

Special Interest Group - UPDATE

“The Masters’ Apprentices” - IT’S ON!

1. Why:

This is a Special Interest Group for those who wish to explore advanced techniques and ideas in photography; to go beyond images just for club competitions, to do something more to challenge one's skills for more creative and emotive images. If you want to go past the simple technical or pictorial aspects to broader, more artistic, more creative levels, or for exhibition or book production level, then come and join us.

The Masters Apprentices name was chosen because we intend learning from the masters, and as apprentices, we acknowledge we have lots more to learn. (*masters can be the old masters, tutors and professionals*)

The challenge

If someone is in the right place at the right time and there is an extraordinary subject in front of them, cameras these days will allow anybody to take a snapshot of that subject and the result will look extraordinary because the subject was extraordinary within itself. But did the photographer have or use any skill of their own? And how often do we get that lucky chance? My challenge to you is to strive to know and use technical expertise and relevant effects of lighting, exposure, composition, angles, moods, and the psychology of what impresses, as techniques in order to make the **ordinary** into the extra ordinary, and even an extraordinary subject into an even more powerful image.

Is there a purpose to the photograph? Who's going to see it and why? How do we meet that purpose?

2. Who:

Anyone wanting to stretch their skills base to create images that move, (pleasure or other reaction) impress or incite discussion. Very little, if any, time will be spent on basic camera skills, however we will be discussing what equipment and techniques will be used in depth for each topic.

Prerequisites:

- Good skills of photography
- Open mind to explore techniques and artistic elements
- Friendliness, (No egos) Positive and Supportive attitude to others
- Excitement and enthusiasm to have fun and create impressive results

3. What:

It will be membership based for individuals and remote clubs. The night's tutorials will be available on DVDs and given to remote member clubs so they can attempt the techniques and submit them for the next meeting. The DVDs can be purchased by individuals if they want.

For simplicity sake and to make it easier for remote members, we will be working only in digital.

The meetings will consist of three parts:

1. Review of submitted work from last topic,
2. Speaker (theory of next topic), (from professional or academic sources) then,
3. Tutorial (practical) on techniques and mindset for shooting images of the next topic.

The Tutorial section, with member contributions, will offer several criteria to consider for taking photos to suit the topic/technique. The criteria will be a balance of technique that is relevant to, and also enhances, the art of emotive elements, such as drama, wow factor, pathos and so on.



Then at the following meeting, work submitted would be reviewed and discussed as to how it did, or how it did not, fully or partially meet the criteria.

It is envisaged there will be no monthly competitions.



Speakers and topics:

The speakers will be drawn from a base of proven, qualified and experienced photographers from academia and members alike. Some will be tutors of university or college courses.

Topics may include:

- the techniques of the likes of David Hamilton with his mostly soft focus, innocence portrayals; or
 - John Gutmann with his social documentary/architectural work.
 - How does photography compare to art?
 - What's needed for the market to accept photography as art?
 - What software is available to produce the effects you want and the results you want easily and consistently?
 - What's needed to be competitive in the international stage?
- How best to get drama, impact and the wow factor in your photos?
 - Social documentary and photo journalism – the differences, ethics, what and how.
 - The place for photography in personal, community and international relationships.
 - And much more.

4. When and Where:

St Bartholomew's Hall, corner of Logan Rd and Mountain St, Mt Gravatt East on the first Wednesday of each month February to November included, 7.30 to 10 pm.

The agenda for the first meeting is in the email with this notice.

5. What's next?

If you're interested, email me **NOW** at adrian@infocentre.com.au with: *(cut and paste these items to your email and add your details to them)*

- your name:
- suburb:
- contact details:
- what your club grade is:
- what you can offer the group:
- what position you can fill:
- Comments:

The first meeting will be Wednesday 1st of July, so let me know if you're coming please.

If it's successful over a determined period of time, we'll establish a club in its own right. Either way, there will be a small membership fee to cover general costs.

Looking forward to hearing from you, Adrian Lowe

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