



GSCCC News



GULF STATES CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL
States of Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi & Florida

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Keep It Simple—A guide to Minimalist Photography

In today's visually-saturated world, the simplistic style of minimalist photography offers visually-soothing results – with plenty of breathing room. Minimalism provides a refreshing visual break from the constant flood of information, and visual noise that we face every day.

What is Minimalism Anyway?

Minimalist photography draws inspiration from the concept of minimalism in art – a style of art that was used by many 20th century artists. Artistically speaking, minimalism depends on high simplicity and involves using a minimal amount of compositional components such as shape, color, and line.

The goal of minimalist art, or photography, is to convey a concept – or an idea – provoke an emotional response, or provide a unique visual experience. Compositional elements must be

kept to a minimum, and the ones that are left should be essential for conveying the overall idea, or symbolism, of the photo.

As with any photographic style, minimalist photography has its own set of challenges – mostly due to the fact that minimalism is based on simplicity, and it can be a challenge to eliminate all but the most necessary elements of a composition, and focus only on a limited number of objects and elements when creating a composition. Minimalism forces you to view the world differently, and will challenge you to look beyond the obvious for hidden photographic opportunities.

Ready to get started?

Read on to see how you can employ some of the techniques of minimalism to benefit your photography, and find out how you can get started with minimalist photography.

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Meet our Clubs

Visit our section dedicated to meet all the Council Clubs. In this feature, we welcome our latest members:

The Lafayette Photographic Society.

Update your Roster

Attention all GSCCC Reps, email us your Club's Board members, especially President, GSCCC Representative and Treasurer.
Rose Parker, parker52@cox.net

Continuation..,

Learn to See

Photographic opportunities are all around us, but they are all-too-easy to overlook. Learning to think outside the box, and look for hidden opportunities is the first step towards mastering minimalist photography. When you're out with your camera, look for open spaces, bright blocks of color, interesting geometric patterns or lines, and subjects that stand alone against simplified backgrounds – all excellent opportunities for minimalist photography.

Keep it Simple

When it comes to minimalist photography, less is more. Minimalist photography attempts to explore how much information can be taken away from a composition, before it loses its impact. Remember to keep it simple, and make it powerful. When it comes to minimalist photography, the more outstanding and eye-catching an image is, the better. Your goal is to include only the information that's required in order to show the message that you want to convey.

Create a Strong Composition

Minimalist photography relies upon simple compositions, but this doesn't mean that it should be boring – minimalist photography allows a lot of room for creativity. The challenge is applying the concept of minimalism, and keeping all distracting and unnecessary details out of the photo, allowing all of the attention to be brought toward the concept, or subject of the photo.

Strong Leading Lines

In art, as well as photography, lines are a common compositional technique used to draw the viewer into a composition, or to convey a sense of depth or distance. When it comes to minimalist photography, strong lines play a major role in many compositions. Lines can show isolation, separation, connection, distance, proximity and depth. Strong vertical or horizontal lines can also act as a central element, providing a solid structure to the composition.

Geometric Patterns

Look for geometric patterns when composing minimalist photos. Architecture is a great place to find geometric patterns, as you can often find entire walls of patterns to incorporate into a shot. Staircases, park benches, bridges, windows, and brick walls are all excellent places to find interesting geometric patterns.

Negative Space

Negative space is the valuable breathing room that's an essential part of minimalist photography. Look for negative space, walls of color, and simplified backgrounds to incorporate into your photos. Angle your shots up and using the blue sky as a simplified background, or capture your subjects in front of a wall – just be sure to incorporate plenty of negative space into your photos.

Contrast

Contrast is one of the most important qualities when it comes to eliciting an emotional response. Contrasting colors, shades, patterns, shapes, or even contrasting ideas are effective ways to create compositional tension that grabs the viewer's attention and makes them think – or to convey a powerful message.



Textures

Good use of color and interesting textures are both key elements to minimalist photography. Some minimalist compositions even feature texture as the key component. Try to use light to improve the texture and bring out the colors and contrast. Your goal is to capture an image that the viewer can almost feel.

Light and Dark

The importance of lighting in minimalist photography cannot be overstated! Both light and shadow can both be used to create minimalist photos. Try to look for opportunities where the light really brings out the colors or textures in a scene. Or look for dark shadows to feature as a central part of your composition.

Tell a Story

Minimalism attempts to use as few details as possible to convey a concept, create a unique visual experience, or to tell a story. By incorporating an interesting subject, the right elements, lighting, and angles, you can create a

photo that tells a story, and provides the viewer with a glimpse into a moment in time. Remember, simplified photos can have a powerful effect when they are well-composed.

The next time you're out with your camera, look for opportunities to create simplified and powerful images. Learning to look for hidden gems of opportunity where others wouldn't find anything is an exciting challenge – and lots of fun. Challenge yourself, and don't be afraid to try new things.

Minimalism is a very subjective style, open to interpretation, so don't be concerned if others don't see things exactly how you do. Just remember to enjoy the learning curve, and have fun.

Incorporating a minimalist perspective into your photography style will inject new life into your photos, and will help you to transform everyday moments into unique photographic works of art.



Bonus: Here Are 8 Suggestions to Get You Started on Minimalist Photography Right Now!

1. Take a picture of power lines against the sky.
2. Find an interesting pattern in some floorboards and shoot away.
3. Use the rule of thirds on a landscape shot. Make sure the horizon's set along one of the gridlines.
4. Find a red rose and make it the sole subject of your photo. Shoot it against a green lawn background to take advantage of the complimentary colors effect.
5. Wait until wintertime. Find some fresh footprints in the snow, and take a minimalist photo.
6. Locate a really plain background—like sand at the beach—and create some patterns in it to photograph.
7. Wait until it rains. Find a window with rain drops dripping down, and take a shot of this interesting effect.
8. Take a picture of a piece of wood, and admire all the fine examples of texture in the grain.

Pictorial—B&W Prints

Judged by Oklahoma Camera Club

- 1st Title: Water in Action 14
Maker: Richard Weddle
Club: Jackson PS
- 2nd Title: Country House 14
Maker: Tom Oelsner
Club: Greater New Orleans CC
- 3rd Title: Singer on the Front Porch 14
Maker: Pat Leger
Club: Lafayette PS
- 1st HM Title: Shapes, Tones and Textures 13
Maker: Gary Kelly
Club: Dallas CC
- 2nd HM Title: Jellyfish 12
Maker: Tom Longmire
Club: Greater New Orleans CC

Pictorial B&W Prints — **1st Place**

“Water in Action”

By Richard Weddle from Jackson PS



Pictorial B&W Prints—2nd Place

“Country House”

By Tom Oelsner from Greater New Orleans CC

Pictorial B&W Prints Club

- 47 Greater New Orleans CC
- 46 Counttown CC
- 44 Lafayette PS
- 43 Dallas CC
- 42 Jackson PS
- 31 Slidell PC
- 17 Beaumont CC

**7 Clubs
Participating**

Pictorial B&W Prints- 3rd Place

“Singer on the Front Porch”

By Pat Leger from Lafayette PS.



Color Prints - **1st Place**— “Night Train”

By Gary Kelly from Dallas CC



Pictorial — Color Prints

Judged by Oklahoma Camera Club

1st	Title: Night Train	14
	Maker: Gary Kelly	
	Club: Dallas CC	
2nd	Title: Chain Bridge	13
	Maker: Steve Sutton	
	Club: Dallas CC	
3rd	Title: Sucking It Up	13
	Maker: Pat Leger	
	Club: Lafayette PS	
1st HM	Title: Night Scene in Cinque Terre	13
	Maker: Paul Dumont	
	Club: Oklahoma CC	
2 nd HM	Title: 9:01	13
	Maker: Frank Richards	
	Club: Dallas CC	



Color Prints—2nd Place

“Chain Bridge”

By Steve Sutton
From Dallas CC

Color Prints Club Totals

- 49 Dallas CC
- 46 Lafayette PS
- 41 Cowtown CC
- 41 Greater New Orleans CC
- 38 Slidell PC
- 37 Beaumont CC
- 31 Jackson PS

7 Clubs Participating

Color Prints- 3rd Place

“Sucking It Up”

By Pat Leger from Lafayette PS



Meet Our Clubs:

Lafayette Photographic Society



Forty-two years since its establishment by Clarence Rogers, APSA, the Lafayette Photographic Society remains true to its initial purpose – the promotion of photography for like-minded individuals. Though newer members have replaced older and digital cameras have replaced film, this Lafayette based group flourishes because it continues to place the group cause before individual glory. In deeming the organization a “society” rather than a “club,” the founder beseeched charter members and their successors to a rare calling of responsibility and respect.

What Rogers started as a small group of local shutterbugs has now blossomed into an organization of sixty plus members. Along the way the club has boasted some major accomplishments, defining moments that have united the membership through hard work and fun. Two types of milestones epitomize the group’s legacy: conventions and salons. In 1984 and 2012 LPS hosted the Gulf States Camera Club Council Conference, the earlier event at the Lafayette Hilton and the more recent at the New Iberia Ramada Conference Center. After sponsoring an international salon in 1975, the group again undertook the monumental effort in 2004 through 2007, competitions that yielded nearly two thousand entries from as many as twenty-three countries.



Lafayette Hilton and the more recent at the New Iberia Ramada Conference Center. After sponsoring an international salon in 1975, the group again undertook the monumental effort in 2004 through 2007, competitions that yielded nearly two thousand entries from as many as twenty-three countries.



In addition to these landmark events, the club has filled its four decade history with educational and social opportunities. Learning has come in many forms – monthly competitions, print exhibitions in Lafayette, New Iberia, Abbeville, and Gueydan; field trips; scavenger shoots; photo sessions; photographic experts; and member programs. Fellowship has emanated from dinner meetings, banquets, and Christmas parties.

What began in 1971 thrives today because members have been generous, loyal, and up to date. Key members – including those whose memberships spanned forty years – have welcomed newcomers with knowledge and warmth.

When film faded from center stage, members sponsored the club’s first projected digital competition in June 2006. Since then the LPS website, online magazine, and social media have reflected technical savvy. Visionary to its core, this society has most recently revised its Articles of Association to maintain the founding principles in an ever-changing world. Indeed, photo learning and friendship enjoy a bright future through LPS.



<http://www.lafayettephotographicsociety.org/>

Send me an introduction of your Club to include in our next Newsletters to: sgaitan52@gmail.com

Upcoming GSCCC Competitions

Month	Competition	Judging Club	Send Entries to:
December	No Competitions		
January	Pictorial Projected Digital	Louisiana Photographic Society	Gene Bachman gbachman@cox.net 225-766-3377
		Greater New Orleans Photographic Society	Rose Parker 300 Valencia Drive Luling, La 70070 985 - 785 - 8158 parker52@cox.net
February	Pictorial Prints (Color & B&W)	Slidell Photography Club	Tess Cottage 26032 Pichon Rd. Lacombe, La. 70445 985- 882- 3877 home 504-616-7086 cell Tc01hm@aol.com
		Lafayette Photographic Society	Kris Smith 1603 Montagne St. New Iberia, LA 70560 iunlock@cox.net
March	Pictorial Projected Digital	Greater New Orleans Photographic Society	Rose Parker parker52@cox.net 985 - 785 - 8158
		Oklahoma Camera Club	c/o Carol McCreary 425 SW 53rd Street Oklahoma City, Ok. 73109 405 - 634 - 1817 tcmmccreary@cox.net
April	No Competition	2015 GSCCC Convention and EOY Awards	

Nature – PROJECTED DIGITAL
Judged by Jackson Photographic Society

1st	Title: Puffin and Sand Eels Maker: Marilyn Graham Club: Cowtown CC	15
2nd	Title: Tail Grabber Maker: Kathy Reeves Club: Louisiana PS	14
3rd	Title: Sleeping Rufous Hummer Maker: Marilyn Holloway Club: Houston CC	13
1st HM	Title: Gambel's Quail Maker: Rachel Burycha Club: Houston CC	12
2 nd HM	Title: Great Egret Maker: Larry Petterborg Club: Plano CC	12



Nature Projected Digital - 2nd Place
"Tail Grabber"
By Kathy Reeves from Louisiana PS.

Nature Projected Digital - 3rd Place
"Sleeping Rufous Hummer"
By Marilyn Holloway from Houston CC.

Nature Projected Digital – **1st Place**

"Puffin and Sand Eels"

By Marilyn Graham from Cowtown CC



Nature Projected Club Totals

- 46 Cowtown CC
- 43 Houston CC
- 40 Louisiana PS
- 39 Greater New Orleans CC
- 39 Lafayette PS
- 36 Houston PC
- 35 Beaumont CC
- 35 Heard Nature PC
- 33 Dallas CC
- 32 West Bank CC
- 32 Plano PC
- 15 Central Texas PC

**11 Clubs
Participating**



Nature Prints - **1st Place**— “Catching Rays”
 By Barry Broussard from Lafayette PS



Nature Prints—2nd Place
 “Full House” By Pat Leger from Lafayette PS

Nature Prints- 3rd Place
 “Say Cheese” By Kim Bergeron from
 Slidell PC



Nature —PRINTS

Judged by Jackson Photographic Society

1st	Title: Catching Rays	13
	Maker: Barry Broussard	
	Club: Lafayette PS	
2nd	Title: Full House	12
	Maker: Pat Leger	
	Club: Lafayette PS	
3rd	Title: Say Cheese	12
	Maker: Kim Bergeron	
	Club: Slidell PC	
1st HM	Title: Twin Peaks	12
	Maker: Dennis Fritsche	
	Club: Dallas CC	
2 nd HM	Title: Carry Out	12
	Maker: Kerry Griechen	
	Club: Lafayette PS	

	46 Lafayette PS
	41 Dallas CC
Nature Prints	38 Greater New Orleans CC
Club Totals	37 Oklahoma CC
	37 Slidell PC
	32 Beaumont CC
	27 Cowtown CC

7 Clubs Participating

The 2015 Heard Nature Photography Contest

For the first time ever, the Heard Nature Photography Contest will be **totally digital**. Submitted images will be accepted from Dec. 28th 2014 to Jan. 23rd 2015. While the Heard Nature Photographers Club organizes and administers the contest, all proceeds derived therefrom are donated to the Heard Natural Science Museum in McKinney, TX.

The Museum, <http://www.heardmuseum.org/>, provides education, primarily for children, about the natural world.

Please visit the contest web site, <http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/contest/> and enter your best nature images.

Thanks from HNPC.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

- WILDLIFE AND ANIMALS

Images of non-domestic animals in their natural or a captive setting. May include mammals, marine life, reptiles and amphibians.

- BIRDS AND INSECTS

Wild or captive birds or insects.

- SCENICS

Expansive views that may include landscapes, cloudscapes, mountains, forests, deserts, etc. Nature should be the subject of the image.

- WATERSCAPES

Images primarily featuring water such as seascapes, oceans, waterfalls, lakes, streams and rivers. Water is to be the primary subject.

- NATURE CLOSE UPS

Other natural objects in their natural habitat such as trees, rocks, shells, minerals, fungi and lichens.

- FLORAL AND STILL LIFE

Images of natural or cultivated flowers, plants or gardens.

- CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Images that show the relationships between humans and nature.

- ART IN NATURE

Naturally occurring patterns, lines, shapes and forms of animals, objects, or plants in nature; also may include macro and extreme close-up images in cases where the patterns, lines, shapes, etc. are the principal subject.

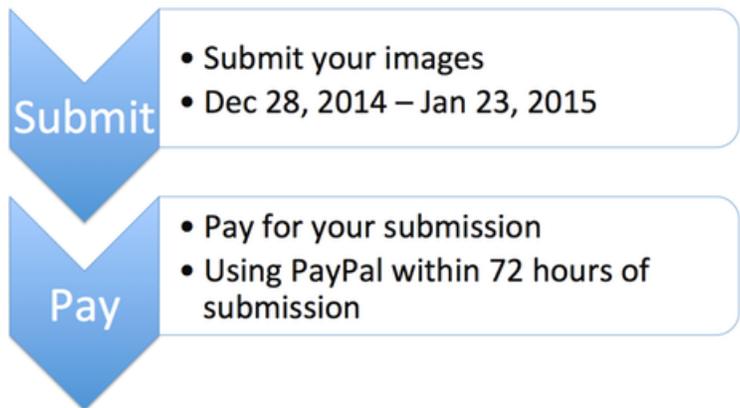
- URBAN NATURE

Images that show how nature exists in an urban setting.

- CREATIVE INTERPRETATION

Nature-related images intended to express the photographer's impression of the subject (i.e. creative blurs, abstract and digital manipulation.)

Contest Two-Step



2015 CONVENTION

We are still looking for a Club to host our 2015 Convention.

It's a one of a kind event where mingling and sharing our love for photography it's just the beginning. It's also when we reveal the End of Year Awards where all Winners of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1HM, and 2HM of each category in GSCCC monthly competitions are eligible to be entered in the same category.

Share with the members of your Club, if this is something you'd like to participate don't hesitate to contact Buddy Delahoussaye for more Information.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the participant to the competitions and Congratulations to the winners for those amazing images.

Special thanks to last months' competition judging clubs:

Oklahoma Camera Club for the Pictorial Prints results; they judged both Color and Black and White prints &

Jackson Photo Society for the Nature results; both Projected and Prints Competitions

And last, but not least, thanks to our collaborators, your ideas keep this Newsletter interesting.

[Note from the Editor's Desk]

Remember to **send us your Holiday pictures**, about your town colorful decorations, the Club party, the glorious food and everything that this holiday season represents for you.

Everything goes from Thanksgiving to New Years' and we'll have ourselves a wonderful GSCCC News collage sharing the Joy of the season through the heart of your camera.

Sandra Gaitan | sgaitan52@gmail.com

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affiliated with the Photographic Society of America

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