



September 2019

### Composition: The Power of Simplicity

*"Simplify, simplify, simplify."*

Henry David Thoreau

*"One 'simplify' would have sufficed."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

It took me years to figure out that photographic composition is about organization of elements in the frame, that making a photograph has so much more to do with my decisions than it does with the scene in front of me.

Before that realization, I raised the camera to my face secure in my assumption that the subject of the scene was amazing enough to carry the photograph as long as I nailed my focus and exposure. I was OK with my photographs documenting what I saw, but had no idea that I was learning to speak

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### From the President

Just one more month before daylight saving is upon us again and we can enjoy those longer days. I must admit I am a fan of daylight saving and appreciate the longer days and the opportunities it brings to be outdoors, taking photos in that long evening light.

For me this may have to wait another month or two but I can't wait to take up the challenge many photographer friends have given me. That is "take a photo per day" this photo is to be one that brings you satisfaction and is pleasing to you and you alone.

Sometimes we get stressed about competitions, the challenge of the set subjects and the opinions of others, and we forget to enjoy the art. Why not join me and take up

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### Exhibition

Our very successful Bowen House Photo Exhibition is coming to Palmerston North! Manawatu Camera Club were invited earlier this year to exhibit a series of images at Bowen House Exhibition Space in Wellington. Bowen House staff rated this their most successful exhibition! Thank you to the Wellington region's Camera Clubs for their excellent support. Our photos will be on display at two different local venues, Palmerston North City Library and Square Edge Exhibition Space, over a seven-week period.

20 November 2019 to 10 December 2019 – PN City Library

11 December 2019 to 12 January 2020 – Square Edge

*Contributed by Jim Jefferies*

### Key Dates

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – 7pm**  
A.P.G. Studio night

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**  
Dunedin Festival of Photography  
Closing date for entries: 11:59pm

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**  
Peter Perver - NZ International  
Film Festival.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm**  
Club Competition Night

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – 7.30pm**  
Club Practical Night

**Weekend 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
Castlepoint Trip



# August Competition

Category	Member Name	Image Title	Best Image	Result
A DPI Open	Pieter Jansen	steam train		H
	Kelly Taylor Gannaway	Abstract fun		M
A DPI Set	Rowan Bell	5 Blue Bottles standing in a row		M
	Maureen Jensen	One Green Bottle	*	M
	Kelly Taylor Gannaway	Exploration		M
B DPI Open	Graeme Platt	Morning Mist		M
	Colin Wilson	All is calm		H
	Margie Sutherland	I see you Oma		M
	Rachelle Johnston	Dog Fight		M
B DPI Set	Colin Wilson	There is a Crack in Everything	*	M
	Rachelle Johnston	Vintage Perfume Bottle		M
B Print Open	Richard Lander	What's Up		M
	Catherine Jackson	Majestic Snowfall, Rangī		M
B Print Set	Richard Lander	A Smoky Single Malt		M
		The Genie has Escaped	*	M
M DPI Open	Trish Bruce	Vanklink		M
	Mike Gannaway	A Foggy Winter Day		M
	Prashant Joshi	John Rylands		M
		Stage		M
M DPI Set	Trish Bruce	One Too Many	*	M
	Mike Gannaway	Why		M
		Buy Me		M
	Rob Weir	Outline		M
M Print Open	Haig Thomson	A Fiordland Scene		H
M Print Set	Jim Jefferies	Bugger, Empty	*	M

# August Competition



## President's message

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the challenge of a photo a day for yourself. See what develops.

Our club is doing exceptionally well the images of the B graders are a credit to you all. Many of our judges this year have made special mention of the high standard ... well done and congratulations to everyone.

I am looking forward to our upcoming Exhibition here in Palmerston North and with this, our drive for new members. We are developing an impressive public profile with several members having images on display at the library and others images included in NZ Photographic magazines. There are opportunities coming our way to exhibit our works about town – more on that soon.

*Contributed by Maureen Jensen*

## A.G.M.

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual general meeting on the 12th of August. Here are your new committee members.

President: Maureen Jensen

Vice-President: Mike Gannaway

Public Relations: Jim Jefferies

Treasurer: Rowan Bell

Secretary: Margie Sutherland

Web Page: Rob Weir

Newsletter: Kathy Holyoake.

Competition secretary:

**IMPORTANT** The club needs a Competition secretary to manage the photos entered in the competitions. We would love to hear from you if you are interested in this role.

## A.P.G.

APG (Studio Nights) As you all know, the first Monday of each month is our studio night, held at the APG Studio in Square Edge. The Applied Photography group, is a group of amateur photographers from the Manawatu Camera Club, who wish to grow through challenging themselves by applying their photographic skills to photographic projects. We come from a range of careers, cultures and backgrounds which leads to a diverse and creative blend. The group has its own studio situated in the Community Arts Centre at Square Edge. The studio is available to APG members 24 / 7. It includes several Bowen studio flashes as well as some other flash models. Enough lighting equipment to create complex lighting setups. There are different backdrops and computing facilities for processing images in Photoshop CS3 and Lightroom 3.4 as well as large format printer. If you would like to know more or join the APG group, contact Udo. Phone 021 1097599 or email [udo@trelum.co.nz](mailto:udo@trelum.co.nz)

*Contributed by Udo*

## Competition Topics

### Collecting in September - For Judging in October

*The Arts In Movement* and *Open* Performing arts—e.g; bands, music, dance. Where to take them – multicultural festivals in the square, dance schools.

### Collecting in October - For Judging in November

*Black and White (Set of three)*

PLEASE NOTE: No *Open*. Three separate images (NOT a triptych) that are related, and these will each be marked individually as Set Subjects - E.g. "sea, shell, sand". There will not be any photographs accepted in the "Open" category for this month's competition.

### Collecting in November - For Judging in December

*Churches in the Manawatū* (ONE PRINT ONLY, NO DPI, and no Open Entries). One photo only of a church in the Manawatū region.

We also have entries for up to two Club Outings and up to two Best Images from the year (both DPI and Print will be accepted for both categories).

Please read the criteria for each competition on the website.



## Composition: The Power of Simplicity...

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a language that would allow me to interpret, and to comment upon, what I was seeing. And to do that I needed to compose intentionally. Composition allows us to organize the photograph. My choice of lens, orientation of frame, where I place elements in that frame by my position relative to those elements (a little forward, to the left, or getting lower than) can change everything. It can make one thing important and another thing trivial, or vice versa. It can lead the eye into the frame or out of it. It can create a unified whole of the elements or make a jumbled mess of them. It all depends on my choices. Because how we think about something determines our choices

about what we do with it, I have three ideas about composition and the power of simplicity that can change the way you think about your craft.

### Intent Is Everything

Without vision, there's no starting point from which to make our decisions about how we compose. I know, I know, I've gone on about this before. But unless you have a sense of your vision or intent, or are open to discovering it through the process of making your images, then you will have no direction and no sense of whether your efforts at simplifying are getting you closer to, or further from, "adding the meaningful," to quote designer John Maeda.

*"Simplicity is about subtracting the obvious and adding the meaningful."*

John Maeda

No one can do this for you, and it's the hardest part of the art-making process. Making a choice. Being willing to try and fail and try again. Being willing, on some level, to be profoundly selfish about it: What do you want? What will please you? What do you want to say? How do you feel about this? Don't look over your shoulder for the answers. Look within.

You. On some level art is first an act arising from the self. Only then can it be concerned about speaking to, engaging with, or pleasing others. The more clear you are about your intent (even if you have to explore with the camera to your face for a while before you find that clarity), the more simplified (not simplistic) your vision, the fewer barriers you'll have to contend with as you figure out how to express that vision with your composition.

### Think About Unity

Photographers don't often talk about harmony, but that's one of the touchstones of good composition. Do all the elements work together to support the image? Is there one unifying idea or theme? These are helpful questions because the answers help determine what you can exclude. The result of not considering the idea of harmony is a chaotic image that supports no one idea, intent, or vision.

*"Three rules of work:  
out of clutter find simplicity.  
From discord find harmony.  
In the middle of difficulty lies  
opportunity."  
Albert Einstein*

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## Peter Perver: The Art of Seeing

Event Cinemas 11.45am Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Shirley Horrocks' richly illustrated portrait of the life and career of one of New Zealand's most important photographers, who dedicated his life to seeing and making works of art out of the everyday.

<https://www.nziff.co.nz/2019/palmerston-north/peter-perver-the-art-of-seeing/>

**NZIFF** NEW ZEALAND  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

"If Peter has done anything for photography, he has shown that commitment that will allow someone just to do what he thinks is right for his whole life."

Jim Barr, *art critic and curator*

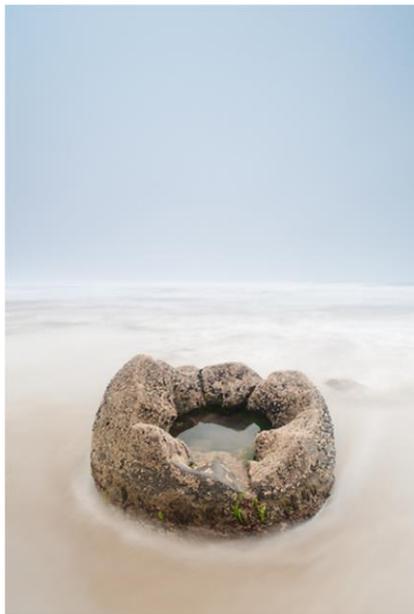
## Composition: The Power of Simplicity...

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Making sure the elements all work together doesn't mean having a boring image; it means being intentional about creating contrasts that support the main idea, or a rhythm created with elements like shapes or colours that maintains the harmony but also giving variety; that's what rhythm is.

### Think Simply

An image can really only support one idea or theme well. It may touch on others, but we work with a very limited medium and trying to do too much with a photograph will usually result in the image doing



very little. It will be diluted, its potential power lost to too many elements. The eye can only take in so much and assign meaning to so many elements in an image: 2 or 3 is usually the real limit; the rest is background.

*"Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away."*

Antoine de Sainte Exupery

Look at the best images-the ones you love the most from the history of photography - and I think you'll see most have only one main subject expressed through one key element, a secondary element, and very few tertiary elements. Generally speaking, the more you cram into the frame, the less power each of those elements will exert in the frame.

*"The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak."*

Painter Hans Hofmann (1880-1966)

The take away? Simplicity is key. Identify your main idea and choose only as many elements as absolutely necessary to work in



harmony and support or express that one main idea.

Find a way to cut the rest out. Be ruthless about it. There is power and elegance in simplicity. Use whatever isolating device you need to do this to get me to the heart of the image in the simplest way possible, and your photographs will be more powerful than their cluttered, chaotic, or confusing alternate versions.

I'm David duChemin, a world & humanitarian photographer, author, adventurer, and entrepreneur. I want to see this world for the astonishing place it is, and help others do the same.

<https://davidduchemin.com/>

Competition Night

- Second Monday of the Month

Practical Night

- Fourth Monday of the Month Lido

Aquatic Centre Club Rooms, 50 Park Road Palmerston North



## CONTACTS

If you have suggestions regarding the camera club, please feel free to let us know. All suggestions for workshops will be considered.

President: Maureen Jensen

Contact No.: 021 296 7705 Email: [president@manawatucamera.net.nz](mailto:president@manawatucamera.net.nz)

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