



F o c a l P o i n t

February 2011



By Gary Faulkner

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FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Please submit articles, photos, announcements, etc. The Focal Point is YOUR newsletter. Take a chance – get your work published!

Thanks to Gary Faulkner and Arthur Ransome for their contributions this month.

BCC Gets Out



Off-duty Santa caught warming up in a café on a very cold Winter's day in NYC (He's also into photography!)



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Flatbed Scanner as a Canvas

By Gary Faulkner

Some years ago we had Robert Creamer present at the Club about his work creating images using a flatbed scanner.

His work with flowers inspired me to use this tool to create images of the things in nature that inspire my photographic interest, trees! In looking for tree related material I noticed my neighbors magnolia tree was in full bloom and the blossoms were magnificent so, with their permission, I cut what I needed and proceeded to the scanner. I had already constructed the suspension platform that Robert had shown on his video so all I needed to do was compose my subject.



Over the last 2 years I have made hundreds of scans, some with excellent results others not so good. I have found the exposure controls on my Epson 1650 to be very good, kind of like having camera raw in your scanner.

Here are a few of my images (also on cover). I will be demonstrating "scannography" on April 21st



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Dispensing With Labels

by Arthur Ransome

Whenver I get into a discussion about my passion for photography I will almost always be asked what kind of photography I do. Despite the number of times I have been asked this I still haven't come up with a standard response.



Photos by Arthur Ransome

I have shot landscapes and nature, but I do not consider myself a nature photographer. I have shot urban scenes, but I do not consider myself an architecture or urban landscape photographer. I have shot people and street scenes, but I do not consider myself a journalist, documentary, street or portrait photographer. I actually find such "labels" constraining in both an artistic and a creative sense.

But the more that I think about this, isn't being called a "photographer" simply another label. How about "artist"? Another label. The fact is that we have each been labeled from the moment we were born and have continued to be labeled throughout our lives. Labels are used to identify, group or categorize us and more often than not we do not identify ourselves precisely with the label we are given. Therefore, although others may feel a need to put us into context by categorizing us, should we create labels for ourselves? This, I think is the reason why I struggle to come up with a response to the question of what sort of photography I do. I don't want to label myself, let alone give someone another opportunity to label me. I feel that if I called myself a nature, architectural, urban landscape, portrait etc. etc. photographer I may start to believe that this is what I have to do, when the reality is that I don't identify myself with any such labels.



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Dispensing With Labels (cont)

The images that accompany this article are part of a body of work that I have been putting together during the past few years from around my hometown in the Northeast of England.



Photos by Arthur Ransome

www.aransomephoto.com

<http://aransomephoto.com/blog>





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Dispensing With Labels (cont)



Photo by Arthur Ransome



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Kudos

Maria Drumm was the focus of an article in the *Journal* of the Photographic Society of America (PSA). She was named one of the Up-And-Coming-Leaders of the organization for making significant contributions during her tenure.

Several Members won awards in *Color* Magazine's 2011 Single Image Contest:

Jon Meyer	"Dragonfly"	Animals Category	Merit Award
Steve Dembo	"Voyeur"	Architecture/Interiors Category	Merit Award
	"Terror Outrage"	Cityscape/Street Category	Merit Award

The May Special Issue of *Color* should be in stores around the beginning of March.

Congratulations!!!



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Parting Shot



Winter does not last forever