

Beyond Snapshots: A Photography Workshop on Making Better Pictures

Presented by Jim Kahnweiler

This workshop takes the participant beyond the snapshot and introduces photography with intent. The emphasis will be on how to make better pictures. The workshop will be interactive; the facilitator will engage the participants with questions and everyone will be encouraged to join the discussion. There will be photography assignments and a field trip.

The emphasis for this workshop will be on image composition and manual and semi-automatic camera controls. However, throughout the course the facilitator will reference post-capture image adjustments, a requirement for making excellent photographs. For clarity, the workshop will include an introduction to the post-capture processing workflow. A detailed discussion of processing workflow is a topic for another workshop.

Participants should have a digital camera and have a basic understanding how it operates. Any camera is acceptable; most digital cameras and lenses manufactured in the last 5 years can produce excellent pictures. Also, everyone should have access to an internet-enabled computer and the ability to connect to a photo sharing website. This is how images will be displayed during discussions, using Google Photos. More information will be provided with your registration.

Before the first class, participants will upload ONE favorite photograph, which will be used in the discussion on composition during the first class. It can be any photo; made by the participant or by someone else. Be ready to say why the image is important.

Syllabus

1. Discussion--How to make an good photograph
 - a. What constitutes a good picture?
 - b. How do you make a good picture?
 - c. Examples
 - d. **Assignment 1:** Take a photo stroll along city streets or in a park or nature preserve, preferably during early or late light. Use some of the image elements discussed during the discussion. Please note your route, as you will repeat it for Assignment 2. Upload two to six images to the workshop sharing website.

2. Discussion--Assignment 1 and Topic: Camera controls
 - a. Discussion Assignment 1
 - b. How Exposure Control relates to making a good picture. Use the camera preview to evaluate exposures. Think ahead to post-capture processing.
 - c. How Focus Control makes a sharp picture.
 - d. How color balance affects image quality
 - e. **Assignment 2:** Repeat the route you took on Assignment 1. You do not need to repeat the images you made, but evaluate and change settings for the new pictures you take to optimize exposure. Upload two to six images to the workshop sharing website.

3. Discussion--Assignment 2 and Topic: Introducing Post-capture Workflow.
 - a. Discussion Assignment 2
 - b. How to use software and folder structure to organize an image library.
 - c. How to use software to make basic adjustments to optimize an image
 - d. **Assignment 3:** Organize your photo library. Select three pictures and use adjustment tools to optimize them. Post the before and after images.

4. Field Trip: Opportunity to ask questions about composition and camera settings in the context of making photographs. Upload two to six images to the workshop sharing website.

5. Discussion Assignment 3, the Field Trip and Topic: Genres, Part A
 - a. Discussion Assignment 3 and Field Trip
 - b. How to apply Composition & Exposure Control to Landscapes and Structures
 - c. Samples
 - d. **Assignment 4:** Make photos depicting landscapes and structures. Upload two to six images to the workshop sharing website.

6. Discussion--Assignment 5 and Topic: Genres, Part B
 - a. Discussion Assignment 4
 - b. Apply Composition & Exposure Control to Small Subjects and Abstracts
 - c. Samples
 - d. **Assignment 5** Make photos depicting small objects and abstracts. Upload two to six images to the workshop sharing website.

7. Discussion--Assignment 6 and Topic: Genres, Part C
 - a. Discussion Assignment 5
 - b. Apply Composition & Exposure Control to Portraits and Documentary
 - c. Suggestions for specific genres
 - d. Samples
 - e. **Assignment 6:** Make photos depicting Portraits and Documentary. Upload two to six images to the workshop sharing website. If you need a few more images to tell your story, please upload them.

8. Discuss participants photos from Assignment 6. Summary.