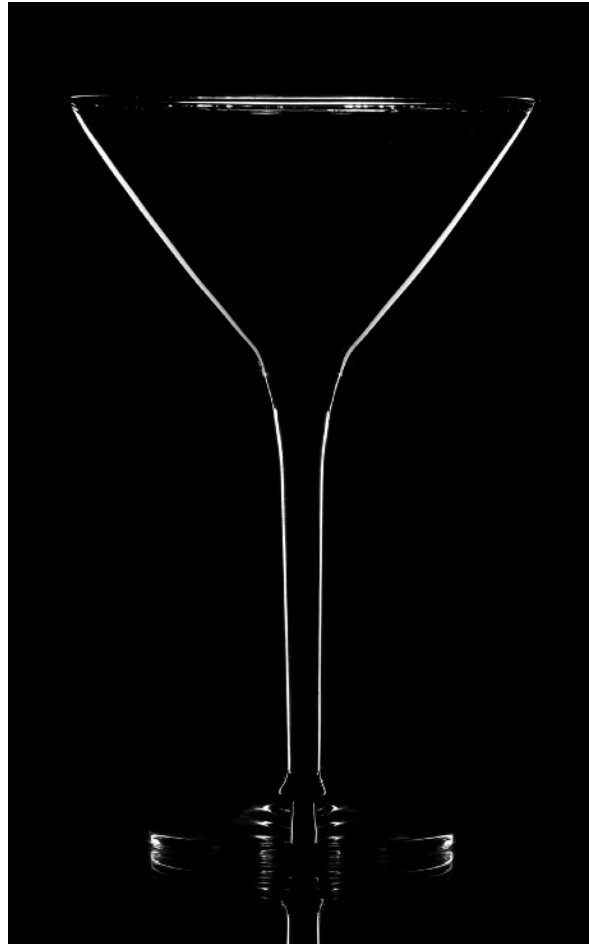


DECEMBER, 2023

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980

crystallakecameraclub.com



Cocktail Glass Rim Lighting

Monochrome by Kevin Getty

See article, Pages 9 - 10

EXPLORE THIS ISSUE

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IMAGES FROM THE NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL



A Hard Life



Toy Pride



Father & Son

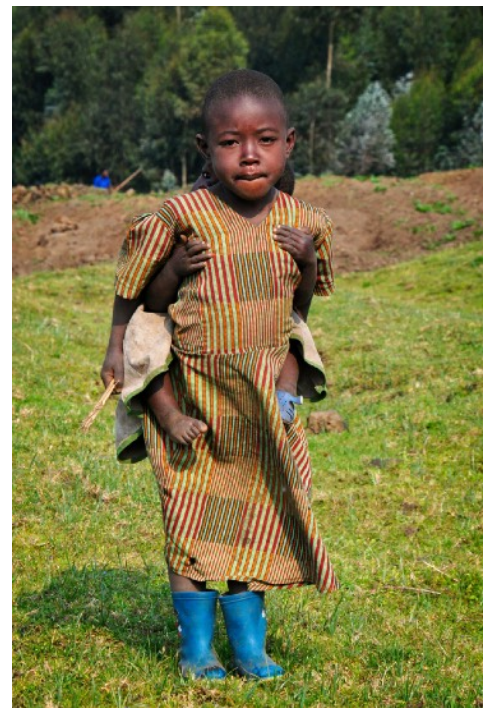
The six images on this page were taken by Scott Larsen during a recent trip to Rwanda and Uganda. Most were taken from the tour bus.



Curious Gaze



Friendly Wave



Rwandan Big Sister

IMAGES FROM THE NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL



These four images are from Doug Frey, taken at a recent visit to the Morton Arboretum.



IMAGES FROM THE NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL

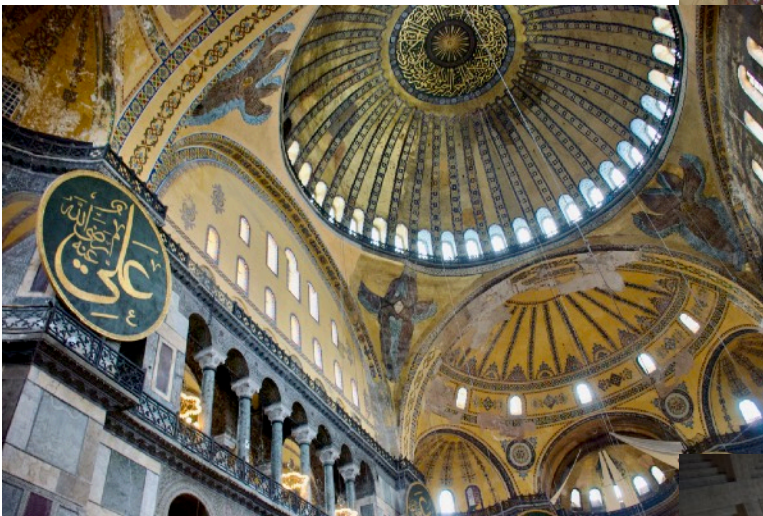


These four images are taken by Steven Szalaj, from a recent trip to the Mediterranean.

Dome of St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City (1590)



The Blue Mosque, Istanbul (1617)



Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (537 AD)



Dome & Oculus, Pantheon, Rome (125 AD)

IMAGES FROM THE NOVEMBER BEFORE & AFTER



Before



After

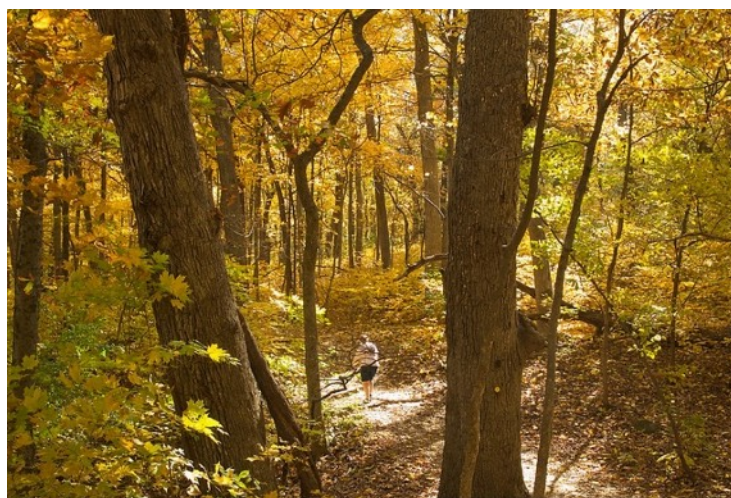
Iris by Pat Jorgenson

Pat said: "I was looking for something that would "pop" to put on my wall. I used **ON1 2024** in post processing. They have a new Artificial Intelligence that will analyze your picture and give you a suggestion. AI will automatically adjust brightness, exposure, blacks, whites, sharpness, contrast, etc. From there I was given sliders I could use to adjust any change AI made. From what I could tell ON1 adjusted the brightness, contrast, sharpness, and color saturation. I didn't do much after the AI suggestion except make the purple color more vivid. If anyone wants to check out "ON1 2024," there is a free trial option. Here is a link: www.on1.com."

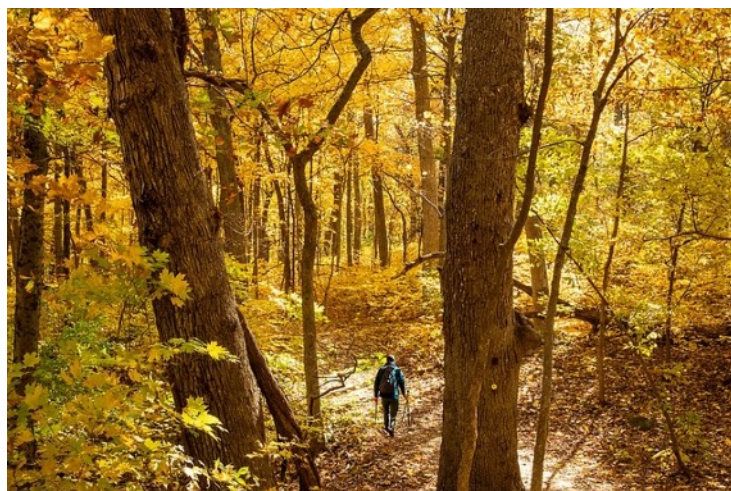
Hiking by Doug Frey

Doug said:

1. In Lightroom CC as a starting point, I used a preset from Woodland Presets called Dark Woods #9.
2. Adjusted tone, vibrance, and saturation to my liking.
3. Sent image to Photoshop.
3. Used new generative fill tool to remove my wife from behind the branches.
4. Used generative fill tool again to add the hiker. I selected where I wanted to add a hiker and using key word "hiker in woods."
5. Used the transform tool to get the correct proportion for the hiker.
6. Saved the new file and back to Lightroom CC.
7. Done.



Before



5

After

IMAGES FROM THE NOVEMBER BEFORE & AFTER



Before

Windmill on Mykonos, Greece by Steven Szalaj

“Taken at ISO 100, f/8; edits include cropping, removing power lines and blemishes on foreground buildings, enhancing sky color.”



After



Before

View Through The Frame

by Steven Szalaj

“This was a free-standing, open frame next to the harbor on Mykonos, Greece, so you could take a photo through the frame. Shot at ISO 100, f/14 to get the detail of the frame and the harbor. Edits included cropping, straightening, removing the blemishes around the frame, and enhancing the color and detail.”



After

Tips and Snippets

Submitted by Judy Jorgensen, CLCC President

Excerpts from: 23 Photography Tips for Beginners

TRIPOD OR NO TRIPOD - Landscape, architectural, and still life photographers “better have a good excuse if they aren’t using a tripod.”

- Macro is another case where tripods are essential.
- High magnifications - low light - long shutter speeds are needed for excellent macro work
- Even if using a flash, it is very difficult to get the plane of focus right = tripod
- Event - action - travel photography = a tripod will slow you down, might not be worth the hassle “but, know that you are missing out whenever you leave your tripod at home.”



NIKON D810 + TAMRON 15-30mm F2.8 VC USD @ 22mm, ISO 64, 1/5, f/11.0

PAY ATTENTION TO THE EDGES OF YOUR COMPOSITION

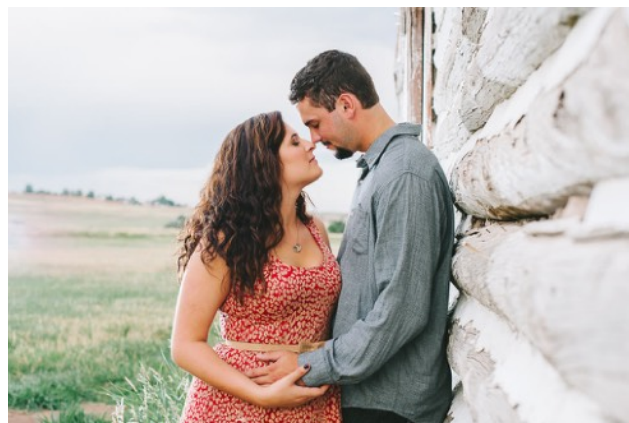
- Edges have an exaggerated impact on the ‘feel’ of your photo.
- Does your subject have breathing room - not uncomfortably up against the edge of the image, especially if facing the edge.
- Don’t cut off important elements - like the top of a mountain - unless you have a very good reason.
- Remember, distractions draw more attention if they are close to the edge of the image because they draw the viewer’s attention further from the main subject.



NIKON D7000 + 24mm f/1.4 @ 24mm, ISO 100, 1 second, f/11.0

FLASHES AREN’T JUST FOR DARK ENVIRONMENTS

- Get good results at an event with an external flash, tilted up at the ceiling, on a 50mm or longer lens.
- Flashes are useful outdoors even in the middle of the day = fill flash for shadows on your subject.
- Your camera’s built-in flash is more useful on a bright, sunny day than in the dark.



Taken with flash, image by Lola Mansurov

(Tips & Snippets, continued)

DIRTY, DUSTY, SMUDGED LENS = blurry photos
100% of the time

- There is always a little bit of dust which won't impact your image.
- But, never cleaned off grime and fingerprints are another matter.
- Use a microfiber cloth and lens cleaning solution, maybe once a week
- Do not rub a cloth on a dry glass.



CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings start at 7PM and are at the Algonquin Township Building, 3702 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake in **Meeting Room 2**. Enter at the back of the building.

December 12	Competition (Submissions are now closed) Show & Tell, Before & After
January 9	Show & Tell, Before & After
February 13	Competition

Show & Tell and **Before & After** have provided some lively, informative conversations for CLCC attendees. Great suggestions for outings and club offerings have come from these activities.

For Show & Tell: submit 3-4 JPG images to Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net) on the **Sunday before the meeting date**.

For Before & After: submit *pairs of JPG images* to Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net) on the **Sunday before the meeting date**. The pairs would include the image as it came out of the camera and the image after post-processing. Be prepared to tell (and even show) the changes that were made.

HOW TO ENTER THE FEBRUARY, 2024 COMPETITION

- Only DPI images (JPG) will be accepted for entry (no prints until further notice).
- No more than 2 Color images and 4 Mono images per entrant.
- Maximum JPG image size is 1400 pixels wide x 1050 pixels high.
- The deadline for jpg entries is Sunday, January 28, 2024.
- Entries must be sent to Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net) by January 28, 2024.
- The judges will be emailed the images on Tuesday, January 30 and will have one week to score the images.
- The judges' scores will be submitted to Rich by Tuesday, February 6.
- Scores will be tallied and the results will be presented at the meeting on Tuesday, February 13.

Cocktail Glass Rim Highlight Lighting

Submitted by CLCC member Kevin Getty

Recently, I read an article on [Profoto's Tips and Tricks](#) website that highlighted a photo of a cocktail glass lit with rim lighting. The idea is to use one light source with small v-flat cards to bounce and block the light to create the highlights on the glass.

The stage that I would use for the scene had a gray sheet, so I used it for the base color. This would show as black in the image. I then placed a piece of flat glass on top of the sheet. This would create a reflection beneath the glass, to add some interest.

The flat glass is a half inch thick, so to prevent any light from sneaking beneath the v-flat cards, I placed the cocktail glass on top of the flat glass toward the edge. The v-flat cards would then rest on the table rather than the glass.

In the image to the right, you can see that I placed the flash head lower than the cocktail glass and on an upward angle. This is just to keep the flash head out of camera view.

I shot in manual mode with my Canon 1 DX at f11, shutter speed at 100 and ISO was 100. I used one head of my Profoto B2 dual head flash system. The camera was roughly 5 feet away from the glass with a 70-200mm lens. The v-flats were made from paper card stock that I borrowed from my wife's crafting supply.

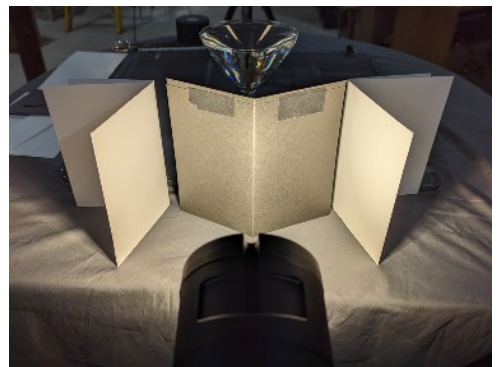
The first v-flat card that I setup was the black card and sits directly behind and slightly lower than the cocktail glass. This is intended to block the light, yet allow just enough light to spill onto the lip of the cocktail glass for a nice highlight.

It took some time adjusting both the black v-flat card, camera height and the flash head to get the rim highlight effect that I liked. I did this without the white v-flat cards so only the lip was lit. It was easier this way than to have all the cards in use.

I then took two white v-flat cards and placed them on either side of the black v-flat card. You can see from the image to the right, there is very little space between the white and black v-flats. This was done to create a very fine rim highlight to the body and stem.

This is where the fun begins. While taking numerous shots and working with different distances of the cards, I had one recurring issue. There were specular anomalies in the glass that refracted the light back into the glass that caused unpleasing visual lines. This was due to the uneven thickness of the cocktail glass wall.

So, I wondered if placing water in the cocktail glass would help to disperse the light and to my surprise it did!



(Cocktail Glass Rim Highlight Lighting, continued)

However, this posed a new problem: *bubbles*. After pouring the water into the glass, millions of tiny bubbles were clinging to the sides of the glass and were showing up in the image. Using a straw, I gently scraped off all the tiny bubbles. Problem solved!

The largest challenge of this shoot was getting the position of the v-cards just right to make the image. As with any shoot, there's a lot of minor adjustments and problem solving to get things right.

If you're looking for a great lighting challenge, this is a good one to try. Having fun with light!



Morning Breakfast – Everyone invited!

Please join your CLCC friends for the casual, monthly Saturday morning breakfast meeting. Lively discussions, good food! The next one will be held on Saturday, December 9 at 8:30 a.m. at Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

President	<u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Kim Walkup</u>
Treasurer	<u>Gail Schulz</u>
Board Member	<u>Rich Bickham</u>

YOUR IDEAS MATTER!

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to **Steven Szalaj**, Newsletter Editor at the email address in the club directory. **Please make your submission by the 22nd of the month.**

CLCC SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Newsletter Editor	<u>Steven Szalaj</u>	Publicity	OPEN
Webmaster	Sandy Wittman	Competition Chairman	Rich Bickham
CACCA Delegate 1	Lance Lagoni	Competition Assistant	John Williams
CACCA Delegate 2	OPEN	Competition Assistant	Ernie Hagenow
Education	Peter Pelke II	Small Groups	Maureen Harris
Advisor	David Jilek	Outings	Karl Gabby
Advisor	Jim Pierce	Refreshments	OPEN
Facebook Administrator	Doug Frey	Librarian	OPEN
Membership	OPEN	Mentor Program	Paul Minkus

The Future of CLCC

Notes and News from November 14, 2023

Submitted by Steve Szalaj, CLCC Newsletter Editor

Sixteen members present at our November meeting. We welcomed two new members: Kevin Getty from Antioch; Bill Tell from Huntley.

There was a discussion of possible future topics:

- The new Lightroom updates
- Working with the Cloud (online storage and programs)
- What is artificial intelligence (AI), how does it work and what can it do (and can't do)

Member participation in *Show & Tell* and *Before & After* was exceptional.

Those contributing images for *Show & Tell* included:

- Jeff Chemelewski
 - Water flowing back into a water spout (tripod, 1/2 second exposure)
 - Sunrise
 - Patterns of water flowing back over rocks (polarizing filter)
 - Oregon forest in the fall (polarizing filter)
- Doug Frey
 - Stillman Valley Nature Center
 - Morton Arboretum black & white landscape
- Peter Pelke
 - Man and Sea
 - White Plate & Egg (using lighting to create 3-D)
 - Escalator
- Scott Larsen, 6 photos of people in Rwanda & Uganda
 - Father & Son
 - A Hard Life
 - Curious Gaze
 - Friendly Wave
 - Big Sister
 - Toy Pride
- Steve Szalaj, 4 photos of historic domes
 - St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City (1590)
 - The Pantheon, Rome (125 AD)
 - The Blue Mosque, Istanbul (1617)
 - Hagia Sophia, (Istanbul) (537 AD)

Those contributing images for *Before & After* included:

- Bill Getty
 - Wine Glass Rim Light
 - Bill shared images of his process to capture the image
 - back lighting
 - the use of cardboard pieces to block or shape the light
 - water in the glass
- Jeff Chemelewski
 - Oregon Coast Beach - lighten; selective cloning
 - Stream & Sky - black & white

(The Future of CLCC, continued)

- Rich Bickham
 - Marina City - straighten the buildings; work with the color; crop; work with the sky
 - Atrium Decoration - lightened specific sections
 - State Street Macy's - darken sky, increase exposure
 - Navy Pier Ferris Wheel - crop; darken sky; put a star field in the sky
- Pat Jorgensen
 - Irises
- Peter Pelke
 - Ghosts
 - photos of daughter running around in a gauze drape
 - select and isolate her image
 - copy into a cemetery image
 - make the image less opaque so it can be see-through
- Doug Frey
 - Starved Rock Forest Path
 - remove person
 - have Adobe's AI generate another hiker image
- Steve Szalaj
 - Windmill (Mykonos, Greece) - crop; remove power lines and poles; remove distractions on foreground buildings
 - Island of Mykonos (Greece) - photo of an empty frame standing on the beach, but capturing the harbor and shore behind - crop; clean up some blemishes around the frame; shot at f14 (to get the detail in the frame and the harbor behind); ISO 100
- Erni Hagenow shared some images captured from his high school yearbook.

Morning Breakfast – Everyone invited!

Please come to the monthly Saturday casual morning breakfast meeting. The next one will be held on Saturday, December 9 at 8:30 a.m. at Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.

Next Speaker Presentation – Peter Pelke will contact Willard Clay. He spoke to the group prior to 2020.

Upcoming meetings

- The December 12 meeting will be a Competition Night. There will also be some time for *Show & Tell* and *Before & After*. Please either bring a flash drive, or email to Rich Bickham at richbickham@comcast.net by Sunday, December 10, with three photos that you would like to share.
- January 9, 2024 will include *Show & Tell* and *Before & After*.

Your participation and presence makes CLCC a vibrant organization!

Join the
Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat
 on FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/446897199179146>

GALLERIES, STORIES, VIDEOS AND INSPIRATION ON THE WEB

(Click any bold-face heading to follow the link)

AI or Not AI: Can You Spot the Real Photos?

What is real? Well, sometimes it's hard to tell. As the images we see online become increasingly manipulated, the difference between an AI-manufactured image and a "real" photograph is increasingly hard to discern. Take a look at the images in this gallery from [cnet.com](https://www.cnet.com) and see if you can spot the real from the fake.

How Close Is That Photo to the Truth? What to Know in the Age of AI

AI can let you lie with photos. But you don't want a photo untouched by digital processing. How much can you edit a photo before it stops becoming true? This very thorough article by Stephen Shankland, a writer for [cnet.com](https://www.cnet.com), examines the topic in depth.

HDR Photography Blew My Mind. It's Glorious — and Complicated

The realism, depth and detail of this technology instantly won over the author. This is another article by Stephen Shankland which explores HDR Photography and all its advantages.

What Is Photography? (No Need to Answer That.)

The critic Emily LaBarge saw shows of photography by [Hiroshi Sugimoto](#) and [Daido Moriyama](#) in London. Here, LaBarge reviews these two exhibitions by Japanese artists and how they raise deep questions about the medium, and — refreshingly — leave them hanging.

Is This the World's Highest-Grossing Photograph?

"Girls in the Windows" by Ormond Gigli wasn't made by an art world giant, but people keep buying it. And buying it. And buying it. This article relates the interesting backstory of this photo, and the marketing that made it so coveted.

He Won't Stop Taking Pictures Until He's Partying on the Other Side

At 85, [Henry Diltz](#) is one of the last great rock photographers still living (and working). His new book is a document of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, the '60s and his own history.



Margaret Bourke-White, a photographer for LIFE magazine, prepares to take a photo from one of the eagles on the 61st floor of the Chrysler Building in New York City in 1934.

Credit: sebcolorisation on Instagram

[historycolored.com](https://www.historycolored.com)

Helpful Resources

Contribute to this page! If you have resources that you find useful, please share that link with me. Include a short summary of what can be found in the link. The reference can be a video, web page, PDF, or any other format that has an online link. Send your contributions to szjsings@mac.com by the 20th of each month.

~SJS, Newsletter Editor

Profoto Tutorials, submitted by Kevin Getty:

Tips and Tricks

profoto.com/us/tips

A terrific collection to help photographers of any level.

Photographic Composition Webinar, submitted by Scott Larsen:

The Art of Photography: Crafting Compelling Compositions

tinyurl.com/5ak88xt6

Natural Habitat Adventures posts a weekly webinar. This hour-long video is very helpful.

Photographers you may be interested in viewing, contributed by Judy Jorgensen:

Dan Anderson

danielandersonphotography.com/

Beautiful color landscapes and seascapes with striking composition from America, Norway, Faroe Islands, Scotland, Patagonia, Ireland, Antarctica, Europe, Iceland, etc. If you love black and white, check out his American West, Europe, Antarctica, and Greek islands black and white images of land, sea, and architecture.

Ed Callaert

edcallaert.photoshelter.com

This nature photographer travels extensively along the west coastal and mountain states as well as upper to mid east coast United States. His gallery is full of colorful landscapes and seascapes with interesting composition techniques you may want to try.

Willard Clay

willardclay.photoshelter.com

This landscape and bird photographer has a vast collection in his gallery by states and a stunning collection under birds. He also teaches at Mayslake in the Forest Preserve District of Dupage County. Enjoy, study, and try.

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Bill Batalden:

APS (AUTHORIZED PHOTO SERVICE)

8125 River Dr # 100

Morton Grove, IL 60053

repair@authorizedphotoservice.com

800 406 2046

Bill said: "I recently had my camera & lens repaired at APS authorized camera repair. I felt the work was good and the price reasonable. They give an estimate, which you have to approve, before proceeding with the work. When I spoke with the owner, he said he could offer a 'Club' rate."

Steve McCurry: Icons

Steve McCurry: ICONS is an extraordinary photography exhibition in Chicago showcasing the work of Steve McCurry, one of the main international figures in the world of photography over the last 40 years. Learn about his career, his photography, and much more. His photo of the young Afghan girl is iconic, as are many other of his images.

- **Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA)**, 820 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 60611
- Open now through January 6
- Tickets are \$21 - \$25 depending on the day
- Senior (65+), Student, or Military 10% discount - valid ID required
- Group Prices available (minimum 6 tickets)
- More information and tickets: <https://stevemccurryicons.com/chicago/>
- Video preview of the exhibition: <https://youtu.be/m8l49bNQsx4>

Immerse yourself in the world of this famous and audacious photographer in an unprecedented photography exhibition! With more than 80 large-format photographs, ICONS is one of the most complete retrospectives of the career of Steve McCurry. And if, on the one hand, his work encompasses conflicts, endangered cultures, ancient traditions, and contemporary culture, on the other hand, he always maintains the human element that made his famous photograph of the Afghan girl such a powerful image. This unprecedented journey through the inspiration, life, and work of the artist—who has already been recognized with some of the most prestigious awards in the industry—is not to be missed! Get your tickets now for Steve McCurry. ICONS in Chicago!



Highlights of the exhibition:

🌟 Celebrate the life and work of Steve McCurry in this international photography exhibition

🖼️ Discover over 80 iconic large-format photographs, such as the “Afghan Girl”, Sharbat Gula, who captivated the world on the cover of National Geographic magazine in 1985

🌍 Admire a selection of the most impressive images from his trips to Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and China, among others

🎧 Access audio descriptions from 42 selected photographs to hear the story behind the photo, in Steve McCurry's own words

🎬 Watch Steve McCurry testify about his life and experiences as a photographer

Morton Arboretum Sculpture Show



Mind Eye (2023) by Olga Ziemka
Locally reclaimed wood logs, metal armature
Morton Arboretum

Of the Earth

The exhibition will run through spring 2025.

Five large-scale sculptures by Polish American artist Olga Ziemka will be created exclusively for a new exhibition at The Morton Arboretum, **Of the Earth**.

The exhibition will explore the artist's expression and philosophy that, she says, "We are nature." Ziemka said that her aim is to remind people that "everything in life is derived from the same basic elements that form everything in nature, including ourselves. There is no separation." In Polish, Ziemka means "of the earth."

The artist's work will be created from reclaimed tree branches and other natural materials gathered from various locations throughout the Arboretum's 1,700 acres. "I am giving reclaimed natural materials a new life and transforming them from nature into new forms," Ziemka said.



Stillness in Motion (2023) by Olga Ziemka
Locally reclaimed branches, wire, metal armature
Morton Arboretum