ART THROUGH THE LENS
2023

07.15.23 - 09.02.23
Yeiser Art Center

Yeiser Art Center (YAC), a non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status, was established in 1957 as the Paducah Art Guild for the purpose of promoting the appreciation of the visual arts and for their creation. It started as a small volunteer organization with founding members Mary Yeiser, Ginny Black, and Bob Evans leading the way. Today, YAC has a permanent exhibition space that hosts seven shows annually and a permanent collection of over 300 works. The center offers visual art-based programming including educational classes for both children and adults, public gallery talks and artist lectures. We have grown to employ a full-time executive director as well as two employees. YAC also has a supporting membership program as well as many loyal and terrific volunteers.

As a strong voice for the visual arts in our community, YAC continues to promote the visual arts by presenting dynamic exhibitions and programs. The exhibitions are chosen to showcase a diverse range of art forms, styles and techniques with work ranging from traditional to contemporary. The center provides the regional community the opportunity to view original artworks, provides a forum for artists and serves as an educational resource for schools, colleges, and community organizations. Through our exhibitions and programs, YAC also provides art experiences for children while advocating the importance of a good visual arts education in our local schools. We work to help interpret the visual arts to the region by promoting established and emerging, regional, and national artists.

YAC strives to be a good community partner. We foster collaborative projects where possible, seeking to secure funds and contribute time and expertise to support other community arts projects. The center serves as a cultural attraction in Paducah’s historic downtown district, which adds to the city’s overall strength and competitiveness as a tourist destination. YAC strives to carry out our original mission and to further continue the development and appreciation of the visual arts by operating as a non-profit visual arts organization that serves adults and children of all ages throughout the region without regard to race, color, religion, ethnic origin, sex, or disability.

Cover Image: Michael Potts, Rebirth #4/7
Art Through The Lens

The Yeiser Art Center is pleased to host the annual international juried fine art photography competition, Art Through The Lens. Originating in 1975 as the Paducah Summer Festival Photo Competition, Paducah Photo has grown from a fledgling contest into an international juried exhibition. Over the past 40+ years, this exhibition has become one of the Mid-South’s most prestigious annual photographic events. In 2013, Paducah was bestowed the honor of being designated a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative Cities Network in the area of Crafts & Folk Art. To embrace both this international honor and reflect the international growth of the exhibition, Paducah Photo has taken on a new name, Art Through The Lens.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our award sponsors for 2023: Kentucky Arts Council, Paducah Area Photographers Club, Paducah Beer Werks, Paducah School of Art & Design, and to our Anonymous Sponsor who help make this exhibition possible.

We received a total of 653 entries this year from thirty-five U.S. states along with two other countries. Fifty-three pieces were juried into the International Exhibition. Congratulations to this year’s award winners and to everyone selected to be included in the exhibition!
JUROR BIO

“I was born and raised in Mexico City, where I worked in the entertainment industry. Learning English in the US as an adult gave me a unique perspective on the language’s nuances. I employ video, performance and photography in the way the mass media does, using humor and wit to delve into issues of immigration, cultural stereotypes, identity and being bilingual. I received an MA from CSU Northridge and an MFA at CSU Long Beach. My works have been exhibited in private galleries and universities and in community exhibition venues in California, Missouri, Texas, Oregon, and Vermont; at the Mexican Consulate, the Spartanburg Art Museum, Torrance Art Museum, and Orange Coast College. My work has been collected by the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, and the National Immigration Law Center.”

JUROR STATEMENT

The anticipation for the Art Through The Lens juried exhibition is always a thrilling moment of the year. This process brings forth an exceptional array of submissions from contemporary artists worldwide. The diverse media and themes showcased create a truly captivating exhibition. This year, there was an influx of remarkable and compelling entries, making the task of selecting the pieces challenging yet ultimately rewarding.

The range of media and art-making methodologies on display is awe-inspiring, encompassing everything from recurring exploration of suburban or natural landscapes, thought-provoking portraits and video works to innovative alternative processes. Many of the featured artists explore themes of connection and loneliness, and their works, such as those by Abbey Hepner, Atticus Hohman, Morgan Ford Willingham, Amy S. Broderick, John O’Connell, and Ryan Lewis’ video.

Personally, I found tremendous inspiration in the artists who skillfully combined digital and analog techniques to achieve a conceptual purpose. Joyce Jewel, John O’Connell, Wen Redmond, Katherine Dean, Xingkui Guo, and Ryan Lewis are just a few of the talents that left a lasting impact on me with their artistry.

The exhibition’s thought-provoking portraits challenge societal conventions, offering a fresh perspective on the artists’ subjects. Works by Jimmie Allen, Alyssa Delight, Anthony Lewis, Anh Pham, Michael Young, Tonya Wilhelm, and Robert Shapiro confront the viewers, inviting them to contemplate the meaning behind the imagery.

Moreover, photography serves as a powerful medium to document the overlooked and mundane aspects of life. Artists like Jim Allen, Kellen Bakovich, Kathy Callahan, Joseph Kelly, Kate He, Ryan Hogancamp, and Steve Polston showcased the beauty of capturing the seemingly ordinary moments and elevating them to artistic significance.

The various techniques employed, along with the diverse sizes of the artworks, created an opportunity to draw intriguing contrasts between the pieces. As an artist myself, I encourage fellow participants to reflect on the artworks adjacent to their own, as they provide a context that enriches the overall experience of the exhibition.

A special expression of gratitude goes to Yeiser Art Center for their diligent organization of this show. Their efforts have made this exceptional exhibition possible, and I urge everyone to extend their appreciation to Lexie Millikan, Alyssa Rickards, and Will Brandon when encountering the team behind this remarkable event.
Patrick Abanathy    Murray, KY

Pods
2021
fine art photograph, Moab Entrada Rag Bright paper

When studying photography at Murray State University, my professor gave many words of wisdom when it came to how one should approach photography. One, which has stuck with me throughout the years, is this: “Look at the world as would a child.” What that means to me is to be curious about what you see. Don’t gloss over the details, take off your blinders and never forget to look closer at what most people would simply ignore. While many want to focus on the landscape, you’ll usually find me focusing on a very small part of it.

Much of my work tends toward the abstract and chaotic, however, I also enjoy the aesthetics of how objects, both natural and manmade, interact with the environment over time. I love finding these fragile compositions perfectly crafted by uninterrupted patience. I find this beauty in the intricacies of chaos, the beauty in balance and the details of decay-just to name a few!

Jim Allen    Millbrook, NY

POSTED
2020
b&w gelatin silver fiber-based selenium-toned photograph printed from 120 b&w film

I tend to create photographs that have multiple layers of images (and therefore, meaning) contained within them. Often this is accomplished by shooting into reflective surfaces (windows, mirrors, water), but sometimes, such as in this image (POSTED), there is an actual photograph within the composition of the scene I am shooting that provides information to other parts of the image. My purpose is to engage the viewer in thoughtful, often emotional, exploration as they view the image. All my work is shot with film and processed in the darkroom.
Jimmie Allen  Springfield, MO

*Nikki holding Bella, Angie, Abby holding Evelyn and Addy on the trampoline*
2022
archival pigment print

My photographic work is centered around documenting small-town communities in Missouri. These communities currently face many challenges including an increasing poverty rate and a decline in population as people leave rural agricultural areas for urban fringe areas. Issues such as abortion, healthcare, gun control, immigration, and racial inequality have created polarization between the cultural values of rural and urban communities. Through my photographic work, I endeavor to reveal a contemporary sense of place and culture as well as the impact which politics, economics, education, race, and religion have on the people that live in these small communities.

---

Jimmie Allen teaches undergraduate photography courses in the Department of Art and Design at Missouri State University. He received his MFA from the University of Texas at San Antonio and his Bachelor’s in Visual Arts from the University of Sydney. His research centers around social documentary photography including the landscapes of small mid-western communities, and the people that live there.

Jimmie’s photographs have been exhibited in multiple group and solo shows in the United States. His work has been recognized for inclusion in exhibitions juried by prominent photographers such as Andrew Moore, Henry Horenstein, Linda Connor and Keith Carter as well as curators from the National Portrait Gallery, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the High Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Norman Aragones  San Jose, CA

*Food Wars*
2023
acrylic/metallc paper

The main paradigm in my photographic art revolves around the concept of depth (having some level of meaning within the photo and thus attempting to elicit a viewer’s reaction through deliberate imagery). My hope is that the viewer comes away with some feeling, idea, and/or perspective from seeing my photo(s). The techniques I use in creating photographic images are not something specific. I just try to work diligently in creating something in particular (that I had envisioned previously in my mind’s eye).
Suzanne Asaturian    Carbondale, IL

Supernatural Encounter
2022
photography, wood frame, matted

Details, emotion, and beauty of the spectacular as well as the ordinary are found every minute of the day through the lens. From the moment I wake up thinking about the migratory birds outside on our pond to what time will the moon set and the Milky Way appear in the darkest night sky, photography consumes my entire day.

As a retired science teacher of 35 years, my passion for understanding the natural world is magnified through my lens. Capturing a tiny beetle with a macro lens or a great white egret brought closer with a zoom lens, ignites joy for the extra time I’m able to spend outside gaining deeper scientific insight.

Photography has always been a passion of mine but with more time to really “see” nature, my vision as well as creative expression has grown exponentially. Every opportunity big and small captures my attention to detail and further research from morning to night. My goal in photography is to share my images and vision to foster a greater love for nature and the beauty in details. My work has been showcased at the Giant City Welcome Center, Cape Girardeau Nature Center, Southern Illinois University, Hermann Missouri Library, Southeastern Illinois College, Shrode Gallery in Mt. Vernon, and John A. Logan College. I am honored to share this image at this prestigious and beautiful Yeiser Art Center here in Paduah, KY.

Taking a Milky Way shot requires advance planning and timing. I must check out when the moon will be down and the Milky Way above the horizon. It is also important to take note of streetlights and ambient light from surrounding towns. This image was taken at a local peach orchard at 11 PM this August. In our area, the light pollution can be challenging for Milky Way shots, so I decided to put myself in the picture and embrace the light. Light from my headlamp is pointing straight up to the Milky Way as if I am communicating with other life forms in the night sky. For a 13 second exposure, I must stand perfectly still and it appears that I may be beamed up to a planet far away in the night sky.

Paul Atkinson    Raleigh, NC

Wave
2023
archival photographic pigment print

It is said that photography is about the light; I believe it is about the dark, the spaces in between the light. I prefer to explore the shadows, the dark, and to fill them with my own private imaginings and fears. For my eyes may see one thing, but my imagination sees another, which I find infinitely more interesting to contemplate.
Bethanie Bailey  Murray, KY

“No”  
2023  
scanned cyanotopes; Photoshop collage  

Bethanie Bailey is a photographer based in Murray, KY. She was born in Jackson, TN, and raised in Gadsden, TN. Living in the area expanded her interest in showing the beauty of the natural landscape. She got into photography when her poppa showed her his vintage camera from the WWII era. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Murray State University and is the president of the MSU Photo Club.

Kellen Bakovich  Fort Collins, CO

Coors on Tap  
2022  
medium format film; Kodak Portra 400, Pentax 645  

It is a beautiful thing to document things you care about. It is all the more beautiful to discover a new perspective on a subject or landscape and share that with others. It deserves intention, it requires patience, it needs failure, and it takes a piece of yourself, otherwise it cannot become beautiful.

I live in Northern Colorado, at the crossroads of the Great Plains and Rockies. I spend my days driving around dirt roads looking for landscapes, structures, people, or animals that deserve to be seen through a lens. The last few years, I have been working on a project Sorrows & Saddles, that seeks to showcase the changing landscape of the new west and the withering remains of the old. The intention is to blend my experience of depression and mental health with the changing social and environmental landscape of the West. The hope is to communicate my passions and inner parts of myself through the way I see things.

I do the vast majority of my photographic work on both black & white and color negative film. The intention is to preserve the intentionality of shooting with limited frames and create visual masterpieces without the use of digital editing software. It has been a major learning curve taking this route without access to instant analyzation of my compositions. The tedious nature of perfecting the range of grays or using the correct color negative film in specific environments to get the hues I envision creates plenty of room for failure, but a rewarding road to perfection.
Raymond Bonavida  Los Angeles, CA

Moondance 4
2020
photograph, fine art print on paper, black frame

Moondance is a photography series which asks us to reimagine our Moon. It explores the boundaries between the familiar and the unfamiliar, blurring the line between reality and fantasy. At the root of each image is a unique moon illumination and derived from this real reference is an interpretive composition of dynamic movement. Images are each captured organically, with a handheld camera, in single exposures lasting a few seconds. Simplicity of the subject and a stark black and white palette set the stage for a surprising amount of complexity.

My approach to the series is informed by my background in philosophy and psychology in which I have a particular interest in the underlying mechanisms of human perception and cognition. The series is also an effort to increase attention towards our Moon and its emerging role as a gateway to space exploration. As the space narrative evolves, so must our imagination.

Amy S. Broderick  Jupiter, FL

Bodies of Hogs
2022
hand-cut and handwoven photographs and paper ephemera

Amy S. Broderick uses forgotten photographs, discarded office supplies, found atlases, and related ephemera to make complex paper compositions. She cuts and weaves each page by hand to make elaborate layered structures and images. Her process marks time’s passing, as forgotten slivers of other people’s daily lives coalesce to tell new tales. The resulting work invites viewers to imagine a space where obsolescence and disconnection become the warp and weft of new territories.

Amy S. Broderick is Associate Professor of Drawing and Painting and Director of the Studio Foundations Program at Florida Atlantic University. In her studio work, she uses the processes of drawing, photography, and paper construction to note the specific topography of everyday life. Amy has exhibited her work in over 125 exhibitions since 2020, most recently in the solo exhibition, Ledger & Loom, at the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. Amy was born and raised in Virginia Beach. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of William and Mary, and she earned her MFA in Painting from Maryland Institute College of Art, where she studied with Grace Hartigan.
**Kathy Callahan**  Murray, KY

*Morgan Reflections*

2023
digital photography

While travel provides great inspiration for my work, there are opportunities to explore everywhere. The photography I create is most often informed by two sources – architecture and street art. Occasionally I see something in people or items on the street that capture my attention. My photo exhibited this year was taken in Kensington, London from the street. It’s a Morgan hand-built car in a showroom with multiple levels of reflections in the car’s finish. I was fascinated by the reflection of the cobblestone street along with a second reflection of the beautiful day.

---

Kathy Callahan is a full-time European History professor with a background in art and design. England and Scotland play a large role in her photography, places she travels every chance she gets.

---

**Katherine Dean**  Lafayette, IN

*mother horn no.1*

2022
scanned Polaroid, walnut, convex glass

Katherine Dean is a visual artist based out of Indiana. Her work exists at the merger of traditional and contemporary photography. By exploring modern ideas and imagery with historic and/or manipulated traditional processes, Dean addresses the ideas of time, memory, and space.

Dean is a Continuing Lecturer of Photography at Purdue University. She earned a MFA (2017) in photography from Memphis College of Art and also holds a BFA (2014) in photography from the University of North Florida. An abrupt transition from one landscape to the other has greatly influenced the manner in which Dean approaches the creative process. Additionally, Dean has spent the last six years working with a small group of artists at Young Blood Studio in Memphis, TN, creating large scale public sculptures. Her work has been exhibited extensively nationally as well as internationally.

Currently Dean lives in Lafayette, IN, where she is working on a new body of work exploring the dissolution of memory and time.

Alyssa Delight    Paducah, KY

Cranes
2021
photography

Gum wrapper paper cranes, fishnet stockings, and sunshine.

Bill Dentler    Lawrence, KS

Burr Oak
2023
photography

Photography is a tool that helps me focus and expand my explorations of the world. I was a cell biologist university professor whose favorite tools were light and electron microscopes that I used, with molecular techniques, to explore cell movements. Outside the lab I use film and digital cameras and, often, macro lenses or an old light microscope to explore small and large structures. I strive for beautiful images, but my primary goal is stimulating my curiosity and, hopefully, stimulate curiosity and wonder in the minds of viewers.

I exhibited and sold many photos as a graduate student and have published many micrographs in textbooks, lab books, websites, and more than 60 scientific publications. I’ve had images displayed in banks, art auctions, and galleries in Lawrence, KS, as well as images selected for juried shows at Yeiser Art Center, in Paducah, KY, and Biafarin, Canada.

Laura Everett    Paducah, KY

Mooie Dood (Beautiful Death)
2023
digital photography
Dustin Floyd    Rapid City, SD

*The Dance*
2022
photography; textured watercolor paper, framed

I use photography to explore the relationships between people and the raw, primordial qualities of different environments. I’m especially drawn to experimenting with optical distortions as visual metaphors for feelings about how we, as human beings, fit into the world around us.

Morgan Ford Willingham    Waco, TX

*was the giant great and still*
2022
cyanotype, hand embroidery, found textiles

Examining and reflecting upon the mother-child relationship, from the attempts to raise a child and to shape what their future holds, to the ways in which the child forges their own path, these domestic portraits of my daughter and me attest to the selfhood, uncertainty, and parallels that are threaded between us. The images independently and collectively signify the intimate daily circumstances, and the historical and cultural influences that shape us both as individuals and as a familial unit.

The series consists of portraits printed in the historical photographic process cyanotype, often referred to as a “blue-print.” Some images include hand embroidered text excerpts from poetry and literature used to wind a young child down for sleep and that prophetically speak of the possibilities for a life continuing to unfold. Other images include floral patterns that allude to the art historical context of motherhood and femininity. The use of found textiles appropriate the history of intimate objects and their resilience through time. The use of ornamental and functional hand embroidery links these works to the history of traditional women’s craft.

As a photographic artist, my work often starts with the camera but often ends with various elements of mixed media. I’ve always been interested in the tactile qualities of the art-making process and seek materials that further develop meaning in the works I create.
Jeanne Freibert      Louisville, KY

*The Council*
2021
mixed media; photography, oil paint, wax

The drive to create and express our psyches are part of being human, and also my motivation to create. While I do seek to portray various states of mind, visual gratification and inferential messages are equally important in art. Earlier in my career, I saw landscapes as beautiful but fairly meaningless. Now I see certain environments as rich with stories, metaphors, and otherworldly presence, which I hope to share with viewers. My hope is that each person may take away their own meaning and experience from any given piece of art.

Teresa Gilson      Mayfield, KY

*Forever Friends*
2021
photography

As an amateur photographer, I am in awe of so many things this world has to offer. I love nature photography, shooting the night skies, photographing the “big” nature, and capturing the tiny elements that are often overlooked.

I am especially drawn to what I call “Urban Nature,” otherwise called Street Photography. Humans are a fascinating animal to photograph in the genre of street photography. The excitement of capturing an image that will disappear in a moment is a satisfying thing.

All types of life, nature, etc… should be admired, whether it is good, bad, or ugly. I shoot what I love, and shoot for myself. A creator of my own art. If it happens to move a viewer, then I have been successful. If it does not, I am still successful, because I created it for myself.

The love of imagery has no boundaries.
Paul Grumley      Paducah, KY

*High Water Mark*
2023
digital photography

While trying to master the art of digital photography, I am always looking for the unusual presentation, the different perspective, or the surprise photographic opportunity. I am not satisfied with a photograph that only represents the scene that is before me and so, with my picture, I attempt to interpret the mood, emotion, and feeling at that point in time. The composition of the image, the juxtaposition of shapes, lines, patterns, and forms, and the play of light are very important components of my work. By learning different photographic techniques, I am able to achieve these goals with camera in hand but I employ the digital darkroom to complete the project.

I have always had an interest in photography but never had time to seriously dedicate myself to that pursuit. After retiring from the practice of medicine, I began taking classes in digital photography at the Paducah School of Art and Design. I have learned much and continue to focus on my art and to find my voice in photography.

Xingkui Guo      Nashville, TN

*A path to home*
2022
35mm Kodak infrared film; digital printing
**Frank Hamrick**  
Ruston, LA

*When the light becomes eternal*

2023  
artist’s book, relief printed cover art, handmade cotton rag paper

This book features images of tintypes that resulted in something more interesting than what was planned due to moving subjects, shifting light, failing equipment, recycled materials, as well as contaminated, homemade, and exhausted chemistry. The original wet plate collodion tintype photographs were created between 2013 and 2021 in Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, and Tennessee.

The 2017 solar eclipse darkened the afternoon sky. Frogs and crickets by the pond started to croak and chirp, then fell silent again when the sun reappeared. The figures in the book are all standing outside as if they are experiencing some stage of the eclipse, causing them to be in shadow, washed out, or blurred.

The book’s title is derived from a toy drone’s poorly translated owner’s manual, meant to convey the drone was ready to fly when its light was lit constantly. However, the phrasing suggests ideas beyond the instructions for powering up a small electronic device. Light becoming eternal is in a sense what photography is, light permanently recorded on a surface whether it came out as intended or not.

---

**Frank Hamrick, Emerald McIntyre, Jacob Moffett, Jennifer Robinson, Paul Wolfe**  
Ruston, LA

*Cyanotype Quilt*

2022  
cyanotype images, quilted cotton fabric

The 8x8’ *Cyanotype Quilt* was born from a desire to collaborate and push the boundaries of monochromatic photography and how photography is normally presented. Cyanotype used in its traditional method creates a blue image when exposed on white surfaces, such as paper, fabric, and wood. Each photographer explored exposing the blue photochemistry on various colors of fabric to create duo tones including yellow/green, orange/brown, red/purple, and of course blue/white. The photographers then designed a quilt pattern allowing each MFA student equal space for their photographic imagery radiating out from Professor Frank Hamrick’s imagery in the quilt’s center.
Kate He        Murray, KY

Above and Below
2023
photography

I am a plant biologist and a passionate amateur nature photographer. My photography is inspired by the rich biodiversity I see around me. I try to give aesthetic context to the extraordinary displays of the interdependence of flowers, birds, butterflies, and other living creatures in the breathtaking landscape. I strive to use my camera lenses beyond capturing the ecological, aesthetic, and artistic values of Nature to raise society’s awareness that better stewardship will benefit all of us as partners sharing this unique planetary ecosystem.

I took this photo while traveling near Savannah, GA, earlier last year. The slow-moving cargo container in the Atlantic Ocean below the bridge caught my eye, I captured the moment when the bridge formed a perfect frame for it. As I inspected the photo, I realized that a UPS truck was moving on the bridge at the same time. Suddenly, I found the story of this photo: goods are moved globally at various geographical scales. It profoundly reminds us that the whole world is connected at any time and given space.

Abbey Hepner        Troy, IL

To What You Cannot Hold
2015
archival pigment print

In my work, I explore themes of connection, loneliness, vulnerability, and failure. I am curious about magical thinking and the persistence of rituals that life may demand in order for us to keep hope. I reflect on the tension between intimacy and solitude; loneliness and togetherness, that can exist in a technological age where we are confronted with more connections but fewer conversations. This series was created shortly after my best friend passed away from an acute rejection of a double-lung transplant. The photographs and performative gestures represent the act of attempting to heal ourselves through a connection to nature and each other. They pay tribute to that action and the beauty that exists in the attempt, even when the ritual ultimately fails.
Sean Patrick Hill  Louisville, KY

Boulder, Cullasaja River, Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina  
2023  
gelatin silver print

In a world where most of the iconic frontiers have been photographed, how might we see them anew? My answer as an artist has been to look closer and find new frontiers we might be missing in our rush to “see the sights.”

My photographs present simple subjects – rock, running water, and manmade objects – and isolates and abstracts them so that they appear suddenly unfamiliar, charged with new vision and wonder, hinting at the object’s essential essence. Photography slows my perceptions, and by extension the viewer’s, so that we do more than glance at nature; we do not merely look but see. The larger format film cameras I use afford me the time to examine my subject, to compose carefully and deeply. I am never more conscious of the frontier I’ve missed than when I place the camera before me.

I approach the landscape as a traditionalist: I photograph on large- and medium-format film cameras (and occasionally with a 35mm), using both black-and-white panchromatic and color positive films. With black-and-white, I process the negatives and print in the darkroom on gelatin silver paper. With color, I use specialists to develop and scan the film, after which I edit the images and create archival pigment prints.

Much of my understanding of photography comes not only from having photographed for more than a quarter century but from nearly thirty-five years of writing poetry and creative nonfiction.

Ryan Hogancamp  Paducah, KY

Green Truck  
2022  
digital photography, archival paper

I enjoy discovering subjects as I explore the outdoors- in both urban and rural settings. My photographs focus on the relationships between nature and manmade objects. For me, photography serves as a stress relief, and a way to escape the everyday hustle and bustle. Wandering outside with my camera grounds me in the present as I discover interesting scenes that may be overlooked at first glance.
Atticus Hohman    Maitland, FL

*Daytona Bike Week*
2023
film photography

I use photography as a means of learning about society, rather than viewing it in the news. I like to insert myself by going to events, places, or incidents to talk to people. To learn firsthand from their experiences of life. I’m a Florida boy currently living in a converted fifteen-person passenger van, who hasn’t really experienced most of what America has to offer but going to these places by myself and talking to real locals has taught me a lot about life and especially what America is going through right now. From stories such as an agricultural perspective in Montana, the gentrifying blocks of Brooklyn, a pro-choice protest in DC, the memorialized streets of Minneapolis, the houseless communities of Eugene, and a former boom town now reinventing itself in Buffalo. Through this I have my camera and my voice, talking to people and documenting my way through these cities across America. I’m a visual learner. When I see things with my own eyes my brain starts to understand it, and with my photos I want to provide that for other people when they view these photos.

Brianne Innusa    Lafayette, IN

*Party in Pink*
2023
metal print

Through my years working in environmental conservation, I realized there’s something very intimate about being alone in nature. Your brain resets and you start noticing the little things again. The bird calls, the sound of the cicada chorus, the scent of fresh rain in the air, and the pitter patter of small animals running by. You feel like a kid going outside for the first time. I try to convey that child-like curiosity in my photos. Most of my pieces are from my research travels. I’m a full-time forestry master’s student studying coastal forests in southern Georgia. I’ve made it a habit to bring my camera everywhere I go and capture what I see on my travels. I hope that my photos bring the beauty of the natural environment into people’s homes and that it conveys the importance of conservation.
Joyce Jewell  Takoma Park, MD

*Terra Incognita*
2023
mixed media monotype

My work explores the juxtaposition of images that celebrate the beauty of the natural world surviving, and even thriving, amid the consequences of human activity. A cast shadow, a humble coffee cup, or the mystery of the habitat that surrounds us can have a certain elegance that evokes a particular moment in time.

*Terra Incognita* is one of those imaginary landscapes, a hybrid reflection of the tension and harmony of disparate elements. My work involves collecting, combining, and interacting with these images in ways that celebrate our concurrent existence.

Joseph Kelly  Paducah, KY

*Living Spaces*
2021
digital photography

Separate; together.

Rebecca Kitchen  Kalamazoo, MI

*Big Bend*
2023
gelatin silver print

As travel gives me new perspectives, photography gives me new, deeper ways of seeing. My favorite photographs aren't always perfect, but they make me feel something deeply – awe, joy, or even sadness. My travels in Big Bend National Park brought me to an alien landscape. It was a perfect winter day in the desert – sunny, cool, and dry. The spring rains had not yet come, and the land was as brown and dry as the distant mountains. In just a few months, the landscape would bloom, the spiny sticks of the ocotillo tipped in red, the prickly pear clothed in bright yellow. But this *Big Bend* had a beauty all its own. With no color to catch the eye, no sound but the wind and birds, the winter desert offered me peace.
**Anthony Lewis**  Columbia, SC

*Jifunza Jah*
2023
archival pigment print, framed

This work explores the movement of the black woman mentally, physically, and spiritually, from existence to the present, via the vessels of transportation of our ancestors, fleeing through the swamps, being hung on trees, using the underground railroad, and the Black Migration to the north to escape racism, lynching, economic disparities, and inhumane living conditions to provide a better life for their family. My aim is to create intimate portraits that showcase the strength, resilience, and sacrifice of black women who in their stare, posture and overall demeanor are being unapologetically black.

Using vintage cameras such as the Mamiya c220 and the Minolta SRT 35mm, I have chosen to capture my subjects in black and white film photography, a medium that I have always loved and appreciated since my childhood days spent watching black and white Western movies with my grandpop.

The process for shooting intimate portraits in compromised locations was spontaneous. Being in someone’s personal space taking photos indicates trust, respect, and the understanding of capturing a moment in time where the process is sometimes tedious and demanding, but in the end, the merger of seeing and feeling of the atmosphere during this encounter is humbling and appreciative and is documented in a format that can be admired for future generations. The absence of color adds a different dynamic of timelessness, nostalgia, and organic energy to the overall concept. I want my work to be a timeless construct of being considered as a vessel for time travel as seen through the eyes of my lens.

Some of my photographic influences include Gordon Parks, Carrie Mae Weems, Calvin Wilson, and Louis Draper.

---

**Ryan Lewis**  Kalamazoo, MI

*Everted Sanctuaries VI*
2018
single channel digital video

Eversion refers to an organism’s ability to turn itself inside out. For example, a sea cucumber can eject its internal organs to distract predators, trading vital functions for ultimate survival. Similarly, introverts temporarily evert their personalities to function in extroverted contexts. This performance is simultaneously action and reaction, assertion and retreat. This transformation can be physically, emotionally, and mentally taxing.

*Everted Sanctuaries VI* communicates about the complex needs of introverts. A transforming book is a metaphor for the uncomfortable process of becoming temporarily extroverted. Ubiquitous exteriors part to reveal intricate interiors—beautiful, but unintended consequences of the contortions necessary to fit in. This work establishes the importance of sanctuary for introverts and asks viewers to consider the depth and vulnerability concealed beneath silent surfaces.
**Matt Makara**  
McLean, VA

*Flow*
2022
platinum palladium photographic print on fine art platinum rag paper

I am a self-taught multi-format photographer who strives to capture the beauty and drama of the world around me – whether that be a secluded path in the mountains or a busy city street. My hope is that my work will inspire others to explore and appreciate the world around them – both the ordinary and extraordinary.

---

**Kelsey M. Nolin**  
Claysville, PA

*Untitled*
2023
digitally archived phytogram

My practice utilizes photography to explore the natural world, the everyday, and the temporal. Inspired by my rural upbringing on a small family farm, I am motivated by a connection to the land, frameworks of routine and repetition, and a consistent desire for physical engagement with artistic material.

My process involves routine explorations of natural environments and landscapes that then inform the materiality of my photographic explorations. My practice is rooted in ideas of scientific experimentation, spiritual meditation, and rhythms of labor. My most recent explorations have involved bringing organic material in direct physical contact with photographic substrates and chemicals in an attempt to bridge the mechanical and the natural.

By engaging both traditional and alternative photographic processes, my artworks explore both the theoretical foundations of the medium as well as narratives of time and fragility in the natural world. These works utilize their individual chemical and exposure processes to experiment with mark making and material. These strategies invoke references to natural organic forms and structures in the surrounding landscape, while remaining tied to light and the lens.
John O’Connell  Makanda, IL

Night Lights
2021
digital print on glass

Six months at Lake St. Isaac beach
2022
digital print of scanned image, printed on paper

I am an outdoor photographer who specializes in outdoor landscape and nature photography. I am often inspired by nature itself: patterns, light, motion. I wonder at natural order and natural chaos alike. I also have long been inspired by the photographer Clyde Butcher. He went to great lengths and had incredible patience to capture the perfect shots of the Florida Everglades, where I spent a lot of time as a kid. Trying to best mimic those traits, I often spend a lot of time on some of my photographs. I have images that have involved 10+ hours of planning, capture, and processing to get just right. Of course, as a father of two young daughters, I also have plenty of photos that I have taken in fleeting moments while wrangling the kids in the outdoors!

The arts often include elaborate descriptions and hidden meanings behind artworks. My goal with my photography is simple: show the beauty in the world around us. That’s not always just bold sunsets and vibrant flowers; there is beauty even in a frigid winter downpour or in the bark of a dead tree. I particularly enjoy showing off natural scenes that I encounter in Southern Illinois and anywhere that I am lucky to travel to. We are very fortunate to have so much awesome public land around the region and I think that many people from elsewhere don’t realize what they are missing here. I get so much joy from hearing from people who follow my work that it inspires them, lifts them up, or helps them enjoy the region now that they have either moved away or are not physically up for the hikes.

Russell Peters  Johnston City, IL

Ophelia OD’d
2022
digital photography
Children play gleefully in Jelisa Peterson’s photographs. Choosing to bring forth the beauty and fullness of African people, Peterson found inspiration amongst the people – particularly the children – of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa. Playfully innocent, her subjects jostle and grin, move and pose softly offering a unique perspective of the people and communities of which they are an integral part. After many years of living in these African countries and working with various NGOs as a grant writer, Peterson believes the media’s portrayal of these people to be grossly inadequate and felt the need to represent these communities as the nuanced and textured living societies that they are.
Of COVID, Indianapolis, Ind., March 2020
2020
medium format film image, laser printed

Of COVID, Indianapolis, Ind., March 2020 is a continuation of my masterwork, Monuments of the City, begun in 2013. My sense as a photographer is that COVID-19 and the Pandemic Era are current-tense for most people, even though other disasters have raged on, such as political and social upheaval, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, wildfire smoke, and economic change. Street scene photographers (back-read to genre inventors such as Eugène Atget and masters such as Lee Friedlander and Stephen Shore) use reflection in windows to reflects the Photographer’s presence.

My medium-format color film project has changed through the years to include some 35mm film and some black & white work. The narrative uses form and representational artistic involvement to tell stories about the built environment in cityscapes. The story I find over and over is that people describe many buildings they see as “abandoned,” even though they are not abandoned; after all, abandoned buildings are legally unbound from their owners and have become a concern of municipalities and communities. I see buildings in a moment of stasis that sometimes has lasted for decades with no discernible changes. Others react as if the buildings are eyesores, somehow as failed places. I can describe the many ways in which the building is being cared for; my photographs are actually documents of that care, though my responsibility is primarily form. Some have seen a stilled sense of time in my images, and I think that is a byproduct of the meditative nature of street scene photography, a genre that generously allows me to partake in this artform.

Rebirth #4/7
2023
Epson Legacy Platine paper, Epson 4900 Pro

In my ongoing underwater work, I seek moments of sublime peace (that fine line where the conscious and subconscious meet) and the creative chaotic (where energy is released that fine line is broken and the potential becomes kinetic). I see the water as a metaphor for a dream medium and I try to meet my subjects on that boundary and hope that we are able to take the viewer from tranquil peace to a burst of creation and back again. I think these dreamlike images may have been influenced by my desire to change my life direction and move from the chaos of the path I’d chosen and find the peace of the path not taken.

Above the surface much of my work has centered around water, introspection, and emerging from darkness into light. Long moments of silence and self-reflection stand out as defining or favored memories, with water used in moments of renewal, and light in communion with the spirit. This was all likely influenced by my own baptism in 2019 and my subsequent continuing search for and attempts to remain in the light.
Tom Reddish        Marion, IL

*Orange Beach*
2023
photography

Tom is an accomplished amateur photographer based in Southern Illinois. Tom and his wife, Rose, are both retired and are transplants from Lake County, IL. Tom has been an avid photographer for most of his life and really enjoys photographing all types of subjects, including floral, landscapes, architecture, etc. Tom has won many ribbons and awards in the years that he entered competitions. May blue ribbons and several best in show awards.

This photo was taken on the beach at Orange Beach, AL, where Rose and I were vacationing this past March. The colors are what drew me to this perspective.

Wen Redmond        Strafford, NH

*Crown Point*
2017
digital fiber collage; digitally fused photographs printed by artist on silk charmeuse, brads, cheesecloth, Lutradur, teabag liners

New England artist Wen Redmond’s fascination with photography finds expression through printing original manipulated photographs directly onto created mixed media substrates, and specially treated natural fibers to create unique photographic textural constructions.

Imaginative presentations add to the pioneering innovations and giving her work edge. Every work generates an artistic tension, followed by the excitement of the actual creation of the work. A dialogue is started, and the work becomes real. She calls this work Digital Mixed Media.

Redmond’s work has been exhibited in major internationally recognized exhibitions, including Quilt National, Visions Museum of Textile Art, SAQA Global Exhibition; Fiberart International, Fantastic Fibers, Quilts=Art=Quilts, Intersect Chicago, Excellence In Fibers, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, Fiber Options, Art Quilt Elements, New Legacies, International Quilt Show, Fiber Options, and numerous juried, invitational, and solo exhibitions. Her work has won awards at New Legacies, Fiber Arts IX, Maryland Federation of Art, Maria V. Howard Arts Center, Fantastic Fibers, and Visions Art Museum of Textile Art Quilts Japan Award, among others.

Her work has traveled the US, UK, Europe, Japan, and Australia, and is part of the permanent collection of Marbaum Collection at the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, Maria V. Howard Arts Center, Visions Museum of Textile Art, New England Quilt Museum, and private collections. She has been featured in numerous magazines and books, including her own published books, *Digital Fiber Art* and upcoming book with Schiffer Publishing with the working title *Explorations with Collage*.

She currently splits her time between North Carolina and New Hampshire.
Lydia Schnitzer  Gilbertsville, KY

Spring Awakening
2023
oil and gold leaf hand embellished giclée; photographed with Canon 5d Mark 4 and Sigma Art 85mm; hand edited in Adobe Photoshop CC

As a child I would sit for hours and hours listening to my grandma telling fairy tales and sagas. I had a great imagination and submerging into these fantastical and magical stories inspired me to create my very own. What started out with a passion for painting and drawing, turned later into pursuing a career as a graphic artist in which Adobe Photoshop became one of my favorite tools. Naturally, I grew interested in photography as creating my own images gave me the ultimate control over my artwork. In 2017, this newly found passion turned into my job and allowed me to stay home with my babies while being flexible with my work schedule. But I wasn’t bold and dared to show my true artistic side and rather delivered the type of work I felt expected to do.

In 2022, after the birth of my third child, I experienced burnout. I didn’t have enough hours in a day to pursue my passion for painting and I felt uninspired by my photographic work. Fortunately, I received mentoring when I was ready to abandon photography altogether and instead steered into the direction I am headed in now. I discovered a whole new world of possibilities, artistically and through new mediums.

My work today is oftentimes inspired by my grandma's magical stories, reinvented through fine art and fantasy photography. I predominantly photograph females and by adding a golden halo, I suggest our natural gift of intuition, strength, and resilience.

The combination of my three favorite mediums: painting, graphic art, and photography are hand embellished giclée prints. The image Spring Awakening was my very first giclée. I have since turned more photographic work of my bespoke photo sessions into commissioned giclées.

Lily Shapiro  Metropolis, IL

Setting Sail On A Distant Horizon
2023
video shot on Hi-8 tape

My father sailed from Kentucky Lake to Hawaii, and in this piece he tells his story of crossing the Pacific Ocean. Adventure runs deep in my DNA and I have always been mesmerized by this story. Amidst life’s tides and waves, these words guide me, reminding me to always keep my eyes on the horizon.
Robert Shapiro  Metropolis, IL

Southern Decadence  
2021  
digital photography, archival print

Southern Decadence, a celebration of the LGBTQ community, is a Labor Day weekend event held annually in New Orleans. It originated in 1972 as a going away party and in the half century since has grown to be one of the five largest events in the city with this year’s attendance expected to exceed 300,000 people. I stood in the middle of Bourbon Street and as the parade swirled around me, photographed scores of the lavishly dressed participants.

Amber Taylor  Gilbertsville, KY

Landvætte  
2023  
photography; printed on metal

My photography story begins in 2011, when I first discovered my love for abandoned places and peculiar people. As a visual storyteller with a degree in theater and a passion for mystical, dark beauty, I endeavor to stage eerie, moody, and thought-provoking scenes through my costumes, makeup and design.

As a child I was given a life full of travel and have always been captivated by diverse cultures. Norse mythology inspires me, in particular, as I recognize myself in those strong warriors. I believe we all have ferocious potential and scheduling your own Viking adventure will empower you and serve as a constant reminder afterwards, when in moments of self-doubt!

I’m proud that my art is a means to celebrate the beauty and softness, yet strength and power of this human existence and for my clients to see themselves in a new way, full of self-love, bravery, and radiance.
Ronald Toth  Murray, KY

*Mature Seed Cone of Sequoiadendron giganteum*
2023
digital photography

Most conifer cones are relatively small scaly brown things, usually kicked out of the way, stepped on or driven over. A cone is the gymnosperm equivalent of a flower. Flowers are also overlooked. Many have colors other than green; so, people take a quick look, but couldn’t really describe them. They haven’t looked at them closely, only noticed that they exist. If they were on the ground most people would step on them. Cones generally have two disadvantages; they are on the ground, and they are an uninteresting brown color.

My goal with this project is to get people to observe conifer cones. Although on the ground and brown, they have many variations. They all have spirally arranged scales with seeds, but building on that basic theme are many varieties of scale shapes and sizes, texture, fragility, solidity (to name but a few characteristics).

I hope to make digital photographs of conifer cones that will be effective in getting people to take the time to observe them by accentuating or exaggerating their characteristics. Not being skilled with a great arsenal of digital tools, I will use traditional methods of lighting, perspective and composition. The only digital “tool” used will be image stacking and using photoshop to increase or decrease contrast since I will not be using grades of photo paper or contrast filters (no silver gelatin prints).

Many of the images will be of individual cones and will concentrate on one particular aspect (symmetry, delicacy, solidity etc.). I hope to make each characteristic apparent enough to attract the attention of the viewer. Some images will compare different types of cones. Increasing the size of the final image, may also be use. Sometimes sheer size has the effect of getting people to slow down and look at the form or pattern on display.

Alan Vidali  Royal Oak, MI

*AI Portrait Studies 01*
2023
photography
Tonya Wilhelm  
Northumberland, PA

Finery in Flames
2023
photography; 20x20 metal print

I am a multi-disciplinary artist specializing in photography to create conceptual self-portraits. I’m inspired by exploring symbolism in visuals that unpack emotions and ideas with a surreal twist.

Michael Young  
Scarsdale, NY

The Spit
2019
archival pigment print

Greenville, Kentucky, locals have an expression: “If you don’t like the weather, just wait a minute.” While it may be calm and sunny one moment and dark and stormy the next, cultural life is slow to change. From the pulpit, local Southern Baptist ministers continue to preach eternal damnation for those who challenge their literal interpretations of the Bible.

For my partner, Erik, each trip back to Greenville is filled with nostalgia for a carefree childhood spent playing in the woods, mixed with an unmet longing to reconcile with a place he still struggles to wholeheartedly call home. Maybe Tomorrow began as a way to better understand his past, his family dynamics, and the place where he grew up. While photographing his relatives and their friends, I noticed that gender conformity is essential to fitting into this conservative community. Over time, I’ve become more attuned to the subtle ways gender norms are shaped, maintained, reinforced, and challenged.

Since our first trip as a couple to Kentucky, which began over a decade ago, my intention has always been to make photographs that depict my new Southern family, their friends, and the community around Greenville with honesty and empathy. Rather than reinforce problematic stereotypes of people living in “flyover country,” I seek to depict this town and its relationship to gender roles and presentations. Maybe Tomorrow is ultimately an open narrative about the ways in which place informs culture.
Regional Salon

During each Art Through The Lens exhibition, we honor our local traditions of photography with the ‘Regional Salon’ which is comprised of artists residing within approximately 150 miles of Paducah. The roots of Art Through The Lens lie within these local photographers and regional photo clubs, who have nurtured this medium through the years. This year, forty-six pieces were meticulously chosen to be included in the Salon. Content and composition were used to make initial choices, which were eventually narrowed down to those images that forced the panel to take a deeper look. We are incredibly honored to showcase this artwork made by regional artists!
Andrea Atnip  Paducah, KY

*What Was Left Behind*
2023
photograph printed with inkjet dyes on mixed media paper

*What Was Left Behind* is a photographic exploration capturing the beauty and significance of old objects found in an abandoned house. Through careful composition, light, and shadow, the photograph evokes nostalgia and contemplation. Each artifact holds a unique history, symbolizing the lives and experiences of those who once inhabited the space. The broken rocking chair, old suit coat, and tattered blinds embody the passage of time and the resilience of memories. The photograph invites viewers to reflect on the transient nature of human existence and appreciate the connections between the past, present, and future. It serves as a visual archaeology, unearthing fragments of the past and granting them newfound significance. In our fast-paced world, the photograph reminds us of the value in preserving and honoring the echoes of time. It celebrates the enduring beauty in decay and encourages viewers to pause, reflect, and cherish the ephemeral moments that reside within forgotten corners. Ultimately, it is a tribute to the forgotten, offering a glimpse into the rich tapestry of human existence.

Bob Bell  Benton, KY

*Village Inn*
2021
photography

I take pictures of rural America, mainly old buildings that are in a state of decay, and will soon be gone from the landscape. I also take pictures of historic structures that are being, or have been restored. The goal is to record as much of our history as possible, as it is disappearing at an alarming rate. I grew up in an area that had numerous old abandoned homes and barns. For the most part, they are gone today, having been replaced with mobile homes, pole barns, and other soulless and mundane dwellings and utilitarian structures.

Rebecca Binks  Paducah, KY

*Corn Cobs in the Sky*
2022
photography, printed on glass

Rebecca Binks is a Paducah, KY, based photographer, working to express the unique sense of interconnectivity humans have with nature. By artfully capturing the patterns of light and shadow in her photography, she is constantly seeking to reveal the beauty of the relationship between the man-made and nature. Rebecca challenges the viewer to look beyond the surface and explore the deeper meaning of her images. She puts her eye to the frame, uncovering a complex world that demonstrates the dynamic equilibrium between man and nature.
Landee Bryant  Paducah, KY

*Wonder*
2023
photography

I enjoy taking photos of life, whether it be while I’m walking my dogs, participating in a community event, or just observing everyday happenings.

James Davis  Pembroke, KY

*Piercing the Veil*
2023
photographic print, framed

While visiting the Myrtle Beach area, I was informed that SpaceX would be launching one of their Falcon Heavy rockets just after sunset and that it would be visible from the beach. Grabbing my camera, I made it just in time to watch the rocket streak across the orange sky—leaving fascinating exhaust patterns as its altitude increased.

Robert Dickes  Evansville, IN

*The Runaway*
2021
archival ink print

As a contemporary photographic artist, I seek innovative ways to challenge the preconceived constructs of photography and its reproductive form. My methods of creation vary widely from series to series never allowing a single subject or medium to dominate. While my images in one series may be exhibited in a traditional documentary style the next series may take on a theory concept and be presented as an installation. For this reason, I see myself as a multidisciplinary artist who uses photography as the primary medium to develop concepts. Through this heterogeneous approach to art, I seek to engage my viewer on a deeper intellectual level.

My work is a reflection of my life. Whether I focus on the image as a social document within mass marketing and social media or the evolutionary changes the medium has endured, my work is centered on sociological perspectives I encounter. I use social experimentation and perceptions of subcultures as abstractions in the creation of my art to share and inform my audience.
Kara Douglas  Murray, KY

*Follow the Leader*
2023
photography

To say that I try to capture the world around me is obvious. I want to help capture the little details, the fleeting moments so often missed. The moment when you go out to play with your friends, but none of you realize it is the last time. The innocence of discovering the world from a different set of eyes. To evoke emotion and inspire, that is why I do what I do.

Basil Drossos  Paducah, KY

*Invasive Asian Carp - Ohio River*
2023
digital photography

Joseph C. Garrett  Herrin, IL

*WANDA G.*
2022
photography

Portrait photography is a beautiful experience. Not only do I have the opportunity to provide a memorable experience, but I also get to connect with people in a fun way.
Craig Gentry    Benton, KY

*High Elevation Elk*
2022
photography

Primarily shooting to create marketing content for a website, advertising, or social media campaign but traveling with my camera always brings out a different level of creativity in me. Wildlife and landscapes are completely out of my control so all we can do is shoot them as they are. We were pleased to view the early morning craze that is the elk rut, but this lone bull elk was above tree line, avoiding it all. Passed his mating years, giving way to the younger elk to carry on the herd. October 2023, Colorado.

Hazel Grant    Carbondale, IL

*Dinner! 2*
2022
digital photography

When people occasionally ask what kind of photography I like, my usual reply is street photography. That is the short answer, but the follow-up question should be, “Why?” My answer speaks of my fascination in trying to capture what is really going on in a life at the moment. Body language, eye focus, facial expression, interaction with others, and the environment—all work with lighting and composition to help present that moment of life. My camera’s lens creates a smaller world of focus to share a mini-world environment, that aha moment of, if not understanding, at least of appreciation.

During the pandemic, I shifted from people to nature, finding that birds and animals speak through their interactions to express much about their personalities. The world speaks if we only take time to notice. Moving from observation through the lens and onto my computer, I explore nuances of presentation. Some photographs remain au natural with only minor tweaks. Others open up through digital art creation, each step of the process helping me understand the world a bit more and so find those aha moments of sorrow and joy. All of this has expanded my photographic world as my work has been accepted for juried exhibitions over the years.

So, my body of work is eclectic. Rather than a street photographer as originally planned, I find myself a world avenue observer as I explore digital art.
Sarah Haig  Martin, TN

*My Own Space*
2023
photography

I am an observer, watching as the mundane, banal, and habitual become apparent again. In this role of an observer, my own awareness of the ambiguities between internal and external, inside and outside, positive and negative, the way I exist within a space, and the traces that every action, encounter, and experience leave on both my surroundings and myself become more apparent. I observe as the unconscious, habitual actions, and movement of the body become conscious, rediscovered, and suddenly new all over again forcing me to consider my own relationship to this level of discovery. 

Sarah Haig is an artist and educator located in northwest Tennessee.

Sandra Halter  Mayfield, KY

*The Oculus*
2022
photograph on gloss paper

Photography is my hobby, more my passion. I enjoy nature photography and street photography. My sister and I were privileged to have a private street photography lesson with Phil Penman. It was a lifetime experience. Since I enjoy writing, I am working on a photojournalism piece on hunger and homelessness. Photojournalist Lynn Johnson is a major inspiration for me. Photography continuously opens new worlds and experiences.

David Hammond  Goreville, IL

*Hawks Cave Waterfall*
2022
photography

My overall collection of photography is titled *EVERYDAY MIRACLES* and is meant to focus on the beauty of the earth that our Lord and Creator has given us. All thanks and glory belong to him.

Images are made using digital and film cameras. I edit my images in Photoshop and Lightroom to best show how it appeared at the time the image was captured. Editing includes adjustments to exposure, saturation, and contrast, as well as dust removal and slight cropping, but does NOTHING to artificially alter the image beyond what was presented to my vision (no composite images or computer created images).
Ginny Harris  Paducah, KY

*This Hazy Afternoon*
2021
digital photography

As a photographer, my work is driven by a deep desire to empower women and celebrate the essence of divine femininity. I aim to capture the ethereal ambiance that surrounds and emanates from women, portraying their strength, beauty, and resilience.

Isabelle Harrison  Kevil, KY

*Golden Hour*
2023
photography

Todd Holloman  Paducah, KY

*Buds*
2023
digital photography

I tried to think of something profound to say, but the fact is I simply like taking pictures.
**Travis Janssen**  
Makanda, IL

*Helvetica_Y*  
2022  
cyanotype

This cyanotype is derived from the uppercase “Y” of the Helvetica typeface. Through duplicating, rotating, and imposing each letter’s structure upon itself, mandala-like images result, featuring hundreds of perceived values and harmonies, ghostly implied volumes, and moiré or interference patterns. The imagery has associations with guilloche, spirographs, and mathematical roses, as well as connections to the fields of spiritual, geometric, and Op art.

---

**Clark Jarvis**  
Paducah, KY

*Messier 42, The Great Nebula in Orion*  
2023  
photographic giclée print

Messier 42, The Great Nebula in Orion, or called the Orion Nebula is located in the constellation Orion, just below Orion’s belt, about halfway to the bottom two stars comprising the constellation. The stars surrounding the nebula in the photo can be faintly seen with the naked eye, even from the city. To see the nebula itself, binoculars or a small telescope is recommended. The Orion constellation appears in our skies beginning in the fall (early morning) through the winter/early spring (early evening).

This composite image of *Messier 42, The Orion Nebula* was captured from my front yard in Paducah, KY, January to February 2023 by use of a William Optics Zenithstar 61 Telescope with 0.8x reducer/flattener, Skywatcher HEQ5 Pro mount, QHYCCD QHY183C Camera and Optolong LeNhance Narrowband Filter and data acquisition software. The data collected was processed in PixInsight, and Photoshop CC to color correct the background night sky as well as bring out nebulosity associated with the target.

The exposure times for each image to create the composite are as follows:  
66 frames of 300 second exposures  
85 frames of 180 second exposures  
48 frames of 120 second exposures  
110 frames of 60 second exposures  
121 frames of 30 second exposures  
Total exposure time: 14 hr 11 min 30s  
Calibration frames (Dark frames, Flat Frames, and Dark Flat Frames) applied.
Cindy Jones       Paducah, KY

Preserved Seating
2022
digital photography

In this image, my lens caught three forlorn theater seats fighting for balance between the ancient peeling walls and the shiny new Columbia Theater sign reflected in the mirror.

Jeffrey Joyce       Paducah, KY

Breaking Free
2023
digital photography

Photography has the power to inspire and transform, and often the most beautiful creations come from unexpected places. I am drawn to photograph abandoned places, where I explore what has been left behind. I find these images present poignant themes and a realization that time leaves everything behind. The image, Breaking Free, is a perfect example of this approach, demonstrating how beauty can be found in the most unexpected places and the inevitable decay and rebirth as time passes. I live in an industrial area where new and old objects share the same environment. In 2020, freshly stacked and bound cardboard bundles were placed out of sight from the company’s view, but in turn, became my everyday genre. I watched the cardboard bundles wait to be recycled. By 2023, the weather had swollen and crumpled the cardboard to the point where it eventually broke free of its binding. This unleashed a beautiful cascade of varying tones and textures. Over this three-year period, the bundles decomposed and melded into their forgotten environment. The emotional impact of the image is elusive yet undeniable. Breaking Free conveys broader themes of confinement and liberation. The building’s windows have iron bars on them, confining all that is inside. The tiny tree perseveres and continues to grow regardless of the confinement of the concrete pad. The image serves as a metaphor for breaking free of societal constraints and finding beauty in unexpected places. It reminds us that there is beauty all around us, even in the most ordinary and mundane places.
Teresa Joyce  Paducah, KY

Abandoned
2021
photography

This abandoned building in Cairo, IL, is a reminder of a once beautiful and prosperous city at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Steeped in history, Cairo contains a plethora of old and abandoned buildings perfect for photographic preservation by an old soul like me. This building in particular caught my eye with the plywood window coverings and aged green paint which adds dimension to the deterioration and decay.

Marta Ketter  Makanda, IL

Blizzard
2023
photography

Weather changes provide a wonderful backdrop for capturing a moment in time. Blizzard represents that, being on top of the mountain, heavy snow coming down, colorful skis and snowboards waiting for action. That is how my inspiration comes, in colorful moments and happy memories.

Sara King  Lobelville, TN

In Keeping with Family Tradition
2021
digital photography

My photo titled In Keeping with Family Tradition captures an everyday moment in rural areas. Today it’s harder to keep family farms sustainable especially when there is no family to keep it running. They are often sold off or become neglected. This photo shows the traditions and legacy that comes with keeping up a family’s legacy.
Gina Lamm  Paducah, KY

*Tunnel Vision*
2021
photography, canvas

“Life is like a camera. Focus on what’s important. Capture the good times. And if things don’t work out, just take another shot.” – Ziad K. Abdelnour

Finding my artistic medium late in life was surprising. My favorite characterization of my work is “unexpected” as my art tends to be outside the standard norms. Sharing pieces that tell a story and/or evoking an emotion through a single photographic moment is my ultimate goal.

---

Born and raised in West Kentucky, Gina K. Lamm currently resides in Paducah, KY. She is a construction estimator, mother of two, grandmother of three. She bought her first serious camera in her 50’s and quickly fell in love with photography.

Brittin Lang  Paducah, KY

*Illumination Orb*
2022
photography

This is one of my creations I titled Illumination Orb. This is one of my first projects as I expanded my photography into the object photography realm. I set out to create images that leaves the viewer looking into the setting to discover the obvious colors and shapes but also this hidden by reflections. Look deep.

Sue Lester  Paducah, KY

*Guiding Light*
2023
photography

Capturing a photo is not about just pushing a button. It is so much more. It is composing and framing the exact shot that allows the exact moment and place to be remembered forever. It also allows your special memory to be shared with others. I am sharing this special memory with you. The sunset at this lighthouse was so amazing!
Miles Martin    Paducah, KY

*Puzzled*
2023
photography, printed on metal

I have always loved photographing unscripted moments of people. In the fleeting instances when I capture someone lost in thought, immersed in an activity, or engaged in genuine emotion, I am reminded of the vast tapestry of human existence. It is a humbling realization that every individual I encounter carries within them a life just as intricate and multifaceted as my own.

Conner Murt    Calvert City, KY

*Altar*
2023
digital photography

Here we find ourself at the altar. How do you feel about this? What does that mean to you? Does it give you comfort or do you find it repulsive? Through my photos I hope to invoke thought, feeling, and emotion about scenes and subjects.

Albert Phillips    Shawneetown, IL

*Foggy Main Street*
2023
digital photography

My photography experience began with a Brownie box camera in the 1950s and included a stint as a newspaper and self-employed photographer (1960s). The last 60 years, photography has been a source of fun and experimentation. *Foggy Main Street* is an experiment with mirrorless camera technology. Camera and computer technology has radically expanded the image possibilities.
Geoff Pope    Paducah, KY

Moon Leafbird
2021
photography

viewing the moon for hours . . .
a leafbird is born

Gavin Posey    Paducah, KY

Outside the Columbia
2022
digital photography

I’ve heard stories about Paducah’s Columbia Theatre since childhood. On field trips downtown in elementary school, we would peek inside the front glass, wondering if anyone was inside the building. Everyone in Paducah seems to have a story about the Columbia Theatre. A boss’s first date was there. A neighbor’s father drew show posters by hand for their screenings. A peer used to print their ticket stubs. Collectively, it’s safe to say the theatre is missed - even by those without Columbia memories of their own.

Phyllis Russell    Paducah, KY

Time has Passed Me By
2023
digital fine art print

Phyllis Russell is an award-winning fine art photographer from Paducah, KY. The majority of her photography reflects the people, places, landscapes and flowers that have captured her eye through her travels. Her desire is that her photographs reflect the beauty and experience of life and nature. No two photographs are the same.

“The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without the camera.” Dorothea Lang
Denise Schmittou  Murray, KY

Forward
2020
digital photography

I have always been fascinated by photography and over the years have progressed from film to digital photography. Following a career in photography and communications for over 31 years, I now try to emphasis the creative nature of photography in my art. My most recent work depicts common objects in unusual ways. I would like to inspire those who see my art, to discover beauty in unexpected places.

Tina Sexton  Murray, KY

King Shoe
2022
archival digital photography

A former photography teacher and mentor of mine once described my photography as very organic. I may be drawn to florals and nature one day and desire to capture how the light falls on a petal. The next day I may be drawn to urban or rural decay and will attempt to visually tell a story.

Eli Sicken  Paducah, KY

Qinghua
2023
photography
**Slowstone**  
Mayfield, KY

*The Search for Light*
2023
photography; Photoshop

*The Search for Light* is a silhouette within a photograph, uncropped. It’s a study exploring appreciation for what is, finding beauty in the unchanging rather than trying to manipulate every aspect. Synonymous with my personal inner work, I hope to share some of the eminence that’s inside with this expression and how differently our unique perspectives affect how we experience the world around us.

This piece was created without a single brush stroke, elements/textures collected and stamped from the original photo.

---

**Nancy Stalls**  
Hopkinsville, KY

*Smoke House*
2022
photography

I enjoy the aging process of farms and the rugged, well-worn buildings. Most have spent years “doing their thing” and the odor of smoked hams and bacon still permeates from the darkened wood of this smoke house.

I present *Smoke House* as a representation of days gone by.

---

**Jeffrey Sweeney**  
Bowling Green, KY

*Her Bark Is Worse Than Her Bite*
2022
digital photography

I initially adopted photography as a survival skill following the pandemic and the political turmoil of recent years and quickly discovered that creating original art is a good for the soul as turning off the television and getting outside is. A relative newcomer to the medium, I quickly discovered an aptitude for digital photography and set about attempting to capture the beauty that surrounds us every day, whether it be as obvious as a sunset or as seemingly mundane as a little girl and her dog.

I work exclusively in digital photography and the best shots are usually the ones I didn’t set out to take in the first place. If your eyes and your heart are open, the magic often lies around the next corner. God puts perfect composition in our lives, but not everyone sees it... it’s the joy the eye of the beholder.
Karen Taylor  Mayfield, KY

Bee Happy
2022
photography

As a hobby photographer, I have developed a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature and the world that surrounds me. Western Kentucky is one of the most beautiful places on earth and affords endless opportunity to explore that beauty. Having taken up photography later in life, I have learned not to take for granted the vast mysteries and uniqueness of nature. One of my favorite challenges is to photograph a bee or butterfly, such as the one in this photo Bee Happy. Their quickness and illusiveness make this challenge unusually difficult. My passion for photography is what keeps me grounded as I age and deal with chronic health problems. My interests include photographing flowers, landscapes, old buildings, barns, wildlife, and anything to do with nature and rural America.

Toni Tilton  Paducah, KY

Sunrise Port Paducah
2023
digital photography

I’m an early riser. I decided to treat myself on the second day of the new year to a latte from the nearby Midtown Market. I thought, “Why not drive to the river to drink it!” So, began a habit resulting in hundreds of pictures of sunrises across the Ohio River at Port Paducah! The sky colors and clouds are different every day! I see the sun slowly rise above the trees, an occasional beaver swim by, lots of noisy seagulls in the winter, contrails from fighter jets from Fort Campbell, busy tugs pushing freight up/down the river, smelly dead carp from Kentucky Lake, lots of large/small wood debris and the occasional tourist river boat at dock in the spring/summer. It’s a calm way to begin any day! A little challenging after daylight savings time kicked in with sunrise being closer to 5:30! Worth it!
Cynthia Turner    Paducah, KY

Seabird at Dusk
2023
digital photography, Canon EOS T6

Many sunsets and bird watching on this beach has been enjoyed by me for many years. There is something especially beautiful about the calmness that comes right between the sun hitting the water and darkness appearing. The tide comes in where the water begins to blend with the slowly fading pink horizon. The birds are playing in the tide and the endless body of water begins to show all its different crevices of waves. I could sit on this beach for hours watching the birds and waves move along the coast. There’s something special about capturing the stillness of this moment and how it changes each day, never the same twice.

Kristy Ulrich    Paducah, KY

Island Paradise
2023
photography

Taking photos is always a pastime that involves animals, landscapes, and people. This April was my first time traveling to the Caribbean. The views were breathtaking, and I found myself mesmerized by the turquoise waters. As our plane made the approach to Turks and Caicos, I couldn’t look away and this shot captured that moment for me.

Uncle Bacon    Paducah, KY

MY UZI WEIGHS A TON
2022
photography
Sarah Lynn Watson  Paducah, KY

Peacelynn
2022
photography

My best friend. Captured this completely by accident while I was adjusting my settings for our photo shoot, so this is straight out of the camera with only slight adjustments.

Stephanie Young  Paducah, KY

Crash on Kentucky
2023
photography

I was playing with reflections on the Seaman’s Church Institute building when a car drove by and it looked as if it was going to crash head on with another car. I waited until another came along, snapped the photo and rather liked the result. Purely serendipity.
We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors below, as well as Paducah Area Photographers Club and to our Anonymous Sponsor who help make this exhibition possible.

Kentucky Arts Council

Paducah Beer Werks
Beer for the People

West Kentucky Community and Technical College

Paducah School of Art & Design

Yeiser Art Center