

'how we see' photography newsletter

which of my photographs is my favorite? the one i'm going to take tomorrow. imogen Cunningham

holiday lights and night photography / a few simple tips to improve your photos

Stabilize your camera!

Use a tripod or a monopod. If you don't have either and you don't have time to buy one or both, tuck your arms in tight to your body and lean hard against a building or a light pole or a tree.

Before you press the shutter, take a breath and hold it. The lights probably won't be tack sharp but they won't be a blur either.

If you want sharpness, get a tripod but also learn to improvise.

Turn off that flash!

If you have your camera set to fully automatic, the flash will pop up and fire in low lighting conditions. Turn it off and stabilize your camera. If you don't know how to turn it off, check your user's manual. Your photos will look much more natural if you shoot without the flash. Again, another great reason to get a tripod. Ask Santa for one.



Audrey at the Hilton / Christmas 2010

I turned off the flash and did not use a tripod for this portrait of Audrey Phillips. While the shot is a bit "soft," it's still a great shot.

Experiment!

Set your camera to a slow shutter speed and move as you press the shutter. Don't take just one shot, take a bunch. While focusing on lights, rotate your camera in a circle as you press the shutter. Spin in a circle as you press the shutter. You will get some amazing shots!

There are lots of good tips on the Internet. Do a google search. This is a good site:

<http://goo.gl/FJTT6>

Have a great holiday and fabulous 2012!!!



Christmas night 2010 / in the Haight

I shot this with an Olympus FE 4010 point and shoot set on the night setting. Leaning against a light pole, elbows tucked in tight to my body, I snapped away. Of ten frames I shot, this was the best. Look closely and you see the lights on the tree are little blurry as are the folks standing on the corner, the result of no tripod.



Dancing lights

For this shot, I used a shutter speed of 1/10 of a second and turned in a circle as I pressed the shutter.

'how we see' photography newsletter

which of my photographs is my favorite? the one i'm going to take tomorrow. imogen Cunningham



Christmas dinner on Powell Street

Photographs often change perceptions of the world and give insight into the world around us.

"Margaret" is a wisp of a woman I had seen on the streets quite often. Seeing her sitting on her milk crate eating a quesadilla warmed my heart. I have a huge affinity for people of the streets; the mentally ill, the drug addicts, the homeless, the unfortunates. They show me a side of life not far from me, a life I could experience easily without choice.

The power of photography forces me to be aware...

Another year gone...

Another year has flown by and several hundred of you have been through the workshops. You were amazing, every one of you!

Probably the most fun I have conducting workshops is watching each of you emerge as really solid photographers. Your common reactions seem to be surprise; surprise at how quickly you grasped the concepts and how you immediately translated them into incredible photographs. All of you took amazing photos while we walked.

I hope you've kept your cameras dusted off and have been having a ton of fun with developing your skills.

Galleries go live shortly

I should have galleries up so you can share your shots soon. That will give us the opportunity to share photos and begin building a strong photography community. I need your input.

I really, really like Google Plus and there is a huge photography community building there. In addition to building Picasa web galleries, you can build different circles for friends, business, family and contacts and you choose with which circles you share your postings. You can send to everyone to select circles. Another advantage is "hangouts," online video/audio meetings where folks can drop in to chat about whatever the subject is.

I also like flickr and I am considering setting up a gallery there as well. The flickr advantage is folks' familiarity with the site.

Are two sets of galleries, one Google+ and one flickr, too much? Let me know how you feel about this. I really want to get the galleries up and running over the holidays. Drop me a line at workshops@johnater.com

Advanced workshops?

Some of you expressed interest in 'advanced' workshops; i.e. night photography, taking great portraits, photojournalism, fine art, fashion, food, product and landscape photography and I'm thinking of adding some advanced workshops if there is enough interest.

My thought is to replace one Saturday or Sunday workshop a month with an advanced session and limit the attendees to seven.

What areas would you like to explore? What would be the optimal length of time; two, three, four hours? Any interest in a weekday workshop? Send feedback to workshops@johnater.com.

Planning 2012 workshops

I plan to add new workshop locations this spring. Chinatown and the Mission are favorites but I am thinking a workshop in the Haight would rock. Golden Gate Park and Fort Point are two more I'm considering. Other suggestions for locations? Email me at workshops@johnater.com

Holiday sale / \$60 workshops

Finished all your shopping? Still need gifts for family and friends or yourself? Consider a 'how we see' photography workshop. For all of you, through December 31, buy as many workshops as you like for \$60.00. You can use them yourself or give them as gifts. It's up to you.

To take advantage of this offer, click https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=FCDMLC9NYE6TE and purchase on the secure PayPal page. Once you've signed up, register if you have not done so and join me. The spring schedule goes up next week. **Please pass along this newsletter and offer to folks you think might be interested.**

Interesting and fun website links

best photography collections in the world.

There is no charge for visiting the gallery but you must make reservations in advance. Only 20 people are allowed per viewing and there are three viewings each day Monday through Thursday at 10am, 1 pm and 3:15 pm. The next viewings begin January 9.

<http://pier24.org>

Laura Brunow Miner's Pictormag.com

"...an online photojournalism magazine that documents...our lives and culture in big pictures. Anyone can submit a photo story to one of (several) social documentary themes. (They) curate the best work from the community into polished photo essays."

<http://pictormag.com>

Masters of Photography

This site is a good starting point to get an idea of a few of the masters of photography. Each listing has links to articles, photographs and resources for the 60 plus photographers listed.

<http://masters-of-photography.com>

Pier 24 Galleries, San Francisco

If you've not visited Pier 24, take a couple of hours to indulge yourself in some of the world's most inspiring photography. The gallery's 27,000 square feet is a Pilara Family Foundation project.

The space houses the extensive Pilara collection and hosts rotating shows of some of the

Vivian Maier – nanny with a camera

John Maloof, a Chicago resident, bought a box of Vivian Maier negatives at an auction in 2007, hoping to find historical photos of Chicago's Portage Park for a book he was co-authoring. Instead, he discovered a treasure trove of an unknown Chicago photographer's incredible street photography.

It's an amazing story about an incredible photographer and we have Maloof to thank for the discovery.

<http://vivianmaier.com>

<http://vivianmaier.blogspot.com>

<http://goo.gl/UWekG>

