

HORIZONEWS #26

NEWS, THOUGHTS AND IMAGES FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

A recent study by psychologists at San Francisco State University indicates that people feel happier when they spent their money on experiences rather than material objects.
2009 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology

STUDENT PHOTOS: CLOSE-UP



In a prior HORIZONEWS, we talked about the significance of capturing the “decisive moment.” If the shutter had clicked a moment sooner--or later--much of the images impact would have been lost. Patience, anticipation and readiness pay off big-time. Here are two perfect examples. The top is by **Annette Thompson**, the bottom by **John Braun**. Decisive moments...and engaging moments!

Annette's photo was used to illustrate an article she wrote in this month's prestigious *Southern Living* magazine about her Horizon experience. (The class was **Bob Madden's Historic Chesapeake City and Environs**.) Thank you, Annette for your photo...and your words.

Horizon students continually produce terrific photos, but lately our light table runneth over. So for this issue we're expanding our regular two page format to three...which still leaves us with a basketful of great images for future newsletters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Workshops: (All locations Chesapeake City unless noted.) **Longwood Gardens: PA:** May 2; **Gardens of Central Park:** May 3; **South Dakota:** May 12-17 (Diane Shapiro joins Steve Gottlieb as co-instructor; 4 spaces left); **Manhattan:** May 16-17; **Creative Vision:** May 22-25; **Camera Basics:** May 22; **Cape Cod:** May 29-31; **Flash:** May 30-31; **Boston:** June 12-13; **PhotoShop Basics:** June 13; **Photoshop: Making Your Images Sparkle:** June 14; **Weddings (Salem, MA):** July 9-12; **Nudes: The Female Form (Allentown, PA):** July 18-19; **Camera Basics:** July 24; **Creative Vision:** July 25-26; **Photographers Shoot Artists (Easton, MD):** July 25; **People in the Studio:** July 25; **Still Life:** July 26; **Beauty & Glamour:** Aug. 22-23; **Adv. Creative Vision:** Aug 29-30.

QUICK TIP: CAPTURING A PERSON'S ESSENCE



You've probably heard it said that a great portrait captures the essence of a person. Yet aren't people too complex, multi-faceted, even contradictory, to reduce their essence to a single photo? At best, a portrait can capture just one aspect of a person. Certain show business and sports personalities may present a consistent "look"--every picture of Michael Jordan had him either grinning or leaping three feet off the ground, but that's not reality; that's Hollywood's image machine at work.

That brings us to two fine images, the top by **Liz Delaney** and the bottom by **Ruben Hernandez**. Like

emotional bookends, they captured two dramatically different sides of the same person. Neil is a local Chesapeake City artist and something of a fixture in town. Over many years, he has interpreted most every aspect of our town and its environs in his paintings and watercolors. Like all *real* people, Neil has his moods and his moments. We assume that Neil, like most people, prefers to display his upbeat side to the world, so perhaps he wouldn't like Ruben's photo. But we do. It reveals the face of person who's feeling intense pressure from today's economy, which has hit artists with particular severity. The emotional mood of Reuben's picture harkens back to those famous and memorable FSA (Farm Security Administration) images that documented the Great Depression.

Both pictures were shot in Neil's gallery, which has relatively little window light. The simple and obvious choice would have been to use on-camera flash; that would have destroyed both photos natural feel. Liz and Reuben opted to use a high ISO so the limited available light was sufficient.



END FRAME



Every People and Portraits on Location workshop concludes with group portraits. Several students volunteer; each must choose a different setting. Aliyah Lustine, the youngest person in the class, took our favorite shot. Her group is full of energy, and she avoided cliched "cheese" smiles. Aliyah gave herself sufficient time to think carefully and, after an initial hesitation, she became comfortable giving decisive "directions" to her subjects. (Moral support from her "Uncle Albert" may have helped.) The result: a wonderful remembrance of the workshop.

Ann Morrison



A dramatic way to demonstrate the creative essence of photography is to compare the pictures of *different* photographers shooting the *same* subject...using the *same* basic equipment...under the *same* conditions...at the *same* time. There are, indeed, many ways to interpret a subject. Here, three different photographers offer their take on two subjects.



Aliyah Lustine

Jim Kendall

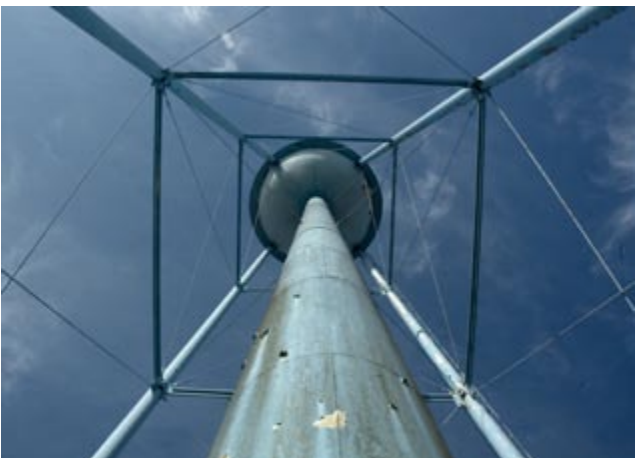


If you want to stretch your creative muscles, try producing such variations on your own. Even when you are satisfied with a picture, push yourself to find new viewpoints. You may be surprised to discover that further exploration not only adds variety, but may result in shots you like better.



Tina Patenaude

Diane Kepley



Ruben Hernandez