

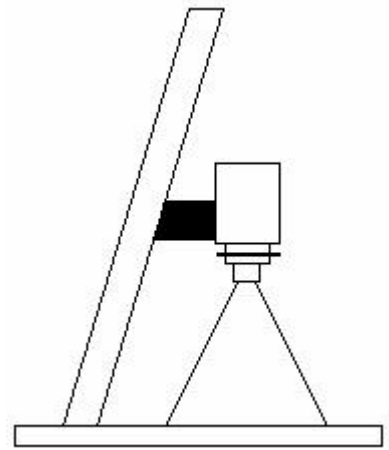
# Contact Sheet

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## Art, Abstract Art, and Photography

As photographers, we have always struggled getting recognition from our fellow artists. After all, we only point our camera at something and push the shutter with no forethought, right? **Larry Blackwood** presented our March lecture and gave us some insight into the way that art and photography have become intertwined. Just looking at any type of art can help give you inspiration and ideas for what you might want to try. Also, it will give you some validation for what you are attempting to get into your images. Larry has found that it can be difficult to read books on art, but learning art becomes very easy when you visit museums. You can watch the interplay of light on the subject; you can see where the points of interest are in the painting; you can appreciate some of the feelings that the artist was trying to portray much easier. These same thought processes are also entertained when the museum features photography.

One of the concepts that Larry was trying to show in his lecture was that we should get inspiration from the images and not just set off to copy the fellow artist. He showed that Van Gogh and Millet worked off of each other's works, but each would try to expand the images in their own works. Monet and Manet did a similar process. Even some of the modern artist such as Jackson



Pollock would interact with Siskind in a similar fashion. It can be a fine line to walk between *derivation*, (adapted from others) and *homage* (special honor or respect). This applies to photographers just as much as painters since we will sometimes want to set our tripods in the same holes that Ansel Adams used when we look at the Tetons - or his views of Half Dome in Yosemite. (One of our former members described a camera club in the east where the only way to get a high score in their equivalent to our Advancement Program was to literally put your tripod in the same position as the prior photographer since this image had been deemed **the best image**. There was virtually no room for experimentation and adding your own personal feelings about the subject.)

Abstract art has its own special feelings because it challenges you to appreciate different things such as pure form and texture, judging composition by itself. Sometimes there is just no real subject. Larry described a similar study by Siskind where he did a whole study of the asphalt in the cracks of walks. when you see something you like, take notes. Try similar exercises. Practice, practice, practice - - and you will get the intuition of what is good composition. He felt that it is easier to recognize a good photograph than it might be to explain that photograph. Siskind said that you carry with you a whole museum

and that you always have with you the history of art.

Thank you, Larry, for telling us that we have to unleash the right side of our brain and ignore some of the deductive reasoning that the left side of our brain is trying to promote.

## Club Notes

We have received an e-mail from Scott Cullins who works for Canyon Media. They will be responsible for a visitor guide for the Teton Valley Chamber of Commerce (Driggs, Victor area) and want photos of Tetons from Idaho side, along Teton River, fly fishing, Falls River, Teton Canyon, Cave Falls, Driggs, Victor, Tetonia, people and buildings in that area, snowmobiling, wildlife, hiking, biking, etc. In essence, they want the same images we just did for the Idaho Falls C Of C with the emphasis shifted 70 miles east! They do not want pictures yet, but just whether we have that type of image available. There was no mention of compensation for your efforts in the e-mail. Further information at: [scullins@ytcountry.com](mailto:scullins@ytcountry.com) or Box 142, Driggs, Idaho 83422.

If you have not put any photos in the EITC show, there is still enough room for a couple dozen images. The show will run through the month of April.

Roger reminds us that we have a continuing need for prints or slides for the Idaho Falls magazine. It is good exposure for you and our club. Remember that a publication such as this has a deadline about 3 months ahead of the season. Therefore, in the spring they need summer photos - - and so forth.

They like slides that tell a story, are a very good scenic representation of our area, or show a little humor. If you present a digital image, the file size must be about 30 megs in size.

Roger also mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce is going to have a projector as part of their display in their building. They need spring recreation photos. Roger said that he can scan these images onto a CD for us so that your slide or print does not fade with constant light exposure. The Chamber has requested any snowmobile race or dog sled race photos specifically.

We are still working on the Bylaws, Rules and Regs of our organization. We will need your input – and patience - as we work through these items. By updating them, it should allow us to ask for donations for our juried show easier. Also, there is some grant money available that we might be able to apply for since our group does try to be an educational body.

If you are only finding this newsletter on the Internet or at one of our photo stores where we leave our newsletter, it means you have not paid your dues. Please rejoin us since it is only \$25 for your family for the year.

## Advancement Program

**The theme for April will be: *Distortion*. Please bring your three best slides / prints and join us on April 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Conference Room at 1900 Grandview. Even if you do not have pictures to show, remember what Larry Blackburn emphasized, that your photography**

**will improve the more photographs you see. Join us, please.**

## **Field Trips**

We are going to try to get into Yellowstone on April 30 as a trip. Further details will be as this month's meeting.

## **About Records**

One of the advantages of retirement – and maybe its biggest disadvantage at the same time – is that you think you will have time to get things organized that you just didn't have the time to do when you were working full time. And so you tackle projects that you have put on hold for years. Maybe you did a little on that subject, but sometimes, it was in such a half hearted fashion that it was almost counterproductive.

One area that I wanted to tackle was to have a better system to find my negatives and know what images I have. This was brought to the fore when Roger issued a call for images for our project with the Chamber of Commerce and the BLM. I knew I had certain images, but I could not find them in my old system. Carefully, I thought, I had listed all of my slides and negatives in a master book. But, I also got a little lazy in the process because of lack of time. When Marty and I went to the Greenbelt to take photographs, these got listed as Greenbelt ducks. Was it a goose in flight? Was it a mallard? Was it ducklings? Was it a biker that rode by? Were the falls the emphasis of the picture? All unknown quantities in the old record system!

I brought some sheets of slides on that night of showing them to those groups; but because they may not have been labeled adequately, when I was putting my slides and negatives away later, I came up 24 slides missing. And a year later, no one has found any of them. This was the impetus for redoing my filing system. It is also part of the reason I have not submitted any images to various people that have asked for slides, etc. since I now want to make sure that I have everything labeled properly so that I don't lose anymore items. Also, the new system has: "Gull in flight", "gull on rock", "gull eating", and a lot more detail so that things are really much more productive. And ironically, I could have done this type of record system from the very beginning!

I just want to make this plea to all of you that you don't forget to be good record keepers. Yes, it is no fun. Yes, you could be doing something else at that time. But do it. Do it while you watch TV. Do it on a rainy Saturday. Do it during commercials. Don't procrastinate. In the words of the Nike commercial - - "Just do it!"

## **From the Time-Life Series on Photography, Volume about Cameras**

**"Photography is a magic act – a little black box that can trap people and wild animals, strange places and well-loved ones, and bring them back home. It is a trick that never ceases to delight the audience, the magician most of all."**

## Monthly Meeting

**Date: April 7, 2005**

**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: 1900 Grandview**

**Program:** Stan Anderson who worked with Kodak for 30 years and has been a technical engineer will give us some insight into that aspect of photography. Please join us and learn some background of your craft.

## Graffiti

Since this is the start of a new year, please help our new officers know what you want to learn this year, where you want to have photo shoots, and what type of workshops you want. They will need your assistance at presenting meaningful programs. (Sometimes the presenter of the program learns more than the participants!)

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who have joined together to further the art and craft of photography. Please join us and expand your horizons. Sharing knowledge makes all participants better at their craft.

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