



# Southern Exposure

Southland Photographic Society

<http://www.southlandphotographicsociety.com>

March 2016

Meetings held at Age Concern Rooms in Forth Street, Invercargill at 7.30pm on the first & third Thursday of each month.

### Supper Duty for Meetings

3 March: Sr. Maria, Anita Hayman

17 March: Wayne Leary, Mark Mexted

### 3 March

7 pm - *Camera Basics*

Results: Open C Grade (1)

Guest Speaker: Bruce Girdwood

Elusive Simplicity - Dot Mullay

### 17 March

Results: Open A&B Grade (1)

Set Subject: Elusive Simplicity

Summer Holiday Photography

Introduction to new way of entering Competitions - Kevin & Les

### 18 February

*Continued from Right*

We started the evening with a Special General Meeting - with a satisfactory outcome - some changes to the wording to Eric's remit, suggested by Kevin.

Les gave an excellent presentation of his journey as a photographer. Dot spoke briefly about Elusive Simplicity, and Dave talked about taking your snapshots on to a 'Photograph' - and the thinking that goes into that process.

### 28 January

It was the first night of the New Year - a Social Night, and a chance to catch with friends.

We started with an AV from the Scavenger Night at the beginning of November, and then we saw some of the AVs from the Final Night. We then finished up with a second AV - from our trip to Riverton for some Steampunk photography.

This was followed by having a look at some prints from the Final Night, a cuppa and a chat. Good to be back after the break.

### 4 February

Stephanie started the night with a good run-down on Competition Rules. Please, if you are unsure, do ask someone, perhaps one of the Committee?

We then watched an AV that Stephanie had seen and copied for Club viewing - on Antoine Sevrugin.

Kevin introduced Jotform - the new way of entering Competitions at Club Level. Please remember - this NOT OPERATIONAL YET!

We finished the evening with an AV on Photographic Jargon - capably put together by Annie. Thanks to all of you for your efforts on our behalf.

*Continued Left*

*Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realise that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.*

Patron: Graham Dainty

Office Bearers:

President: Ian Smith

Vice President: David Tose

Past President: Stephanie Forrester

Secretary: Liz Collett

Treasurer: Stephanie Forrester (Acting)

Committee Members: Kevin Tyree, Rosemary McGeachie, Sandra King, Les Ladbrook, Val Wardell

## Minimalist Photography - 4 Tips To Keep It Simple With A Maximum Impact

Minimalism is a very subjective concept in the art world. The Webster dictionary defines it as follows: A style or technique that is characterized by extreme sparseness and simplicity. Some love it, others hate it, but no one seems to be indifferent. Many artists thrive in the openness of the concept; others have a problem with the lack of definition and direction. Many of us are drawn to 'less is more' with simple lines, geometric patterns, strong shadows, contrasting colors, lone subjects, etc. For others, deciding what to leave out of the frame to make a stronger image is a difficult exercise. Here are a few tips and examples to get you started in your quest for minimalist imagery.



### Composition

'Keep it simple' doesn't mean 'keep it boring'. Contrary to what you may think, a minimalist approach requires a lot of creativity. The use of negative space is an integral part of minimalist photography. A well placed subject doesn't have to be large to have a big impact. Deciding what to leave out of the frame and create a stronger image can be challenging and often requires a lot of practice until it becomes the way you see. Training yourself to make those decisions in camera instead of cropping unwanted distractions in post processing. A clever use of depth of field will also isolate your subject from the background by shooting with an aperture as wide (smallest number) as your lens will allow.

### Textures and colors

A bright color or contrasting colors make great minimalist subjects. The same applies to textures. The viewer should be able to almost feel the texture. Sometimes it's all about finding a creative angle to make the photograph. Don't be afraid the experiment. Shoot straight on; shoot high or low, work your frame until you get the shot that will speak to you.

### Lines and geometric patterns



Strong lines make strong images. A good place to get started with minimalist photography is by paying attention to modern architecture around you. Leading lines, and other geometric shapes, can make great backdrops for minimalist pictures. Isolating a bird on a power line, if done well, can make a great minimalist shot. There are great opportunities around you all the time, you just have to learn to see them and that requires practice.

### Telling a story



Push your minimalist photography to the next level by telling a story. Minimalist street photography showcases an interesting urban landscape with a human element. The human element, however small, becomes the focal point of the image. Yet,

it's the interesting background that draws the photographer to make the shot. Symmetry, lines, curves, shadows all play a vital part in making the photograph. Sometimes the story and the environment come together spontaneously and it's the photographer's job to see it and respond quickly. Other times it requires a bit of patience for the right subject to walk through the frame. A minimalist approach to photography can be applied in nature as well as in an urban environment. You can practice anywhere, so get out there and open yourself to a different way of seeing with your camera!

Valerie Jardin. Adapted from: <http://digital-photography.com>

*A married couple got into an accident and the husband's face was badly burned. The doctor told him that they couldn't graft any skin from his body because he was too skinny. So the wife offered to donate some of her own skin. However, the only skin on her body that the doctor felt was suitable would come from her buttocks. The husband and wife agreed that they would tell no one where the skin came from and they requested that the doctor also honour their secret. After all, this was a very delicate matter. After the surgery was completed, everyone was astounded at the man's new face. He looked more handsome than he had ever had before! All his friends and relatives just went on and on about his youthful beauty! One day, he was alone with his wife, and he was overcome with emotion at her sacrifice. He said, 'Dear, I just want to thank you for everything you did for me. How can I possibly repay you?' 'My darling,' she replied. 'I get all the thanks I need every time I see your mother kiss you on the cheek.'*

*An explanation of the Mysteries Of Cricket for the poor unfortunates who obviously cannot understand it:  
You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.  
Each man in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.  
When they're all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you have men still in and not out.  
When both sides have been in and out and in and out including the not outs, that's the end of the match.*

*How's that?*

**WRINKLES:**  
*Something other people have. You have character lines.*

**EGOTIST:**  
*Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.*

## Why Taking Pictures of Your Pets Will Help Make You a Better Photographer

As a photographic genre, pet photography can go well beyond that of the simple snapshot. If you start to dissect the various disciplines it requires, you may notice that it involves a broader spectrum of skill sets than many other kinds of photography. From lighting, to camera control, to managing a difficult subject, photographing your pets can help you learn, and reinforce a great deal of camera craft that can be transferred across many other genres.

The important factor here is that your subject, your pet, is generally far more accessible to practice with than other subjects, such as people.



### Camera craft

If you're new to photography, this is the most important point. Things like aperture, shutter speed, and ISO all need relentless practice and reinforcement when you're learning your way around the camera. Sure, you could just use an apple on a table, but having a moving subject will force you to act quicker, and make decisions on the fly. This kind of mastery over your camera will allow you to react faster to any changes in your subject, and will allow you to catch many images you may otherwise have missed while fiddling with the dials.

### Camera on hand

One of the most given pieces of advice to photographers is to always have your camera with you. It's good advice, but it's not easy to implement. By dedicating yourself to photographing your pets, you'll already be taking a

step in the right direction. This is especially true if you have a dog that you walk regularly. Just make sure the camera goes with you on your walks, and you'll be ready for any opportunity that presents itself, including ones that don't involve your pet.

### Patience

Photographing pets is hard. This difficulty has nothing at all to do with any technical skills with the camera. Animals tend to be impatient, disinterested, distractible, and sometimes skittish. With the exception of reasonably well-trained dogs, you will probably have a hard time getting most other animals to do what you need. Just imagine trying to give an iguana commands.

The key here is patience. Often you will have to wait frustratingly long periods of time before a shot presents itself. By understanding this, you can focus your energy on the shot when it does appear, rather than the time leading up to it. It is also usually better to wait for something natural to happen, than to force something artificial.

This kind of patience can take a while to develop, but it is a high value skill that transfers well across the photographic disciplines. Your wildlife photography, portraits (especially child portraits), street photography, and sports photography would all benefit from this trait.

### Unpredictability

Animals are unpredictable. This is great news if you're trying to hone your skills. Leveraging that unpredictability as a learning tool will allow you to react to different situations much faster. This could be as simple as pumping up the ISO without thinking about it, or even swapping lenses in seconds without a thought.

The best part is that it's this unpredictability that often leads to the most interesting photos, or at least the funniest.

### Lighting

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Individual lighting techniques tend to work as well with animals as they do with people. Once you have a setup the way you want it, often all you will need to do to switch to a human subject, is raise the lights up. If you're using natural light, you wouldn't even need to do that.



### In the end

Hopefully you can see how dedicating time to photographing your pets can help you to improve a broad set of skills simultaneously. By removing accessibility issues and keeping costs minimal (a bag of treats is a cost, right?) you can ramp up the time you spend practicing, and reach the top of the learning curve in no time.

*Adapted from: <http://digital-photography.com>*

*A Scotsman was at a baseball game. It was the first time he had ever seen the sport so he sat quietly. The first batter approached the mound, he took a few swings and then hit a double. Everyone was on their feet screaming 'Run, Run.' This happened two more times, with a single and a triple. The Scottish man was now excited and ready to get into the game. The next batter came up and four balls went by. The umpire called 'walk' and the batter started on a slow trot to first. The Scotsman, extremely excited now, stood up and screamed, 'R-R-Run ye b\*\*\*\*d, rrrun!' Everyone around him started laughing. So the Scotsman, extremely embarrassed, sat back down. A friendly fan, seeing the Scotsman's embarrassment, leaned over and said, 'He can't run - he got four balls.' The Scotsman then stood up and screamed, 'Walk with pride, man...walk with pride!'*

A man came home from work and found his three children outside, still in their pyjamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house and there was no sign of the dog. Proceeding into the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was loudly blaring on a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, the fridge door was open wide, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she might be ill, or that something serious had happened. He was met with a small trickle of water as it made its way out the Bathroom door. As he peered inside he found wet towels, scummy soap and more toys strewn over the floor. Miles of toilet paper lay in a heap and toothpaste had been smeared over the mirror and walls. As he rushed to the bedroom, he found his wife still curled up in the bed in her pyjamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, 'What happened here today?' She again smiled and answered, 'You know every day when you come home from work and you ask me what in the world did I do today?' 'Yes,' was his incredulous reply. She answered, 'Well, today I didn't do it.'

A judge was interviewing a South Carolina woman regarding her pending divorce and asks, 'What are the grounds for your divorce?'

'About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by.'

'No,' he said, 'I mean what is the foundation of this case?'

'It is made of concrete, brick, and mortar,' she responded.

'I mean,' he continued, 'what are your relations like?'

'I have an aunt and uncle and 12 cousins living here in town, as well as my husband's parents.'

The judge took a deep breath and asked, 'Do you have a real grudge?'

'No, we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one cuz we don't have a car.'

'Please,' he tried again, 'is there any infidelity in your marriage?'

'Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music - all that hip hop and rap tap - but we can't seem to do anything about it.'

'Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?'

'Yes, he gets up every morning before I do and makes the coffee.'

The judge asked, 'Is your husband a nagger?'

'Oh, hell no, he's as white as you and me!'

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, 'Lady, why in hell do you want a divorce?'

'Oh, I don't want a divorce,' she replied. 'I've never wanted a divorce, my husband does. The damn fool says he can't communicate with me.'

## We Have a Winner!

Congratulations, to Mike Pemberton. He has received first, and a Gold Medal in the 2015 4 Nations Competition with his image 'Not Daggy'.

4 Nations is a competition held each year between Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Well done!

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost.

He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below.

He descended a bit more and shouted, 'Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am.'

The woman below replied, 'You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude.' 'You must be in Information Technology,' said the balloonist.

'I am,' replied the woman, 'How did you know?'

'Well,' answered the balloonist, 'everything you told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip.'

The woman below responded, 'You must be in Management.'

'I am,' replied the balloonist, 'but how did you know?'

'Well,' said the woman, 'you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air.'

You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault.'

## May Art's Festival

If you would like one of your prints considered for entry into the May Art's Festival this year, please bring it/them to a Club Meeting this month.

There is room only, for a limited number of prints on display, so the Committee will make the final selection. Thank you!

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, that mean they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more of goodness that way. Beer also made of grain. Bottoms up!

A man comes home and finds his wife in bed with his friend.

He shoots his friend and kills him. Wife says, 'If you keep on behaving like this, you'll lose ALL your friends.'

In A Doctor's Examination Room, a female doctor talking with her female patient; "I'm afraid its incurable, very painful and will probably kill you - it's called parenting.

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?

A: Rename the mail folder 'Instruction Manuals'

Just a quick reminder to you to send in, a maximum of three images, taken over the holiday period, to the competition entry site: [spscompetitionentry@gmail.com](mailto:spscompetitionentry@gmail.com)

Please be aware, that it is possible that some images may not be shown, due to time restraints on the final length of the AV.

We look forward to seeing what you got up to and what incredible images you managed to take.

The AV will be shown at March the 17th club meeting. The images must be in at least by the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

'Now, class, closely observe the worms,' said the teacher while putting a worm into the water.

The worm in the water writhed about, happy as a worm in water could be.

He then put the second worm into the whisky.

It curled up and writhed about painfully, the quickly sank to the bottom, dead as a doornail.

'Now, what lesson can we learn from this experiment?' he asked.

Johnny, who naturally sits in the back, raised his hand and wisely responded confidently, 'Drink whisky and you won't get worms.'

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise muscle, it get bigger. You should only be doing sit-up if you want bigger stomach.