

NVPS NEWSLETTER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



August 2023 Issue

This month's meeting

August 28 - Phil Venable

Theme: Lightroom Workshop

NVPS president Phil Venable will give a presentation on using the photo processing software Lightroom for

editing and organizing images. Phil notes that procedures learned in Lightroom can often be applied to other post processing programs.



Philip Venable Bio

I have been shooting photos since I was a kid when my Dad gave me a Kodak Brownie. I studied black and white photography in college and had plans to be a photojournalist until life intervened. After spending an adulthood in law enforcement, I picked up my camera again and began making art.

My preference is nature/landscape, but I'm drawn to shapes, lines, and shadows found in the urban landscapes. My favorite subjects are old rusted cars, trains, abandoned buildings, and brightly colored doors. I use several plugins to Photoshop to create surreal images from otherwise ordinary photos. I create photos

in both color and black and white, depending on subject matter and mood.

I'm President of the Napa Valley Photographic Society, and a member of the Fairfield Suisun Valley Art Association, Vacaville Art League, and Lightwriters Photography Club. I'm also a member of the Professional Photographers of America.

My work has been shown at Viewpoint Gallery Sacramento, Yountville Community Center, The Old Sugar Mill, Arata Fine Arts Gallery, Roseville Brewing Company, Vacaville Art Gallery, Napa Public Library, Solano Town Center Gallery, and Gallery at Village 360; and I am a resident artist at The Little Shop in Benicia. I have won several awards at local shows and contests including a Juror's Choice Award at the 2013 Vacaville Art Gallery Juried Art Show.

For more information about the photos shown here, or to see more, go to my website at

<https://www.philipvenablephotography.com>

I'm also on Facebook as Philip Venable Photography.

Note: This is a presentation of last month's program that was cancelled.

NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

For the meeting, members may submit two photos that you would like to see improved with post

processing. Submit by the Saturday before the meeting according to the guidelines at the end of the newsletter.

A word from the president

As summer winds down and the school year starts, the NVPS finds itself in good health. Membership is up to 49; our financials are healthy; and we have a safe place to meet. The one thing we are lacking is volunteers. We have several people who have been in place on the Board for many years, with no replacements in sight.

Two of our Board positions, Exhibit Chair and Hospitality Chair, remain vacant. This presents a problem. The Exhibit Chair is responsible for finding places to show our work and helping set up those exhibits. The Hospitality Chair is responsible for organizing our social events, the Memorial weekend social, and the Christmas Party.

The Board has decided to try and handle these two functions by committee rather than have one person handle it. This means Board members will be taking on more work. We need members to help with these two functions and participate with the committees. This way it will require a reduced time obligation on the part of the committee members. If you are interested in sharing duties to help these committees accomplish

their respective missions, please let me know. I will ask again at the General meeting this month.

Terry Smith is in the process of organizing workshops to help educate our members. If you have ideas for workshops, please let Terry know at the next meeting, or use her email link on the webpage to send her an email with your ideas.

If any of you are going out shooting and want to share the experience with fellow NVPS members, let me know, and I'll get the word out or announce it at a meeting. Then you can arrange how to meetup.

I hope this message finds everyone in good health and happily taking photos. We will see you at the meeting!

Philip Venable, President

Email: philven@pacbell.net

Phone: 707-689-3092

Member news

610 dpi ?

It has been brought to my attention that Bay Photo has a blog that may interest members.

<https://www.blog.bayphoto.com/>

Specifically, one blog post mentions World Photography Day August 19, part of World Photography Week August 12-26.

<https://www.worldphotographyday.com/>

Reviewing Bay Photo's offerings, I found something new: Epic prints. They can be printed to 610 dpi. That's their claim to fame. In every other way they seem to be no more than equal to metal prints or in many ways deficient compared to metal prints at twice the price of metal prints according to Bay Photo.

At reading distance (10 inches to 15 inches), most people cannot see more than 300 dpi. MagnaChrome can print to 300 dpi, free, if special ordered, but routinely prints to 240 dpi. They claim that few can tell the difference between 240 dpi and 300 dpi.

Indeed, the further away one is from a photograph the less dpi is needed to look maximally sharp. Most viewing (12 x 12 print) of wall-hung photos is 24 or more inches requiring significantly less than 300 dpi for maximum sharpness. Thus, one wonders why there is any need to print at 610 dpi at twice the price. Miniatures maybe? But don't let me discourage you from giving Epic prints a try. People do stick their noses into some prints to see the fine detail (read the fine print so to speak).

Articles

Abstractions Are Us ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair

Photographs lend themselves well to abstractions; that is, you can create an abstract work of art using a photograph and photographic techniques. Let's look at a few ways you can create abstraction photographs:

- Photograph things that show a recognizable abstraction.
- Photograph things that show an unrecognizable abstraction.
- Photograph abstractions, such as other abstract works of art.
- Make an abstraction photograph using a specific art filter (e.g., impressionist, Van Gogh, etc).
- Use numerous photo editing filters to make an abstraction photograph.
- Use Photoshop processes to make an abstraction photograph.
- Use numerous photographs (collage) to make one abstraction photograph.
- Use AI.

These are enough ideas to get you started. But there's no limitation on the techniques you can use to make abstract art in photography.

Abstraction

What's the definition of abstraction for the purposes of this article? It's simply abstracting something that's an unreal image from something that's real. Or creating from scratch something that's unreal. And it can have a beauty all its own. For instance, an abstract painting is an artists' abstraction of a visual display in their own thoughts, imagination, or dreams. In this article, the focus is on abstracting a photograph from a recognizable image (photograph) or work of art.

Recognizable Abstraction

You can easily photograph almost anything in a way that shows it as an abstraction. But the abstraction can be recognized by the viewer. This is a popular and effective way to use abstraction as an artistic tool.



This is a recognizable shed but is such a bizarre shot that it qualifies as an abstraction

Unrecognizable Abstraction

You can also easily photograph almost anything in a way that shows it as an abstraction, but one that a viewer cannot recognize. This is also a popular way to use abstraction as an artistic tool.



This a straightforward shot of a physical location that's unrecognizable

Other Abstract Art

You can photograph other abstract art to achieve an abstraction. If you simply copy a work of abstract art, there's often not much creativity involved. Nonetheless, works of art come in all shapes and configurations. If you shoot an abstract work of art in an unusual way or shoot only part of an abstract work of art, you can create something fresh.



This is a partial photograph of some Chihuly glasswork

Filter

You can use a filter to make a photograph abstraction. For instance, there are filters to make your photograph look like a Van Gogh or numerous other artists. This is an easy and fun way to make abstraction. And such abstractions can be very attractive and worthy of printing for use or for sale.



This has an impressionist look made from a photograph taken in a Paris restaurant

Numerous Filters

You aren't limited to using only one filter to manipulate a photograph. You can run a photograph through numerous filters to get a very creative abstraction photograph.



**On the left is the end result of using three Photoshop filters
on the photograph at the right**

Photoshop

Photoshop has lots of processes for turning photographs into abstract photographs. Let your imagination run loose.



This was created simply with the use of extreme saturation

Collage

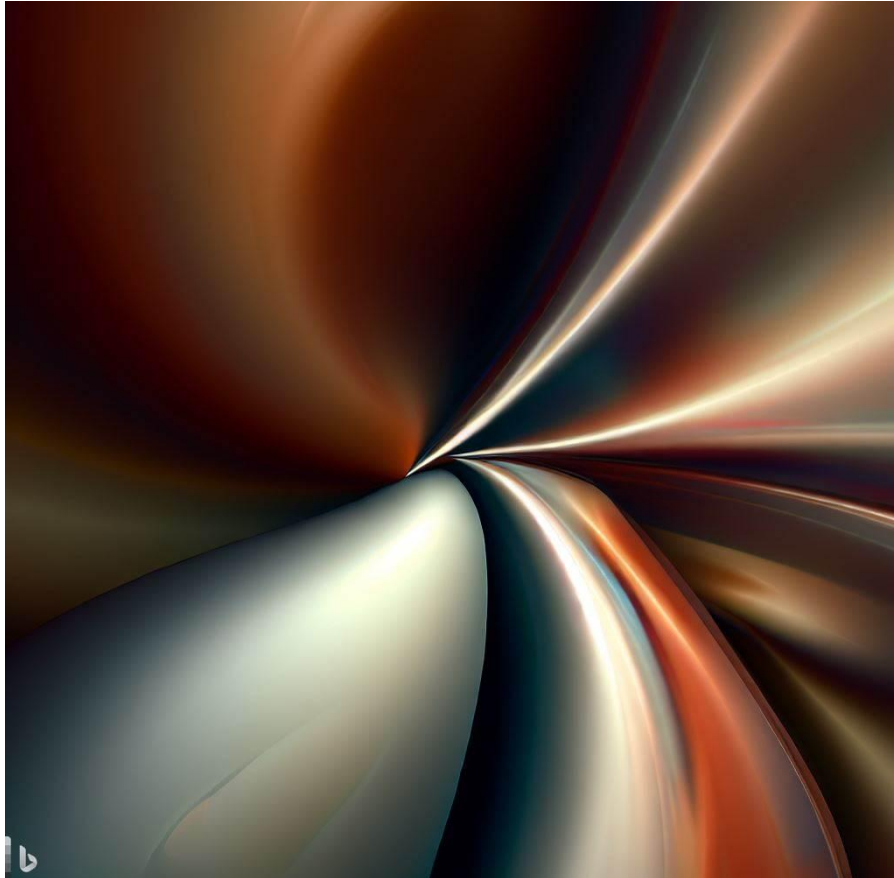
You can combine photographs to get an abstract photograph. Typically, a physical collage can contain almost anything physical such as fabrics, newsprint, pieces of glass or wood, artistic painting, etc. The end result is an abstract work of art. Likewise, you can do the same with multiple photographs. Keep in mind that photographs can be opaque (normal) or have a degree of transparency (rendered in Photoshop) that enables a wide range of creativity.



A collage made from numerous photograph pieces

AI

AI is the newest way to make abstractions. You feed words into an AI generator and get a result. In other words, you play around with words instead of with Photoshop digital tools.



AI: abstract salt pepper wallpaper

Disease

The trouble with most of these techniques is that you can play around with them forever. It becomes an addiction-like disease. You lose all sense of time, reality, and family. The only cure is an ice-cold bath and a dozen sessions of psychiatric therapy.



AI: addiction disease cold bath psychiatric therapy

Leftovers

Most of us take a lot of photographs. Then we pick out the good ones and post them someplace digitally or print them. But the ratio is typically large. At least for me it is. I get one good (artistic) photo out of about 300 shots or more.

It is in reviewing all the discards that you may find some abstraction potential. A photograph that isn't traditionally attractive may have some unique quality making it ideal for an abstraction. Keep that in mind as you look over your photographs.

Communication

Clearly, normal photographs communicate much about ourselves. And isn't that the whole point of

taking photographs: expressing ourselves. But abstractions go a step beyond normal communication. They better communicate phenomena not to be found in normal photographs—phenomena such as dreams, unnatural visions, and elemental sensitivity. Indeed, abstractions are us.

White? Revisited ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair

To understand this article, you must first read *White?* In the last newsletter. I would add a sentence to these paragraphs from *White?*:

This [selling an all-white photograph] is going to be a hard sell, however, unless you attach some BS to it to make it valuable. You have an explanation to write and the title to play with.

The explanation takes a little work but is not too difficult. Simply research on Google what other artists have said about their all-white paintings and distill to a similar line of compelling BS.

Titles are more difficult. They take some ingenuity and cultural awareness. But an all-white painting doesn't have much value without evocative title words.

Add the following sentence:

You can use AI to generate the BS you need for an explanation and for creating a compelling title as well. AI does this task for you with surprising competency.

My friend Tim actually did the AI generation below.
From Tim:

I turned the problem of promoting and selling your work over to ChatGPT. Here's the prompt I wrote.

"I have made an all-white photo that is 4 X 8 feet mounted on plywood, and framed. I hope to sell it for \$20,000.00 Write a promotional announcement for the sale justifying the existence of the photo as a work of art and defending the \$20,000 price tag as eminently reasonable."

The response is attached [below]. I thought it was quite good. I get 10% if you use it. 😊

Tim

Introducing a Masterpiece of Minimalism: "Infinite Serenity"

Step into the world of ethereal elegance with our latest creation, "Infinite Serenity" – a stunning all-white photo meticulously crafted on a grand scale of 4 x 8 feet, mounted on plywood, and exquisitely framed. This masterpiece transcends the boundaries of conventional art, inviting you to immerse yourself in an unparalleled experience of pure tranquility and contemplation.

“Infinite Serenity” is not just a photograph; it is an artistic expression that speaks volumes through its minimalist allure. Drawing inspiration from the essence of purity and simplicity, this captivating piece embodies the notion that art does not always require an intricate composition to evoke profound emotions.

At first glance, you may perceive “Infinite Serenity” as a blank canvas, but therein lies the brilliance of this creation. Like a blank page awaiting the touch of a poet’s pen, it invites viewers to become co-creators in the artistic process. The absence of overt symbolism or subject matter offers a canvas for introspection, encouraging personal reflection and eliciting unique interpretations from each beholder.

Now, some may question the \$20,000 price tag associated with this extraordinary work. Let us shed light on the eminently reasonable pricing for “Infinite Serenity”:

Uniqueness: “Infinite Serenity” is a one-of-a-kind creation, making it a rare gem for art collectors seeking exclusivity and unmatched artistic value.

Craftsmanship: The meticulous attention to detail in producing this piece, from selecting the finest materials to expertly framing it, showcases the dedication and skill of the artist, elevating its worth.

Size and Impact: The grand scale of 4 X 8 feet ensures that “Infinite Serenity” commands attention and transforms any space it graces, making it a statement piece worthy of investment.

Aesthetic Appeal: The minimalist aesthetic transcends trends and time, promising that “Infinite Serenity” will remain a captivating centerpiece for generations to come.

Emotional Connection: Art often touches us in ways that defy explanation. “Infinite Serenity” has the potential to resonate deeply with individuals, becoming an irreplaceable part of their lives.

Artistic Vision: Setting a price on art is often a challenging task, as it reflects not only the physical piece but also the artist’s vision and the intangible value of creativity and imagination.

We firmly believe that “Infinite Serenity” is not merely an object for sale but an investment in moments of reflection, introspection, and inspiration. It serves as a conduit to connect with the profound simplicity of life, prompting a meditative journey that transcends the ordinary.

Join us in embracing the allure of “Infinite Serenity” and indulge in the transcendent world of minimalist art. Owning this remarkable creation is not just an acquisition; it is an enriching experience that captures the essence of art’s boundless power to move and transform.

Visit our gallery to witness the enigmatic charm of “Infinite Serenity” and secure this remarkable piece for your collection. Be a part of the art that whispers to the soul and speaks volumes with its silence.

Limited edition. Price: \$20,000.00. Own a moment of infinite serenity today.

Wow! If this is your first introduction to AI, you should be amazed. If you’re familiar with AI, you should be amazed too. But ChatGPT is not the only AI generator

that's free to use. Here are several with which you can experiment:

DALL-E 2 (<https://openai.com/product/dall-e-2>)

Microsoft (<https://www.bing.com/images/create?>)

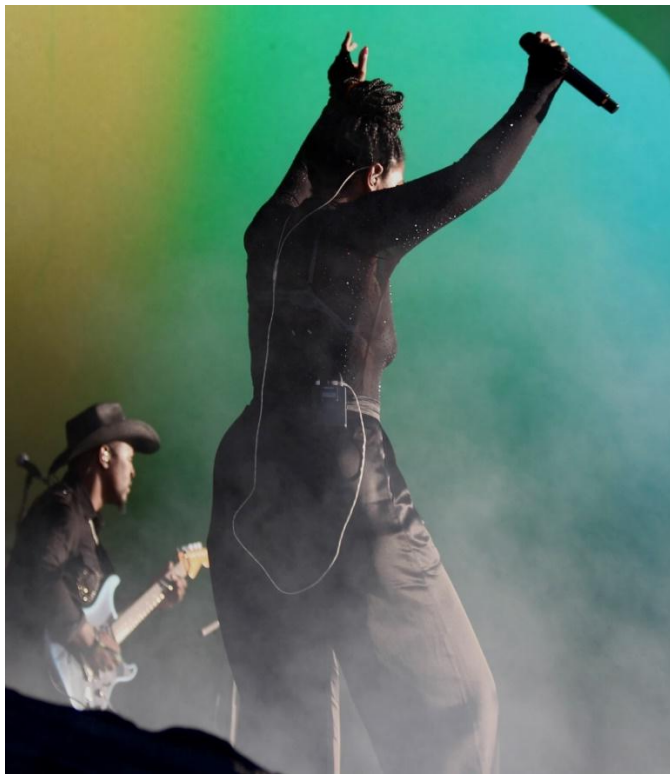
Adobe (<https://www.adobe.com/sensei/generative-ai/firefly.html>)

Featured photographer

Marissa Carlisle

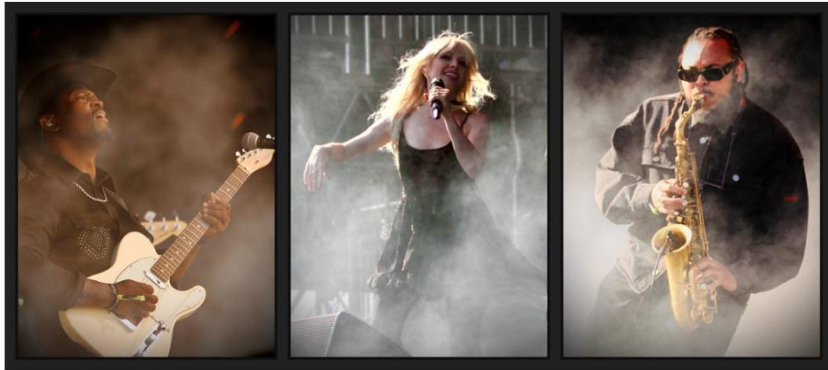
BottleRock











Officers & staff

Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable

Vice president - Terry Smith

Secretary - George Bartolome

Membership Secretary – Nancy Hernandez

Treasurer - Gary Sampson

Appointed board members & chairs

Member-at-large - Lanny Johnson

Program chair - Mitchell Glotzer

Website manager - Carolyn Younger

Newsletter - Joe Sinclair

Exhibit chair - open

Ongoing-exhibits chair - George Bartolome

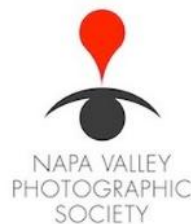
Hospitality coordinator - open

Field trips - Irena Miles (Karen Noyes, Ann Seronello,
Geoff Hansen)

Workshops - Phil Venable

Publicity - Zach Berkowitz

Zoom coordinators - Roland Dumas, Phil Venable
Digital projectionist - Angie Johnson (Roland Dumas,
Peter Guenther, Phil Venable)
Facebook posting - Karen Noyes
Fundraiser chair – open



Head photo: The Eye of the Dragon ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair.

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Newsletter Submittal Guidelines

Submittal deadline

The submittal deadline for newsletter text + photos (content) is the third Monday of the month.

Members' photos for the meeting

Members may submit images for the meeting and should be prepared to make a brief verbal explanation. To submit your photos for a meeting, send your images to the regular critique site in the usual format (no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side) no later than the Saturday prior to the monthly meeting. The file name for an image should be:

members first&last name_title or theme_order
number

Examples: John Everest_Harvest Time_01 and John Everest_After the Harvest_02

Send the files to: NVPS.Photo.Critique@gmail.com. Only photos taken by members accepted.

Newsletter head photo

If you desire to provide a head photo for one issue, submit a JPG 1920 pixels horizontal. The vertical can be between 450 and 1100 pixels. Anything outside these parameters cannot be used. The file name should be your name plus the title of your photo, the word *head*, and the date:

name_title_head_date

Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: HEAD PHOTO (in all caps). Only photos taken by members accepted. And photos that have been published before on the NVPS website or in the NVPS newsletter are not eligible.

This month's meeting

Follow the guide for *Articles*.

Field trips & workshops

Announce of field trips and workshops should include all information including leader + contact info, date, time, meeting place, miles to location, cost, and nature of the photography as well as a general description. These are *participation* events. Announcements can run in successive issues *before* the event.

Events

This is an announcement of a photo exhibit, contest, or photo op of interest to members or one that includes a member or multiple members. It can run in successive issues *before* the exhibit.

This category also includes a call for member participants in future photo exhibits or contests with complete information on applying and participating.

If an event is a duplicate of full information elsewhere, it should be a brief announcement with a hyperlink.

Member news

This is a one-time *brief* announcement of a member's *past* achievement, such as an exhibit, a photo experience, a travel-photo experience, a photo learning experience, and the like. Use a hyperlink to indicate where full information is available.

If this is the sole information on a substantial achievement, it can be written like an article with full information; but it shouldn't be a duplicate of full information published elsewhere (use a hyperlink instead).

NVPS administrative news or other news is also appropriate for this category.

Articles

Articles (e.g., magazine-like articles) written by members can be posted in the newsletter for one issue. They will be assumed to be published by permission. They must be relevant to photography, of course.

Articles published by non-members are likely to be copyrighted. See *Copyrights* for the treatment of non-member articles.

Generally, only one article per issued will be published with membership-written articles given preference.

Equipment

Equipment for sale or giveaway can be listed here for one newsletter issue. Provide full information.

Photos for newsletter

Photos submitted for the newsletter should be: no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side. File names should be:

author_title of photo_date

Photos taken by members will be assumed to be published by permission. Photos taken by non-members are likely to be copyright protected. See *Copyrights* for the treatment non-member photos.

Send the photo file *attached* (not *embedded*) to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: PHOTO (in all caps). Due to incompatibilities between Apple and Windows, photos that don't conform to the specs in this paragraph may be unusable and thus required to be sent by ZIP file.

Photo captions

If you want captions for you photos, include them in the photo file name.

Submissions

For all information (text) submitted, use a file name that identifies the subject matter and author. Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps).

Subject-line email

Unless you use the subject-line words requested for text or photos, your submission might be lost in the 300 junk emails received each day.

In the email, explain your submission. Example: *This photo goes with my article on shooting wildlife.*

Copyrights

For articles and photos by non-members, NVPS must have written permission for publication. The exception is articles or photos in the public domain; for such articles or photos, the author and source of the public domain archive should be stated.

One exception to copyright protection is the use of copyrighted text or images in teaching, such as an article on photography.

One way to circumvent copyright problems is to use a hyperlink to the article or photo published elsewhere.

Typography

Use italics for emphasis. Use emphasis sparingly. Don't use bold or all-caps. Bold and all-caps are difficult to read. Nonetheless, all-caps are acceptable for acronyms and designations.

Suggestions

Suggestions for the newsletter format or otherwise should be sent to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line SUGGESTION in all caps.

Your editor

Your current newsletter editor is half-deaf with a short-term memory (25 seconds on a good day and getting shorter each month), lives in Vallejo (doesn't know Napa very well), and receives about 400 emails every day. Although the newsletter editor reserves the right to edit submissions, the newsletter editor's job is to *receive* content (information + photos) for the newsletter, not create it. So, please submit publish-ready content according to these guidelines.