

October Program- Blueprints, a Collaboration *by Jose Betancourt*

Since 2000, José Betancourt and Susan Weil have worked closely together to develop ways of printing and presenting a body of artwork based on the Cyanotype, also known as the photographic “Blueprint”. Although the Cyanotype is their primary technique, Betancourt and Weil have also worked with Photograms and Van Dyke Brown prints. Their collaborative works can range from personal and autobiographical to formal constructions.

The fragmented canvases and negative space form unique images for the viewer. Betancourt has used visual implications in his panoramic photographs to construct fictional landscapes from multiple continuous frames. Weil also has used multiple shaped panels to investigate time and space. Her retrospective publication by Skira entitled “Moving Pictures” shows this body of work. Their love of the history of photography and historical techniques has produced one of a kind works that transcend to a contemporary context.

José Betancourt is Professor of Photography at UAH Huntsville's Department of Art and Art History. He has been working with alternative photographic processes for 20 years and has given workshops on his techniques.

Continued on page 3

**Jose
Betancourt**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

October Program	1
From The President	2
October Program (continued), Photo Opps	3
Competition Results, First Place Winners	4
Annual Point Totals/Wins	5
“Blues with Sue” by Jose Betancourt	6
New Members, Calendar, Member News, Mini Class	7
HPS Board Contact Info	8



From The President

My favorite time of year is here – cool nights and warm days with sunshine and beautiful fall colors. It's a great time to take your camera and head out on safari to find some Urban Jungle sites to photograph.

Tom and Pat Cory were here last month for their every other year program. It was a great program, as usual – lots of beautiful photos and tips on how they were shot. One thing interesting Tom said is that they are now using micro four thirds cameras. He said, and the photos presented showed it, that they are great cameras and really lighten the load for traveling. The other nice thing about them, he said, is that they are small enough to always have with you, so you don't miss that once in a lifetime shot. A great tip he mentioned is to add a vignette in post-processing to remove people or other distractions around the edges of an image; he had a couple of white vignetted ones

that were particularly nice. Another good tip was to "Look Up", something I know I always forget to do. Be sure to check out their website, and remember they come to the Botanical Garden often to teach classes.

Our September judge for "Huntsville/Madison County" was Keith Jones. Keith is a professor of art and photography at UA Huntsville. Besides the typical photographic elements and subject matter, he focused on the image's design. In addition to providing comments on the winning photos, he took time to critique many of the other images at the end of the meeting. Be sure to check out the winners on our website gallery and in the newsletter.

As I have mentioned at the last couple of meetings, we will have another Huntsville Museum of Art exhibition, starting next March. Start thinking about photos you would like to submit. We should have a schedule out soon.

José Betancourt, UA Huntsville photography professor will be our October presenter, so don't miss it.

"Urban Jungle" is our competition topic for this month.

Go out and take some photos!!

Eddie Sewall

October Program

Continued from page 1

Jose received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Florida and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the City University of New York-Hunter College.

Aside from his teaching duties José judges photography competitions, artists' grants and also exhibits his work nationally and internationally. His "Blueprints" work, in collaboration with Susan Weil, is presently traveling the US with stops in Portland, OR, Youngstown, OH, Asheville, NC, Nashville, TN and Tuscumbia, AL.

Please join us on October 13th as Jose presents his work and talks about this exciting alternative process.

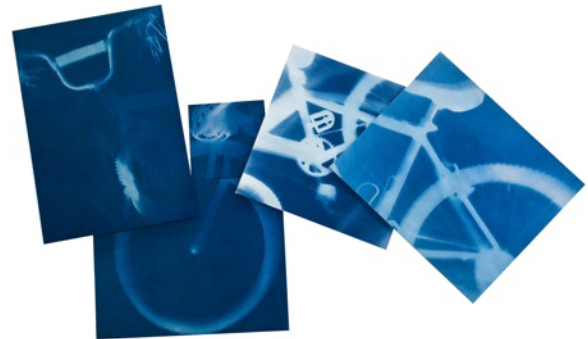


Photo Opps

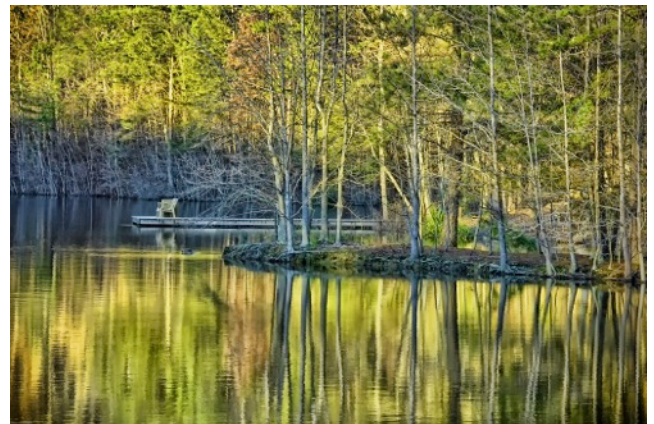
- **48th Annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention, Oct 3-4, Athens State University, Athens, AL.** Approximately 15,000 people are expected to attend the convention. There are 18 categories, including fiddle, guitar, harmonica, mandolin, dulcimer, banjo, and buck dancing. For more info go to <http://www.athens.edu/fiddlers>
- **Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll, Sunday, October 12, 2-4:30 p.m.** Free event features over 80 locals dressed in period costume portraying both the famous and infamous people buried at Maple Hill cemetery. For more info, call 256-533,5723 or go to <http://www.huntsvillepilgrimage.org/>
- **Alabama Jubilee Charity Horse Show, Morgan County Celebration Arena, Decatur, AL. October 17-18.** One of the largest Saddlebred shows in the Southeast with over 700 horses in competition. Call 256-584-6725 for more info.

September Competition Results
Subject: Huntsville/Madison County
Judge- Keith Jones

	Digital (65)	Color Print (53)	Monochrome Print (27)
1st	Barbara Staggs	Virginia Gilbert	Nathan Robbins
2nd	Randy Stephens	Ron Atchley	Sam Alexander
3rd	Gary Stiger	Emily Saile	Don Wolfe
HM	Brian Boardman	Martha Teal	Wayne James
HM	Sam Tumminello	Barbara Montgomery	Don Wolfe
HM	Barbara Staggs	Susi Stroud	Barbara Staggs
HM	Steve Mitchell	Bart Fay	
HM	Virginia Gilbert	Nathan Robbins	
HM	Susi Stroud		
HM	David Blue		

First Place Winners

Digital by
Barbara Staggs



Monochrome
Print by Nathan
Robbins



Color Print
Virginia Gilbert



Name	2014 Points	2014 Wins	Name	2014 Points	2014 Wins
Sam Alexander	35	11	Susi Stroud	7	4
Charles Gattis	28	11	Gary Stiger	7	3
Randy Stephens	21	6	David Blue	7	3
Virginia Gilbert	21	6	Liz Smith	6	2
Barbara Staggs	20	8	Lee Pratt	6	2
Garth Fraser	19	9	Dave Edens	6	4
Don Wolfe	19	10	Tim Solomon	5	3
Nicole Harper	16	5	Martha Teal	5	5
Charles Leverett	15	7	Rosemary Davidson	5	1
Margaret Phillips	14	4	Liz High	4	1
Nathan Robbins	14	6	Barbara Montgomery	4	4
Alan Forney	13	7	Sam Tumminello	4	4
Virgil Lipscomb	13	5	Richard Modlin	3	1
Glen Romanczuk	11	4	Jerry Green	3	3
Veronica Beaudry	11	4	John Kirwin	3	3
Tom Bryant	10	5	Fred Schlich	3	1
Emily Saile	10	4	David Rudolph	2	2
Wayne James	10	5	Bart Fay	2	2
Dolores Burns	9	4	Brian Boardman	2	2
Doris Leverett	8	4	Sheila Gentle	1	1
Ron Atchley	8	3	Eddie Sewall	1	1
Henry Smith	7	3	Taylor Romanczuk	1	1
Joy Henderson	7	3	Debbie Tromblee	1	1
Cliff Loehr	7	3	Jackie Rudolph	1	1
			Steve Mitchell	1	1



BLUES WITH SUE

I remember my first Cyanotype prints being so magical and simple at the same time. Painting an emulsion of light sensitive minerals and creating a one of a kind print was very different from the documentary style of photography that first captured my interest. The word Photography, "writing with light", made much more sense when I saw these "blue" prints at their simplest form. Although I attempted different techniques, I seemed to always go back to the Cyanotype, the most seductive of photographic processes because of the "Prussian Blue" color that seems to be so deep that you can't help but stare.

When I moved to New York City in 1996, I met Susan Weil through our mutual friend Adrienne Wortzel. Susan needed some photographs for a show at Anders Tornberg Gallery in Sweden. At this time I didn't know of her history of Blueprinting with Bob Rauschenberg in the early 1950s, but I did know immediately that we had a creative connection. From this first meeting we were to plan a shoot for an announcement, which could be turned into a box with six sides of a coffee cup. As we looked through the prints we talked about how great they worked together, so we put them on the wall, shifted them in a "haphazard" way, and it became the first Weil/Betancourt collaboration. The word haphazard is used in describing Susan's work because of the shifts and turns that emphasize movement in her pieces. I am also interested in the ideas of shifts and issues of time between frames in my photographs, so our connection runs deep within this type of work.

Our first "Blues" together were in the summer of 2000 when I helped Susan with her annual homage to her brother Danky. These images were printed on a man's collared shirt with objects such as an actual bicycle tire, leaves and blue reproductions of photographs from Danky's childhood. A peek of Susan's orange T-shaped canvas at the bottom complimented the stretched shirt. The most memorable, and final sun exposure of the shirt, came towards the end of the day as we struggled to chase the sun into a corner of the building. We enjoy talking about that moment to this day.

The next opportunity we had to make Blueprints together was for the *Reflections* portfolio published by Vincent FitzGerald in 2002. These prints were literally a reflection of elements used by Susan throughout her life as an artist. The Blueprint process was represented because of it being one of her earliest techniques.

Our connection with our Cyanotype history again appeared when Susan mentioned that the first Blue she saw as a child was a photo of her grandmother. The last photograph I took of my grandmother was a Blueprint. I love that we can share the memory of our grandmothers through our special Blueprints and that we have such strong memories of our experience together while working with this amazing process.

José Betancourt

November, 2007

NEW MEMBERS

Charles Gardner

Visitors

Alisha Bucca
Walt Grundy

2014 Meeting Calendar

Oct 13 – Blueprints, A Collaboration by Jose Betancourt

Oct 27 - Urban Jungle Competition

Nov 10 – 3D Stereography with Lee Pratt

Nov 24 – Open Competition

Dec 8 – Annual Best Of Year Dinner/Awards

Mini class

HPS member, Cliff Loehr, will have a class on star trails at 6:00 p.m. on October 27, before the Competition meeting.

Member News



Dr. Virginia Gilbert, HPS Master Fellow, had two poems accepted for publication with Wellesley College's "The Women's Review of Books." A panel of hers has also recently been accepted for the AWP (The Association of Writers and Writing Programs) Conference to be held in Minneapolis in April 2015. This conference is the largest writing conference in the nation with over 13,000 attending every year. Gilbert's panel is called "Grass, Water, and the Mythic

Quest for America" and is about the settlement of Nebraska and the Great Plains. It will involve both discussion on the Great Plains and readings by her and her panelists of their original poetry and writings. This is her fourth panel that has been accepted by this organization.

Virginia Gilbert is Professor Emerita of English and Creative Writing at Alabama A & M University, and holds a Ph.D. in English and Creative Writing from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a MFA in Creative Writing-Poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa, and a B. A. in English from Iowa Wesleyan College.

2014 Officers of Huntsville Photographic Society

President	Eddie Sewall	(256) 880-7714	cesewall@comcast.net
Primary Competition Officer	Ernie High	(256)772-5864	ernhigh@knology.net
Digital Competition Officer	Cliff Loehr	(256)746-8436	cliff@brighterhost.com
Competition Records Officer	Margaret Phillips		phillipsqh@gmail.com
Program Officer	Roger Hunter	(256)755-1057	rogerhunter01@bellsouth.net
Activities Officer	Bob Gower		bgoing2@yahoo.com
Publicity Officer	Sam Tumminello	(256)534-1480	samjt3@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Sam Alexander		samalex1@gmail.com
Communications Officer	Geri Reddy	(256)721-0106	hpseditor@bellsouth.net
Historian	Dolores Burns		doloresburns@att.net
PSA Representative	Lee Pratt	(256)325-1854	leepratt@knology.net
Webmaster	Margaret Phillips		phillipsqh@gmail.com

Meeting Information: HPS meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Huntsville/Madison County Library - Main Branch, 915 Monroe St.

Website: www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/399566463394251/> (closed group)

Huntsville Photographic Society
Von Braun Civic Center
700 Monroe St
Huntsville AL 35801

