

Bellingham Photography Club

Issue 37

May 2021

President's Message

May Program: Those Who Inspire Us

Probably the most important function of the BPC is to give our members an opportunity to share work and talk about photography. With this in mind, at our May meeting, **YOU are the program!**

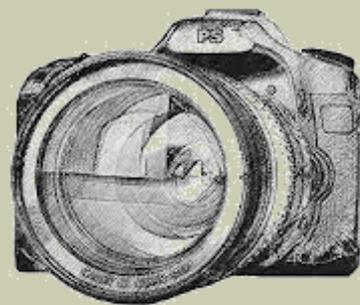
We are going to share images of photographers or photographs, or other art (woodblocks, paintings, ceramics) that have had an impact on us, our photography, or the way we think about art. Some ideas:

- A photographer/photograph you love who helped shape your aesthetic
- A photographer/photograph you dislike and who taught you what NOT to do
- A photographer/photograph you learned a new technique from
- A painter whose outlook on art inspires you
- A photographer/photograph you have tried to copy, the way student painters copy the old masters
- A photographer/photograph whose vision blows you away
- A photographer/photograph whose work changed the direction of your own work
- Or anything else you think we should see or know about!

Please send 3 jpgs or screencaps to me, Lorraine Day (email below) by May 8, to give me time to get it together into a slide show, and we will share at our meeting.

Bellingham Photography Club Board

Lorraine Day - President	mesmerie1@gmail.com
Deanna Birdsall - Secretary	iamdela@gmail.com
Alan Alquist - Treasurer	alan@learn2inquire.com
Ham Hayes - Programs	hamhayes@outlook.com
David Johnson - Club Liaison	davidsamishphoto@gmail.com



Next Meeting:
May 12, 2021
(Via Zoom)

Program:
Those Who Inspire Us—and Why

Monthly Theme:
Still Life

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How to submit

- .jpg format
- Width = 1920 px or less*
- Height = 1080 px or less*
Resolution not important;
150—300 dpi typical.
- File names to begin with
your last name and a
sequential number
(Day 1—Fish House.jpg)
- Total size of email with
attachments: 10 MB max.
- Include exif info in your
email if known

Send images for the website
(Theme, Commentary, or
Members Gallery) to David
Johnson

DavidSamishPhoto@gmail.com

Send images for the news-
letter to Lorraine Day—
mesmerie1@gmail.com

For those who care:

Our website host will resize
your images to a maximum of
1,550 pixels wide by 960 tall. It
does this "to prevent theft of
your originally uploaded full
resolution images and it also
help to ensure that your
images will always load with
minimal loading delay. Your
original image files are
retained and remain unedited."

About BPC

Bellingham Photography Club provides opportunities for photography enthusiasts to enhance and share expertise. Club activities include, but are not limited to, regular meetings, photography field experiences, photography competitions, and special interest forums.

Our goal is to provide encouragement, camaraderie and educational programs that will motivate photographers to improve their skills.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; during COVID-19 management we are meeting online via Zoom. If you would like to join as our guest, please contact our president, Lorraine Day, at mesmerie1@gmail.com.

Show Your Stuff!

The Bellingham Photo Club has many venues for sharing your work. We'd love to see YOUR work in one of these places!

Website and Monthly Meetings:

- **Member Galleries** – Members can each upload up to 20 images to the members' gallery on our website. These can be anything you want – your own personal portfolio that you can share with friends and family!
- **Theme of the Month** – Each month, a theme is established and you can submit up to 3 images (the theme for the May meeting is 'still life'). The themed images are for sharing, not for critical review (unless you ask for opinions). These images will be shared/reviewed at each monthly meeting.
- **Commentary/Review** – Each month, members can also submit up to 3 images for critical review. These do not need to be tied to the Theme of the Month. Members are encouraged to go online and enter comments; additionally, these images will also be shared at each monthly meeting.

Newsletter – Remember, members can send images the newsletter editor -- me, Lorraine, at mesmerie1@gmail.com – for inclusion in the newsletter. Especially welcome would be a brief explanation of your inspiration, your technique, problems you tackled and overcame (or failed to overcome!), location, exif data or any other information you'd like to share. Absent this, a brief caption would be great.

Come on; let's show our stuff!



from <http://www.project562.com/gallery/>

Matika Wilbur at the Lightcatcher thru June

Matika Wilbur, from the Tulalip and Swinomish Tribes, is a critically acclaimed photographer and social documentarian, grew up in LaConner and Seattle. Wilbur has spent the last several years photographing more than 400 federally recognized Native American tribes as part of **Project 562**. The project, which launched in 2011, began when Matika determined to photograph Native people from each of the (at that time) 562 federally recognized American indigenous tribes. Her goal was to develop a body of imagery and cultural representations of Native Peoples that would counteract the relentlessly insipid, one-dimensional stereotypes circulating in mainstream media, historical textbooks and the culture industry, to create positive indigenous role models to do justice to the richness and diversity and lived experiences of Indian Country, and ultimately change the way we see Native America.

Now, Wilbur is sharing a selection of her photographs in the exhibition *Seeds of Culture: The Portraits and Stories of Native American Women*. **On view in the Lightcatcher building through June 13, 2021.** The museum features a selection of Matika's photographs of Native American women along with interviews, written narratives, and a compelling sound-scape of voices and original music.

She states she invites viewers "to experience them as I have, beyond stereotypes, fetishes, and historical and societal reduction, worthy of immense appreciation for their essences."

<http://www.matikawilbur.com/>

<http://www.project562.com/about/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Project562/>

on TEDx: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2bs1TTc4gk&t=13s>

and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JrRBQEQR3o>

About the Artist

Matika Wilbur, one of the Pacific Northwest's leading photographers, has exhibited extensively in regional, national, and international venues such as the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, in France, the Royal BC Museum, the Seattle Art Museum, and the Tacoma Art Museum.

Her work led her to becoming a certified teacher at Tulalip Heritage High School, providing inspiration for the youth of her own indigenous community.

Wilbur, a Native American woman of the Swinomish and Tulalip Tribes (Washington), is unique as an artist and social documentarian in Indian Country—the insight, depth, and passion with which she explores the contemporary Native identity and experience are communicated through the impeccable artistry of each of her silver gelatin photographs.

LensWork Online

The article at right was used by kind permission of Brooks Jensen, creator and editor of *Lenswork* magazine.

Did you know that *Lenswork* is also published in an expanded, along with myriad other articles, on line? As Brooks says himself, the online site comprises “content, content, and I content.”

Just a partial sampling:

- **Lenswork Tablet Edition**
- **Lenswork Extended Computer Edition**
- **Kokoro**—personal work from Jensen
- **Here’s a Thought**—very short videos
- **Lenswork Podcasts**—including the entire archive
- **Finding the Picture** (from which this article was taken)
- **Voice of the Masters Audio Archives**
- **Photography, Not Cameras**—fireside chat videos about the creative side of photography
- **Workshops, Seminars, and Recorded Talks**—including Jensen’s 2019 talk “The Great Conversation” at The Pacific Northwest Art School in Coupeville.

You can subscribe here:
<http://www.lenswork.com/>

Food for Thought: Finding the Problem, from *Lenswork Online*

What I mean by that title is this: *What is the problem with this image?* Composition is okay, exposure is okay, light is sort of bland, but not awful, focus is okay, texture is okay, color balance is okay. So what is the *problem*? In my way of thinking, the problem is a psychological one. This is a confined space and the walking path through the rocks is a bit mysterious and yet inviting. It’s psychological tempting and scary at the same time. Having said that, can you see the problem?



The problem is the sky. It’s a release from the tension and completely disempowers the emotional content of the photograph. By simply cropping out the sky and then doing a little darkening of the rock walls, the emotional content of the image is much more powerful. Simple, but effective.

Identifying the problem with a photograph is often a search for a technical issue, but to be honest, I almost always find the more fundamental problem with most photographs is that something in the composition or camera placement makes the image weaker from an emotional point of view. The search for “the problem” is a useful exercise, but one that should not ignore the human/emotional/psychological aspects of an image.



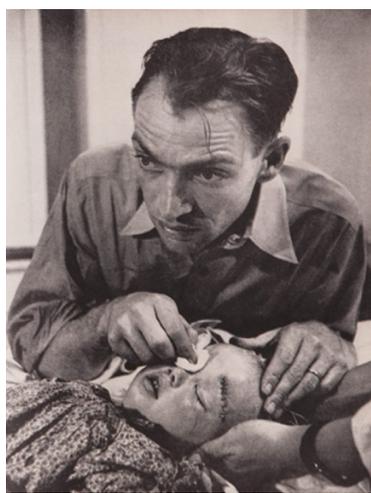
Tech data: Sony DSC-R1 using the non-interchangeable lens at 143mm. ISO 160. f/13 at 1/25th sec.

Did You Know? Life Magazine revisited

Are you old enough to remember Life magazine? Before computers, before television even, Life magazine published the work of some of the greatest American photographers known even to this day and invented — and mastered — the photo-essay form. Because of Life's format and popularity, the years of its publication created a heyday for some of the world's best photographers, like W. Eugene Smith, whose *Country Doctor* (excerpts below) is still widely recognized as the most influential photo-essay in history.

You can revisit many of these photographers and articles online. If you check it out, be sure to look at the website's menu and spend some time; it's a treasure.

<https://www.life.com/photographer/>



What we hope for from the artist is help in discovering the significance of a place. In this sense we would choose in most respects for thirty minutes with Edward Hopper's painting *Sunday Morning* to thirty minutes on the street that was his subject; with Hopper's vision we see more.

*Robert Adams
Beauty in
Photography*



The advice I like to give to young artists, or really anybody, is not to wait around for inspiration. Inspiration is for amateurs; the rest of us just show up and get to work. If you wait around for the clouds to part and a bolt of lightning to strike you in the brain, you are not going to make an awful lot of work. All the best ideas come out of the process; they come out of the work itself. Things occur to you. If you're sitting around trying to dream up a great art idea, you can sit there a long time before anything happens.

- Chuck Close

Night Shoot Opportunity

Carol Sheppard writes:

I am hoping to join the NNWP field trip on May 10 or do my own shoot closer to home on May 10, 11, or 12...anyone interested in joining me? Email me if interested!! I think optimum time is around 11:00 pm.

— carolsheppardphotography@gmail.com

For Sale

Olympus OMD-1, Mark 1

\$325 firm

Professional-grade micro-4/3 mirrorless camera. Has the expected manual, AV, TV and video modes plus many creative zone and art features; focus peaking — to many features to list. I love this camera! It is in mint condition. Batteries and chargers included, and I will throw in a lens so you can get started, plus one hour of Zoom training on its use!



For comparison, Amazon is selling a new Mark I *body only* for \$999. **Contact Carol at 770-366-8186**

ThinkTank Streetwalker Pro Backpack/Camera Bag (Ver 1)

\$75.00

ThinkTank is the leader in professional camera bags (www.thinktank.com). The current version (2) of this camera bag is selling for \$199.75 on Amazon. This one (Ver 1) is in immaculate, like-new condition, and is **offered for \$75.00**. The only differences I can see between Ver1 and Ver2 are that Ver2 is about an inch wider and an inch deeper, and includes a tablet/laptop sleeve on the back. All else appears to be identical.

Contact Lorraine at 206 499 4617 or mesmerie1@gmail.com.

