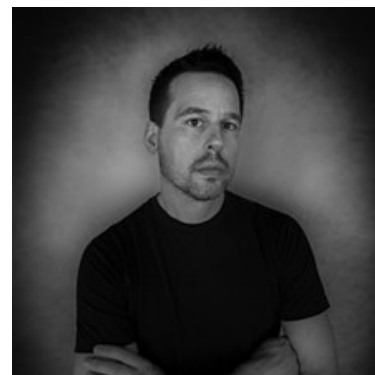


Delicate- Color Digital HM. See additional winners p. 5.

In Focus

May Virtual Program- Visual Flow: Mastering the Art of Composition

Hello all. I hope everyone is staying safe during this very challenging time. This month’s virtual program will be a replay of a presentation given at B&H Photo by the famous landscape photographer Ian Plant. Ian takes the Art of Composition to the next level as he moves on from simply using the “Rule of Thirds” to more challenging ideas for stunning photographic compositions.



Ian Plant

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His website provides the following description of Ian:

Whether hanging over the rim of an active volcano, braving the elements to photograph critically-endangered species, or trekking deep into the wilderness to places most people will never see, world-renowned professional photographer Ian

Plant travels the globe seeking out amazing places and subjects in his never-ending quest to capture the beauty of our world with his camera. Ian seeks out the hidden spaces in between the familiar, relying on long exposures, unique lighting conditions, non-traditional perspectives, and special natural events to show his subjects in a new light. Known for his inspiring images and single-minded dedication to creating the perfect photo, Ian has reached hundreds of thousands of people around the world in his mission to inspire and educate others in the art of photography. Ian is a frequent contributor to many leading photo magazines, the author of numerous books and instructional videos, and CEO of Shuttermonkeys, a site dedicated to photography education and inspiration.

Thank you to B&H Photo for graciously allowing us to replay this presentation for HPS.

Details will follow with the directions on how to join in using Zoom on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. for this informative program.

From the President- “Ahead For May”

March and April have been interesting and challenging months for us at HPS. As far as I know, none of our members now have Covid-19. Even though some of the restrictions for isolation have been lifted, none of those apply to any possible physical meetings for HPS in May. So be safe, remain at home when possible, and practice your macro photography.

The internet has lots of information on how to do that from photographing flowers, to water drops, even to photographing marbles. I am constantly amazed at the creativity of photographers in using anything around the house to produce interesting pictures.

This is also a great time for photographers to learn new skills. Teachers of photography who make use of the internet are offering many different courses designed to improve your shooting skills, your Lightroom skills, and your Photoshop skills. B&H and Hunts both are offering free



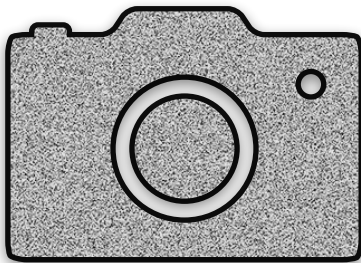
Charles Gattis

If you missed the competition night, there is a link on our website to a video we made of the competition.

courses for photographers on line. This is a good time to shoot and also a good time to learn.

We had great success with our first attempt at a Zoom meeting this past month. Over fifty of our members gathered for our digital competition on April 27. We were able to see all of the images and hear Eric Schultz’s helpful comments on each one. If you missed the competition night, there is a link on our website to a video we made of the competition.

With that in mind, we will meet via Zoom both for our program night on May 11 and our competition night on May 25. We are using the paid version on Zoom, so we have no time or participant limit. So, come and join in the fun online. I’ll be sending out the invitations a few days prior to each meeting.



New Members

Steve Melish	Robert Holt
Keegan Holmes	

Joe Fikes- May Competition Judge

Subject-Mountains & Valleys



Joe Fikes is certainly no stranger to the Huntsville Photographic Society. He has judged for the Huntsville Photographic Society every year since 2012. A distinguished scientist in the field of laser research, he has also created a successful business as a photographer. Joe’s art excels in attention to detail, creativity in composition, and rich color palettes. You will find pieces of his art in homes throughout North Alabama and southern Tennessee. If you are not familiar with his work, you can visit his site at www.joefikes.com/. We welcome Joe as our judge on September 23, at 7:00 pm, on the topic “Mountains and Valleys.”

*Due to the uncertainty of the current environment, it is very likely that we will not be able to meet in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. **If this is the case there will be no print competition.** Members will be able to attend the digital competition through Zoom. An invitation will be sent out to all members on or near the date of the competition (May 26).*

April Competition Results
Subject - Delicate
Judge- Eric Schultz

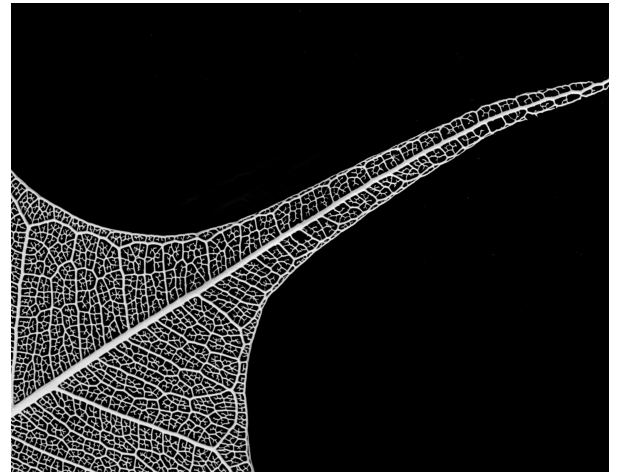
	Color Digital (67)	Monochrome Digital (63)
1st	Margaret Todd	Charles Gattis
2nd	Eddie Sewall	Virginia Gilbert
3rd	Susan Chi	*See Note below
HM	Chris Baker	Alice Searcy
HM	Alan Forney	John Shriver
HM	Chris Baker	Earl Todd
HM	C.T. Chi	Martha Teal
HM	Emily Saile	Hank Miller
HM	Charles Gattis	Margaret Todd
HM	Tom Bryant	

**Huntsville Photographic Society (HPS) accomplished something for the first time during April. With the inability to meet as group, due to the virus, HPS conducted its digital competition through ZOOM. It was a tremendous success. It was discovered after the conclusion of the competition, that one of the images inadvertently entered had placed previously in 2019. Consequently, the image was not eligible. This image was chosen as 3rd place monochrome for the April competition. Since HPS has no rules or by-laws for this situation, it was decided to simply vacate 3rd place monochrome for the competition. The HPS board will address this issue in the near future, by incorporating language in the Competition Rules.*

Name	2020 Points	2020 Wins
Christopher Baker	17	7
Eddie Sewall	14	3
Susan Chi	13	5
John Shriver	13	5
Julie Gary	12	5
Charles Gattis	12	6
Mat Bevill	11	4
Earl Todd	11	4
Joy Henderson	10	4
Barbara Staggs	10	3
Emily Saile	8	4
Martha Teal	8	4
Allen Gary	7	2
Margaret Todd	6	2
Ernie High	5	1
Henry Smith	5	2
CT Chi	4	4
Virginia Gilbert	4	1
David Blue	3	1
John Dillingham	3	1
Margaret Phillips	3	3
Tom Bryant	2	2
Diana Davidson	2	2
Alan Forney	2	2
Alice Searcy	2	2
Jim Smothers	2	2
Jim Spinoso	2	2
Sam Alexander	1	1
Thomas Johnson	1	1
Hank Miller	1	1



Color Digital 1st place by Margaret Todd



Monochrome Digital 1st place by Charles Gattis



Color Digital 2nd place by Eddie Sewall



Monochrome Digital 2nd place by Virginia Gilbert



Color Digital 3rd place by Susan Chi

Photo Editing for a Delicate Topic by Tom Bryant

When Eric judged for us Monday evening, he was curious about how one of my images had been edited, There was not time to pursue it, and since I'm sitting home with an empty calendar and bored, I thought I would write it up hoping that it does not add to your boredom.

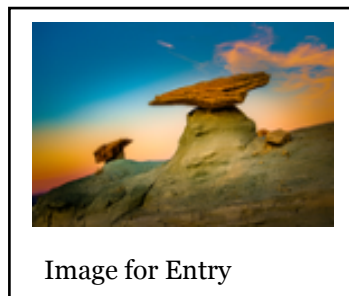
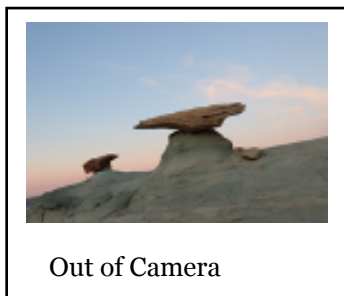
Here is the entry. It did not get a win but it was fun to produce and educational. A series of shots was made last June of a pink hydrangea blossom and dried hydrangea leaves on a light pad. A tripod was used and shots were made with the light pad both on and off to produce different lighting. This way the images could be overlaid in Photoshop and the amount of ambient light in the image easily varied using Opacity slider. I took the output that I liked and added both a paper texture and a burlap texture. That produced the image called Layered Final Image. I like this image and have printed it on a few greeting cards. But I was certain that there would be many flowers in the Delicate Competition. So what could I do to make something unusual?



The image I entered was made using L-A-B color in Photoshop. This is a color space uncommon to photographers, and it does not have an output that is visible by monitor or printer. The L channel is Lightness (or black and white). In Photoshop, convert the color space to LAB color, go to the L channel, invert it, and you have the image I entered. What was pure black is now pure white, and vice versa. The colors and 50% grays are unchanged. The glow of the leaves and the saturated dark pink on the light pad is retained. The shadows in the blossom become white. To me it looks like a nuclear chain reaction is about to occur in the bloom and it is going to explode.



The other image and the one that got a win is from Studhorse Point in Escalante in southern Utah.



The image is a pretty basic postcard shot. What made it work for "delicate" topic is the delicate balance idea with large and heavy rocks. My editing of it was pretty basic and all in LR. Cropped it a bit. Since the sky did not blow up at sunset like we would have liked, I

saturated the color, shifted the tones toward yellow and magenta, reduced the exposure, and then spotlighted the rocks with the radial gradient in LR. Pretty basic and quick editing and made a nice improvement.

So if you have read this far, it might indicate that you are really bored. I would like to offer the Video Challenge made by HPS members on our HPS web site. Go to Activities/Video Challenge to view some six-minute slide shows made by HPS members on a number of topics. There is a Henri Cartier-Bresson photo in an essay on guess what – street photography. There are beautiful 6-minute slide shows taking you to trips both East and West. There is an exciting one made with scanned Kodachrome 25 slides. What do you think of the images? Have we progressed in quality? Also I'm adding a link to Emily Saile's blog where you can read her travel stories and see her images of a balloon festival and also Norway. The northern lights look out of this world, and that would be a good place to be since this one has a virus.

<https://emilysimages.gallery/blog> (May need to copy/paste into browser)

Huntsville Museum of Art Red Clay Survey

The Huntsville Museum of Art Red Clay survey deadline is fast approaching. Entry deadline is Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Our art is listed as photography/digital media so heavy Photoshop work should be allowed. Artists may submit up to six digital images for a fee of \$10 per image (Members of HMA \$8 per image). I suspect that this museum was really hurt by the Shelter-In-Place rules since they are non-essential. So be generous and enter 6 images for \$60.

Works must be original and executed within the last three years (2018 – present). Works previously exhibited at the Huntsville Museum of Art are not eligible. (I do not know if original means one cannot use textures from someone else, or that a photograph older than 3 years can be used as an element in a digital media piece. I don't intend to ask.) Artists must submit images as JPGs, with maximum size not to exceed 1.5 MB.

Practically all art media is acceptable. I have not found photography to be extremely popular in this event, but the jurors have been announced as Peter Baldaia, (Director of Curatorial Affairs) and David Reyes, (Curator of Exhibitions and Collections) and assistant Katherine Purvis. We know all these people and after many years of entering our exhibit at HMA, we might have a feel for what they like.

There is much more information at their web site, including the 2017 catalog. Photography has not been extremely popular in past exhibits, but these jurors are people we know. Sam Tumminello, Diana Davidson, and Jose Betancourt have won in the past. In the catalog, I found a photograph on page 52. I'll bet you have something that is just as good. I found the coronavirus on page 40. Web site here:

<https://hsvmuseum.org/red-clay-survey-2020-prospectus/>

Officers of HPS

President: Charles Gattis

Primary Competition Officer: Steve Mitchell

Digital Competition Officer: Chris Baker

Competition Records Officer: Eddie Sewall

Program Officer: Roger Hunter

Outreach & Activities Officer: Rosemary Davidson

Workshop Chairman: Jeanne McDowell

Publicity Officer: Sam Tumminello

Treasurer: Emily Saile

Communications Officer: Geri Reddy

Historian: Tom Bryant

Exhibition Officer: Bob Gower

PSA Representative: Lee Pratt

Webmaster: John Shriver

Non Board Positions

Membership Officer: Bess Wills

Mentor/Novice Program Officer: Vacant

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)