

HORIZONEWS #28

NEWS, THOUGHTS AND IMAGES FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.
Edgar Degas

STUDENT PHOTOS: CLOSE-UP



One of the most powerful and enduring lessons we learn in school is that every problem has one “right” answer. That may work for exams, but it doesn’t for photography. Seeking a “right” answer promotes a mindset that stifles creativity. So photographers must *unlearn* this lesson. (We believe this lesson should be unlearned generally, but that’s a discussion for another venue.)

Whenever a photographer picks up the camera, he or she faces the same “problem”: How do I take a good picture of the subject I’ve chosen? Rarely, if ever, is there one right answer. Consider, for example, the cow skull as subject. Five students came up with strikingly different “answers”...and we think all of them were absolutely “right.”

John Blank (top) moved in tight and centered...the skull’s shape and texture give the picture impact.

Michelle Jennings (middle) shot the skull off-center, revealing it’s context—barbed wire, leaves and a barn in the background. (Red, green and white vibrate nicely together, yes?)

Colleen Kenneally (bottom) emphasized the unique sequence of skulls on fenceposts, and her camera position created a strong diagonal line pointing to the abandoned barn; her angle also captured the flavor of the barren, rolling hill environment.

Wayne Cranston (next page, left) shot the very same line of skulls as Colleen, but with a different angle and lens, and he used selective focus to effectively highlight one skull.

Romain Bayless eliminated background distractions by getting down low...and she also chose to focus on a most unusual, partially decomposed skull. (Cont’d)

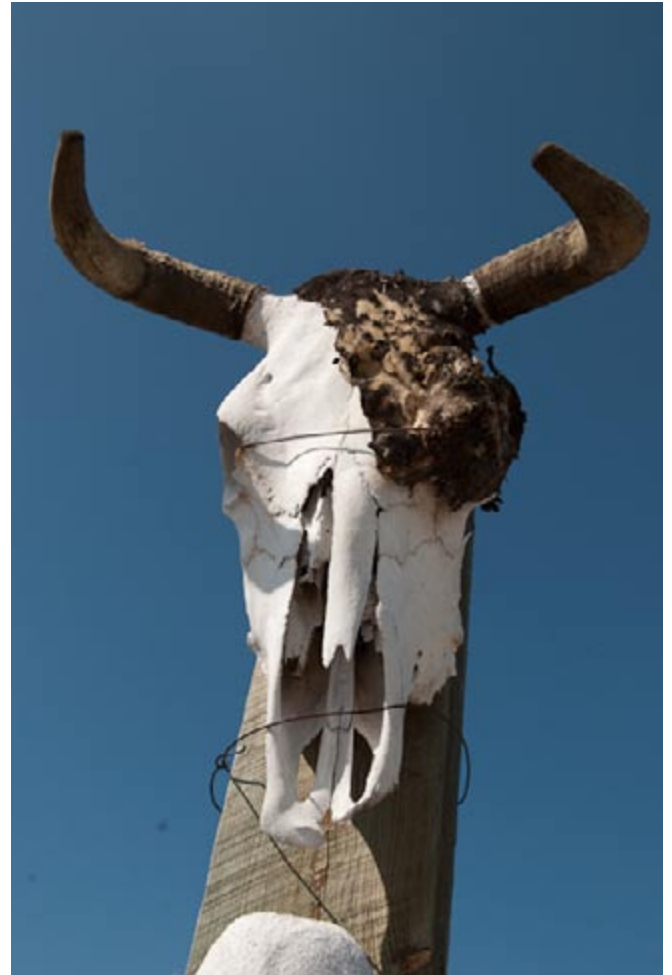


ANNOUNCEMENTS

>Stay tuned for a September announcement from Horizon Director Steve Gottlieb about an exciting new venture that applies Horizon Workshop ideas and approaches to programs that help businesses.

>In this and future issues of HORIZONEWS, the upcoming workshops calendar will be on the last page.

STUDENT PHOTOS: UP CLOSE (CONT'D)



Nothing demonstrates the creative nature of photography more than seeing how different people approach the same subject in different ways. If space permitted, we could show even more skull variations by other students. (For tips on seeing one subject in different ways, see “End Frame” below)

With so many interesting photographic subjects available on this South Dakota farm, why were the skulls the most popular? Certainly they have emotional power...but why? Because they're uncommon? Is their shape aesthetically appealing? Do they touch upon primal feelings of mortality? Some other reason(s)? You don't need to be conscious of *why* you choose a subject, but it does provide food for thought.

END FRAME



To stretch your creative muscles, there's no better exercise than “variations o a theme.” Pick a subject you find interesting—like cow skulls—and shoot it as many different ways as you can. Don't move on to the next subject until you feel you've exhausted the possibilities. Try shooting with different focal lengths and at different f-stops. Approach your subject from different angles. Change foreground and background elements. Try B&W as well as color. Use non-traditional white balance settings. Tilt the camera off-axis. And so on. Take your time. Use your imagination. Keep a completely open mind. Remember that if you want to generate creative sparks, you'll need to push yourself in some new directions. Photo by Blonnie Brooks

Take A Look

At Our Upcoming Workshops

Chesapeake City, MD unless other location noted



Michelle Jennings

August

Glamour: Aug 22

September

Photoshop: Retouching Secrets of the Pros: Sept 12 (Allentown, PA)

Sandy Hook, NJ: Beaches, Buildings & More: Sept. 12 (Sandy Hook, NJ)

Documentary: Sept 25-27

October

Architecture: Inside and Out: Oct 3-4

Cape Cod: Oct 10-12

Manhattan: Oct 10-11 (New York City)

Washington, DC: Oct 10-11 (Washington, DC)

Canon Experience: Oct 15-18

Weddings: Oct 15-18

Historic Chesapeake City & Environs: Oct 23-25

Gardens of NYC: Bronx: Oct 17 (New York City)

Gardens of NYC: Central Park: Oct 18 (New York City)

Camera Basics: Oct 30

Creative Vision: Oct 31-Nov 1

People in the Studio: Oct 31

November

Still Life (Fine Art & Products): Nov 1

Nudes: Nov 7

People & Portraits on Location: Nov 7-8

Blackwater Wildlife Refuge: Nov 12-15 (Cambridge, MD)

Camera Basics: Nov. 20

Flash Magic: Nov 21-22

December

Wildlife of the Bosque del Apache: Dec 3-6 (New Mexico)

Editing Your Images: Dec 5

PhotoShop Basics: Dec 5

PhotoShop: Making Your Images Sparkle: Dec 6