

Ridgewood Camera Club
Artistic Challenge
March 25, 2020
Artist's Statements

Member Name	Project Name	Project Description
Bahtiarian, Alex	Armenia – The First Christian Nation – 301AD	While I was working and living in Armenia, the number of ancient churches and monasteries, some of which are over 1,500 years old, and are still standing and functioning, fascinated me. I did not think of it as I was photographing them, but as I was organizing my files, I found that there was enough to make a small presentation and show the evolution of Christianity in a small and relatively little known country.
Fezell, Nancy	Summer Flower Course	Last summer I took an on-line photography course. It turned out to be great fun. The temperature outside was 95 degrees and all my flowers were fried. I auditioned flowers at the local florist and turned my bedroom into an impromptu photography studio. A variety of assignments – soft focus, macro, special effects – made me experiment and expand my creativity in a new direction.
Gennarelli, Joe	Sunrise Sunset	I kept my project very simple. The rising and setting of the sun. There's a good reason why so many ancient cultures revered the sun as a god. The sun gives life. Without it we couldn't exist. The first half of my book consists of sunrises. The second half consists of sunsets. The locations of the photos range from Juneau, Alaska to Cozumel, Mexico to my own backyard. This is my homage to the Sun.

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Kane, Bob	From the City	I love doing street photography, but even after fifteen years of shooting in New York City I am still surprised and dismayed at how difficult it is for me to produce a humorous, ironic, or even one interesting photograph that communicates something, never mind adding that it be well-composed or otherwise technically sound. These are just about all that I am fully satisfied with, after combing through literally thousands in my catalog. They may not resonate with everyone, but isn't that the case with every photograph?
Kaplan, Alan	Composites	"I'm glad I don't have to live in your mind." A friend of mine said this to me after seeing some of my composites. I took it as a compliment. I've been involved in art most of my life. My parents were amateur artists and had art books lying around the house which I read voraciously, and both of my uncles were photographers—one amateur and one professional. I am drawn to surrealism and have used Photoshop to combine images into a single picture that is more akin to surrealism than to representational photography. Please enjoy the composites in my book and see why my friend is glad he doesn't have to live in my mind.
Kicks, Jane	Still Life	My book is a collection of still life images. No surprise there! Still life photography allows me to create a scene, evoke a mood and tell a story. I enjoy figuring out what objects fit together. The hard part is making it look natural and creating just the right light.

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Kowalski, Jacek	The Romance of Ruins	<p>From an early age I have always had an exceptional fascination with the past. In my book project I quote from a prose poem that I wrote in high school about a ruined castle. I also devote a few paragraphs at the beginning of the book to exploring the philosophical and aesthetic aspects of ruins. Most of the book is comprised of photography of ancient Greek and Roman ruins in Italy and ruins of medieval abbeys in England and Wales. I love the chance to take advantage of photographic full-page spreads and the panoramic lay-flat feature of these books. Much like the ruins that they portray, I hope that the images speak for themselves.</p>

LaPlaca-Post, Camille	A Photographic Journey	<p>The Artistic Challenge invited me to review my entire photographic journey. For the book, I chose random photos of reflective significance. As much as it was a very enjoyable process, I find it gave me a sense of awareness as well as an appreciation of what I've learned along my photographic journey. I realize how the everyday ordinary trees, the light and shadows, colors, people and things that surround my day to day journey, not only inspires me to continue to create, but shows me just how beautiful and precious life is. This was both a fun project and a very meaningful one for me. Thank you Laura!</p>
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Matthews, Robert	Santanoni	<p>Santanoni is one of the few "Great Camps" of the Adirondacks still standing: the glory days of these camps having long since passed. Over the years I've accumulated images of this abandoned camp with the vague intention of someday turning it into a project. Laura's Artistic Challenge motivated me to bring that project to fruition. The project also prompted me to reflect on what it is that draws my curiosity to this remote place and its history. The resultant book is my attempt to convey what I find so special about this obscure little piece of history lying deep in the Adirondack wilderness.</p> <p>And I'd like to add a note of thanks to Laura for suggesting such a rewarding challenge. Minor White once said: "all photographs are self-portraits". Having completed this project I now have a deeper understanding of what he meant. For in some ways, each image we take says as much about ourselves as it does about our subjects. I believe it is that sentiment that underlies the spirit of Laura's challenge.</p>
Nicolosi, William	The Cars & Trucks Collection	<p>I told my story of how I developed an interest in cars from a young age to the present day.</p> <p>I photograph at many car shows, museums, and historic venues with antique cars and when I occasionally see interesting cars on the street.</p>

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Owens, Elliot	Iceland in Black and White	<p>What attracts me to the beauty of Iceland over, say, the Scottish highlands, SE Asian jungles, or Utah desert? Power. In Iceland, the power of nature is on display everywhere, to be respected and tapped into, but not controlled by humans. Whereas churches dominate the land or cityscapes of Europe, in Iceland they, as well as the people, are subservient to nature. It is a cold, harsh reality, and I think black and white best conveys this. This project is about me, challenging myself to learn a medium I am unfamiliar with and to think more thematically. Did I succeed in creating a book I am pleased with? Perhaps not, but that misses the point of the project.</p>

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Ozler, Dilek	Structures & Architecture	<p>This book will be a collection of photographs I took over the years of different structures and architectural elements that I came across in my travels or photo trips around the world. Each one has left an impression on me and changed the way I look at the world.</p> <p>I always find myself attracted to the different geometric shapes, buildings, structures and architectural forms. What is intriguing for me is the complex and detailed nature of architecture. The way designer and architects carefully and conceptually design the different parts of a structure or a building is admirable.</p> <p>You will find in this book a spectrum of old and new structures, as well as statues, buildings, bridges, and close ups and distance shots. I started the book with statues and structures and moved over to buildings and architectural images. But my hope is that they all flow in a way that will make it pleasant to view as they flip through the pages.</p>
Plucinski, Ruth	Portals	<p>I have always liked to photograph doors and windows, entries and exits—especially if they hold a bit of mystery. Through this project, I came to realize that my images go beyond just those doors and windows to include a broader concept of portals-- be they manmade, natural or anything in between. Just what is it that lies ahead—or sometimes behind-- around the bend, or beyond my reach? I want to be drawn in and hope my viewers will be as well.</p>

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Stanton, Dick	Bald Eagles	I selected the Bald Eagles as my choice for my first book. Why Bald Eagles?? When I see Bald Eagles I think of strength, majestic looks and above all, freedom. The Bald Eagle was chosen in 1782 as our national emblem. The Bald Eagle has been a spiritual symbol for native Americans forever. The opportunity to photograph them was a great experience. I have now promised myself that I will work on a new book this year learning from my first effort. Thank you Laura for promoting this effort.
St. John, John	Subway	Of the many aspects of photography that I have performed, the one that I am most drawn to is street photography, that is, capturing moments of human life in an urban setting such as in my native New York City. While there is always much to be seen in daily life on a city's streets, there is also much of life worth capturing with a camera underground, in the subway. Of the many elements of street photography that can be categorized, I have decided to start with subway images as a rich and rewarding theme.
White, Ginger	Tribute to Trees	I have always been intrigued by trees, due to their textures, shapes, seasonal beauty, and sometimes even human characteristics. I have taken photos of trees in many locations, close to home, in other parts of the country and in a couple of other countries as well. Therefore, I already had many tree images to choose from, and also, I just enjoy making photo books! I did take some new ones for this project as well. Hope to continue my quest of finding interesting trees to photograph.