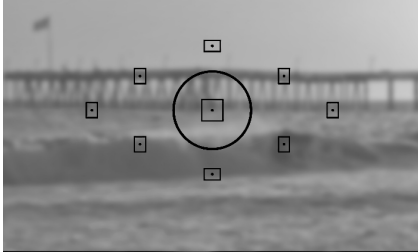


Through the Viewfinder



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From the Prez's Pad

Ken MacGregor

October 2018

Big thanks! goes to our judge/mentor for **September Susannah Sofaer Kramer**. We were fortunate to have Susannah as our judge for the latest Prints Only night. She is extremely eloquent and experienced in critiquing images at other clubs, and also is an expert on making the highest quality prints possible.

For **October**, we will have **Scott Miles "The Scientific Photographer"** as our judge. Scott was a professor at Brooks Institute of Photography and specialized in precision and accurate reproduction taken to the highest level. He currently specializes in museum and art gallery photography and operates a large studio in Ventura.

For our regularly scheduled meeting at **6:30 pm** on the **second Wednesday of October, OCT 10th**, we will meet at **2222 East Ventura Blvd, Camarillo, Studio Channel Islands, Blackboard Gallery**. This is a nice facility on the south side of the 101 in Old Town Camarillo. Please Google the address, and look at Google Maps to see where it is and how to get there. Allow a little extra time to find it, in case you are not familiar with the freeway exits in that area. There is a big open convenient parking lot next to the Gallery building. The Gallery and parking lot is outside the fenced area, and near the street.

I must admit that I was once again very impressed by the excellent quality and quantity of prints that were brought to our September Prints Only night. As before, there were far more prints than would fit all at once on our display easels, and below you will see on the list of Merit Awards that the number of Merits is high. Susannah was not being overly generous, the merits awarded were well deserved.

Last but not least, on the next page I have included one of my merit award images, it is the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall, or "The Wall", a half size black marble reproduction of the permanent version in Washington DC. For three days and nights it was set up on the front lawn of the Ventura County Government Center, and it was a very impressive floodlit sight at night....

Ken



“The Wall” by Ken MacGregor



Club Merit Awards

Results of September 2018 Critique & Judging

Judge: [Susannah Sofaer Kramer](#) [Prints Only Night](#)

Print Open (27)

"Day at the Lake" by Erin Brown
"Laughing All the Way" by Erin Brown
"Pier Racer" by Dick Drechsler
"Switchback" by Dick Drechsler
"Rose Art" by John Ferritto
"Washington Cathedral" by John Ferritto
"Gams" by Bernie Goldstein
"Lady in Red" by Bernie Goldstein
"Bubble Bear" by Sue Hall
"Empty Blue Cup" by Sue Hall
"Ostrich Table Manners" by Sue Hall
"Ghostly Figure" by Albert Huen
"Little Hug, Much Kisses" by Albert Huen
"Ghostly Figure" by Albert Huen
"The Wall" by Ken MacGregor
"P51" by Ken MacGregor
"Beams" by Danny Mendoza
"Belladonna" by Danny Mendoza
"Ventura Keys" by Danny Mendoza
"Four Zebras at Sunset" by Neal Ortenberg
"Lioness #1" by Neal Ortenberg
"Waves Under the Pier" by Neal Ortenberg
"1930s Citroen" by Jim Peters
"Blue Hour at Mono Lake" by Bruce Schoppe
"Cloudy Milky Way" by Bruce Schoppe
"Starry Night" by Bruce Schoppe
"Vietnamese Offerings" by Dawn Wiley



Photographic Musings with Photobakobob

Photography is Expensive – Or Is It?

The latest and greatest single lens reflex camera has just been announced. It is a marvel of current technology and was designed by the world's leading photographic visionaries. A complete line of high quality lenses and other accessories are available in order that it can be applied by both professionals and serious amateurs to virtually any photographic situation. It is a new innovation in photography - the first camera of its type ever to be produced. Indeed, this camera will revolutionize the camera industry for the foreseeable future. How much for this great new camera? With its most expensive lens, only \$165. Only one problem. The year is 1936, and the camera is the Kine Exakta 1, the world's first 35mm single lens reflex camera. The country of manufacture is, of course, Germany. It certainly was a revolutionary camera. Besides being the first 35mm SLR (not the first SLR), it had interchangeable lenses, a focusing hood and magnifier, multiple shutter speeds from 12– 1/1000 sec, a self timer, flash synch, even a built-in film cutter, and lots of other stuff. It was, and is, a great camera as well as a milestone product in the history of photographic technology.



What would a comparable camera today cost? Exakta is not around anymore, so I picked the latest Nikon, the new mirrorless Nikon Z6. When you can get one, it will cost about \$2600 with a 24-70mm f/4 Nikkor lens. It is a digital camera, of course, and has a resolution of 24 MP, which is just about the maximum attainable by 35mm film. (That's one reason why I didn't use the Nikon Z7, which costs about \$4000 with the same lens and has a 45.6 MP resolution.) The price of \$2600 appears to be more than the Kine Exakta until one takes inflation into account. It is true that many factors go into inflation calculations, but simply applying cost of living changes from 1936 to 2018 to the original \$165 increases the price to about \$2900 in 2018 dollars. In other words, the new Nikon actually costs less than the 1936 Exakta! And when you factor in the additional capabilities of the Nikon, such as its ability to do 4K video, as well as the many other features of current digital gear, its \$2600 cost, along with the price of its competitor products, almost seem like bargains.

That got me thinking about other cameras. Would the same factors apply to them?

I have a Leica M3, 1955 version, with a f/2 Summicron lens. It cost \$447 new according to a couple of contemporary listings. You can't get a Leica for that anymore, but \$447 (1956) is about \$4200 (2018). Can you buy a current Leica M, the M10, with a f/2 Summicron for that? Unfortunately not. That kit will cost about \$9700. The digital revolution and current manufacturing techniques that kept costs down for Nikons and Canons doesn't appear to apply to Leicas which are still more mechanical and constructed by highly paid German craftspeople.



I also have a Nikon S2 rangefinder with a Nikkor f/1.4 lens. It cost \$345 in 1956. That would be equivalent to \$3200 now. Nikon doesn't make rangefinder cameras anymore, but I could buy a very nice Nikon – or Canon or Sony - with an excellent lens for that price today – and even get some change. It is interesting that the Nikon S2 was 77% of the Leica M3 price back in 1956. Today that ratio, using the Nikon Z6 and Leica M10 prices above, is 27%. Is the Leica that much better – or better at all? Not in my opinion, but I'm not paying \$10K (and up) for it, either.



Let's look at another example. My first SLR was a Honeywell Pentax H1, purchased in 1962 for about \$170. It was a very basic camera. It had a 50mm f/2 SuperTakumar lens and shutter speeds 1 to 1/500 second and an instant return mirror. No zoom, no autofocus, no autoexposure, not even a built-in exposure meter. I used my trusty Sekonic, which still works, by the way. But 170 bucks was a lot of money then, more or less equivalent to \$1400 now, and you can get any number of outstanding "starter" enthusiast cameras with very good lenses for much less than that from Canon, Nikon, Sony, and others. And they will even do 4K video! An expensive example is the Sony a6300 with 16-50mm zoom for \$998, effectively cheaper than my old Pentax and a whole lot more powerful.

Can we learn anything about photo equipment prices from this admittedly unscientific study? I think we can. First, it does not appear that, overall, camera prices have gone up when one factors in constant dollars, particularly considering advances in photographic capabilities. In some cases, they even seem to have decreased. Second, we find an exception in the highly specialized and, some might say, luxury segment of the photo market. Third, you can have a lot of fun looking at those old camera catalogs. It brought back plenty of memories for me.

We can be certain, too, that camera technology will continue to evolve. Nikon and Canon finally have introduced full frame mirrorless bodies and new lens mounts. The era of the flipping mirror introduced to the 35mm camera by Ihaghee Exakta 82 years ago is finally nearing its end. Those innovations do come at a price, but, as we have seen, the price may not have been as high as you supposed.

Photobakobob



General Other Announcements

Ojai Photo Club:

The Ojai Photography Club will host an event featuring Ojai based photographer [Cindy Pitou Burton](#) on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. in Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 W. Santa Clara St., Ojai, CA. The event is free and open to the public.

Pitou Burton will speak and present on her journey "From Photojournalism to Fine Art." Her career in photography began as a photojournalist working for major media outlets in New York City, including the New York Times, NBC, CBS, PBS, as well as prominent magazines and corporations. After sixteen years in this high-powered field, she made an abrupt change when her husband persuaded her to move to Ojai. Pitou Burton studied photography at the International Center for Photography and the School of Visual Arts in New York City, and in California at Brooks Institute and Otis College. She is a member of the American Society of Media Photographers and the Ojai Studio Artists and is represented by Getty Images.

The club, which is devoted to education, inspiration, and camaraderie, meets on the third Tuesday of each month, February – November. Only Ojai Club members may submit images for critique.



VCCC Announcements

Next Club Meeting:

Please come to the **next** VCCC Club meeting on the second Wednesday of each month **Wednesday, 10 October 2018**, at the alternate location, **Blackboard Gallery, Studio Channel Islands, 2222 East Ventura Blvd, Camarillo**.

This year the Club meeting always starts with a presentation at **6:30 pm**. This month, a half hour presentation will be provided by **Scott Miles, The Scientific Photographer**.

Digital Image submissions: Please submit no later than 5pm on **Monday, 8 October 2018**.

Digital image files submitted for critique must be submitted as email attachments to:

digitalentries@venturacountycameraclub.com

Images must not exceed 1920 pixels wide or 1080 pixels high. If you exceed either of these dimensions your file will be rescaled on the fly for projection and the resolution shown *will suffer*.

Our scheduled Judge/Mentor for this critique is: [Scott Miles](https://thescientificphotographer.com)

<https://thescientificphotographer.com>



Scott Miles is the owner and primary media producer serving museums, private collectors, artists, researchers and others by providing photography of art and historical artifacts, architectural and historical sites, and video production of stories of artists and history. Specialized in-studio, on-site and on-demand services.

Annual Membership Renewal:

Members in good standing may submit images for judging at regular member Club meetings. If necessary, please talk to **Joyce Schoppe**, our Membership Chairperson, or send an email to Joyce at: membership@venturacountycameraclub.com

Per Year - Regular \$60, Student \$30, or send to: Joyce Schoppe
4875 Mascagni St.
Ventura, CA 93003

Annual dues for new members will be **prorated on a quarterly basis** (\$15 per qtr, \$7.50 per qtr for students) for the remaining quarters in the year. **Make your check out to: "Ventura County Camera Club, Inc."** We are a California Nonprofit.



VCCC Announcements (cont'd)

2018 Assigned Topics & Judges List:

January:	Action	Al Ungar
February:	Creative	Nancy Lehrer
March:	Slow Shutter Speed	Chuck Place
April:	In the Shadows	Gary Moss
May:	Botanical	Chris Zsarney
June: (Prints Only)	None - Open	Greg Cooper
July:	Water's Edge	Dan Holmes
August:	Complementary Colors	Joseph Rossbach
September: (<i>Prints Only</i>)	<i>None - Open!</i>	Susannah Sofaer Kramer
October:	Manipulated	Scott Miles...
	@ Blackboard Gallery, Camarillo	(The Scientific Photographer!)
November:	The Dark Side	Donna Granata
December:	None, "Year End" judging of 2018 Merits by 3 judge panel	

2018 Refreshment Schedule:

January	Sal Santangelo
February:	Bernie Goldstein
March:	Evan Madaa
April:	John Ferritto
May:	Bruce & Joyce Schoppe
June:	Sue Hall
July:	Toni D'Ambrosia
August:	Albert Huen
September:	Gregg Gillmar
October:	Ken MacGregor
November:	Danny Mendoza



Professional Support (Updated)

Below are some of the local professional photographers that have been gracious in providing their free time as judges on a repeating basis to attend and critique member's images at our recent Club meetings. Thank you all for supporting our Club!

Sherron Sheppard (Artistic Photoshop Instructor):

<http://www.sherronsheppard.com> <http://www.sheppardphotography.com>

Dan Holmes (Award Winning Landscape Photography, Workshops, Tours, and Photo Adventures):

<http://www.danholmesphoto.com/Danholmesphoto.com/Workshops.html>

Robert Fields (Fine Art Travel Photography)

<http://www.robertfields.com>

Donna Granata (Founder of "Focus on the Masters", ex-Brooks Institute)

www.focusonthemasters.com/Donna_Granata.html

Christopher Broughton (ex-Brooks Institute Instructor - Street Photography)

<https://www.christopherbroughton.com/>

Gary Moss Photography (Principal Photographer and Photo Editor of 805 Living Magazine)

<http://www.garymossphotography.com>

Chris Zsarnay (Owner and Photographer of Z Studios in Ventura - large commercial studio)

<http://www.zstudios.com>

Greg Cooper (Ventura College Instructor & ex-Brooks Institute Instructor of Photojournalism)

email: greg@mediacooper.com

Bill Hendricks (Ventura College Head Photography Instructor)

<http://www.hendricks-studios.com>

Matt Haines (Ventura Wedding and Family Photographer)

<http://matthainesphotography.com>

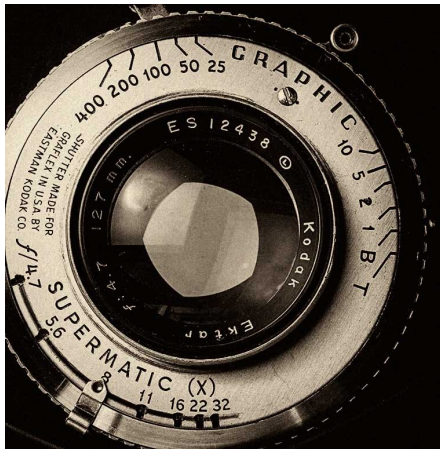
Ines Roberts (Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and London Salon)

<https://sites.google.com/site/cccccangle/bios/ines-roberts>



Ventura County Camera Club:

Our Mission: To promote the art, science, technique, and enjoyment of fine art photography through sharing, education, cooperation, association, and fellowship.



2018 Club Officials

President:

Ken MacGregor

Vice President & Annual

Banquet Coordinator:

Susannah Kramer

Treasurer:

Bruce Schoppe

Secretary: Gregg Gillmar

(Ron Lindsay as backup)

Official Chairs:

Judge Coordinator:

Sal Santangelo

Membership Chair, and Year End Contest Tracking:

Joyce Schoppe

Web Site Master and Facebook Administrator:

Evan Maidaa

Newsletter Editor:

Ken MacGregor

Monthly Digital Image Entries and Projection:

Albert Huen/Susannah Kramer

Publicity & Year End Tech:

John Ferritto