

February 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:

February Program	1
From The President	2
Beginner Photography Clases	3
Competition Results, First Place Winners	4
First Place Winners, Annual Points/Wins, Feb Judge	5
“Blues With Sue” by Jose Betancourt	6
Member News, 2015 Meeting Calendar. For Sale	7
HPS Board Contact Info	8



From The President

I don't know what it is about the new year, but this was the second January in a row for HPS to grow significantly in membership; we had 15 new members join, and several previous members renew their memberships last month. It is really great to see us growing, and I believe our HMA exhibition's move to the main floor of the Museum will further our visibility throughout the community, and beyond.

Tom Bryant and Henry Smith gave us a great presentation last month on their photo tour to Colorado with Dusty Doddridge; Dusty was one our program presenters last year. Along with photos of aspens in their glorious yellows and other beautiful outdoor scenes, Tom talked about the mechanics of the tour itself, including the days' shooting schedules and how time was spent when the light was gone. Tom and Henry spoke very highly of Dusty and his abilities as a photo tour leader. Diana Davidson joined Tom in a show and tell of packing for a photo tour,

equipment to bring, and suggested a couple of her favorite tour organizations.

Pamela Sue Keller, a Professor of Art at the Alabama Center for the Arts (part of Athens State University) was our judge last month for "Emotions." Pamela has been teaching art and photography for over 30 years. One interesting comment she made is that the only camera she uses now is her iPhone 5s and the Hipstamatic app. She did a great job selecting our winners, and provided relevant and meaningful comments on the winning images. She also took time after the meeting to talk with several members about their photos. It was interesting that one of our new members, David Little, won first place in both color and monochrome digital. Be sure to check out the winners in the newsletter and on our website gallery.

As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, our Huntsville Museum of Art exhibition will be on the main floor this time. Peter Baldaia, the Museum curator, and the HMA staff have been so impressed by the talent of our members that they felt our exhibit should be moved upstairs. Peter also confirmed we will be exhibiting annually.

José Betancourt, Professor of Photography at UA Huntsville, will present our program this month on Cyanotype, known as the photographic "Blueprint." José was supposed to present this program last October, but it was cancelled due to weather. Don't miss this fascinating presentation on an alternate photographic technique.

Our competition topic for this month is "Alabama the Beautiful," which can be wide open to interpretation. Eric Shultz, from the Huntsville Times/al.com, will have his work cut out for him judging the images.

Eddie Sewall

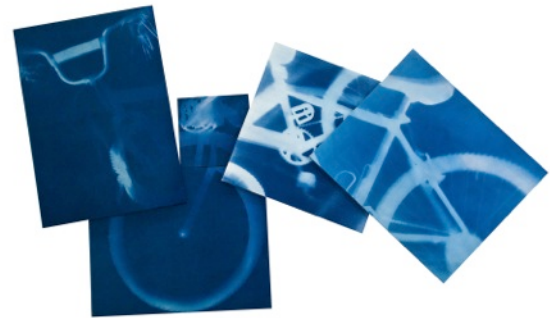
February Program

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 February 9th as Jose presents his work and talks about this exciting alternative process.



Beginner Photography Classes

Due to recent inquiries submitted to the HPS website, and discussion at recent HPS meetings, the following information has been provided by HPS member Tom Bryant.

Additional classes will be listed in next month's newsletter.

* **Calhoun Community College** - photography classes and one day photo tours led by Eric Mittman, Sparkman High School teacher who has presented programs and judged for HPS. He is offering a photo tour of Nashville in April.

https://www.calhoun.edu/community/community_education.aspx#creative

* **Huntsville Art League (HAL)** – classes taught by Walt Schumacher. Photoshop Elements is currently offered Thursdays, Feb 19 and Mar 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

<http://huntsvilleartleague.org/events/photoshop-elements-with-walt-schumacher-february-19-march-5/>

<http://www.schumacherphotoart.com/classes.htm>

January Competition Results
Subject - Emotions
Judge – Pamela Keller

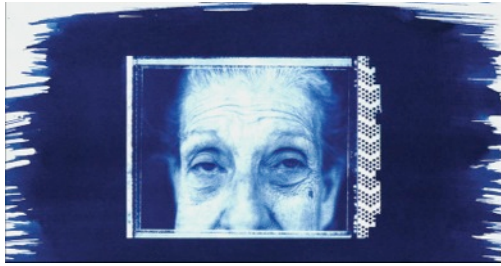
	Color Digital (66)	Monochrome Digital (44)	Color Print (34)	Monochrome Print (31)
1st	David Little	David Little	Charles Leverett	Diana Davidson
2nd	Emile Saile	Garth Fraser	Gayle Biggs	Henry Smith
3rd	Emile Saile	Garth Fraser	Charles Leverett	Virgina Gilbert
HM	Nicole Harper	Alan Forney	Henry Norton	Leta Hix
HM	Joy Henderson	Bill Snoddy	Glen Romanczuk	Alan Forney
HM	Diana Davidson	Don Wolfe	Alan Forney	Barbara Staggs
HM	Barbara Montgomery	Barbara Montgomery		
HM	Jerry Green	Bill Snoddy		
HM	Glenn Romanczuk			
HM	Gary Stiger			

First Place Winners

Color Print by
Charles Leverett



Monochrome
Print by Diana
Davidson



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

Member News

Liz Little, a new HPS member, has an image chosen for the next cover of Birmingham Arts Journal.



NEW MEMBERS

Rita Collins
Della Evans
Thomas Hix
Leta Hix
Jacob Inglis
David and Liz Little
Mike Lyman
Richard Norman
Gail and Harold Patton
Mike Roberts
Sunita Puri
Eugene Worley
Jean Vreuls
Anthony Zwilling

2015 Meeting Calendar

Feb 9– Blueprints, A Collaboration by Jose Betancourt
Feb 23 – AL the Beautiful Competition
Mar 9 – Program TBA. Board Meeting 6:00.
Mar 23 – Open Competition
Mar 30 - Fifth Monday Casual Meeting
Apr 13 – Program TBA
Apr 27 – Shadows & Silhouettes Competition
May 11 – Program TBA. Board Meeting 6:00.
May 25 - People Competition
Jun 8 – Program TBA
Jun 22 – It’s About Time Competition
Jun 29 - Fifth Monday Casual Meeting
July 13 – Program TBA. Board Meeting 6:00.
July 27 – Things That Fly Competition
Aug 10 – Program TBA
Aug 24 – Faces in Objects Competition
Aug 31- Fifth Monday Casual Meeting
Sep 14 – Program TBA. Board Meeting 6:00
Sep 28 – Unusual Perspective Competition
Oct 12 – Program TBA
Oct 26 - Open Competition
Nov 9 – 3D Stereography with Lee Pratt.
Board Meeting 6:00.
Nov 23 – Leaf & Petal Competition
Nov 30- Fifth Monday Casual Meeting
Dec 14 – Annual Best Of Year Dinner/Awards

For Sale-

Canon 5D Mk II \$900

Canon 7D \$500

Contact Charles Gattis at cfgattis@me.com

2015 Officers of Huntsville Photographic Society

President	Eddie Sewall	(256) 880-7714	cesewall@comcast.net
Primary Competition Officer	Charles Gattis	(256) 529-2329	charlesgattis@comcast.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	(256)337-7967	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

