

Drishti



Volume 53 • Issue 1 • January - February 2024



Inside: Featured Article: Vermont's Fall Colors: A Visual Delight | Just Grasp It: Portrait Retouching



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- Cable car ticket to Bana Hill and many more
- Visa
- Local photography mentor

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- Min 9 people
- 9-10 people: \$1500 pp + 5% GST + 5% TCS (can be claimed back through tax returns)
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- International Airfare extra
- Last Date for confirmation: 5th March 2024

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Dr̥ṣṭi (दृष्टि) in Sanskrit language means vision. The vision in the mind of a photographer, aligned in a creative manner with what one sees around, produces an artistic image. This resonates with the spirit of YPS, which strives to promote the photographic art.

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Front cover: *Cheetah's vantage point* © Pramod Govind Shanbhag, ARPS, MPSA, EFIAP/d1, Hon MFIP(N)

Rear cover: © Manoharan Govindarajan EFIAP

Happy New Year 2024

My Dear YPS Family,

I trust this message reaches you all in good health and high spirits. Hope all of you welcomed the New Year with New Zeal and enthusiasm. Wishing you all a Happy, Prosperous and a fantastic 2024. It was a grand entry into the New Year with the Street Walk at Chitra Santhe effectively led by Yogesh Mokashi and Kishan Harwalkar, well attended by 30 participants comprising Members and Non Members too.

YPS Executive Committee, have been occupied and engaged with preparations for the upcoming Gala Event - 31st FIP Convention at Mysuru.

While all the participants of Cambodia thoroughly enjoyed the photo tour and came back with wonderful images, the same enthusiasm was not evident in attending the Open House where an excellent review of all the pictures submitted by the participants was done.

We had a unique presentation by Dr. Maddur Badrinath - COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG - A LIVING HISTORY

MUSEUM which encompassed the lifestyle of the Colonial Era. The presentation was short and crisp to give a sufficient overview of the museum.

YPS organised a portrait workshop after a long time. Raas - Portrait Photography workshop was in collaboration with Gradient Pixel, mentored by our member Mr Nilendu Bannerjee. It was attended by our members and a few non members as well. This was a close knit workshop with limited seats.

Temple Architecture Photography at Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh was a much awaited workshop mentored by none other than our own member, Mr Goutham Ramesh. We had fantastic participation and all slots filled in a record time of 24 hours. Wonderful Pictures were made with the able guidance of Goutham.

Looking forward to the Open House review events on the recent workshops conducted.

We are excited that all accommodation got booked for the FIP Convention even before the last date for registration and

the ones who could not register in time are on a spree to register as Day Delegates for the mega event.

We would like to inform all our members that there is an opportunity to promote your businesses / organizations during the Convention. Please contact us for sponsorship opportunities.

Keep up this spirit and motivate us to do much more for all of you. Awaiting to see you all at the Convention in Mysuru on the last weekend of March 2024.

We eagerly anticipate the enthusiastic participation of members in all forthcoming YPS events.

Signing off for now.... until we are back with a lot of golden memories from the FIP Convention.



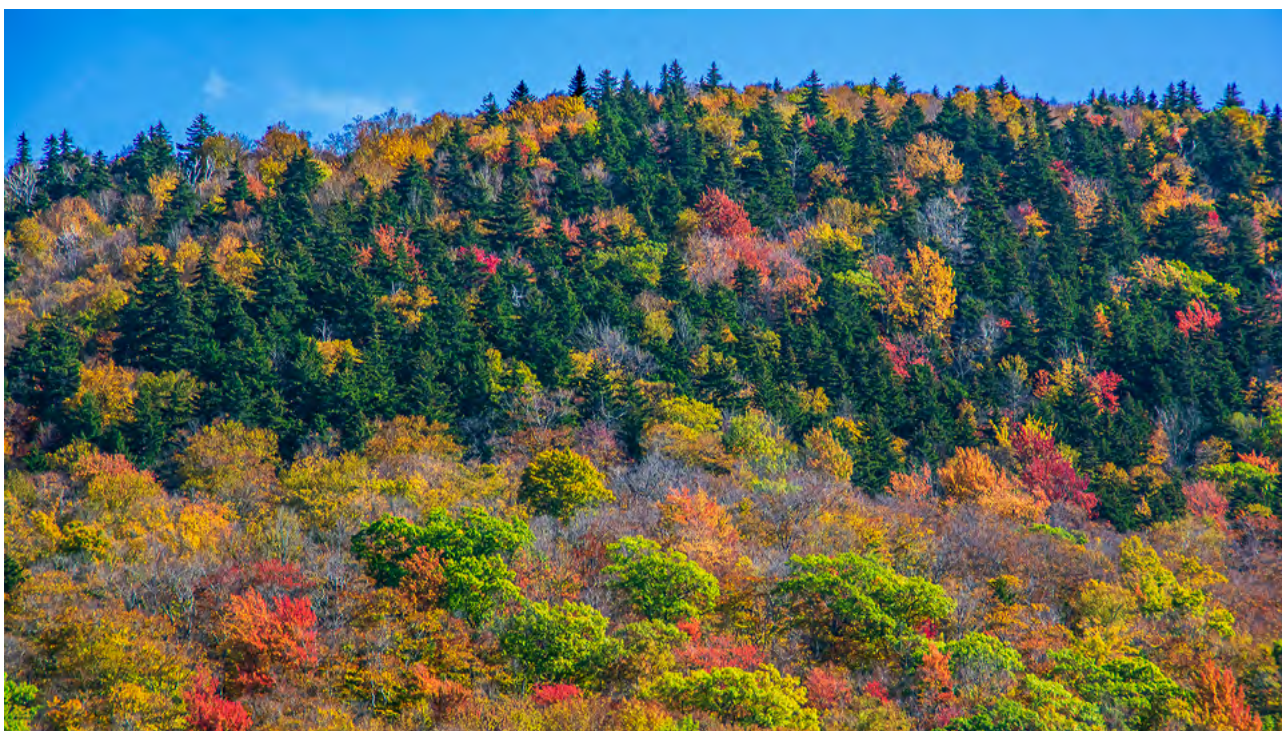
Manju Vikas Sastry V AFIP
President, Youth Photographic Society and Editor, Dr̥ṣṭi



Do you have a writer in you?

We welcome contributions from YPS members to *Dr̥ṣṭi* in the form of articles on photography such as tips, tools, techniques, experiments and such useful topics. Please send your writing with accompanying good quality pictures to drsti@ypsbengaluru.com. Chosen articles will be published in the upcoming issues of this journal.

Vermont's Fall Colors: A Visual Delight



Splash Of Fall Colors © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP

The timing of the peak foliage in Vermont depends on various factors, such as weather and temperature, making it a dynamic spectacle that varies not only from year to year but also from one location to another. The autumn hues typically reach their zenith in Vermont, creating a visually stunning display. The onset of the fall foliage season becomes apparent with the vivid crimson blush of red maples in the northern regions. Leaf drop, integral to nutrient cycling in the Green Mountain forests, contributes to the overall well-being of Vermont's trees by aiding in moisture conservation within the trunks.

Each year, the predominantly forested state showcases a dazzling exhibition of fiery reds, oranges, and golds from native maple trees and other broadleaves. Whether in bucolic hills, towering mountain peaks, or reflective lakes, Vermont offers an abundance of picture-perfect locations to witness the transformation of leaves. As fall arrives, the Green Mountain State dons a multi-coloured cloak, painting hillsides and historic downtowns in hues of crimson, blaze orange, and bright yellow. The gradual transition of trees into shades of red, orange, and yellow sets the stage for an even more brilliant autumnal

spectacle. Remarkably, evidence of maple trees' existence dates back as far as 100 million years, suggesting their presence during the age of dinosaurs.

Certain villages in Vermont serve as common venues for cultural activities, bringing together cheesemakers, producers of cultured and fermented foods, chefs, brewers, cider and wine makers, mead makers, and enthusiasts of such endeavours. These events offer opportunities to sample an array of dairy delights, learn from experts about cheese pairing, and participate in panel discussions on fermented food-making, farming practices, and

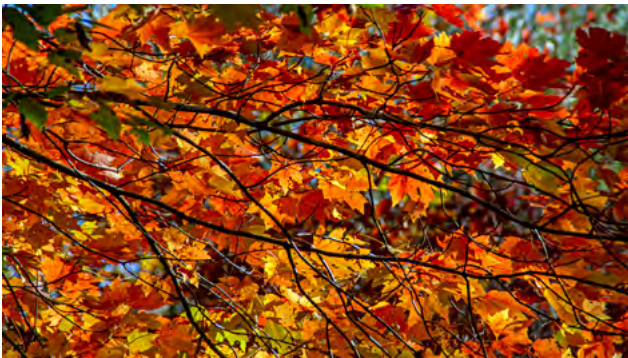
cheese production. Attendees can also enjoy live music, artisan crafts, and the warm atmosphere of small-town festivals against the backdrop of Vermont's picturesque fall foliage. Immersing oneself in Vermont's foliage season is best achieved through hiking the Long Trail. As the first long-distance trail established in the U.S., it spans 272 miles across the entire state, providing hikers with the flexibility to explore for hours, days, weeks, or months at a time. Passing through six wilderness areas in the Green Mountain National Forest, the Long Trail offers unparalleled opportunities for leaf-peeping, with panoramic vistas and tranquil woodland



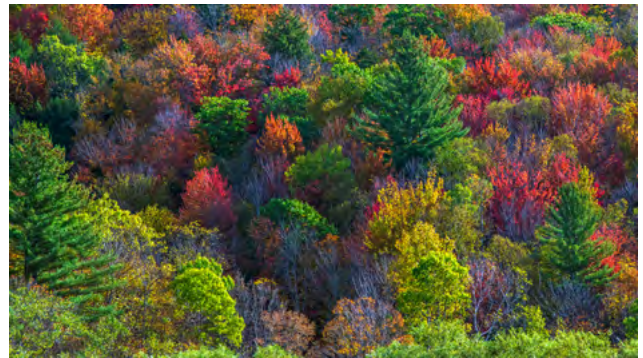
Colorful Highway Massachusetts To Vermont © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



Fall Tones © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



Golden Hues © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



Natures Palette © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



Fence View © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



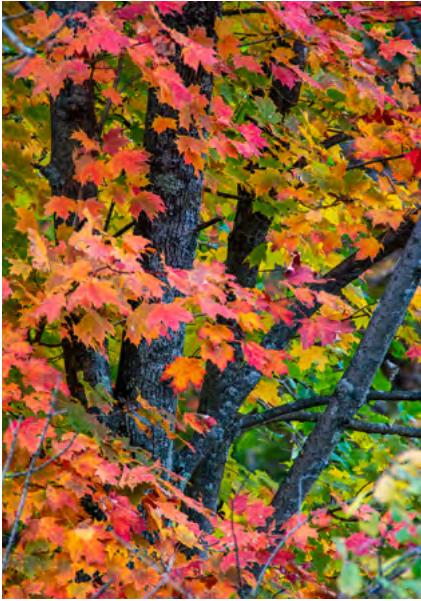
Beauty Of Autumn © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP

paths catering to hikers of all experience levels.

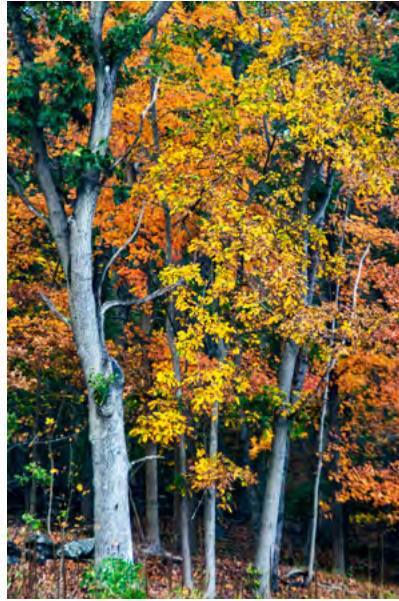
Embarking on a road trip from Massachusetts to Vermont fulfilled a dream for scenic drives, offering a captivating journey through the highway adorned with fall colors. The sheer joy experienced during the car ride is evident in the images captured, portraying the

majesty of nature as if it were an artist's palette. In the madness of capturing the colors with an extensive series of shots, I realized I was quickly filling memory cards and depleting camera batteries, further highlighting the magnitude of the visual drama unfolding with the leaves. My mind was so fully immersed in my effort to capture the photographs,

that I also realized that I had misplaced my phone but I persisted in simply taking more pictures. The significance of fall colors to a photographer extends beyond the visual appeal; it represents a profound opportunity to capture beautiful landscapes, close-ups of trees, leaves, and canopies. Even fallen leaves on the ground provide rich material for



Autumn Leaves © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



Painters Delight © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



Vivid Hues © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



Grazing © S Chandrashekar, AFIAP

natural abstracts, showcasing shapes, colors, and textures. For photographers with a discerning eye, the fall season offers a continuous bounty, allowing them to shoot from dawn to dusk until the season concludes. Each year, each season brings forth something new and intriguing from Mother Nature, turning the entire fall scenery into a canvas of earthly hues.

Remember, the most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the process of

photographing fall colors. Experiment with different techniques and compositions, and let your creativity guide you.

During my brief visit to Vermont, I have tried to capture the essence of the fall colors, hoping that viewers would derive as much enjoyment from the images as I did in the process of capturing them.

• S Chandrashekar, AFIAP



S Chandrashekar as a proud Bengalurian and a prouder Life Member of YPS, one of India's oldest photo clubs, Chandrashekar has an AFIAP distinction, national awards, and publications. He has also judged and reviewed photo salons. He has published a coffee table book exclusive to "Kempe Gowda Tower" in Lalbagh. Titled #Haagesummane.

Sacred Summits



Sacred Summits © Anitha Mysore ARPS, MPSA, EFIAP/p, c***MoL, EIUP, GPU CR-4, FAPS, EFIP, EFIP/g

The captivating image titled "Sacred Summits" instantly evokes the timeless words of John Muir, the renowned Scottish-born American naturalist often referred to as "John of the Mountains" (1838-1914), as "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, nature's peace will flow into you as Sunshine flows into trees. Also everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in where nature may heal and give



strength to body & soul alike." Though penned over a century ago, John Muir's words resonate powerfully with this striking image captured by Mrs. Anitha Mysore in July 2023 at Leh. The photograph features the Tsemo Gompa Monastery in the foreground, bathed in the warm glow of the golden hour, while in the background, two majestic mountain peaks stand tall and proud.

While this photograph undoubtedly falls within the realm of Travel Photography, it beautifully encapsulates

the harmonious interplay between nature and human presence within the frame. The composition skillfully utilises a pleasing palette of colour tones, artful manipulation of light and shadow, and strategic placement of the subject at the intersection of the Rule of Thirds. Moreover, it adheres to the thematic principles of the Golden Spiral Composition, seamlessly guiding the viewer's eye from the shadowed rocky foreground to the golden-hued peaks in the background. The adept use of natural lighting, with its golden glow illuminating the mountains and casting intricate shadows across the foreground elements against a rich blue sky, is a testament to the photographer's expertise. Through careful consideration of camera angle, timing, and exposure techniques, the author has crafted an image deserving admiration and acclaim. Ms Anitha Mysore, a Tech Whiz, fondly recalls her lifelong fascination with photography, which began with capturing personal mementos in her youth. However, it wasn't until she acquired a digital SLR camera that her passion truly flourished,

leading her on a captivating journey through various genres of photography. Among them, the enchanting realm of avian life held a special place in her heart. Her career in IT afforded her the opportunity to travel extensively, allowing her to explore and photograph rare subjects in corners of the globe. Through her lens, she has brought these unique perspectives to life. Her remarkable body of work has been exhibited in over 60 countries, garnering 7000+ acceptances & 700 awards, a testament to her talent and dedication to the art of photography.

The author utilized a Nikon Z 7 camera paired with a 24-120mm Z mount lens for this shot, opting not to use a tripod. The EXIF details reveal an aperture of f/8, a shutter speed of 1/500 second, ISO 200, exposure compensation of -0.3, and a focal length of 115mm. Despite the subject's stationary nature, the author wisely opted for a higher shutter speed to ensure proper exposure. This decision facilitated a balanced exposure triangle, achieving a lower ISO and a reasonably large depth of field at f/8. As

a result, natural tones were preserved, the background hillside and clear blue sky were sharply rendered, and the foreground subject was brought into focus.

Drawing from over 7 years of experience and interactions with experts at YPS, the author has honed her expertise in both travel and pictorial photography, evident in the meticulous execution of this shot. Anitha's insight to newcomers is, "Learn to observe and adapt to your surroundings before capturing your shot. Patience is key, as the perfect subject may present itself at the right moment amidst dynamic surroundings."

Analyzing this picture through aesthetic parameters reveals several highlights:

- The intricate details of the subject and the interplay of shadowed parts in the foreground, along with the captivating colour tones in the

background, contribute significantly to the aesthetic qualities of the image, emphasizing principles of Principality, Balance, Harmony, and Rhythm.

- Despite its classification as a Travel shot, the pictorial imperative of the image immediately draws the viewer's attention, compelling them to engage with its entirety. The strategic placement of the main subject, the Monastery, at the Golden Cross point according to the Rule of Thirds enhances its visual impact.
- All elements within the frame are readily recognizable, establishing a strong connection with the viewer and evoking a profound emotional response.
- The focal point of the frame, the "Sacred Summits," is eloquently glorified by its elevated position atop

the hills, imbuing the scene with a sense of divinity and grace.

- The composition adheres meticulously to both the Rule of Thirds and the Golden Spiral, effectively creating a lasting mood and emotion in the minds and hearts of the viewer.
- Overall, my heartfelt appreciation goes to the author, Mrs. Anitha Mysore, for her outstanding picture and her adept ability to capture and convey the essence of the scene so eloquently.

• K S Rajaram AFIAP, Hon YPS



Mr Rajaram is a life member of YPS and has served in different capacities in its executive committees including that of president during 1989 - 92. He is an author, teacher, and mentor in the field of photography.

31st FIP Convention Mascot Unveiling

YPS is the proud host for the 31st FIP Convention 2024 from March 22nd to 25th at the royal city of Mysuru. As part of the convention, the YPS executive committee thought it appropriate to have a mascot for the event. It was decided that the launch of the mascot would be an online event as we were having delegates from all over India. Accordingly the event was scheduled for Jan 13, 2024.

Ms Prema Kakade, Secretary, YPS welcomed all those who attended the launch program, followed by Mr Vikas Sastry who briefed about YPS and its activities. He also gave a brief about the upcoming convention.

The President of FIP, Mr Adit Agarwala and the Hony. Secretary-General of FIP, Dr. Barun K Sinha, on behalf of FIP, declared the mascot unveiled. First words of appreciation came from Dr Sinha who said the mascot, GAJARAJA was "lovely" and "beautiful".

Ms Kakade explained the thought process behind the idea of the mascot. She said that YPS wanted to have something unique for the event. Mascot is a storyteller that sends a message about the event with no words. They stick with people long after the event is over. In addition to this thought, Elephant was chosen because it is the State Animal of Karnataka.

Mr Agarwala said that an elephant was the best choice as it brings good luck to the

organisations and the event. He hoped that this mascot will bring a lot of good luck and fame to the convention and shall be remembered by a record number of delegates who will enjoy and cherish it. He also hoped that it would bring fame to YPS.

Dr Sinha appreciated the choice of an elephant for the mascot. He said that it was beautifully designed and what could be more appropriate to have it at the place (district) which is famous for its elephants: Mysuru being the elephant capital of India! He also commented that we start any work with a worship to Lord Ganeshi.

Ms Kakade credited the creator of the mascot, Mr Niladri Bhattar, and the designer, Mr Chetan Rao Mane who worked tirelessly to bring out GAJARAJA.

Mr Agarwala, in his address, said that he was very happy that YPS had introduced something new in the convention and arranged for this mascot to grace the convention. He gave the history of a mascot and said that Lord Ganesha was a revered God and the first pooja was always offered to Him. It was therefore the most appropriate Mascot for the event and hoped that the event would be remembered for a long time to come.

Dr Sinha welcomed the idea of having a mascot which was the first for any FIP convention; it was wonderfully designed



and executed. He hoped that the efforts that went behind creating and designing the mascot would be seen at the conference itself. He hoped that Gajaraja would bring a good number of delegates to the convention.

Ms Kakade, while thanking Dr Agarwala and Dr Sinha for their inspiring words, said that it spurs the entire team to make this convention unique and enjoyable for each and every delegate who attends. She thanked the creator of the animation, Mr Deepak VC.

Mr CR Sathyanarayana, Vice President of FIP requested that this being a national event, to add Garajara in Hindi font.



M S Kakade Director, YPS
Member, Drṣṭi Editorial Team

Capturing Timelessness: A Journey Through the Lens

Timelessness in photography holds immense significance as it allows images to transcend the constraints of time, ensuring their relevance and impact across generations. At its core, timeless photography captures moments that resonate universally, conveying emotions, stories, and perspectives that remain relevant regardless of when they were captured. This enduring quality imbues photographs with a sense of cultural and historical significance, preserving memories, experiences, and narratives for posterity.

One of the key reasons why timelessness is crucial in photography is its ability to evoke emotions and provoke thought long after the moment has passed. By transcending the limitations of a specific era or context, timeless photographs become timeless artefacts, capable of sparking connections and conversations across diverse audiences. They serve as visual records of human experiences, offering insights into the complexities of life, society, and the natural world.

Furthermore, timeless photography fosters a deeper appreciation for the art form itself. It highlights the enduring power of visual storytelling, showcasing the ability of images to transcend language and cultural barriers. By capturing moments of beauty, truth, and significance, timeless photographs enrich our understanding of the world and inspire us to see beyond the surface, fostering empathy, understanding, and a sense of shared humanity.

Timeless Landscapes

In the dynamic world of photography, achieving timelessness presents a fascinating challenge. In an era marked by rapid shifts in trends and styles, the quest to create images that endure the test of time is both elusive and rewarding. One approach that has garnered attention for its potential to transcend fleeting fashions is minimalist aesthetics. By stripping away extraneous details and focusing on the essence of a subject, minimalist photography emphasizes clean lines, uncluttered compositions, and a sense of simplicity that can resonate across generations.



White Sands National Park © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP

The allure of minimalist photography lies in its ability to distil complex scenes into their purest forms, allowing viewers to connect with the essence of the subject on a deeper level. By eschewing unnecessary distractions and ornamentation, minimalist images possess a timeless quality that transcends cultural and temporal boundaries. They invite contemplation and introspection, inviting viewers to explore the inherent beauty of simplicity and form.

Furthermore, minimalist aesthetics offer photographers a framework for creating images that endure beyond the ebb and flow of passing trends. By focusing on fundamental principles of composition, light, and shadow, minimalist photographers can capture moments of quiet elegance and understated beauty that resonate with viewers over time.

White Sands National Park – New Mexico, USA

As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a warm glow across the endless expanse of sand dunes in White Sands National Park, I knew I had found the perfect moment to capture the beauty of nature's twilight spectacle. With my camera in hand, I carefully composed my shot, positioning myself to capture the sun's rays as they danced across the rippling sands.

In the foreground, a solitary broken twig lay nestled amidst the undulating dunes,

its weathered form a stark contrast to the soft curves of the sand. Despite its seemingly insignificant presence, the twig added a poignant touch to the scene, a reminder of the resilience of life amidst the harsh desert landscape.

As I framed the shot, the direct sun in the background bathed the landscape in a golden hue, casting long shadows that stretched across the sand. The sky above was painted in hues of pink and orange, a breathtaking backdrop to the rugged beauty of the desert.

With each click of the shutter, I loved the fleeting beauty of the sunset, capturing the interplay of light and shadow, texture and form. In that moment, amidst the serene beauty of White Sands National Park, I felt a profound connection to the natural world, humbled by its vastness and inspired by its timeless beauty.

Big Bend National Park – Texas, USA

Embarking on the Lost Mine Trail in Big Bend National Park was an adventure tinged with excitement and anticipation. As we began our hike, the rugged landscape of the Chisos Mountains unfolded before us, a testament to the raw beauty of the Texas wilderness. With each step, the trail wound its way amidst towering cliffs and rocky outcrops, offering panoramic views of the surrounding desert landscape. Despite the challenging terrain, the allure of the trail was undeniable, drawing us deeper



Big Bend National Park © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP

into the heart of the wilderness with every passing moment.

As we ascended higher along the trail, the air grew cooler and the scenery more breathtaking. Sweeping vistas of jagged peaks and deep canyons stretched out before us, painting a picture of untamed wilderness as far as the eye could see. Along the way, we encountered an array of wildlife, from colourful songbirds flitting among the trees to elusive desert creatures skittering across the rocky terrain. Each sighting added to the sense of wonder and discovery that permeated our journey, reminding us of the fragile yet resilient ecosystems that call this rugged landscape home.

Timeless Seascapes

Timeless seascapes encapsulate the eternal dance between land and sea, capturing the essence of the ever-

changing ocean against the backdrop of enduring coastlines. With each crashing wave and shifting tide, seascapes evoke a sense of both serenity and power, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in the vast expanse of the sea's horizon. From tranquil sunsets casting golden hues across the water to tempestuous storms unleashing their fury upon rocky shores, seascapes reflect the timeless beauty and resilience of the natural world. These images serve as windows into the soul-stirring majesty of the ocean, resonating with viewers across generations and reminding us of the boundless mysteries and wonders that lie beyond the shore.

Galveston Island – Texas, USA

The timelessness of long-exposure photography lies in its ability to transcend the fleeting moments of time,



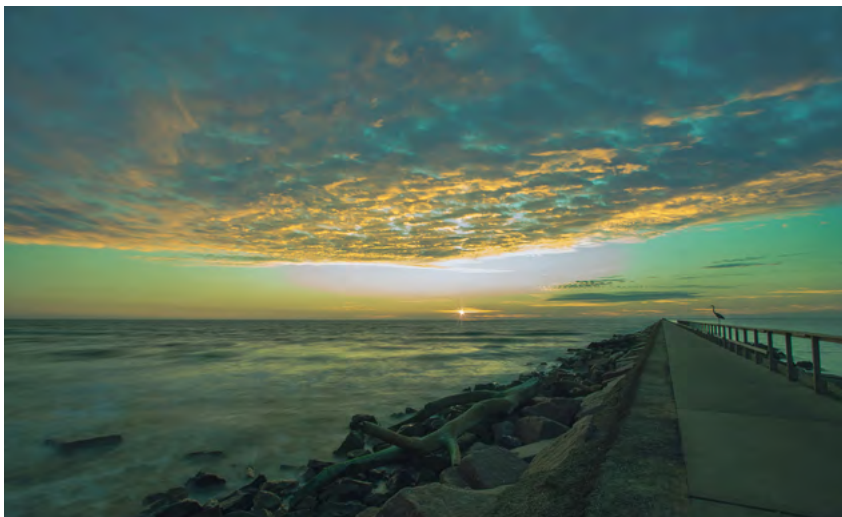
Galveston Island © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP

capturing the essence of movement and change in a single frame. By extending the duration of exposure, long-exposure photography transforms dynamic scenes into ethereal displays of light and motion, imbuing images with a sense of fluidity and timelessness.

During our drive to Galveston island in Texas on a weekend in the early morning hours, the skies crackled with numerous lightning strikes, a dazzling spectacle that accompanied us from Houston all the way to the Sea Wall in Galveston. While some bolts were particularly grandiose and awe-inspiring, our excitement was tempered by the realization that any one of them could potentially strike us—a thought we hadn't even considered until then! Setting up our photography gear in anticipation of capturing a vibrant sunrise, we were met with disappointment as we observed the overcast skies, indicating a subdued dawn devoid of vibrant colours. Nevertheless, the tranquillity of the beach, with its serene, silk-like sea, provided a calming backdrop as we awaited the sunrise. Despite the lack of colourful hues, the ongoing display of lightning strikes continued to captivate our attention, and we held out hope of immortalizing some of them in our frames—a feat we managed to achieve, with a small lightning bolt captured over the distant pier in one of our pictures. As we prepared to pack up and depart, a sudden and startling sight froze us in our tracks: a triangular shark fin emerged from the silent waters, only to disappear moments later. We stood transfixed, watching in awe as the shark's fin reemerged, just fifty feet away from where we had set up our tripods a mere five minutes earlier—a stark reminder of the unpredictable wonders and dangers of nature.

Surf Side Beach – Texas, USA

In the predawn darkness, we embarked on our journey to Surfside Beach, Texas, our hearts filled with anticipation for the spectacle that awaited us. With the rhythmic hum of the engine and the occasional glimmer of stars overhead, we navigated the quiet roads, guided only by the faint glow on the horizon signalling the imminent arrival of dawn. As we neared our destination, the first hints of light began to paint the sky in subtle shades of purple and blue, a



Surf Side Beach © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP

silent promise of the breathtaking scene about to unfold.

Arriving at Surfside Beach just before the sun peeked over the horizon, we were greeted by the tranquil expanse of the Gulf of Mexico, bathed in the soft light of early morning. With the sand still cool beneath our feet and the gentle lapping of waves in the distance, we wasted no time in setting up our cameras and tripods, eager to capture the magic of the sunrise. As the first rays of light began to kiss the water's surface, the sky ignited in a riot of colours, casting a warm, golden glow over the landscape.

In that moment, it became abundantly clear why waking up early to shoot seascapes is essential. The dawn hours offer a fleeting window of opportunity to capture the sea in its most captivating light, as the colours and textures of the landscape undergo a dramatic transformation. From the soft pastels of dawn to the fiery brilliance of sunrise, each moment offers a new perspective on the timeless beauty of the ocean. As we clicked away, entranced by the ever-changing tableau before us, we marvelled at the sheer magic of the early morning hours, knowing that we had witnessed something truly extraordinary.

Timeless Monuments

Shooting timeless monuments such as old buildings is akin to capturing a piece of history frozen in time. These architectural marvels, steeped in the rich tapestry of bygone eras, exude an aura of grandeur and elegance that transcends the passage of time. From majestic castles and ancient ruins to stately manors and ornate cathedrals,

each structure tells a story of centuries past, bearing witness to the triumphs and tribulations of generations gone by. As the shutter clicks and the camera lens focuses, photographers have the unique opportunity to immortalize these

monuments in all their glory, preserving their intricate details and enduring beauty for future generations to admire. In the delicate dance between light and shadow, angles and perspectives, photographers breathe new life into these venerable edifices, capturing the essence of their timeless allure and ensuring that their legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of all who behold them.

Mission Espada, San Antonio - Texas, USA

Mission Espada, one of the five Spanish missions established along the San Antonio River in the 18th century, holds a significant place in both the history and cultural heritage of San Antonio, Texas. Founded in 1690 as San Francisco de los Tejas, it was later relocated and renamed Mission San Francisco de la Espada in 1731. The mission's primary purpose was to convert indigenous peoples to



Mission Espada © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP

Christianity and facilitate the spread of Spanish influence in the region. The iconic stone church, completed in 1756, stands as a testament to the architectural prowess of the Spanish missionaries and remains one of the oldest standing structures in Texas.

Throughout its history, Mission Espada played a vital role in shaping the social, religious, and economic landscape of the area. It served as a centre for agricultural production, with the friars cultivating crops such as corn, beans, and wheat to sustain the mission community. Despite facing challenges such as disease, conflicts with indigenous tribes, and political upheaval, Mission Espada endured, leaving a lasting legacy as a symbol of resilience and cultural heritage. Today, the mission complex, including the church, granary, and surrounding farmland, is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and continues to attract visitors from around the world, offering a glimpse into the rich history and vibrant culture of San Antonio's past.

As I embarked on my journey to photograph Mission Espada in San Antonio, Texas, I was filled with excitement and anticipation. Aware of the significance of the perfect lighting and cloud conditions for capturing the essence of this historic site, I patiently waited for the ideal moment to unfold. As I arrived at the mission, the sky was adorned with scattered clouds, hinting at the promise of a breathtaking sunset. However, I knew that the magic truly lay in the moments just after a rain, when residual clouds painted the sky with soft, diffused light.

With my camera poised and ready, I settled into a secluded spot near the mission, eager to witness the transformation of the landscape as the sun began to dip below the horizon. As I waited, I couldn't help but marvel at the timeless beauty of the mission's stone facade, its weathered walls bearing witness to centuries of history and tradition. Each passing minute brought subtle shifts in the sky's hues, casting a warm, golden glow over the surrounding landscape.

Despite my keen anticipation, the moment I had been waiting for the appearance of a Franciscan priest



Mission San Jose © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP

emerging from the mission's doors—did not materialize. Nevertheless, I remained undeterred, determined to capture the spirit of the mission in all its glory. As the sun dipped lower, casting long shadows across the mission grounds, I clicked away. Though the elusive priest remained out of sight, I knew that the true beauty of Mission Espada lay not in its inhabitants, but in the timeless grace and resilience of the structure itself.

Mission San Jose, San Antonio - Texas, USA

During the 18th century, Spain controlled vast territories in the New World, including present-day Mexico and parts of what is now the southwestern United States. One of the most lucrative

industries during this period was mining and trade of silver, which played a crucial role in funding Spain's imperial ambitions. Mission San Jose, situated near important trade routes connecting Mexico to other Spanish settlements, served as a vital waypoint for goods and commodities, including silver ore extracted from mines in northern Mexico.

The influx of wealth from the silver trade enabled Mission San Jose to flourish, with the construction of impressive stone structures, including a grand church, monastery, and granary. The mission's economic prosperity also contributed to its cultural and artistic development, with skilled craftsmen producing intricate wood carvings, paintings, and sculptures to adorn

the mission's interior. However, the reliance on the silver trade also exposed Mission San Jose to the fluctuations and uncertainties of global markets, leading to periods of prosperity and hardship over the years.

Venturing out to photograph Mission San Jose in San Antonio, Texas, I knew I wanted to capture a unique and captivating image that would convey the timeless beauty and mystique of this historic landmark. Armed with my Canon 17-24 lens, I set out to explore the mission grounds, my eyes scanning the sky for the perfect atmospheric conditions. As I reached a vantage point overlooking the mission, I noticed a band of clouds drifting across the sun, casting a veil of shadow over the landscape below.

Quickly adjusting my camera settings, I framed the shot to include the imposing silhouette of Mission San José against the backdrop of the partially obscured sun. The wide-angle lens allowed me to capture not only the entirety of the mission's grand architecture but also the vast expanse of the sky above, with the ominous clouds adding a sense of drama and mystery to the scene. As I clicked the shutter, I couldn't help but feel a sense of excitement, knowing that I had captured a moment of sublime beauty and intrigue.

Upon reviewing the image on my camera's display, I was thrilled to see that the clouds had indeed created the eerie effect I had hoped for, shrouding the sun in a veil of darkness while still allowing its ethereal light to peek

through. The resulting photograph conveyed a sense of timelessness and mystique, inviting viewers to ponder the rich history and cultural significance of Mission San Jose.

Wedding Moments

Wedding photos possess a timeless quality that transcends the fleeting moments of the ceremony itself, capturing the essence of love, joy, and commitment shared between two individuals. These images serve as cherished mementos of one of life's most significant milestones, preserving precious memories for generations to come. With meticulous attention to detail and artistic flair, wedding photographers immortalize the intimate moments, heartfelt exchanges, and radiant smiles that characterize the celebration of marriage. From the tender embrace of the newlyweds to the laughter shared among family and friends, each photograph encapsulates the emotions and relationships that define the wedding day.

Moreover, the timelessness of wedding photos lies in their ability to evoke nostalgia and sentimentality, transporting viewers back to the magic and romance of the occasion. Whether captured in classic black and white or vibrant colour, these images possess a universal appeal that resonates with audiences across cultures and generations. As the years pass and trends come and go, wedding photos remain steadfast in their ability to capture the enduring beauty of love

and commitment. They serve as a visual testament to the bond shared between two people and the beginning of a new chapter in their lives—a timeless reminder of the joy and promise that accompanies the union of hearts.

Vedic Wedding, Houston - Texas, USA

Fire sacrifices hold deep significance in Indian weddings, symbolizing the sacred union between the bride and groom as they embark on their journey together. The fire, often referred to as Agni, is considered a witness to the vows exchanged during the marriage ceremony. As the couple circles the sacred fire, they offer prayers and offerings, seeking blessings for a harmonious and prosperous life ahead. The flames represent purity, transformation, and the divine presence, while the act of sacrifice signifies the couple's commitment to each other and their readiness to face the challenges of married life together.

Photographing fire sacrifices during Indian weddings presents a unique challenge due to the intensity of the fire's light contrasted against the dark surroundings. The flickering flames cast dynamic patterns of light and shadow, creating a mesmerizing yet challenging environment for photographers to navigate. Balancing exposure settings to capture the vibrant colours and subtle nuances of the fire while maintaining detail in the surrounding darkness requires skill and precision. Additionally, the ever-changing nature of the flames demands quick reflexes and adaptability to ensure that crucial moments are captured with clarity and impact.

I shot this picture from a low angle for a dramatic and immersive view of the ceremony, allowing the flames to dominate the frame while providing a sense of scale and depth to the scene. By carefully framing the composition and leveraging the interplay of light and shadow, I wanted to convey the spiritual significance and emotional intensity of the fire sacrifice, creating timeless images that resonate with viewers for years to come.

Indian Wedding in America, Houston - Texas, USA

In recent years, Indian-styled weddings have gained popularity among



Vedic Wedding © Thejas K R AFIP, AFIP



Indian Wedding In USA © Thejas K R AFAP, AFIP

Americans associated with Indian culture, captivating couples with their vibrant colours, rich traditions, and lavish celebrations. Drawing inspiration from the opulent ceremonies and elaborate customs of Indian weddings, many Americans are incorporating elements of this cultural extravaganza into their own nuptial celebrations. From colourful attire adorned with intricate embroidery and ornate jewellery to extravagant decorations featuring vibrant flowers and intricate mandap structures, Indian-styled weddings offer a unique and unforgettable experience that resonates with couples seeking to infuse their special day with cultural flair and exotic charm.

Moreover, the allure of Indian-styled weddings extends beyond aesthetics, as couples embrace the meaningful rituals and traditions that accompany these celebrations. From the sacred vows exchanged amidst the flames of the traditional fire sacrifice to the joyous dances and spirited music that fill the air, Indian weddings offer a rich tapestry of cultural experiences that celebrate love, unity, and family. By embracing the spirit of inclusivity and cultural exchange, American couples are not only creating unforgettable memories for themselves but also fostering a deeper appreciation for the diversity and beauty of Indian culture among their guests.

As the sun began to cast its golden rays over the sprawling grounds of the ISKCON Temple in Houston, Texas, I prepared to document a truly unique and culturally rich celebration—a fusion of Indian and American traditions in the form of an outdoor wedding ceremony.

The vibrant colours of traditional Indian attire mixed harmoniously with the lush greenery of the temple gardens, creating a picturesque backdrop for the festivities ahead.

As the ceremony commenced, I was struck by the seamless blending of customs and rituals from both Indian and American traditions. The bride, resplendent in a stunning red dress adorned with intricate gold embroidery, made her grand entrance accompanied by the soulful strains of Indian music. The groom, clad in a sleek off-white sherwani, awaited her under a beautifully decorated mandap, symbolizing the sacred bond they were about to forge. Against the backdrop of the temple's iconic domes and towering spires, the scene was nothing short of enchanting—a testament to the beauty of love transcending cultural boundaries.

As the ceremony unfolded, I moved quietly among the guests, capturing the heartfelt exchanges of vows, the joyous dances, and the tender moments shared between the couple and their families. Every detail of the celebration was infused with the spirit of joy and unity. As the sun dipped below the horizon and the sky blazed with hues of pink and orange, I knew that I had captured something truly special—a testament to the power of love to bring people together, regardless of background or heritage. In that moment, surrounded by the beauty of the temple and the warmth of the newlyweds' love, I felt privileged to have been a part of such a magical and unforgettable day.

Timeless Bird Views

Drone photography offers a unique perspective that closely simulates what a bird sees, providing breathtaking aerial views that were once inaccessible to photographers. With the ability to soar high above the landscape, drones capture sweeping panoramas and intricate details with stunning clarity, allowing viewers to experience the world from a bird's-eye view. From towering mountains and winding rivers to sprawling cityscapes and lush forests, drone photography reveals the intricate patterns and natural beauty of the earth in ways that were previously unimaginable.

Just as birds effortlessly navigate the skies, drones offer photographers the freedom to explore and capture images from virtually any angle or altitude. With advanced manoeuvrability and precise control, drones can weave through narrow spaces, ascend to dizzying heights, and hover in place to capture the perfect shot. This versatility allows photographers to create dynamic compositions that evoke a sense of wonder and awe, transporting viewers on a virtual journey through the skies.

Drone picture of Organ Mountains - New Mexico, USA

The drive from Las Cruces to Albuquerque in New Mexico was a scenic delight, with the rugged beauty of the New Mexico landscape unfolding before my eyes. As I neared the Organ Mountains, their jagged peaks and dramatic rock formations loomed ever larger on the horizon, beckoning me to explore their majestic heights. Pulling over at a designated spot, I prepared to unleash my drone and capture the breathtaking beauty of this iconic natural wonder.

The Organ Mountains are renowned for their distinctive and imposing shape, characterized by a series of jagged peaks that resemble the pipes of a massive pipe organ, hence their name. Rising abruptly from the desert floor, these rugged granite formations create a dramatic and awe-inspiring silhouette against the sky. Each peak boasts its own unique profile, with sheer cliffs, steep slopes, and intricate rock formations sculpted by millions of years of geological forces. As the sun sets, casting hues of orange and purple



New Mexico © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP

across the horizon, the Organ Mountains stand as a timeless testament to the power and beauty of nature, captivating all who behold their majestic form.

Launching my drone into the sky, I marvelled at the newfound perspective it afforded me. From high above, the Organ Mountains stretched out in all their splendour, their rugged peaks casting dramatic shadows across the desert floor below. With the drone's nimble manoeuvrability, I was able to explore every nook and cranny of this awe-inspiring landscape, capturing images that showcased the mountains' rugged grandeur and natural diversity. From sweeping aerial panoramas to close-up shots of individual rock formations, each photograph told a story of the timeless beauty and untamed wilderness of the Organ Mountains, leaving me with memories that would last a lifetime.

Drone picture of Freeport – Texas, USA

While at first glance, Freeport Texas may seem uninspiring for photography, with

its abundance of factories, industrial chimneys, and the faint scent of sulphur lingering in the air, it's amazing how perceptions can change when seen from a different perspective. By launching a drone into the sky, the mundane scenery transforms into a breathtaking vista. Suddenly, shapes and reflections emerge, revealing hidden beauty that was invisible from ground level. What was once considered dull and unremarkable now becomes a captivating scene, showcasing the surprising allure of this industrial landscape.

With the ability to soar high above the landscape, the drone provided me with an unparalleled view of the tranquil waters below, capturing the mesmerizing reflections of the sun's golden rays dancing across the surface. From lofty heights, the canals resemble shimmering ribbons of liquid gold, their mirrored images creating a stunning visual symphony that unfolds against the backdrop of the waking city.

In a way, it's a metaphor for life itself. Amidst the hustle and bustle of daily

routines and the weight of our problems, it's easy to become bogged down by the challenges we face. Yet, when we take a step back, shift our perspective, and embrace a broader view of the world, everything changes. Just as the aerial view reveals the beauty within an industrial landscape, adopting a big-picture mindset can uncover the beauty in our own lives. Suddenly, the difficulties and anxieties that seemed insurmountable from up close appear smaller and more manageable, allowing us to appreciate the inherent beauty and resilience of the world around us.

Last Word

Timelessness in photography has a remarkable ability to evoke a sense of meditative calm, both for the photographer behind the lens and the viewer engaging with the captured image. When a photograph transcends the constraints of time, capturing a moment that feels eternal and unchanging, it invites introspection and contemplation. For the photographer, the act of capturing such timeless scenes can be a deeply immersive experience, allowing them to become fully present in the moment and attuned to the beauty and tranquillity of their surroundings. Similarly, for the viewer, encountering a photograph that exudes timelessness can serve as a respite from the frenetic pace of everyday life, offering a moment of quiet reflection and serenity as they lose themselves in the captivating stillness of the image. In this way, timelessness in photography becomes a powerful conduit for cultivating a meditative mood, fostering a sense of connection and harmony between the observer and the captured moment.

• Thejas K R, AFIAP, AFIP



Freeport Texas © Thejas K R AFIAP, AFIP



Mr Thejas K R, (LM-198) has been a passionate art photographer for over two decades. A computer science engineer with MBA degree, he works as an operational technology project manager in Air Liquide Co., and lives in Houston, USA with his wife and daughter. He has served as the president of Memorial City Toastmaster Club and was on the boards of Houston Photographic Society, and Houston Camera Club.

Portrait Retouching

Following the capture of a portrait photograph, it is generally anticipated that retouching will be employed to enhance the overall appearance of the image. In the digital era, this procedure is considered a subset of post-processing, encompassing tasks such as removing imperfections (such as moles, acne, scars, etc.), refining or smoothing the skin's texture, brightening teeth, and more. This article aims to demonstrate how these enhancements can be realized using standard post-processing Adobe software. However, more involved changes, like changing hair color or enhancing the subject's body contours, are typically considered beyond the scope of retouching, and will not be addressed in this article.

The prerequisite to achieve an excellent retouching result is to start with a technically good portrait image. That is, it must be correctly exposed, sharply focused, has the correct white balance, etc. Minor errors in these, if any, are corrected in general post-processing and are not a part of the portrait retouching in the true sense. The same is the case with cropping. However, some changes especially in color and contrast can be done at the retouching stage to improve the looks. It is crucial to recognize that a portrait with technical deficiencies is a poor starting point, and no amount of retouching can significantly improve it. This is an important consideration not to be overlooked.

In general, a portrait will show a face, its many features, body skin, and clothing. So, retouching must cover each of these features. Let us start by listing them out:

- Skin (facial)
- Skin (other than facial like arms, hands)
- Lips



Picture 1: The tool strip of Lightroom.

The tool on the extreme left is called Edit. This is rather simple to use. If you are using any one of the other tools (2 to 5) from the tool strip, then clicking on this will take you to the global edit tool group immediately.

The Healing tool is hosting three different tools. Once you click on it, you will see three icons under Mode (Picture 2, green arrow).



Picture 2: The Healing tool.

These are (Picture 2, yellow arrow) from left to right Content-Aware Remove, Heal, and Clone tools. Of these, the last one is perhaps familiar to you but it is the least sophisticated of the lot. Avoid using it. The best is the former which is AI based. To use it, click on the Content-Aware Remove in the Mode section (leftmost, Picture 2) and simply paint over the area that you want to remove. Lightroom will automatically find the best area (called source) within the image and will use this to remove and blend the area you marked. We found this tool to work extremely well for removing skin blemishes and highly recommend that you use it. Pictures 3 and 4 show the application of the tool. In case the Content-Aware Remove tool is not giving the results you want, you can try the Heal tool which allows more control over the selection of the source.

- Eyes (sclera)
- Eyes (pupil)
- Teeth
- Eyebrows
- Hair
- Hair facial (beard and mustache)
- Body Hair
- Color of skin
- Clothing

Individual features may have to be processed differently. That is, you will have to process teeth differently from hair, pupil from lips, etc. Skin wherever it appears can be retouched around the same way and the same goes for hair.

Thus, for best results, retouching must be done feature by feature. This can be treated as a two-step process - identifying each feature and then enhancing it. This process looks a bit tedious and it was so, till very recently. Newer versions of

Lightroom Classic Develop Module (V12 and later) and Adobe Camera Raw (V15 and later) now have tools that automatically recognize most of the features listed. Once that is done, individual masks are automatically created for each of them. A mask you may recall, as used in Adobe's terminology, delineates a specific area in the image where any adjustments made are confined. Each can be selected individually and there is no practical limit on the number of masks. Once a mask corresponding to a portrait feature, for example, hair is selected, you can apply a whole range of available adjustments, to that feature alone.

Let us see how we can use Lightroom Classic (Develop module) and Photoshop ACR for retouching. Note that we are using screen captures of the former for our article and those of ACR will be similar. First, locate the tool strip. This is located just below the histogram on the right panel and has the following tools (Picture 1). From, left to right:

1. Edit
2. Crop Overlay
3. Healing tool
4. Red Eye Correction
5. Masking

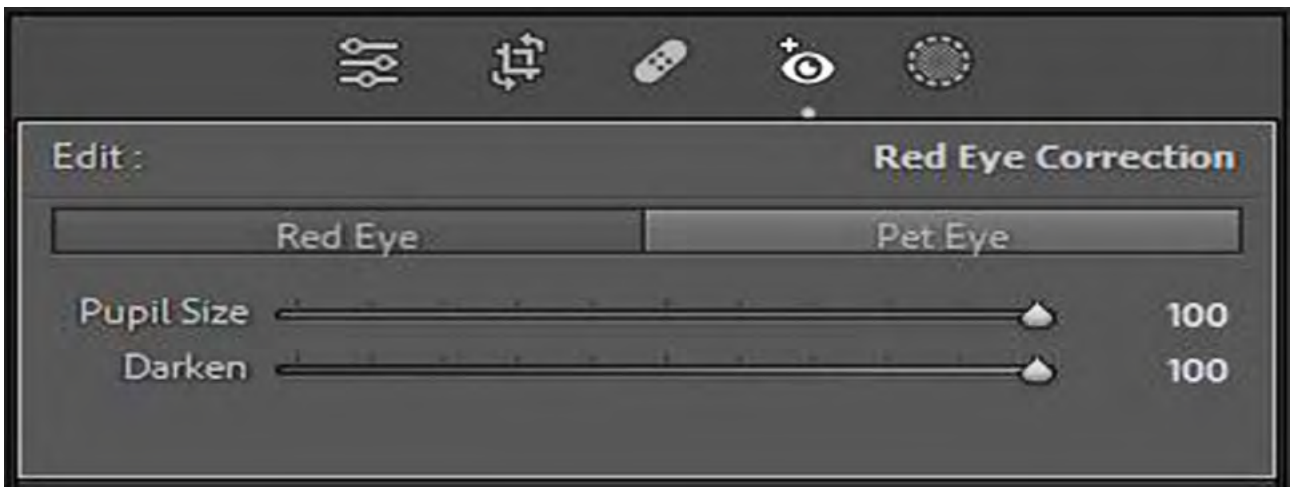


Picture 3



Picture 4

Next to the Healing tool you have the Redeye tool (Picture 1). You may recall that redevye occurs when the light (usually from a strobe) reflects off the retina. This is not common in our country as we have dark pupils. In case it appears, click on the Redeye tool and then click on the Redeye button that now appears (Picture 5). Adjust Pupil Size and Darken sliders till the redevye is eliminated. Pictures 6 and 7 show an image before and after applying the Redeye tool.



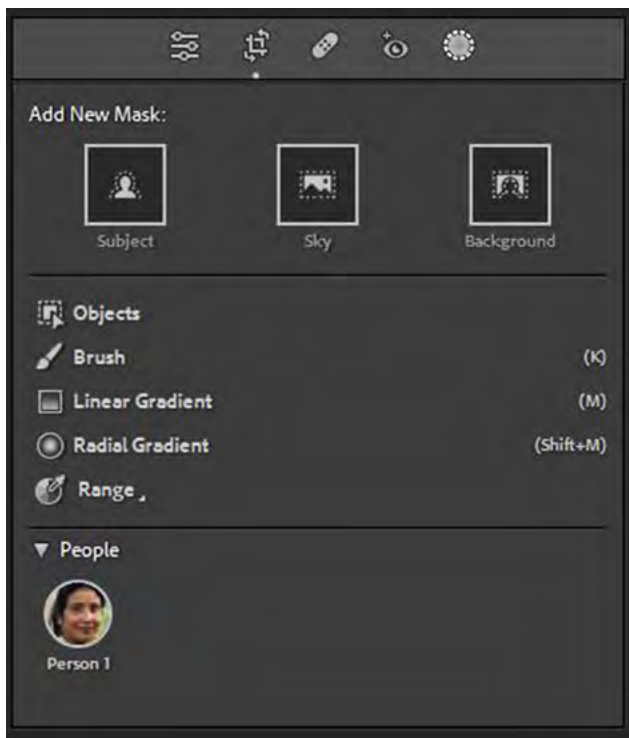
Picture 5



Picture 7



Picture 6



Picture 8. This shows the various masking tools available.



Picture 9

Now, let us go deeper into the retouching process, which involves enhancing specific features in a portrait.

Go to the tool strip (Picture 1) and click on the Mask icon (the last one on the right).

You will now see a list of different types of masks (e.g. Subject, Sky, Background, Objects, Brush, Linear Gradient, Radial Gradient, etc.). However, if there are human elements, the software will attempt to detect them and you will see a message: 'Detecting People.' If successful, under the section labeled People you will see the thumbnail of the person in the portrait (Picture 8).

If you click on the thumbnail, the individual features of the person will be detected and shown as a list (Picture 9). In this case, eight features have been detected. Since we want a separate mask for each feature for individual adjustments, click on the checkbox

Create 8 separate masks

and then click on **Create Mask**.

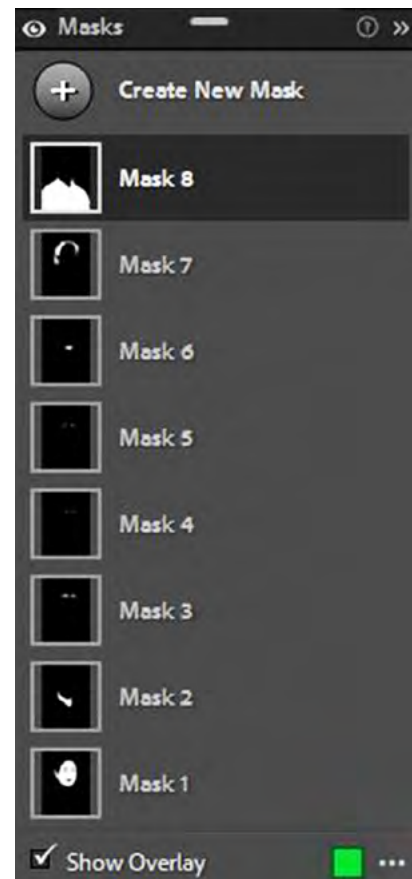
This will create the needed masks and you can see them in the Masks panel that appears as a pop-up window (Picture 10). But there is a catch here! Unlike the list shown in Picture 9, masks created for each

feature are just labeled Mask 1, Mask 2, etc. along with a thumbnail. While that might be fine for immediate usage, it is a good practice to rename them for proper identification, like Facial Skin, Body Skin Eyebrows, etc., as it will be easier for you, if you re-edit the image later, say after 6 months.

What if the mask the software has created is not perfect? No problem! Any mask regardless of how it has been created, can be modified with any other mask. This is a general feature in Lightroom and ACR. The modifications can be, for example, addition, subtraction, intersection, etc.

It is also possible that the software had failed to detect a feature. In that case, you can create a mask yourself, using any or any combination of the masking tools available. Naturally, if a feature is not available in the image itself, then no mask will be created. For example, teeth are not visible in our example, and hence the corresponding mask has not been created.

We have earlier seen how blemishes can be removed using the Healing tool and how redeye can be removed using the Redeye tool. Now, we can enhance each of the identified features using the sliders available. These are shown in



Picture 10: Masks Panel.

the table given here. For completeness, Healing, and Redeye tools have also been added.

Feature	Tools/sliders to be used	Remarks
Skin blemishes	Healing tool with Content-Aware Removal and Healing brush.	The Clone tool can also be used but is less effective in most cases.
Redeye	Redeye tool.	
Facial Skin	Texture, Shadows, and Exposure (midtones) sliders.	For ladies, the skin can be smoothened by giving negative values to the Texture slider. If you want to show more texture (mostly for men) small positive values can be given. Slight opening of shadow areas can be done with Shadows and rarely with Exposure sliders. However, this must be done moderately to prevent the buildup of noise.
Body Skin	Same as above.	Less smoothening compared to the above.
Hair, Eyebrows, and Facial hair and mustache when applicable.	Texture and Clarity sliders. Also, the Healing tool.	While Texture and Clarity sliders may appear to produce similar results, the latter has a much stronger effect. Usually, the former produces a subtler and natural result and is the best for the stated purpose. Any stray hair should be removed to give a tidy look using the Healing tool.
Eye Sclera (white portion of the eye)	Highlights, Whites, Exposure, and Detail sliders.	A slight increase in brightness and sharpness will do wonders but be careful as it is easy to overdo!
Iris Pupil	Shadows, Contrast, or Clarity.	Making the pupil darker with more contrast will make it look better. Slight sharpening will improve the impact.
Lips	Point Color > Sample Spot Color	Use the Sample Spot Color tool on the lips to determine the exact color and then use Saturation and Luminance sliders to adjust as appropriate. Generally, there is no need to use the Hue slider as it changes the color itself.
Teeth	Highlights, Whites, and Exposure.	Like the sclera, a slight increase in brightness will do wonders but do not overdo it!
Clothing	Texture, Point Color > Sample Spot Color	Texture slider can be used to give a tactile feel to clothing and works well for certain fabrics like wool but can be used generally for all. Note that too much saturation of clothing will draw attention away from the person which is undesirable unless you are promoting the clothing itself.



Picture 11: Before retouching.



Picture 12: After retouching.

Pictures 11 and 12 show a portrait before and after retouching. See the subtle changes but the very effective results they produce.

An important point. Moderation is the key to portrait retouching! A little less is always better than a little more. Always keep this in mind and do not make the retouching look artificial.

Conclusion: It is perhaps not an exaggeration to say that more than 90% of the serious portraits taken are retouched. In most cases, just 5 minutes are enough to greatly enhance a portrait due to the advanced feature recognition and tools that Lightroom and ACR bring to the table. All you have to do is control the temptation to ensure that the essence of the portrait is not disturbed.

• Ashok Kandimalla

All text, diagrams, and images © Ashok Kandimalla

Chitrasanthe 2024



© Hardik Shah

Chitra Santhe, the renowned art market festival organised annually on the first Sunday of every January, is Bengaluru's annual art festival. 'Chitra Santhe' simply means 'Art market.' When in Bangalore in January, the yearly event has become a 'must-see.' This not only offers a platform for emerging and well-known artists but also enables both connoisseurs and the general public to acquire some wonderful

works. Artists from all across the country gather to show their art. It's a visual treat and a delightful way of spending the day.

For photographers, it is altogether a different experience. With such a riot of colours and so many people: buyers, sellers, on-lookers and those who come just to soak in the experience, congregated in one place, it is a haven for a street photographer. It allows

doing street images, portraits and life scenes, patterns, colours, symmetry and many more. With a very active street photography group of over 250 members, a street walk was organised for interested members. The walk was led by Mr Yogesh Mokashi, the lead of the Street Photography group and Mr Kishan Harwalkar.

Members assembled at the famous Umesh Dosa point to savour their speciality: Masala Dosa. Following breakfast, members were given tips by Yogesh on what would make an interesting frame. The contingent of over 30 photographers then tramped to Chitra Santhe, a short walk away. As the early morning sun broke through the canopy of trees creating its own play of light, spell-bound members, some of them in small groups, others individually went trigger-happy. A sample of pictures here speak for themselves. All of them returned home, a satisfied lot.



Artistic View © Nitesh K R



M S Kakade Director, YPS
Member, Drṣṭi Editorial Team



Jealousy © Dr Prashanth Kulkarni



I noticed a Notice © Nitesh K R



When Art Meets Culture © Nitesh K R



Colorful World © Prema Kakade



Standing Instruction © SS Kumar



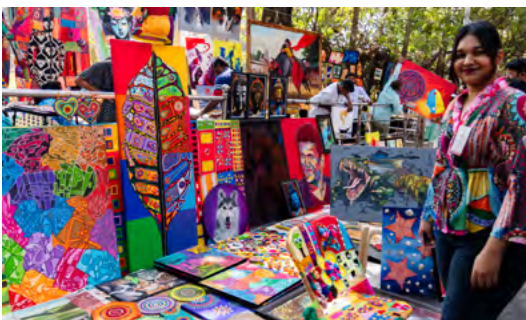
Dancing Doll © Manoharan Govindarajan



© Kishan Harwalkar



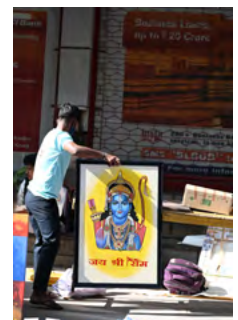
© Sreenivasa murthy N S



Artist and Art in Sync © Prema Kakade



© Sreenivasa murthy N S



Finding Right Place For Rama © SS Kumar

Capturing Moments: A Glimpse into RaaS Portrait Photography Workshop



The Tribal Girl © Minaketan Sabar



Devine Love © Samuel Jacob



ParitaTribal © Nilendu Bannerjee



The Red Garland © Minaketan Sabar

Photography enthusiasts from YPS gathered at a photo studio on 11th February 2024, in JP Nagar, Bengaluru. The workshop was organized by YPS in association with Gradient Pixel for an immersive journey into the realm of portrait photography. Hosted and mentored by Nilendu Banerjee (founder of Gradient Pixel, & a member of YPS), the "RaaS Portrait Photography Workshop" offered a unique opportunity for participants to delve into the intricacies of this captivating art form.

The workshop commenced at 10 am with an enlightening session on Studio Lighting Concepts, where the attendees gained invaluable insights into manipulating light to create stunning portraits. Through engaging discussions and practical demonstrations, Nilendu elucidated various lighting techniques like Rembrandt, Butterfly, loop etc., emphasizing their significance in shaping the mood and ambience of a photograph.

However, the true essence of the workshop lay in its hands-on sessions, where participants had the chance to apply the theoretical knowledge they had acquired. The workshop had various themes in which lady models wore appropriate costumes & make-up to pose like a Tribal woman, a Devotee etc. Attendees honed their skills behind the lens, experimenting with different

lighting setups including high-key, low-key etc. and composition techniques to capture their perfect shots.

The impact of the RaaS Portrait Photography Workshop extended far beyond the confines of Gradient Pixel, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. After completion of the all-day workshop, participants departed with a newfound appreciation for the art of portrait photography, armed with the knowledge and confidence to embark on their own creative endeavours.

As we reflect on this enriching experience, it becomes evident that workshops like these serve as catalysts for artistic growth, fostering a community of passionate individuals united by their love for photography. And with mentors like Nilendu Banerjee leading the way, the future of portrait photography shines brighter than ever before.

• Venkatesh BS GMPSA/b, EFIAP/b, GPU CR4, c**MoL



Venkatesh B S, a passionate wildlife photographer from Bangalore has captured many lovely images from Europe and USA. He also photographs cultural events and historical places. Venkatesh is a Life member and head of nature photography contest committee of FIP and a life member of YPS, Bangalore. He has won numerous awards and acceptances in various international salons.

A Morning of Discovery and Delight

Punctually at 6:30 AM on February 17, 2024, amidst the hush of the early hour, twenty-four photo enthusiasts gathered in front of the steps of Lepakshi Temple, near Hindupur in AP, with cameras set, waiting to capture the 16th-century architectural marvel.

This being an ASI controlled/managed site a lot of restrictions and rules were to be followed, even though prior permission was obtained by YPS. One of these included no tripods and flashes Mr Goutham Ramesh, the mentor for the workshop, had suggested that, as it will be quite bright outside, we might not need a tripod, however for indoor shoots, we could use an LED torch or a small bean bag.

Goutham, with his wealth of experience and expertise, guided the group through various tips, which are summarised for the members (Refer table)

After explaining these to the participants and as the sunlight shone over the temple's surfaces, photographers captured the beauty of golden hues that danced upon the stone. We then dived into architectural photography, with a keen eye for composition; participants explored the concept of layering using foreground, midground, and background elements to create images with a sense of depth and perspective.

The intricate sculptures inside the temple brought out the macro lens capturing miniature details of monumental significance, each intricate carving a testament to the skill and artistry of ancient craftsmen.

As the sun rose higher in the sky, the scene looked like something out of a fairy tale. The old stones of the temple seemed to come alive under this magical glow as if they were glowing from within. It was like everything around us was in perfect harmony, inviting us to capture this breathtaking moment with our cameras.

From ground level to soaring heights, photographers experimented with shooting angles, each point offering a unique interpretation of the temple's splendour. It revealed the endless possibilities of perspectives.

Table			
Sl No	Particulars of Tool recommended	Tips and Tricks	Effect
01	Lighting, Golden hour photography 2 hours after/ before sunrise and sunset	Look for Dynamic Range and colour drama	Dramatic colour and depth
02	White Balance	Auto or Daylight	Natural
03	Composition and Art of visualization	Focus on the main subject	Draws the eye to the story
04	Exposure Metering	Spot metering with + or – for lighting your main subject properly	Captures better details of the main subject
05	Using the right aperture for hyper focal distance	Use ready tables or apps like DOF calculator, Hyper Focal Pro, etc.	Brings near and far objects in sharp focus
06	Starburst effect of the sun	F20 and above aperture	Beautiful starburst near the main subject enhances the frame
07	Point of view: low, eye, and high levels	Try various levels of height to give varying perspectives to the viewer	Brings creativity to the fore
08	Macro usage on near objects like sculptures	Get closest to bring out the intricacy of the subject	The beauty of artwork or nature up and close
09	Capture light on metal surfaces	Look for light falling on metal surfaces	Brings out warm tones and golden hues
10	Layering of foreground, mid ground and background	More is better	
11	Using wide and ultra wide Lenses to give more		Depth and breadth
12	Making use of reflections in water, create a small puddle, if required	Composition with mirror image	Dramatic

Guided by the wisdom of Goutham and fuelled by the photographer's passion for the craft, everyone had embarked on a journey of discovery—a journey where light and shadow danced in harmony, and every click of the shutter bore witness to the legacy of Lepakshi Temple.

The workshop ended with a delicious breakfast with participants exchanging insights from their morning of discovery!

Contributions from



Medha Rajeev
(IM-0975)



Mahesh Ramachandra
(IM-0818)



Grandeur of Lepakshi © Girish Ananthamurthy



Nagalinga © Naresh Balasubramanyam



Nagalinga © Balachandra Nadig



Divine Illumination © Kishan Harwalkar



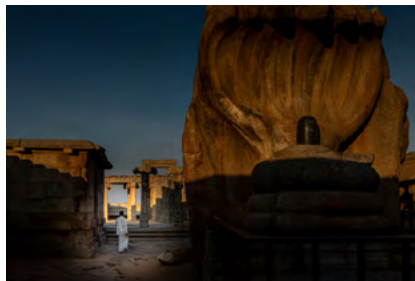
In their shadow © Prema Kakade



lepakshi temple sculpure © Anand Mahalingam



Sun rises on Lepakshi © Yogesh Mokashi



Man and God © Punkaj Gupta



Golden Embrace © Col KV Nair



© S S Kumar



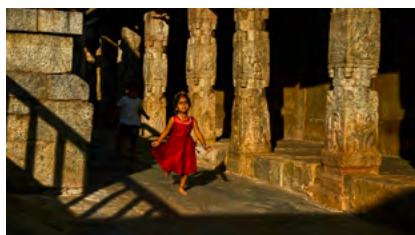
Drumbeat © N C Mohan



Guardians of the Universe © Hamza Ali



© Chandan Mishra



My Sacred Space © Dr. Minnu Kejriwal



Hindina Shakti © Vijay Mewada



Bringi © Krishna Varun



Dhwaja Stambha © R Mahesh Iyer



© Hemachandra Jain



Timeless Tales © Medha Rajeev

YPS at the 18th FIAP World Cup for Clubs 2023

Representing India among 226 clubs worldwide, the Youth Photographic Society (YPS) participated in the 18th FIAP World Cup for Clubs 2023. Despite strong competition, YPS finished 27th overall. Out of 20 images submitted, only 7 were accepted. However, Sharath B Acharya's "Flower Bless" stood out, earning the sole award from all Indian clubs. While the outcome wasn't as hoped, YPS remains resilient and looks forward to future opportunities to shine.



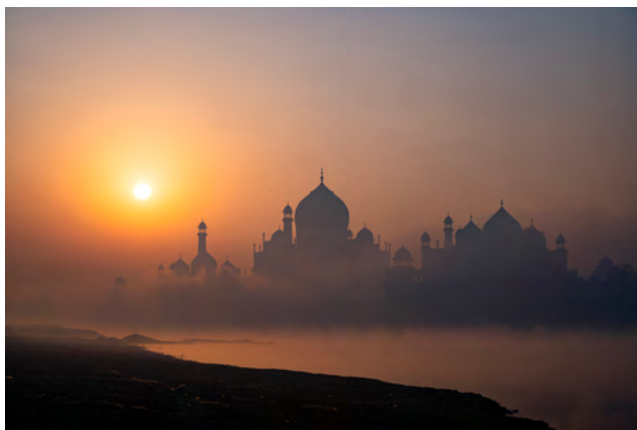
Anitha Mysore MPSA, EFIAP/p,
ARPS, GPUCR-4, FAPS, EIUP, c***MoL
Director of YPS, YPS Representative
for PSA



Flower bless © Sharath Acharya B



happy in safe © Varadanayaka T P



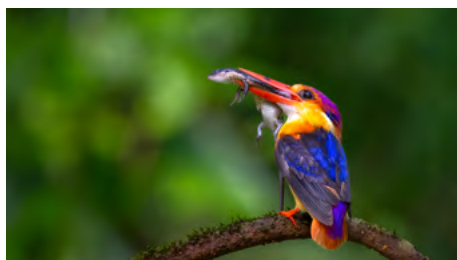
The Taj © Rajasimha S



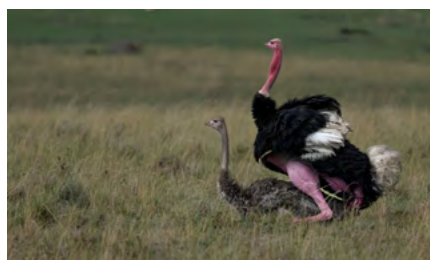
Splashed Joy-3 © Nagendra Muthmurdu



Tender ties © Anitha Mysore



ODKF 11 © Phani Bhushan Ramasastry



Ostrich mating 2 2452 © Pramod Govind Shanbhag

YPS Triumphs at the 38th FIP Interclub Competition

The 38th FIP Interclub Competition witnessed a remarkable display of photographic prowess, with the Youth Photographic Society (YPS) emerging as the undeniable frontrunner. With an outstanding performance, YPS clinched the top position, leaving other contenders trailing far behind.

In this prestigious competition, where 46 clubs from across India showcased their talent, YPS demonstrated exceptional skill and creativity. Each club was tasked with submitting 50 images, carefully curated from the works of 20 different authors, with a limit of 5 images per author.

YPS not only met but surpassed expectations with a total score of 643 points, establishing a substantial lead over the second-ranked club. This remarkable achievement underscores the dedication and talent within the YPS community.

Out of the 50 images submitted by YPS, an impressive 16 were awarded, highlighting the quality and ingenuity of their photographic compositions. Additionally, 41 images were accepted, further solidifying YPS's position as a powerhouse in the Indian photography scene.

The success of YPS in the 38th FIP Interclub Competition is a testament to the club's commitment to excellence and innovation in photography. It is a moment of pride not only for the club members but also for the broader photography community in India.

As YPS continues to inspire and push the boundaries of photographic artistry, its triumph in this esteemed competition serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring photographers nationwide.



Anitha Mysore MPSA, EFIAP/p, ARPS, GPU CR-4, FAPS, EIUP, c*MoL**
Director of YPS, YPS Representative for PSA

Section	Author Name	Image Title	Award
Nature	Anantha Murthy	Cheetah Hunt In Rain	FIP Medal
PTD	Prakash Kandakoor	Gavisiddheshwara Chariot Festival F	FIP Medal
Nature	Pramod Govind Shanbhag	Ostrich Mating 2 2452	FIP Medal
PTD	Rajasimha Sathyanarayana	The Taj	FIP Medal
Mono	Varadanayaka T P	Bicycle Ride	FIP Medal
PJD	Jinesh Prasad	Saluting The Great Nation	FIP Ribbon
PTD	Jinesh Prasad	Maha Mastkabhisheka Karkala	FIP Ribbon
Colour	Mohammed Arfan Asif	Touch Of Color	FIP Ribbon
PTD	Pramod Govind Shanbhag	Machu Pichu In Golden Light	FIP Ribbon
PTD	Sharath Acharya B	Flower Bless	FIP Ribbon
PJD	Umashankar B N	Prowess	FIP Ribbon
PTD	Ananth Kamat	Kodial Teru	CM
Nature	Chethan Rao Mane	Lion Mating	CM
Colour	Jinesh Prasad	Kalapoottu 3	CM
Mono	Mohammed Arfan Asif	Architectural Landscapes21	CM
PJD	Varadanayaka T P	Please Leave Me	CM
Nature	Anantha Murthy	King Fisher In Rain	Acceptance
Mono	Anitha Mysore	Tender Ties	Acceptance
Colour	Anitha Mysore	Mesmerising Dance	Acceptance
Mono	Chethan Rao Mane	Egret Fight	Acceptance
Mono	Jinesh Prasad	Bharathiya Vidyarthi	Acceptance
Colour	Kishan Harwalkar	Pink Incense Passage	Acceptance
PTD	Kishan Harwalkar	At The Library	Acceptance
Colour	Krishna Bhat	Devine Connection	Acceptance
Mono	Mohammed Arfan Asif	S Curve	Acceptance
Nature	Phani Bhushan Ramasastry	Odkf 11	Acceptance
Mono	Prakash Kandakoor	In Class Room	Acceptance
Colour	Prakash Kandakoor	Yellow Believers	Acceptance
Nature	Pramod Govind Shanbhag	Tawny Eagle With Fawns Head 1 4794	Acceptance
Colour	Sathyanarayana C R	Winnowing Pair	Acceptance
Nature	Sathyanarayana C R	Wilbebeest Delivering Baby	Acceptance
Colour	Satish Hanumantharao	Eternal Flight	Acceptance
Nature	Smita Goyal	Cormorant-Fish-Tossing	Acceptance
PTD	Smita Goyal	Sunset View Of Leh Palace	Acceptance
Mono	Varadanayaka T P	Rain On Leaf	Acceptance
Colour	Varadanayaka T P	Never Ending	Acceptance
Colour	Varadanayaka T P	Grandmother	Acceptance
Colour	Venkatesh B S	Dancing In Red Colors 2974	Acceptance
PTD	Venkatesh B S	Happy Musicians At Wari 2177	Acceptance
PTD	Venkatesh B S	Haldi Throwing At Jejuri 5004	Acceptance
PTD	Venkatesh B S	Colors And Petals 2652	Acceptance



Maha Mastkabhisheka Karkala © Jinesh Prasad



Kodial Teru © Ananth Kamat



Kalapootu 3 © Jinesh Prasad



The Taj © Rajasimha S



Saluting the Great Nation © Jinesh Prasad



Gavisiddheshwara Chariot Festival F © Prakash Kandakoor



Cheetah hunt in rain © Anantha Murthy



Ostrich mating 2 2452 © Pramod Govind Shanbhag



Bicycle Ride © Varadanayaka T P



Prowess © Umashankar B N



Machu Pichu in Golden Light © Pramod Shanbhag



Architectural Landscapes21 © Mohammed Arfan Asif



Touch of color © Mohammed Arfan Asif



Flower bless © Sharath Acharya B



Lion Mating © Chethan Rao Mane



Please leave me © Varadanayaka T P



YPS Saturday Meet Sessions

Google Meet - Travel Photography-Colonial Williamsburg (A Living History Museum)

On 3rd February 2024 members had a very unique opportunity, a walk through the Living History Museum of Colonial America and Williamsburg dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries, one of the largest of its kind in the world through the photographs captured by Dr Maddur Badrinath.

Maddur, a native of Mysore, an intensive care specialist by profession, presently settled in USA presented his photographs of buildings- old and renovated along with the people wearing traditional costumes of the age, working in each building representing different occupations during the Google Meet. It was indeed a unique experience to see live people wearing

customary clothing/jewellery as used during the 16th and 17th centuries and also engaged in some traditional set-ups of their house/workplace etc. Maddur also gave a lot of information about the living style, things used and various practices of people of that period as he saw and experienced during his visit to the place. His narration along with the pictures gave that special feel of being live in that era. The photographs, mostly captured without the use of any artificial lights and people being in their natural selves doing their regular chores gave that special feel to the viewers. Maddur says that he will be happy to make people smile by seeing

his photographs, am sure that every participant would have smiled at least once during his presentation making the effort worthwhile for him. Those who attended the session would agree that it was indeed a well-spent evening to view as well as learn something about 16th and 17th-century traditions. YPS extends sincere thanks to Maddur for taking his time out and sharing his pictures and thoughts with our members.



Girish Ananthmurthy
EFIAP, EFIP, Hon. PESGSPC
Vice President, YPS

New Member Corner

Mem No	Full Name
IM-0969	Ms Aayushree Dhamne
IM-0971	Mr Hitesha S L
IM-0972	Mr Srinivasa R
IM-0973	Mr Subba Rao L
IM-0974	Mr Sunil Varghese
IM-0975	Ms Medha Rajeev
IM-0976	Mr Shailesh Shimpi
IM-0977	Dr Harish Thippeswamy
IM-0978	Mr K.Gopinath Gopi
IM-0979	Mr Ravishankar Bhargava
IM-0980	Mr Natarajan Chandramohan
IM-0981	Mr Prashanth Hegde
IM-0982	Mr Lalith Reddy
IM-0983	Mr Rahul Buyyakar
IM-0984	Ms Vantika Dixit
IM-0985	Mr Venkataraju V
IM-0986	Mr Naresh Balasubramanyam
IM-0987	Mr Girish Begoor
IM-0988	Mr Yashodhan Rohidas Navghare
IM-0989	Mr Pandurangachar Galgali



IM-0969



IM-0971



IM-0972



IM-0973



IM-0974



IM-0975



IM-0976



IM-0977



IM-0978



IM-0979



IM-0980



IM-0981



IM-0982



IM-0983



IM-0984



IM-0985



IM-0986



IM-0987



IM-0988



IM-0989

YPS Programme Calendar

March 2024

Date	Venue	Topic	Title	Presenter
Saturday, 02	YPS Hall	Product Photography Demonstration	Subtle Elements	Mohan Krishnappa
Friday, 22	Mysuru	Indoor and Outdoor Activities	31st FIP Convention	Hosted by YPS
Saturday, 23	Mysuru	Indoor and Outdoor Activities	31st FIP Convention	Hosted by YPS
Sunday, 24	Mysuru	Indoor and Outdoor Activities	31st FIP Convention	Hosted by YPS

April 2024

Date	Venue	Topic	Title	Presenter
Saturday, 06	YPS Hall	Display of vintage equipment and talk	Nostalgia - journey from Analogue to Mirrorless	H Satish
Saturday, 13	Google Meet	Talk on Salons, Distinctions, Selection and Submission of Pictures	Introduction to Salons	B S Venkatesh

Note: The above programmes are provisional. Confirmation for each of the programmes will be announced on the website, by email and WhatsApp broadcast.

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GAJARAJA
गजराज



31st

FIP 2024
CONVENTION



22ND, 23RD & 24TH
MARCH, 2024

AT THE ROYAL CITY
MYSURU, KARNATAKA





Ganga Aarti © Manoharan Govindarajan, EFIAP



Youth Photographic Society

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