

HORIZON NEWS #36

IMAGES, THOUGHTS AND NEWS FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Take risks. If you win, you will be happy; if you lose, you will be wise.
Anonymous

STUDENT PHOTOS: CLOSE-UP



A paradox:

Washington, D.C. is an easy place to take good photographs.

Washington, D.C. is a hard place to take good photographs.

Why easy? Exquisite architecture and sculpture. A grand mall, rustic parks and a beautiful river and canal. More than the usual variety of faces and garb in our nation's most international city. Good photos are easy when you have so much great subject matter, as well as variety to stimulate every photographer's taste.

Why hard? Washington is surely the most photographed city in America...probably the world. Bringing a fresh perspective to familiar, often iconic, terrain is a challenge to creative photographers.

At a recent Washington workshop, **Marijke Anglim** succeeded—twice over—in avoiding the city's cliché quicksand (photos at left).

First, she captured a reflection of the inside hub of the Hirshhorn Museum in its fountain...a few delicate water drops establish that we're seeing a reflection. (The secret to shooting punchy

reflections: the reflected subject—the museum—should be in sunlight, while the reflecting object—the water—should be in shade.

Marijke's other shot was taken beside the WW II Memorial on the Mall. The "FBI" headline gives this animal shot a touch of DC flavoring, while the squirrel's hand on the word "HAND" adds to the photo's playful quality. Here's a shot, if ever there was, that would be enhanced by a humorous caption.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> Horizon Director **Steve Gottlieb**'s new Washington book hit bookstores this week. All are invited to an exhibition and book signing at the University of DC, 4200 Connecticut Ave., Bldg 41—Level A, Nov. 9th, 6:30 – 8:30. (Van Ness St. Metro stop; parking available.)

>Steve will lead two one-week workshops in 2011: New Mexico in May and Peru in August. New Mexico is posted on Horizon's website; Peru will post in a few weeks, along with the entire 2011 schedule).

>Steve led eight one-day "field trips" for camera clubs and other photography groups this fall. (Subjects: Creative Vision, Flash Magic, and Photographing Real People in Real Places.) If your group might be interested, contact Horizon for details.

QUICK TIP: SHOULD YOU PUBLISH A PHOTO BOOK?

Reflecting back on the publication of seven books—three on Washington, DC—Horizon Director Steve Gottlieb created this list of the pleasures and pitfalls of book publishing:

The highlights:

1. Seeing your work in book form gives a generous boost to the ego.
2. A book offers an opportunity and rationale to explore a subject you care about *in depth*.
3. A series of images expresses your vision in a way that individual images cannot.
4. A book gives you the sense (the illusion?) that your work has a degree of permanence.
5. If you like to write, books are an opportunity to share stories, ideas and feelings that relate to your pictures.
6. Juxtaposing and sequencing pictures can add power to your images (see example below).
7. Books can be a springboard to mounting an exhibition of prints.
8. Books enhance your reputation, which might lead to new (and often unexpected) opportunities.

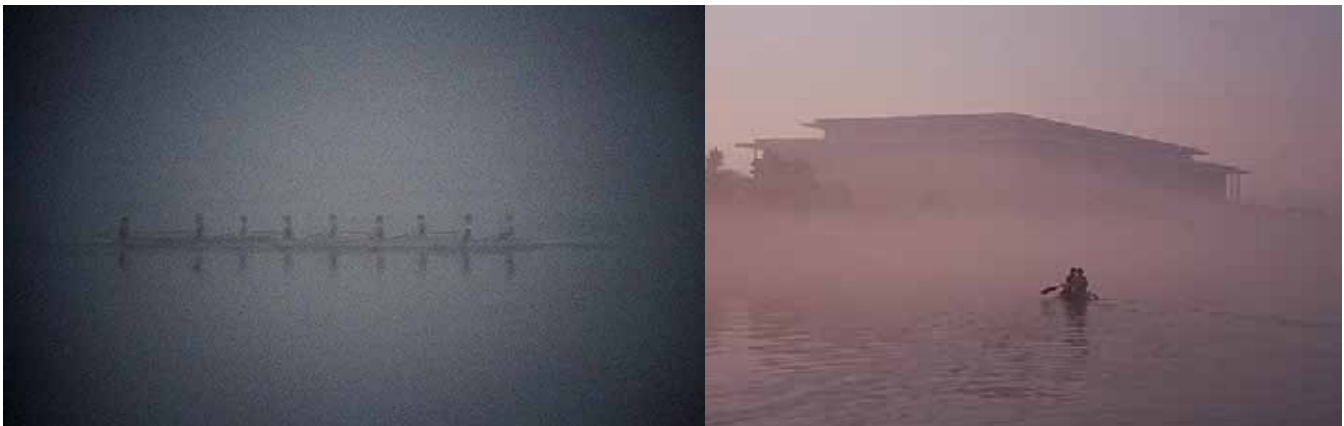
The low lights:

1. Books take an enormous commitment of time and energy, far beyond what you might expect.
2. Even in a strong economy, landing a publisher is almost always difficult; be prepared for many rejections.
3. Few books turn a profit that's commensurate with the time and money you invest.
4. Publishers may not print / design / promote / sell your book in a way you feel is optimum.
5. There's no chance of success if you yourself don't devote extensive time to promotion and marketing.

Attempting to publish a book with a traditional publisher is a journey that few should attempt; the difficulties are too formidable, the heartbreak too likely. But here's the good news: you can receive **most of the benefits and none of the headaches** if you "self-publish" your book using digital printing technology (available through a variety of online sources) which enables you to do a limited print run—as few as a single copy.

Case in point: Steve created a 42 page book of photographs of his two sons. Total cost: nominal. Total time invested: modest. Total print run: three. Total satisfaction: immeasurable.

[Below: spread from *Washington: Portrait of a City*. Crew on Potomac River; Canoe and Kennedy Center.]



END FRAME



Here's an expected take on the Supreme Court taken during a recent DC workshop. Horizon Director **Steve Gottlieb** did this "self-portrait" standing alongside student **Marijke Anglim** shortly before sunset. Note how the light bouncing off nearby columns partially fills the shadow so you can make out the architectural details inside the shadow.

One way to create an unexpected image is to *add something to the scene* that's wasn't there ... such as your shadow ... or all or part of yourself (a self-timer on a tripod makes that possible).