

the *Lens Paper*

*The North County Photographic Society...Inspired by Photography,
Powered by Volunteers!*

FEBRUARY 2007

PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR MEETING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY PROGRAM (Feb. 28, 2007)

Jim Respass: Conceptual Photography



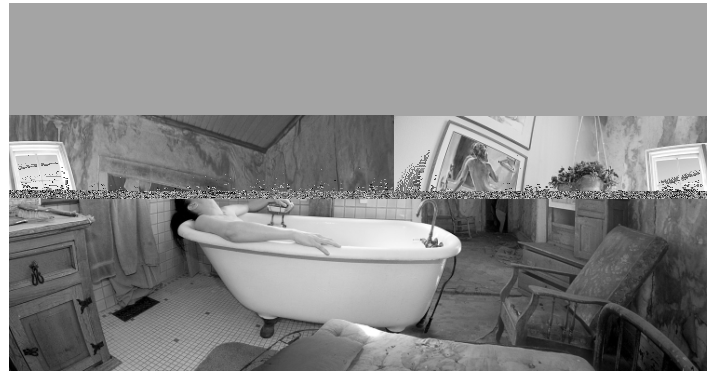
Jim Respass has been taking photographs since receiving his first camera out of a cereal box, at the age of ten. Although Jim has had careers as a Musician, a Surgical Assistant, a Research Scientist and a Fine Art Printer, making photographic art has been a passion for most of his life. Between stints of formal education, he has traveled throughout the United States, Canada,

Mexico and countries of Europe, including two 10,000 mile motorcycle trips that took him from Scotland to Turkey.

Jim and Jan Respass moved to San Diego after four years in Ann Arbor, Michigan where Jim received a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology. He was recruited as a founding scientist for a local biotech company where he designed retroviral vectors for human gene therapy products. When the company was bought out by a larger corporation it was time for a new career.

Jim's principal goal in his new career of photography was to make art. His first step was to go back to school to get some more photography and darkroom training. It was there that he discovered the Photoshop software. "My immediate fascination with Photoshop was similar to my attraction to DNA technology. So many of the crazy things I was trying

to do in the camera and in the darkroom were now facilitated with that software." While Jim's art has progressed, resulting in prizes in local, national and international art exhibitions, he has also developed a digital printing business, Green Flash Photography. Since 1999, he has been printing professionally, making fine art reproductions (giclée) for visual artists and exhibition prints for photographers. "One of my greatest challenges now is balancing the time between the ever growing printing business and making art."



Jim will present his art of conceptual photography. "I am in the business of creating images that document ideas rather than events." He will present manipulated images that attempt to go beyond what the eye can see. "I am interested in how we perceive things and how visual images can be made to embody not only other elements of perception but also concepts such as time and narrative."

PRESIDENTS CORNER by Stan John

Our January meeting was conducted as a 'Critique Night' with Jim Cline, Blake Shaw, and Carolyn Taylor providing their experience and expertise to guide us all towards improving our images. The session began about 6:45 and ran until shortly before

9 pm with just a short break at the half way point. WOW! What a wonderful night we all had. Many members have come to me to say how much they enjoyed the program; there have been no negative comments.

The technical quality of the images shown was quite good so most of the guidance given centered on composition and lighting with some minor comments on subject matter.

A Primary Point of Interest. It was pointed out that most images need to have a primary point of interest such that your eye is immediately drawn to it. Often a white, or very light, area outside of the primary area distracts the viewer and should be burnt in. In many cases it is possible to use naturally occurring lines in the image to lead the eye to the primary point. Often a little light burning around the edges can be used to hold the eye in the scene. Changing your point of view by moving in or out, up or down can dramatically change the way the point of interest is perceived. As a general rule of thumb, the point of interest should fall near a one-third point in the image.

Cropping is important and should be used to reduce an excess of sky or foreground. The old expression 'fill the frame' comes to mind. That is, let the point of interest occupy a major portion of the image. Much of this can be accomplished 'in the camera' by moving a little closer to the subject or zooming in. At the same time we shouldn't forget that we need some area around the point of interest to give the scene context.

Lighting is another key to making a prize-winning image. In the studio we can control this by a combination of spots, softboxes, umbrellas, scrims and reflectors. In the outdoor world many of these can be used for close scenes but the primary lighting source is the sun and sky. Here we must carefully choose the time of day and weather. The first two hours starting shortly before sunrise and the last two hours before and shortly after sunset are often called the 'golden hours', or as John Sexton refers to them as the wonders of the 'Quiet Light'. It is in this time period that we get strong angled shadows and heightened colors. Sometimes it is necessary to return to an area several times to get 'just the right light'.

Subject Matter. Naturally this is of critical importance in making our prize-winning image. The WOW factor is very important. In still life and portraiture, where the subject is portable, you should select the background first. When you are traveling and something grabs you and makes you say WOW you know you are on the right track. The next question is to decide what really makes the scene. Is it the unique lighting or the subject itself? If it's the lighting you must quickly look for the best position to capture the image before the light changes or the clouds are blown away. If it's the subject, it's time to start thinking about the lighting. Should you come back later in the day, or in the morning? Perhaps wait for a day with pretty clouds. Do you want soft overcast lighting or the hard light of direct sun? Check the background in landscapes because the foreground focus of attention needs to be placed exactly where you want it. If you don't have a point of emphasis, you simply have a 'nice view'. Always scan the four borders for intrusive elements and use a tripod whenever practical.

When I first started looking at photography in the late '40s I loved the images often found on calendars and travel posters. I thought if I could travel and capture such images I would be fulfilled. Well times have changed. Now people use the term 'calendar image' as a derogatory term to describe a beautiful image. Similarly images of popular scenes, e.g. Half Dome, St. Basils, Taj Mahal etc., are considered too commonplace to be considered in most contests. The judges simply say 'ho-hum, I've seen that 1000 times before', and move on to the less photographed scenes. Many people say, "Why should I take a picture of (X) when dozens of photographers have already captured the scene far better than I could ever accomplish?" Well, that's the way it goes, I guess we all have to grow with the times but a good calendar or travel poster still makes my blood circulate.

MEMBER SHARE by Barbara Swanson

This month's membershare topic is "Go Crazy/Try Something New". This topic is to help everyone increase their tools in their photography tool box, and should feature photographs that are very recent. Please bring in up to two to share.

It is usually much easier to keep doing what you know instead of trying something new that may not work. The goal of this is not to immediately produce masterpieces, since if you are truly trying something new you probably won't be very successful with it at first. However, over time you can improve the new techniques, and also inspire others to try them.

Possible ideas are to try functions you've never used in your camera; camera movement; something new in Photoshop (such as exploring saturation and color changes), etc. What about totally new subjects or a totally new approach to a favorite subject? Above all you should have fun with this.

In addition to finding new photography tools, you may also want to consider finding new ways to use your photography. Photography is all about sharing, and there are many ways that you can share your pictures. Have you tried making cards, prints or business cards for friends or family? What about donating your photography to a local community cause? We recently saw an excellent example of this with the calendar that Sharon Anthony made for a fundraiser for the Batiquitos Lagoon. From personal experience I know how much you can get back from sharing your pictures, and I would encourage everyone to consider doing this.

MEMBER PROFILE by Doug Burgess



I was born in Terre Haute Indiana in 1940 but my father was in the Army so we moved every four years. I got my first camera in 1948 while we were in Munich Germany, it was an Ansco Panda. Just before leaving Germany in 1952 I scrambled to get a photo of a funny beetle shaped car since I thought I would never see one again and it would be a real

curiosity. Can you guess what it was? Thereafter we lived in Philadelphia, North Carolina and Sendai Japan and other places as well. I got an M.A. in math from Cal Sate L.A. and began a career in the brand new industry of software engineering. Then in 1965 I married and when our first child was born I bought my second camera (after a 20 year hiatus) it was one of the first modern SLRs, a Miranda Sensorex. I had a built-in light meter, which really amazed me.

Thing really started moving when we moved to Carlsbad and I took a dark room course taught by Willa Burns and Dave Allen. Seeing your pictures pop out in



a tray of developer was energizing, I repeated the course several times. I bought several film cameras including a vintage Leica and a Hassleblad with several lenses. They now sit abandoned in a closet. (I am willing to sell them) One day I was in a dark room and had spent several hours on my feet working on a print and had an epiphany, I would go digital. I have never looked back. Then I retired from a company that specialized in image processing from remote sensors.. Since then I joined our photo club and especially enjoyed the long gone digital seminars by Jim Respass. I win a few awards from time to time but mostly enjoy expressing myself through images and

decorating our home with them. I volunteer as a docent at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa park and I invite you to Insight Gallery tours I will give for the Annie Leibovitz show on March 8 at 6:00 pm and March 11 at 3:00 pm. As a last note I have converted my D70 to a dedicated infra-red camera and hope to show you some of the results.

PHOTO SHOOTS by Al Schlegel
February's Photo Shoot – hosted by Bob Cameron
Huntington Estate – February 10, 2007

There are now three new venues at the Huntington Estate that most of the NCPS members have not yet seen. The first of these is a glass and steel building reminiscent of a Victorian conservatory. Inside the Conservatory are three biospheres representing a steamy jungle, a mist covered mountaintop and a desert. The second new venue presents the lake, bridges and plants of the Chinese Garden. The Chinese Garden's teahouse complex will be constructed in late spring. The third new venue is the Children's Garden. For those members that feel that photographers can learn some pointers about composition from old master artist, there will be a traveling exhibition of John Constable. Not a few art historians believe that Constable is the greatest landscape artist of all time.

The admission fee for the Huntington is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors age 65+. It is the Huntington policy that cameras and tripods are allowed throughout the gardens but tripods and flash cannot be used for photos taken inside the art galleries or other buildings. There will be a tripod sitter (probably the leader) for those members that wish to photograph the beautiful artifacts inside the buildings.

Members who plan to carpool should rendezvous at 8:30 am in the Batiquitos Park and Ride parking lot. This parking lot is near the intersection of La Costa Avenue and Highway 5. The Huntington is about 100 miles from Batiquitos Park and Drive and the trip will take about 2 hours. Since the Huntington opens at 10:30 am, we should arrive near opening time. Before departing, maps will be handed out. In addition, information will be given on such important issues as the initial Huntington meeting place and where the gang will eat lunch.

If you have questions about this outing, please contact the leader via e-mail (rcamero3@san.rr.com) and/or by telephone: 858-456-3862. Add'l information can be obtained at <http://www.huntington.org/>. Rain cancels the event.

March Photo Shoot – hosted by The Smiths
UC-San Diego – March 10, 2007

The University of California, San Diego, established in 1960, has become one of the leading institutions of higher education in the U.S. You may be familiar with some of its interesting architecture, but did you know it also houses an outstanding collection of outdoor sculpture by leading artists of our time, the Stuart Collection? The Sun God, a Snake Path, a Red Shoe, Talking Trees, and most recently, Bear, a 65-ton rock Teddy Bear. Brochures will be available at our next meetings.

We will meet at 10am at the Sun God. A docent will tell us a little about the Stuart Collection and answer our questions. And then we are free to wander around the campus with our maps and photo equipment. Parking is free on weekends (except at specially marked spaces); there are two large parking lots near the Sun God. Lunch is available at the Price Center.

Directions: I-5 to Genesee. Go west to North Torrey Pines Road. Go south to Almahurst Row/Muir College Drive. Turn east onto the UCSD campus.

There are two large parking lots on the right and a smaller one further on from which you can see the Sun God. (I usually use the second lot on the right which is most likely to have space!) At 10am there should be lots of parking available. Allow plenty of time (15 minutes) if you are not familiar with the campus.

The Photo Shoot should be a lot of fun. Please join us!

April Photo Shoot – hosted by Carrie Barton
Tide Pools – April 14, 2007 – approx. 1pm

There will be a minus 0.5 foot tide at 1:53pm. Details are still to be decided, but here's a general heads' up for your calendar...! Location will be Point Loma or La Jolla (please email Carrie Barton at ouraydog@cox.net if you have experience with the tide pools and have a preference/favorite place!). Specifics will be nailed down and given out in March.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members!

George Lamson - Carlsbad
Charles Carr - Carlsbad

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacque Thye had two photos accepted into the all-photo juried show at the Front Porch Gallery. The show runs until March 11th. Both her photos are from her recent trip to China with the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

From February 10 until April 22, the San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA) will be the first West Coast venue to host **Annie Liebovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005**. This large scale retrospective contains approximately 200 photographs from the legendary photographer. Although few contemporary photographers can rival Liebovitz in sheer popularity and familiarity, this show includes many less familiar images that the artist produced for her personal purpose.

SPONSORS

The NCPS thanks the following Annual Photography Exhibition sponsors. Please show your appreciation by visiting them.

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<p>Calumet San Diego 830 West Valley Parkway Suite 330 Escondido, CA 92025 800-451-6650 www.calumetphoto.com</p>	<p>George's Photo & Video Exchange 3837 30th Street San Diego, CA 92104 619-297-3544 www.georgescamera.com</p>
<p>Kurt's Camera Repair 7811 Mission Gorge Rd # P San Diego, CA 92120 (619) 286-1810 www.kurtscamerarepair.com</p>	<p>Modern Postcard 1675 Faraday Ave Carlsbad, CA 92008 800-959-8365 www.modernpostcard.com</p>
<p>Nelson Photo 1909 India Street San Diego, CA 92101 619-234-6621 www.nelsonphotosupplies.com</p>	<p>Oceanside Photo and Telescope 918 Mission Ave Oceanside, CA 92054 760-722-3348 www.optcorp.com</p>
<p>Photo Art of Carlsbad 2744 Carlsbad Blvd., Ste. 116 Carlsbad, CA 92008 760-729-1960 www.photoartofcarlsbad.com</p>	<p>Total Photo 118 S. Solana Hills Dr Solana Beach, CA 92075 858-755-6311 www.totalphoto.net</p>

SILVER LEVEL

<p>Encinitas Photo Center 967 S. Coast Highway 101 #107B Encinitas, CA 92024 760-436-0562 www.encinitas101.com/encinitasphoto.htm</p>	<p>Green Flash Photography 4966 Lamont Street Pacific Beach, CA 92109 858-272-1926 www.greenflashphotography.com</p>
<p>Jim Cline Photo Tours 11223-5 Carmel Creek Road San Diego, CA 92130 858-350-1314 www.jimcline.com</p>	<p>North Coast Photographic Services 5451 Avenida Encinas, Suite D Carlsbad, CA 92008 760-931-6809 www.northcoastphoto.com</p>
<p>The Ordovery Gallery Studio 172 444 S. Cedros Ave Solana Beach, CA 92075 858-720-1121 www.ordovergallery.com</p>	<p>PC Photo & Imaging 127 N. El Camino Real Encinitas, CA 92024 760-632-1790 www.pc-photo.net</p>
<p>Professional Photographic Repair 7910 Raytheon Road San Diego, CA 92111 858-277-3700 www.procamerarepair.com</p>	<p>Michael Seewald Photo Workshops 835 N. Vulcan Ave. Suite B Encinitas, CA 92024 760-633-1351 www.seewald.com</p>

February 2007 Meeting

Wednesday, February 28, 2007
Quail Botanical Garden, Encinitas
Ecke Building Meeting Room
Enter Front Gate - **Exit Rear Gate**
Front Gate is Locked at 7:00 p.m.

- 6:00 p.m. - Front Gate Opens**
- 6:15 p.m. - Sign-in & Refreshments**
- 6:30 p.m. - Announcements & Member Greeting**
- 6:45 p.m. - Member Share**
- 7:15 p.m. - Break & Refreshments**
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Presentation**
- Donations: First-time guests free/returning guests \$3.00**

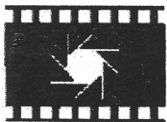
TO REACH NCPS

Web Site: www.nc-photo.org

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP TEAM

President	Stan John	To contact an individual Team Member go to our Web Site and click on CONTACTS and then on the person you wish to contact.
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Treasurer	Nancy Jennings	
Secretary	Nancy Telford	
Gatekeeper	Ed Stalder	
Hospitality	Judi Works	
Mailbox	Jack Jennings	
Membership	Al Joseph	
Newsletter	Terri Spath	
Photo Shoots	Al Schlegel	
Programs	Barbara Royer	
Publicity	Carrie Barton	
Reception	Darlene Ashley	
Web Site	Fred Heinzmann	

NOTE: Please place NCPS in the Subject line of all correspondence.



**North
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