit of those who survived the unimaginable. His broader photography explores Jewish life, nature, and travel, but these portraits remain his most meaningful project.

- **July 25th (Saturday) The Annual Picnic! See you there.**
Look in this newsletter for further info!
- **July 30th (Thursday) General Meeting - YES, meeting is on the 5th Thursday this month!**

Here is what you can submit for critique:

- o **Field Trip:** Lyon Air Museum
- o **Assignment:** Rows of things
- o **Open Category:** Any recent photo, any subject 😊

As you know, our critique sessions are one of the most powerful ways to grow as a photographer. There is nothing quite like seeing your images projected on the big screen AND you are surrounded by your fellow club members who only want to enjoy what you're seeing and shooting.

Don't hold back! Remember, no matter what you use – everything from an expensive camera to a cellphone – we genuinely want to see your work. We love discovering the creative ways you are capturing the world around you, no matter the tool. Every photo tells a story, and every submission helps all of us learn, improve, and stay inspired.

How to Submit:

Visit PSOC.net, hover over "PSOC" in the top-left corner, and click on **Digital Files** for submission details.

Deadline: Tuesday, July 21st, by 6 PM.

I look forward to seeing you all — maybe at a meeting or on an upcoming field trip. Until then... Happy shooting!

Susan

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

JULY LENS MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday: July 16, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Holocaust Survivors will be the topic for this month's LENS meeting. **Clifford Lester** will present.

JULY GENERAL MEETING INFO

Thursday: July 30, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

The General Meeting will be held on July 30, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. **Rows of Things** will be the topic to show for critique. Pictures from **Lyon Air Museum** field trip or other images in the category will be shown and critiqued. Art Ramirez will be the critiquer.

PLEASE NOTE: All Members in good standing are encouraged to email up to three images, plus a title photo, to the Digital Show Team at PSOCphoto@gmail.com on or before Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. the week of the show. The deadline is important because the Digital Show Team needs time to prepare all the images for showing. For instructions on submitting your images, see "Digital Files" at our PSOC website. Images must comply with instructions to fit our digital media. Images late or not in compliance will be returned with an explanation.

JULY 2026 ASSIGNMENT – Silhouettes and Shadows

*** See assignment write-up in this newsletter ***

JULY FIELD TRIP - Balboa Island/Peninsula/Fun Zone Day/Night Photography

Sunday: July 12, 2026.

Dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Woody's Diner 3461 Via Lido, Newport Beach

*** See field trip flyer in this newsletter ***

2026 PSOC CALENDAR OF EVENTS (5/12/26)

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 01 New Year's Day**
15 LENS Mtg- Printing
Presenter- Barry Evans
22 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
LA Farmer's Mkt/The Grove
Motion Photography
25 Field Trip- Rancho Los
Alamitos (tour)
Assignment- Circles/Round

JULY

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- 04 Independence Day**
16 LENS Mtg- Holocaust Survivors
Presenter- Clifford Lester
30 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
Lyon Air Museum
Assignment- Rows of Things
12 Field Trip- Balboa Is.-Day/Nig.
Assignment- Shadows/Silhou.
25 PSOC Picnic (Sat)

FEBRUARY

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- 16 Presidents Day**
19 LENS Mtg- Career in Commercial Photography
Presenter- John Bare
26 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
Rancho Los Alamitos
Assignment- Circles/Round
27 Field Trip- SD Zoo Safari Park
Assignment- Opposites

AUGUST

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- 19 World Photography Day**
20 LENS Mtg- Str. Photography
Presenter- Jan Merson
27 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
Balboa Island-Day/Night
Assignment- Shadows/Silhou.
09 Field Trip- Santa Monica Pier
Assignment- Abstract/Patterns

MARCH

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- 17 St. Patrick's Day**
19 LENS Mtg- Capturing Emotions & Feelings in Images
Presenter- Art Ramirez
26 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
San Diego Zoo Safari Park
Assignment- Opposites
14 Field Trip- Pow Wow CSULB
Assignment- Still Life

SEPTEMBER

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- 1-30 PSOC Library Show**
12 Library Reception (Sat)
07 Labor Day
17 Movie Night (Thur. LENS)
24 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
Santa Monica Pier
Assignment- Abstract/Patterns
27 Field Trip- San Juan Capistrano
Assignment- Lazy/Peaceful

APRIL

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- April 23-26 - Field Trip to Lone Pine, CA**
05 Easter
09 LENS Mtg- Inspirational Photo.
Presenter- Patty Arana (SCFV)
16 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
Pow Wow Ceremony CSULB
Assignment- Still Life
18 Field Trip- Chinatown (DTLA)
Assignment- Urban/City Sts.

OCTOBER

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- October 8-11 - Field Trip to Albuquerque, NM**
12 Columbus Day
15 LENS Mtg- Protecting photos
Presenter- Joanna Conner
22 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
San Juan Capistrano
Assignment- Lazy/Peaceful
24 Field Trip- Getty Villa (P.P.)
Assignment- Isolated Objects

MAY

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 10 Mother's Day**
25 Memorial Day
21 LENS Mtg- Life of Photographer
Presenter- Matt Brown
28 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
Lone Pine overnight trip
Chinatown (DTLA)
Assignment- Urban/City Sts.
13 Field Trip- San Joaquin W.S.
Assignment- Forms in Nature

NOVEMBER

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 11 Veterans Day**
26 Thanksgiving
12 LENS Mtg- Creative Lighting
Presenter- John Bare (SCFV)
19 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
Albuquerque overnight trip
Getty Villa (Pacific Palisades)
Assignment- Isolated Objects
21 Field Trip- Antique G&S Mus.
Assignment- Blue and/or Red

JUNE

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- 21 Father's Day**
18 LENS Mtg- Audience Critiq.
Presenter- Barry Evans
25 Gen. Mtg-to be shown:
San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary
Assignment- Forms in Nature
20 Field Trip- Lyon Air Museum
Assignment- Rows of Things

DECEMBER

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- NO LENS OR GENERAL MTGS.**
04 Hanukkah
25 Christmas
03 PSOC Holiday Party
Show candid shots of members in 2026.
January 28, 2027 Gen. Mtg.:
Show Antique Gas & Steam Eng. Museum & Blue and/or Red.

2026 PSOC What to Show at General Meetings (4/22/26)

This chart shows the dates of general meetings and what to show at each meeting. Pictures for any assignment can be taken anytime during the year-end 2025 and year 2026, as long as the images fit the assignment for the meeting in which you are showing them. We ask members to submit current work for the meeting critiques. Assignments are planned so as to be coordinated with field trip locations. Pictures taken on field trips need not be assignment-related in order to be shown for critique at the meetings.

<u>DATE OF MEETING</u>	<u>FIELD TRIP TO SHOW</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT TO SHOW</u>
January 22nd	LA Farmer's Market/The Grove	Motion Photography
February 26th	Rancho Los Alamitos/Long Beach	Circles/Round Shapes
March 26th	San Diego Zoo Safari Park/Escondido	Opposites
April 16th	Pow Wow Ceremony/CSULB	Still Life
May 28th	Chinatown/DTLA AND <u>Spring Overnight Trip – Lone Pine</u>	Urban/City Streets
June 25th	San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary/Irvine	Forms in Nature
July 23rd	<u>Lyon Air Museum/JW Airport</u>	Rows of Things
August 27th	Balboa Is.-Day-Night/Corona del Mar	Shadows/Silhouettes
September 24th	<u>Santa Monica Pier</u>	Abstract/Patterns
October 22nd	San Juan Capistrano	Lazy/Peaceful
November 19th	Getty Villa/Pacific Palisades AND <u>Fall Overnight Trip – Albuquerque</u>	Isolated Objects
December 3rd	<u>PSOC Holiday Party</u> (Greenbrook Clubhouse)	Candid shots of PSOC members on field trips & other events in 2026
Jan. 28, 2027	<u>Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum/Vista</u>	Blue and/or Red

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Overnight Field Trip

Albuquerque New Mexico

October 8-11, 2026

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is the world's largest hot air balloon festival, held annually in early October in New Mexico. It features over 500 balloons filling the sky in mass ascensions, dazzling night glows, and creative special shape rodeos.



All Photos by Dan Anderson

We will be staying three (3) nights at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, by Wyndham, 7439 Pan American Freeway N.E., Albuquerque, NM See red X on map, next page. Phone 505-345-7500 Thursday October 8 to Sunday October 11.

The nightly **room rate will be \$199** plus tax. We've reserved a block of 12 rooms for PSOC members. **Group Name: PSOC. Confirmation Code: GS100826SOC. The booking link is:**

<http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/52946?checkInDate=10/08/2026&checkOutDate=10/11/2026&groupCode=GS100826SOC>

Be sure to tell them you're with the Photographic Society of Orange County (PSOC) in order to receive our special room rates.

The hotel provides all guests with a "complimentary" hot breakfast buffet every morning. **We will plan a group get-together on Friday for lunch at noon. Location TBA**



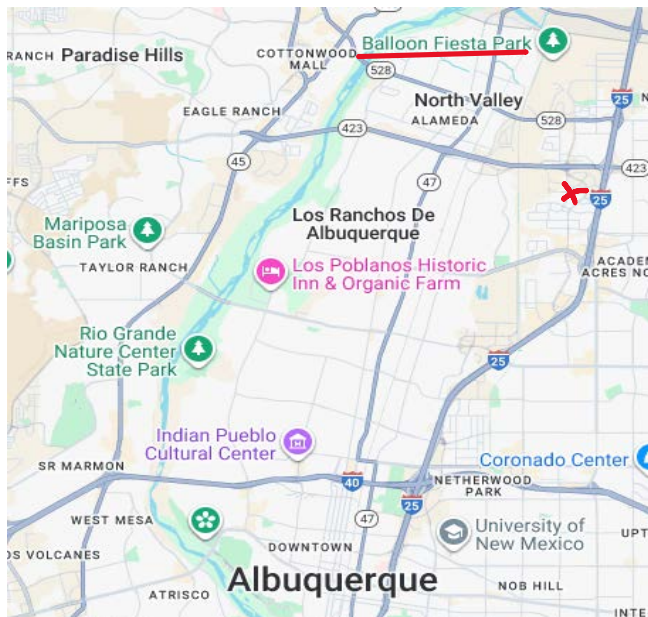
Fiesta activities are divided into two sessions daily. The session consists of all activities at the park in the **morning (4:30 AM to 11:00 AM)** or all the activities in the **evening (3:00 PM to 9:00 PM)**. An example of a session would be when you visit the park to see the Dawn Patrol and Mass Ascension, you would be coming to a morning session. Photography in the early morning and after sunset is especially good.

Tickets are \$15 per session for each of the two daily sessions. Information and ticket purchases for the Fiesta can be found at www.balloonfiesta.com/plan-your-visit/faqs/ Plan to get your tickets in advance.

A **Mass Ascension** is when all 500+ balloons launch from Balloon Fiesta Park. This starts at 7:00 A.M., and will take approximately 2 hours. You will want to be at the Mass Ascension on Friday and/or Saturday.

Parking lots are located on the north and south ends of the park, and costs **is \$20 for each session** you are at the park. Each parking lot is color-coded and the gates are numbered, so please remember the color and number of the gate through which you entered the field. **Please have cash ready as they do not accept credit or debit cards for parking fees.**

The Fiesta field is located west of I-25, approximately 12 miles north of the Albuquerque Airport, 7 miles north of downtown Albuquerque. **There are several food concessions at Balloon Fiesta Park serving a variety of foods.**

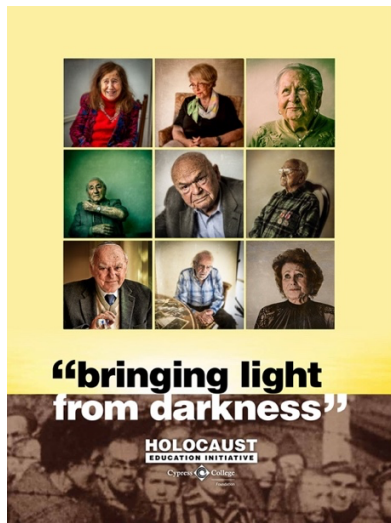


Where can I learn more about Albuquerque? Visit the website [Home - Balloon Fiesta](http://Home-BalloonFiesta.com), and the official website of the [Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau](http://AlbuquerqueConvention.com) to browse an online version of the Official Albuquerque Guest Guide. You can also request a printed copy by calling the Bureau offices at [\(800\) 284-2282](tel:8002842282). Other points of interest in the area include Old Town Albuquerque, Sandia Peak Tramway, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Taos Pueblo, and the Rio Grande gorge. You will find lots of great photo opportunities.

“From Darkness to Light”
LENS Presentation by Clifford Lester
Thursday, July 16th at 7:00 pm at The Fount Church

“Through the lens of the Holocaust, the Holocaust Education Initiative educates our community about the dangers of intolerance, while empowering its citizens to stand against anti-semitism, bigotry, and hate by safeguarding the dignity of all people.”

The Holocaust Education Initiative began in Spring 2016 when **Clifford Lester, Cypress College Photography Professor Emeritus** and the son of two Holocaust survivors, donated a collection of his Holocaust survivors’ portraits to the college. This collection is now a permanent exhibition in the Ursula Lowenbach Foster Holocaust Survivor Portrait Gallery, with over 50 survivors’ portraits exhibited in two different locations on campus. The Gallery, with its survivors’ portraits and descriptions of their lives, is at the heart of the Holocaust Education Initiative.



Ursula Lowenbach Foster
Survivor of the Holocaust



The Gallery is dedicated to the memory of Clifford’s mother, **Ursula Lowenbach Foster**, who was born in Hanover, Germany, but moved with her family to Amsterdam in 1938 to avoid Nazi persecution. In 1942 the Nazis invaded Amsterdam, and Ursula and her family were forced to go into hiding to survive the war. For nearly two years, they lived secretly in an overcrowded house with 14 other Jews, sleeping in the dirt basement to escape detection by the Nazis.

After the war, Ursula emigrated to the United States and lived in Modesto, CA for many years. To honor the memory of her 19-year-old brother, Ernst, who was killed at Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Ursula began visiting schools, giving talks about the Holocaust and its horrific impact on her life. She wanted children to know how precious freedom is, that we can’t take it for granted, and that we must learn from the past to understand “what can happen if prejudice and hatred are allowed to run wild.” Sadly, Ursula passed away at the young age of 77.

Motivated by his mother’s example, and to keep her story alive, Clifford began interviewing and photographing Holocaust survivors to document their stories, capturing the faith and courage of those who survived while also honoring the memory of those loved ones lost, so that the lessons of the Holocaust will never be forgotten. The stories of these survivors continue to inspire students to learn more about the Holocaust, how to overcome adversity, and how to stand up to hatred and discrimination.

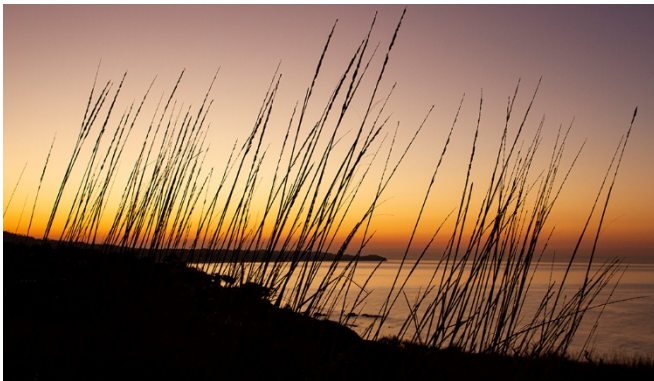
July Assignment - Silhouettes and Shadows

Like all great photography, this assignment is fundamentally about light — but this time we're flipping the script to celebrate what happens when light is NOT there. Shadows and silhouettes are all about shape, contrast, and mood.

Even if you don't normally seek them out, this is the perfect chance to start noticing them everywhere. And if you already love them, consider this your official permission to go all in — hunt for the most interesting shadows and silhouettes you can find.

You already know this... but let's recap:

- **Silhouettes**: Pure black shapes against a brighter background. Look for strong, recognizable outlines — think people, trees, buildings, or interesting objects. The key is backlighting: shoot with the light source behind your subject so it turns them into a dark shape.



- **Shadows**: These can be more subtle and moody. We're after interesting shadow shapes, patterns, and how they interact with the environment. Long dramatic shadows at sunrise/sunset are gold, but even midday can give you cool graphic lines on walls or pavement. Or, find something partially in the shadows to create a mood.



To consider:

- **Time of day** matters a ton — golden hour and blue hour are your best friends for long, soft shadows. Harsh midday light can create super sharp, high-contrast shadows too.
- **Look for contrast:** Bright background + dark subject = silhouette magic. For shadows, find textured surfaces (sand, concrete, walls) where the shadow falls.
- **Shapes & composition:** Strong, simple forms work best. Overlapping elements, leading lines created by shadows, or repeating patterns can make your shots pop.
- **Urban spots:** Street signs, bike racks, palm trees, buildings, or people walking by.
- **Nature/beach:** Surfers, pelicans, lifeguard towers, or even your own shadow on the sand.

Quick tips:

- Expose for the bright areas (not the shadows) to keep the silhouette pure black.
- Try to avoid using the auto setting as the camera may try to brighten everything up.
- Experiment with angles and perspectives — the best shadows are sometimes right at your feet!
- Try both color and black & white — B&W often makes shadows & silhouettes hit harder.

Whether you go super minimal/abstract or tell a story with a silhouette, just have fun with it.

I can't wait to see what everyone comes up!



Photo by Marianne Cohen

July Field Trip

Balboa Island/Peninsula/Fun Zone Day/Night Photography

Date: Sunday – July 12th, 2026

Shooting Assignment: Shadows/Silhouettes

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING: Depending on where you are starting, the peninsula can be reached by either PCH or the 55 South/Newport Blvd. There should be ample parking around the area, but this will be a summer field trip, so there may be some crowds. On the Peninsula side, parking is all metered so bring your quarters. Some meters will accept credit cards. Free parking can often be found in the residential area on the Island.

TIME: This will be an evening field trip related to our next assignment of 'Night Photography'. Sunset this evening is at 8:04 PM, so we will start at 6:00 to allow for some images prior to golden hour, golden hour, sunset and blue hour, as well as night images. Golden hour will be roughly 7 to 8 PM. Blue Hour will be roughly 8:04 to 8:45 PM.

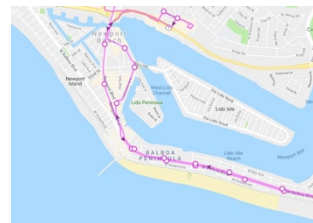
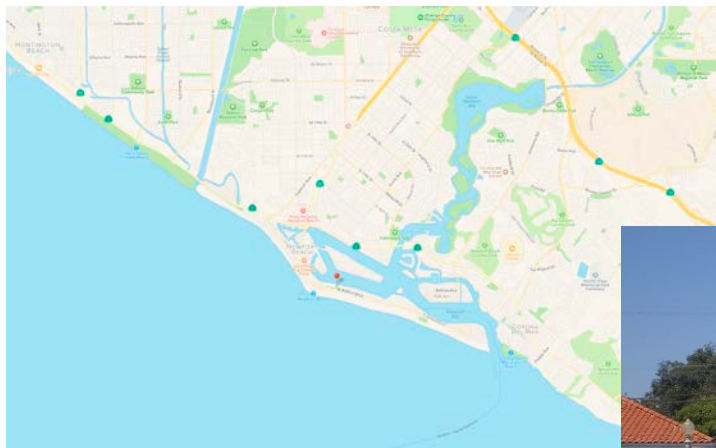
DINNER: Since for some of us this may be a bit of a late night, we will meet at 5:00 PM at Woody's Diner, 3461 Via Lido, Newport Beach before our photography sessions. When leaving the peninsula on Newport Blvd, turn right on Via Lido and it will be on your immediate right next to the Bank of America. There should be plenty of parking near the restaurant. A reservation for 8 under "PSOC" will be made for that time, but the restaurant should have plenty of room.

CARPOOL: There will be no carpool since Balboa is so close for most of us.

Google Link to sign up for the field trip to Balboa Island:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ax_dPXlg20JDKkQswMtFEVDD7POTe9FC69SubQcVLkU/edit?usp=sharing

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION: The Balboa Peninsula Trolley runs for the summer on weekends from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., is free and has 22 stops along the peninsula. See: <https://visitnewportbeach.com/balboa-peninsula-trolley/>



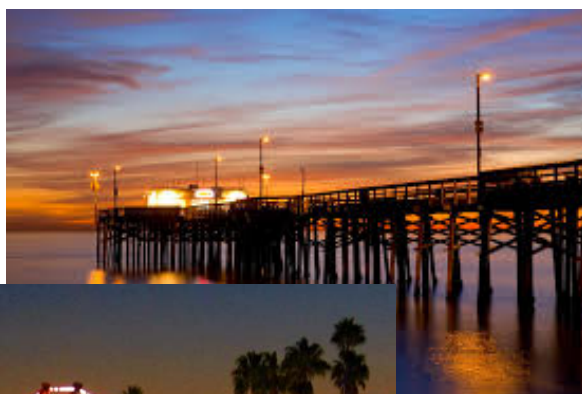
There are many and varied photo opportunities on the

Balboa peninsula ranging from the Balboa pier and the Newport pier with the beach on one side, to the Balboa Fun Zone with their bright lights and carnival atmosphere, along with views across the channel to



Balboa Island. The Fun Zone is open until 9 PM, as the Field Trip will be on a Sunday. For a unique point of view, Duffy Electric Boats can be rented for perspectives of Newport Harbor.

You can also take the ferry across the channel to Balboa Island which is a charming little town with many interesting shops and homes and a view back across the channel to the brightly lit Fun Zone. The Balboa Island Ferry has operated continuously since 1919. The trip across the bay is about a quarter of a mile and takes usually 10 minutes including boarding time. There are usually several ferry boats running back and forth to lessen the wait for a ride. The ferry runs from 6:30 am until 12:00 Midnight. Vehicles are \$3.00 for car and driver with passengers extra. Adult pedestrians or car passengers are \$2.00.



A Note Before You Head Out

The best rows might be ones you walk past every day without really seeing. This assignment is about training your eye to notice the pattern, rhythm, and repetition wherever you go. Bring your camera, take your time, and don't overlook the ordinary — rows of things have a way of being soothing and beautiful, so enjoy!

Most importantly, have fun!

PSOC POTLUCK PICNIC

SATURDAY - JULY 25, 2026

The **PSOC Potluck Picnic** will be held at the Greenbrook Clubhouse in Fountain Valley from **11:00 am - 2:00 pm** on **Saturday-July 25, 2026** (see map below).

Please bring a main dish or side dish serving approximately 12 people. If you wish, you can also bring your favorite dessert to share with others. The club will provide desserts, drinks (e.g. water, juices), paper plates, napkins, plastic cups and utensils. The food and drinks will be set up on the south side of the clubhouse in the BBQ area. We'll use the grassy area next to the clubhouse for our potluck picnic.

This is a great opportunity to visit with fellow club members and guests, enjoy some good food and drink, play some games, talk about photography, and maybe even take a few candid shots of people eating, laughing, playing games, or just relaxing. If you have some games (*i.e.* bocce ball, corn hole toss, ladder ball toss), please bring them with you to share with others.

PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PSOC NAME BADGE, SUNSCREEN, CHAIRS, BLANKETS, UMBRELLAS and/or CANOPY.

If you're a new member and don't have your PSOC name badge yet, we'll provide you with a stick-on badge.



Directions to Greenbrook Clubhouse (18222 Santa Joanana St.): Head south on Magnolia past Talbert, go one block and turn right on Rhine River St., then go two blocks and turn left on Santa Joanana St. The clubhouse is one block south on the left side of the street. We'll be set up on the south side of the clubhouse.

Picnic Guidelines:

1. Members & guests should bring a main dish or side dish to share with others (serving approx. 12 people).
2. Members & guests should bring their own chairs, blankets, umbrellas and/or canopy.
3. Members & guests are welcome to bring games to play with others (**bocce ball, corn hole toss, ladder ball toss, etc.**)
4. Restrooms are located on the east side of the clubhouse next to the pool (accessible from the back door by the pool).

NOTE: If you are on a special diet, you're welcome to bring your own picnic lunch.

PLEASE RSVP USING THE GOOGLE LINK BELOW.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IVxOz_SmaX0mbIL_okJYAo5F_HPJHpFai99ltKNZtzg/edit?usp=sharing

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC THIS YEAR TO HELP CELEBRATE SUMMER!!!

August Assignment

Abstracts and Patterns

What is an abstract?

By its strictest definition abstract art "does not depict objects in the natural world, but instead uses color and form in a non-representational way." But it can be difficult to photograph objects in the natural world and have them completely lose all of their literal references. The challenge in abstract photography is to move from the literal presentation of the subjects in your image (trees, rocks, waves, architecture, objects, etc.) to creating images that are more impressionistic. Regardless of what you photograph, a good composition is going to involve one or more elements of design (line, shape, color, form, texture, space) and at least one principle that dictates how those elements are put together (pattern, balance, contrast, unity, rhythm, emphasis, movement). In abstract photography those elements and principles take on more meaning than the actual subject you are shooting.

Use the elements and principles of design

Regardless of what you photograph, a good composition is going to involve one or more elements of design (line, shape, color, form, texture, space) and at least one principle that dictates how those elements are put together (pattern, balance, contrast, unity, rhythm, emphasis, movement). In abstract photography those elements and principles take on more meaning than the actual subject you are shooting. Keep your eyes (and mind) open for how those elements present themselves.

Tighten the frame

This doesn't mean that using a longer lens automatically makes your final image a natural abstract, but it can help eliminate unwanted distractions that will pull focus away from the abstract elements that you are trying to capture. The same strategy applies when focusing in on smaller subjects. Getting in close can bring out parts of the whole that are easily overlooked. The pattern created by blades of grass, the shapes within an insect's wing, textures in a rocky surface - all of these can create interesting natural abstracts.

Keep it simple

Simple compositions often work best. Abstract photography and minimalism are not the same thing, but a minimalist approach will usually create a more engaging and visually appealing photograph. An important skill for any photographer to develop is to look beyond the big picture and see the smaller pieces that make up the scene. For every good photograph, what you leave out of the image is just as important as what you include. Always look for distracting elements in the frame and work to eliminate them.

Light changes everything

It's cliché to say that photography is all about the light, but that's what our cameras do, capture light. Color, contrast, texture and form are greatly impacted by the intensity, temperature and direction of the light. Whether it is harsh or soft, it is important to pay attention to the quality of light as it hits your intended subject. That said, harsh sunlight or flat lighting can work quite well when photographing abstracts.

Add a bit of water

Next to light itself, water is the most dynamic element in nature photography. Perfectly calm water can create some amazing reflections that add symmetry to the lines, patterns and forms of your abstract images. Small ripples and waves can make the light and reflections dance in interesting ways. Rapids, waterfalls, and larger waves can be used to document motion.

Move it!

A painterly effect can be created using intentional camera movement. Although the literal subject becomes distorted, the abstract elements, especially line, form, color and texture can be amplified. A shutter speed of 1/10 to 1/4s is usually ample. Just be sure to disengage the image stabilization in your body and/or lens as it will try to counteract your movements. Experiment with different motions and try softening the focus to create a dreamy effect.

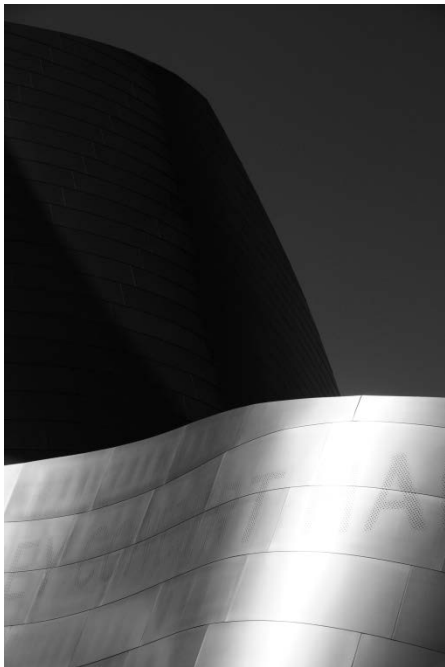
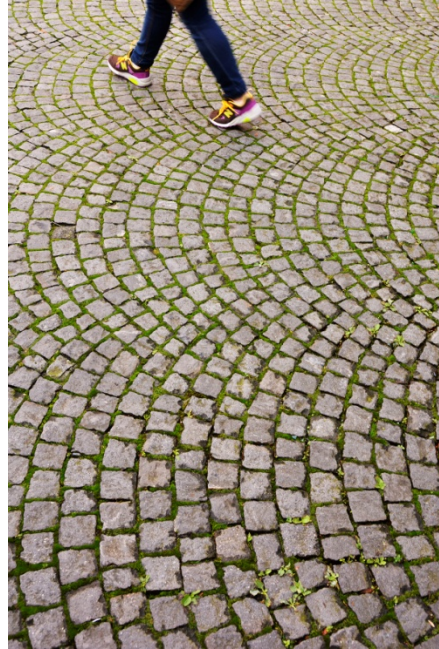
Not quite natural

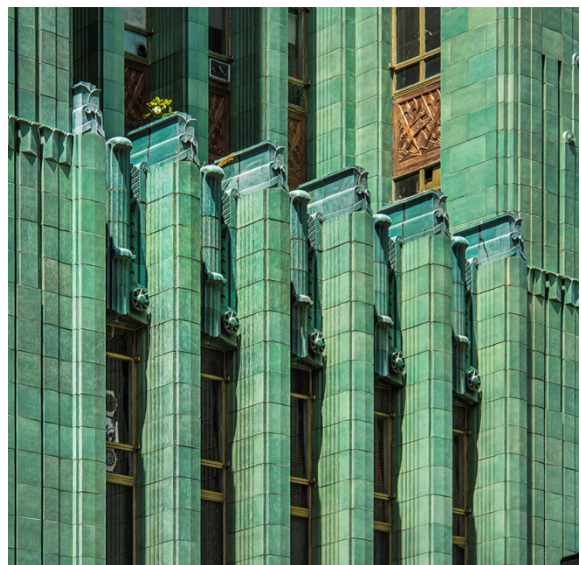
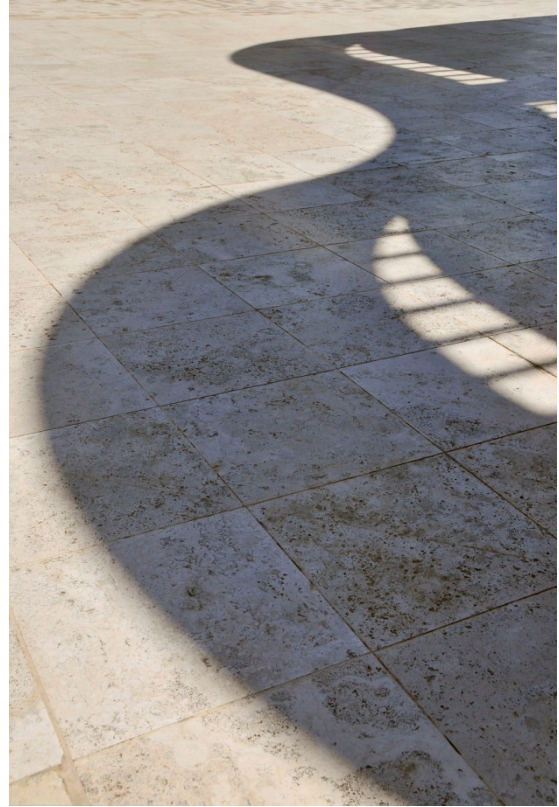
When it comes to abstracts human elements work beautifully. The regular geometry of what we construct can make for some interesting abstracts when thought is given to the overall composition. Urban environments can be a gold mine for the abstract photographer, but there are plenty of opportunities within a rural setting as well.

What are the key elements of a good abstract photo?

- Simplicity
- Composition
- Angle of View
- Lighting
- Harmony
- Mystery

Examples of abstracts and patterns







~ PSOC Field Trip ~

Santa Monica Pier

Sunday, August 9, 2026

General Information (310) 458-8900

<https://www.santamonicapier.org/>

Assignment:
ABSTRACT / PATTERNS

Check out Muscle Beach:

<https://www.santamonica.com/things-to-do/original-muscle-beach/>

Carpool

Meet at 8:30 a.m. (leave at 9:00 a.m.) at the end of AAA parking lot,
NE corner of Beach and Stark in Huntington Beach

Travel

Approximately 1 hour from Huntington Beach

Parking Options

Santa Monica Pier Parking Deck 1
1 Colorada Avenue
Santa Monica, 90401

Link to Pier Deck 1 Parking Lot:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&gl=us&um=1&ie=UTF-8&fb=1&sa=X&ftid=0x80c2bbc12c73e817:0xff4a3831424ea4fe>

https://www.google.com/maps/dir//Santa+Monica+Pier+Parking+Deck,+1+Colorado+Ave,+Santa+Monica,+CA+90404/@33.7604131,-117.8663071,15z/data=!4m8!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x80c2bbc12c73e817:0xff4a3831424ea4fe!2m2!1d-118.496739!2d34.0096217!5m1!1e2?entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI2MDQxNS4wIKXMDSASA FQAw%3D%3D

Santa Monica Pier Beach Parking Lot 1 North
1550 Pacific Coast Highway
Santa Monica, 90401

Parking open 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily

Link to Beach Parking Lot 1 North on Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=34.01052%2C-118.497318>

Lunch

Pier Burger “The Last Burger on Land” – 12:30 p.m.
330 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401
+13105872747

Recommended dishes

Pier Burger with Bacon

Santa Monica Pier Information

You know you've arrived in Santa Monica when you see the iconic Ferris wheel of the Santa Monica Pier jutting into the inviting waters of the Pacific Ocean. Set at Santa Monica's westernmost point, the Santa Monica Pier is a staple of this picturesque seaside community. Packed with family-friendly activities, restaurants and shops, it also has stunning views and over a century's worth of history.



Stop by the Pier Shop at the bottom of the ramp for **visitor info**, pier history, and official apparel.

HISTORY

Constructed in 1909, the storied Santa Monica Pier was the first concrete pier on the West Coast. It quickly gained a reputation among locals as the best fishing spot in Santa Monica. The Loeffl Hippodrome, now a National Historic Landmark and home to a beautiful carousel, opened in 1916, followed by the iconic carousel in 1939. In 1941, the Santa Monica Yacht Harbor neon sign was unveiled; this is the place for the perfect selfie!



PHOTO-TAKING OPPORTUNITIES AND FUN

The Santa Monica Pier is one of the most photographed locations in Southern California, offering a mix of vibrant neon lights, historic landmarks, and stunning coastal vistas.



This blue and white neon sign at the entrance is best photographed during the "blue hour" just after sunset when the lights pop against the darkening sky.

When one thinks of things to do in Santa Monica, the attraction of the Santa Monica Pier inevitably comes to mind. Pacific Park's red and yellow ferris wheel is a city treasure. The world's only solar-powered ferris wheel makes it a one of a kind.



For a bird's-eye perspective of the coastline and the pier's structure, take a ride on the wheel itself. It offers a unique angle looking back toward the city and down at the wooden planks.



Marvel at the historic Loeff Hippodrome Carousel, a National Historic Landmark. The building's unique architecture and the vintage horses inside offer great opportunities for colorful, nostalgic interior shots.

Located on the Pacific Park amusement park features a five-story West Coaster roller coaster, the nine-story Pacific Plunge tower ride, the only over-water miniature golf course, and the nine-story Pacific Wheel Ferris wheel – the only over-water Ferris wheel in California.



The Santa Monica Pier Aquarium is located at beach level under the historic Carousel. Featuring hands-on presentations and interactive exhibits, the aquarium is a part of Santa Monica's own "Heal the Bay" program, an initiative to educate, inspire and empower its visitors to be stewards of the environment.

The Playland Arcade is packed with over 200 games and attractions from the classic to the contemporary.



Fishing from the Santa Monica Pier is a popular pastime with residents and visitors. Pier Bait and Tackle offers gear, poles, and bait for fishing in the

Pacific Ocean.



Photographers often set up on the beach to the south of the pier to capture the wheel and roller coaster together.

For shooting Rows of Things, Gemini AI recommends:

- **Wooden Deck Planks:** Standing at the center of the pier and shooting toward the ocean creates a vanishing point effect with the rows of wooden boards. This is especially effective in the early morning light.
- **Under the Pier Piling:** The rows of concrete and wooden pillars beneath the pier create a "cathedral" effect. Lining up these pillars in your frame provides a dramatic sense of depth and rhythm.
- **Carousel Horses:** Inside the Hippodrome, the hand-carved horses are arranged in concentric circles. Shooting from a low angle along one of these circles allows you to capture a long row of vintage horses.
- **Midway Game Prizes:** The rows of stuffed animals and prizes at the carnival games offer vibrant pops of color and texture.
- **Ferris Wheel Spokes:** The structural beams of the Pacific Wheel create a repeating radial pattern that is particularly striking when the wheel is in motion or lit up at night.
- **Beach Umbrellas:** During the summer, the rows of colorful umbrellas and lounge chairs on the sand below create a bright, rhythmic pattern when viewed from an elevated angle on the pier.
- **Bicycle Racks:** Near the entrance and along the Ocean Front Walk, the rows of silver bike racks offer a modern, industrial pattern that contrasts with the natural beach setting.

2026 Summer Parking Rate Comparison

Location	Expected 2026 Rate	Best For
Pier Deck Lot	\$3.75/hr (\$18 max)	Direct pier access (Limited availability)
Lot 1 North	\$15–\$20 Flat Rate	Beach access & proximity
City Structures	\$1 (90 min) / ~\$20 Max	Short visits or mall access
Civic Center	~\$5 Flat Rate	Long-term budget parking

Note: This flyer was created with AI assistance.



Upstairs Gallery Show Registration Guidelines Huntington Beach Central Library September 1-30, 2026

Theme of the Show: “**Open**” (any subject)

PSOC members (who are currently paid up for 2026) can submit images in the Library Show.

Two Options for entering images:

OPTION 1: You can enter up to 4 images for an **entry fee of \$15.00 per image**. They will be displayed on one or more of the forty (40) 4-foot panels.

OPTION 2: You can enter 6 images for **one entry fee of \$75.00**. They will be displayed on one of the ten (10) 6-foot center panels (and a 4-foot panel, if available).

Note: The entry fees help cover the cost of the HBAL panel rental, HB library insurance and security, and the PSOC reception which will be held on Saturday-September 12th.

You can pay your entry fee either with a “**direct payment**” on our **PSOC website**, or you can **mail a check (payable to PSOC) to Dan Anderson (treasurer)** at 5051 Linda Circle, Huntington Beach 92649 (reference ‘PSOC Library Show’), or give Dan a check at one of our June or July LENS or General meetings.

How to do a “Direct Payment” on the PSOC website:

1. Go to **PSOC.NET** and click on “**Club Dues and Events**.” Then click on either \$15 per image, Max 4 or \$75 for Six Images for a 6 Ft panel.
2. Example: Click on \$15 per image, select “**Quantity**”: 1, 2, 3 or 4 images. You’ll see a total fee of \$15, \$30, \$45 or \$60, respectively. Click on “**Add to Cart**” and then click on “**Checkout**.”

3. Click on and fill out a **Payment Method** (*i.e.* Paypal, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo) and fill out the **Customer and Delivery Details**. Click on “**Continue**” and complete your payment transaction.

Black frames with white matting are preferred, but not mandatory. They must be wired for hanging. Refer to PSOC document: “**How to Wire Your Photographs.**” Plexiglas is preferred, but glass can be used. If glass is used, it’s the member’s responsibility if any damages are incurred.

Note: If you would like to submit a non-framed image (*i.e.* frameless, metal, acrylic, canvas), please contact Kurt Bayless at kbayless123@gmail.com to confirm the type of non-framed image and hanging method (*i.e.* wire or hook).

1. Because of panel space limitations, we **recommend** that your framed images be ***no larger than 22x28 inches***. Note: Any frame size larger than 22”x28” must be pre-approved.
2. The deadline is **Friday-August 14th** to pay your entry fee with “direct payment” to the PSOC website, or mail a check to Dan Anderson (hdwman13@reagan.com), or give Dan a check at the June or July LENS or General meeting, and also to submit your photo information to Kurt Bayless (kbayless123@gmail.com) so the exhibitor tags can be created prior to the show opening.
3. **PHOTO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER AUGUST 14th**. This is necessary because of the time it takes to create the exhibitor tags.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL REGISTRATION:

- a. Your full name.
- b. Number of images submitted - up to 4 images for 4-foot panels or up to 6 images for 6-foot panels.
- c. Title and Location of each image (*Example:* “El Capitan” and “Yosemite National Park”).
- d. Frame dimensions for each image.
- e. Cell phone number where you can be reached.
- f. Sale Price (if ‘For Sale’), or “NFS” (if ‘Not for Sale’), or “POR” (if ‘Price on Request’).
- g. **Drop off your images in the Upstairs Gallery on Monday-August 31st between 1:00-9:00 pm.**
DO NOT HANG YOUR IMAGES!!! Please leave your images against one of the panels.
Our library committee will hang all the images on Tuesday, September 1st.
- h. **Pick up your images on Wednesday-September 30th between 9:00 am-9:00 pm.**

We’ll have a RECEPTION with light refreshments on Saturday-September 12th from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Upstairs Gallery. PSOC members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

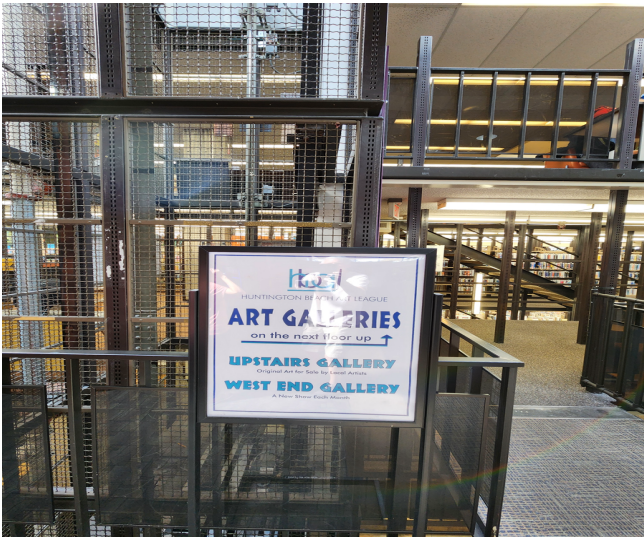
Click on the Google link below to sign up for the September Library Show. This includes submitting your photo information and paying your entry fee ***no later than August 14, 2026.***

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oPHEYge8l6rwW-SonAwYucM6hcJJPyPk-WIj8Cimi3A/edit?usp=sharing>



Reception Invitation

**Photographic Society of Orange County
September 2026 Upstairs Gallery Show
Huntington Beach Central Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach**



**Show Dates:
September 1-30, 2026**

PSOC members and their guests are cordially invited to attend the PSOC Reception being held in the Upstairs Gallery. Light refreshments (appetizers, wine, coffee, water) will be served. We hope to see you there.

**Saturday, September 12th
from 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

This is your opportunity to see some great photography taken by fellow members of the Photographic Society of Orange County (PSOC).

Central Library hours:

Monday: 1 PM - 9 PM

Tuesday – Thursday: 9 AM - 9 PM

Friday & Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday: 12 PM - 5 PM

HOW TO WIRE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

D-Ring Hangers

D-ring hangers are **required**. Make sure the wood frame is thick enough to screw in the D-rings. Drill a small pilot hole for the screw so that it doesn't split the wood frame when installing the D-ring. The D-ring should be installed from **4-1/2 to 5-1/2 inches** from the top of the frame. *No sawtooth hangers.*

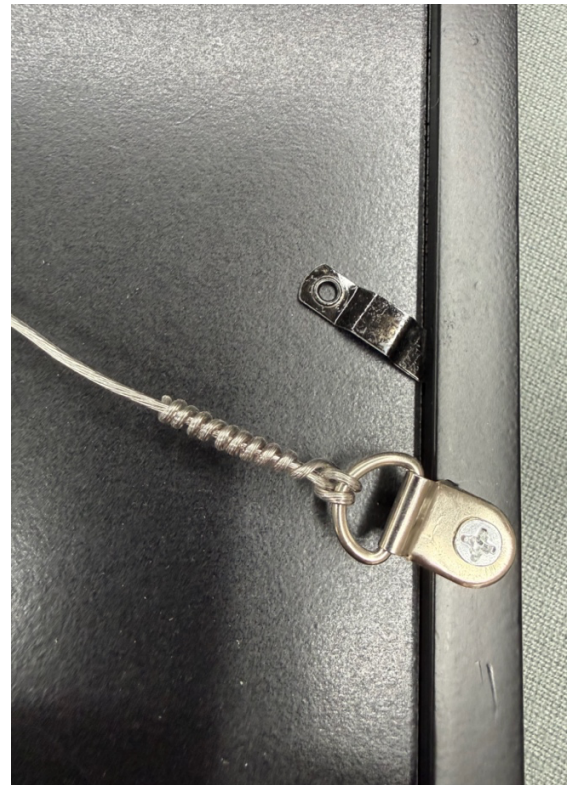
See picture below.

Hanging Wire

A multi-strand "coated" wire is **required**. The ends of the wire should be secured so they don't poke into the back of the photo.

Hanging wire is looped through the D-ring hangers, wrapped several times around itself and securely knotted. The apex of the wire should be **at least 2 inches** below the top of the frame.

See picture below.



PSOC PHOTO ENTRY FORMS

SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2026 SHOW

#1 PHOTO DETAILS					
Photographer	Title	Location	Frame Size	Color or B&W	Price

#2 PHOTO DETAILS					
Photographer	Title	Location	Frame Size	Color or B&W	Price

#3 PHOTO DETAILS					
Photographer	Title	Location	Frame Size	Color or B&W	Price

#4 PHOTO DETAILS					
Photographer	Title	Location	Frame Size	Color or B&W	Price

NOTE 1: Please cut out and attach the completed entry forms to the back of your photographs.

NOTE 2: Show PRICE (if 'For Sale'), NFS (if 'Not For Sale'), or POR (if 'Price On Request').



Our Members Have Been Busy with Great Accomplishments

2026 OC Fair

(At least) Nancy Phillips, Jennie Breeze, Rick Taketomo, Dan Anderson and Lee Gillham had entries accepted to the OC Fair.

**Irvine Fine Art Center's
42nd Irvine Annual**



"Sea of China" Jennie Breeze

Exhibition Dates:
July 11th - September 5th, 2026

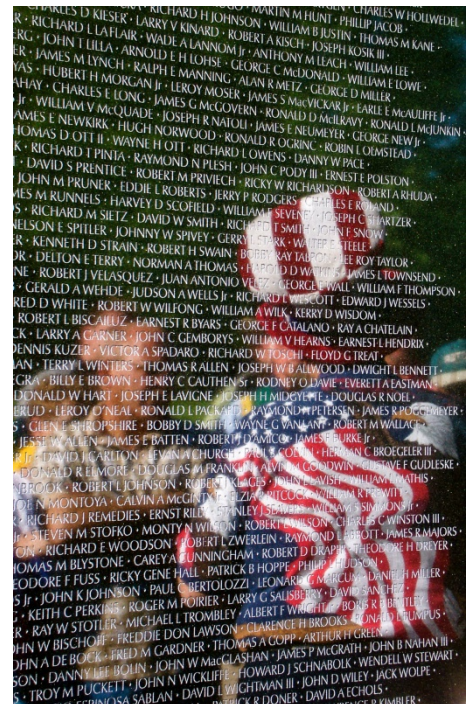
Reception:
Saturday, July 11th
2 to 4 p.m.

IRVINE FINE ARTS CENTER
14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine 92604

Website: jennie-breeze.artistwebsites.com

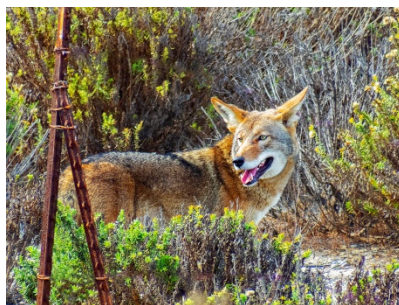
Jennie Breeze has a photo on display at the Irvine Annual Exhibition.

Kurt's photo was accepted in the Huntington Beach Art Center juried exhibit, "Observations: Photography by Veterans," which runs from May 26th to August 22th. Reception on July 24th from 5:00-8:00 pm See <https://www.huntingtonbeachartcenter.org/veteransphotoshow-995749.html> for more details.



Eric Stogner received a second place award at the Sunset Beach Mother's Day show, see <https://sunsetbeachartfestival.net/gallery/> for details.

Kurt Bayless had three photos accepted for the 2026 Wings Over Bolsa calendar (<https://bclandtrust.org/blog/tag/wings-over-bolsa/>).



Rick Taketomo: Rick entered the following photo of a Vermillion Flycatcher to the Monarch Bay photo contest. While it did not win a prize, it is featured on their website (<https://www.monarchbayplaza.com/photography-contest-submissions.html>)



Annette Globits sold a black and white photo from her Mannequin Series, “Star Spangled Mannequin” shown at the Art Lecture at the Oasis Senior Center.



PICTURE THIS

Chinky Shukla

Chinky Shukla is a documentary photographer based in New Delhi, India. Her work explores the themes of cultural assimilation, human condition, memory and the environment. The majority of her projects are long form photo stories looking through the layers - documenting lives, building relationships, and gaining trust - using her camera to amplify important stories. Since 2011, she has been documenting the far-reaching consequences of nuclear radiation in India. Her photo project on the impact the uranium mining in Jadugoda, a township in the state of Jharkhand in India, led the State High Court to issue a suo motu cognisance on the mining company following national newspaper Hindustan times article featuring her photo project in 2014. The photo project has been awarded Public prize in Days Japan International Photojournalism Awards. Her ongoing photo project, supported by the National Geographic Society, documents the region of Pokhran in Rajasthan, India, which has been a significant site for nuclear testing since 1974. Through this project, she aims to bring attention to the lived experiences of individuals and communities impacted by nuclear tests, shedding light on their struggles, resilience, and the broader social dynamics at play. This work has been nominated for Leica Oskar Barnack Award 2023.



Suggested PSOC Critique Guidelines

PSOC was founded as a platform for image sharing and supportive self-improvement. With the expanded utilization of outside professional photographers to critique the members' submitted images, that mission has evolved into a shared desire to become more proficient in the art and craft of photography.

It is the responsibility of those who critique to foster that desire and encourage and **teach** the members through that critique. The critique should be a careful review of the images accompanied by an **opinion** regarding the overall strength of the image, as well as an **opinion** regarding the artistic and technical aspects of the image presented. Although the spectrum of photographers showing images includes beginners as well as some who are very advanced, learning and growth should be encouraged at all levels. The following guidelines have been formulated to bring a consistency of format to the critiques. These are not checklists, just suggestions to help the critiquers help our members improve their photographic craft.

1. What is your overall first impression? What impact does the image have for you? What do you like about the photograph? **Be concise**. Remember you are teaching *all* the members as well as the contributing photographer.
2. What **constructive** comments can you make? How does the composition and framing work? How does your eye take in the elements of the image? What gets your attention, and why? Note use of techniques like "rule" of thirds, leading lines, framing, patterns, lighting choices, and other visual elements. What helpful comments can you make?
3. How do you see the technical and processing factors contributing to the image? This may include perspective, exposure, highlight detail, shadow detail, bright and dark areas, contrast; processing of color or black and white, luminescence, contrast, vignetting, dodging, burning, and cropping.
4. Make it clear that your comments are all **your opinion** on how **you** might do it differently, based on your experience, personal style, vision, and processing preferences. Other artists/photographers may often see the image differently.
5. How might you encourage the photographer? Remember, the photographer has a reason to show this work and obviously feels good about it. **You are encouraged to ask the photographer to comment on what they were seeing and expressing in the image. We would also like you to encourage the members in attendance to participate through questions and comments.**
6. Although the title slide for each member's submittal does not need to be critiqued, an outstanding title image can be *quickly* noted.
7. **Please be concise in your comments.** The meetings are scheduled for two hours, and there can often be well over 100 images submitted.

Wall Hangers



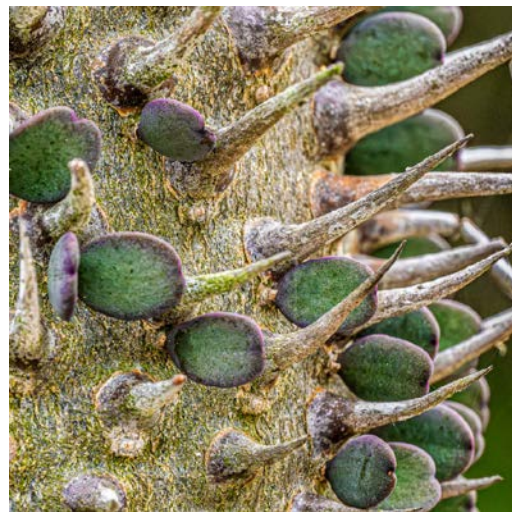
Annette Globits



Carol Calkins



Lee Gillham



Marilyn Hettick



Jim Parenzan



Mike Whitmore



Rick Taketomo