

# Focal Point

## Baltimore Camera Club

Baltimore Camera Club is the oldest photographic society in the USA (incorporated 1884)



### Recreating Vision and Emotion With Photography

By Arthur Ransome

One of our goals in photography is to create images that tell a story. Much like how the author of a novel needs to capture his or her reader with the first few sentences, the photographer needs to capture and retain the attention of a viewer.

Taking the book analogy one step further, the novels we enjoy are typically those that draw us into the imaginary world created by the author. We develop emotional relationships to the characters, places and events because they remind us of people we know, fears we have, places we have visited, and our own personal experiences in life. Photographic images must do the same, but without the words. Our challenge is therefore to create images that not only represent what we saw but also depict our feelings and our imagination in a way that the viewer can relate to.

Every once in a while we see something that captures our attention and stirs up our emotions. When this happens we should pause for a moment and think about what it was that actually stopped us in our tracks. At some point we will raise the camera viewfinder to our eye to capture the scene in front of us, but since photography is a visual art there is a tendency to focus on the visual elements when creating the final image. We are all taught techniques that help us recreate what we saw but it is extremely difficult to teach someone how to tap into their inner thoughts, feelings, experiences and imagination to recreate what they felt. While visual elements tell us something of the subject, emotional elements add depth and meaning to the subject. Much like the characters in a book are given names to identify them as subjects, their personalities are also described to give us an insight into their lives and to relate to them in some way.



Arthur Ransome



Lonaconing Silk Mill Old Shoes © Arthur Ransome

By way of example, a portrait of a person tells us as much about the photographer as it does the person being photographed. In my photography, although I rarely include people in my images I still try to capture something that would suggest the presence of man. This is an important element in my images of abandoned places – I try to recreate my curiosity at what life must have been like by combining my imagination with artifacts left behind by people who may have lived or worked at the locations. In short, it is my fascination with the lives of others that draws me to this subject matter and it is my imagination of what life must have been like that I try to bring through in the images I create.

#### Inside this issue:

Recreating Vision and Emotion With Photography (Ransome)	1
Editor's Corner	2
In Their Words: Arthur Ransome Words of Wisdom	
Latest Competition Results	3
Come Travel With Me (Saba)	4-5
Year-End Competition Results	6-8
Collector's Corner: <i>Leica Copies</i> (Risk)	9-10
Coming Attractions Opportunities	11
Parting Shot	12

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### Editor's Corner

Thanks to Karen Dillon, Steven Oney, Arthur Ransome, Gordon Risk, Joan Saba, and Jim Voeglein for their contributions to this issue.



Diane Bovenkamp

This edition of *Focal Point* contains submissions from three BCC members, including *Recreating Vision and Emotion With Photography* by Arthur Ransome on page 1, *Come Travel With Me* by Joan Saba on pages 4 and 5, and *Leica Copies* by Gordon Risk on pages 9 and 10. Thanks to Arthur Ransome for answering the five *In Their Words* questions (plus a sixth bonus question *c/o Monty Python and the Holy Grail™*). There were contributions to the May and Year-End Competition Results section by Jim Voeglein and Karen Dillon on pages 3, 6, 7 and 8, and to *Words of Wisdom and Opportunities* by Steven Oney on pages 2 and 11.

I can't believe that it's summer already. Despite the heat, this is the perfect time to head outside for photo shoots at local county fairs, sports events, and popular (or not-so-popular) tourist attractions. In fact, don't forget that it's great to occasionally pretend you're a tourist in your own town to actually see the treasures of the Mid-Atlantic region for which many people travel across the world to visit. For ideas on where and when to head out, and miscellaneous information on regional events, check out the suggestions in the *Opportunities* section on page 11.

The next issue of *Focal Point* will come out at the end of August. So, you have *two whole months* to think of new ideas, articles, quotes, photos, photographic apps and websites, and announcements of opportunities. Please find me at the club or send your contributions to [d\\_bovenkamp@yahoo.com](mailto:d_bovenkamp@yahoo.com).

### Words of Wisdom

"Of course it's all luck." — Henri Cartier-Bresson

"You cannot depend on your eyes if your imagination is out of focus."  
— Mark Twain

"My idea of a good picture is one that's in focus and of a famous person."  
— Andy Warhol

"One should really use the camera as though tomorrow you'd be stricken blind. To live a visual life is an enormous undertaking, practically unattainable. I have only touched it, just touched it." — Dorothea Lange

"The best images are the ones that retain their strength and impact over the years, regardless of the number of times they are viewed." — Anne Geddes

(Care of Steven Oney's Weekly Updates)

### In Their Words: Arthur Ransome

#### What was your very first camera?

My first camera was a Praktica MTL5. It was an East German camera and was built like a brick. My uncle gave it to me and I had no idea what to do with it. I loaded it with film, put it on automatic and fired away.

#### What do you consider essential gear to take on a shoot, particularly if you need to travel light?

Essential gear for traveling light would be my 28 - 300mm lens. Glass is damned heavy to lug around.

#### What person, place, or thing inspired you to become a photographer?

A former work associate Jack Montgomery (<http://www.jackmontgomeryphotography.com>) inspired me to take up photography after he saw photographs I had taken while scuba diving in Puerto Rico.

#### Which 3 people, living or dead, would you like to have for dinner and conversation?

I would love to have the following people for dinner and conversation:

- Michael Kenna - the complex simplicity in his images has inspired me more than any other photographer
- My dad - although he died 21 years ago I think about him every day. His philosophies on life have guided me and there are lots of things I would like to discuss with him and show him. He was a master craftsman and I like to think I have inherited his vision and imagination.
- My first boss, Brian Stanley. He taught me the value of hard work. His philosophy was that people don't fail because they aren't good enough, but rather because they give in too soon.

#### What is one piece of advice you would like to offer to others on following their bliss in photography?

Don't give up your day job - photography is too much fun to have to rely on it for a serious living.

#### This Issue's Bonus Question:

#### What is the air-speed velocity of an unladen swallow?\*

Would that be an African or European Swallow????

\*© Monty Python and the Holy Grail™



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### Latest Competition Results

#### By The Projection and Image Upload Committee:

Sukumar  
Balachandran



Jim  
Eichelman



Jim  
Voeglein



Jeffrey  
Wolk



### May 2012

#### Open Print Competition:

##### **Novice Monochrome:**

- 1st—Welcome To the Naval Academy – Roger Miller
- 2nd—Woodwind Sailing – Hollyday Baynes
- 3rd—Waiting on the Train – Chuck Robinson
- 4th—Take a Little More Off On the Left – Roger Miller
- 5th—Two Mirrors – Steve Oney
- HM—Shoes from Workers Past - Chuck Robinson

##### **Novice Color:**

- 1st—Standing in Line – Errol Bennett
- 2nd—Surf Reflection – Steve Dembo
- 3rd—Do You See What I See – Errol Bennett
- 4th—Bleeding Heart Necklace – Srinivasa Raja
- 5th—La Machine – Roger Miller
- HM—Amaryllis – Kaye Flamm

##### **Unlimited Monochrome:**

- 1st—A Chance Glance – Rebecca Rothey
- 2nd—So That's Why It's Called the Mad Dog Inn – Rebecca Rothey
- 3rd—Chile Landscape – Kay Muldom-Ibrahim
- 4th—Faucet – Arthur Ransome
- 5th—Old Chair – Arthur Ransome
- HM—Gibraltar Rock – Don Vetter

##### **Unlimited Color:**

- 1st—Bank of Americana – Kay Muldom Ibrahim
- 2nd—Room to Create - Gary Faulkner
- 3rd—Believe – Charles Robinson
- 4th—East River Bridge – Lewis Katz
- 5th—Washed Up – Don Vetter
- HM—Onion Market – Joan Saba

#### Open Digital Competition:

##### **Novice Digital:**

- 1st—Havana Printmaker – David Paul
- 2nd—April Sunrise – Annette Conniff
- 3rd—End of the Day - James Eichelman
- 4th—Neverland - Robert Schleif
- 5th—Home Birth - Norm Ringel
- HM—Rest Stop - Steven Sattler

##### **Unlimited Digital:**

- 1st—Old Chair - Arthur Ransome
- 2nd—Fading - Jeffrey Wolk
- 3rd—Serene - Donald Vetter
- 4th—Streetcar Abstract - Alan Wilder
- 5th—Apple Butter - Arthur Ransome
- HM—Dancing Egrets - Alan Wilder

#### 2011-2012 BCC Leadership

##### **Officers:**

President: Steve Harman  
1st VP, Competitions: Rebecca Rothey  
2nd VP, Programs: Michael Navarre  
Secretary: Mel Holden  
Treasurer: Michael Boardman  
Members at Large: Buzz Charnock, Gary Faulkner, Karen Messick (Past President), Don Vetter

##### **Committee Members:**

Contest Committee: Rebecca Rothey, Karen Dillon, Diane Bovenkamp  
Projection and Image Upload: Sukumar Balachandran, Jim Eichelman, Jim Voeglein, Jeffrey Wolk  
Field Outing Committee: Lewis Katz  
House Committee: Gary Faulkner  
Goucher Workshop Committee: Steve Oney, Lewis Katz  
Member and Visitor Badges: Bob Hansen  
Nominating Committee: Gordon Risk  
Banquet Coordinator: John Davis  
Camera School: Jim Eichelman

##### **Focal Point Editor:**

Diane Bovenkamp

Header Photo Credits: Images of Jim Eichelman and Jim Voeglein are © 2012 Diane Bovenkamp; Images of Sukumar Balachandran and Jeffrey Wolk were self-submitted.

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## Come Travel With Me

By Joan Saba



Joan Saba

Travel photography and the adventure of faraway places has always been an attraction to me. The camera has opened the door for communication with people all over the world. Each place I have visited has been different and I have been so enriched by these experiences. Capturing the character of the place will always involve people and has left me with wonderful memories.

Before I leave home I spend considerable time researching with books, websites or talking to people familiar with my destination. I make a list of what my expectations are and a checklist of what essentials are needed for that particular destination. This list will also include everything from camera equipment, clothes, medicine, information about the destination, and other things which will vary according to the destination.

Travel light !!! In my case, I use a backpack for my camera equipment. I carry two cameras, one with a 17-55mm f/2.8 lens and the other with a 70-200mm f/4 telephoto lens. If the focus of my trip is primarily wildlife, I would include a 100-400mm f/4 lens. I also travel with a light-weight tripod and accessories such as lens cleaner, extra batteries and charger, a polarizer and more memory cards than I think I may need. The dustier a place, such as India, the more important it is to remember to pack a soft cloth and jumbo blower for your lens. I back up all of my images with either a light-weight laptop or an Epson downloader. This equipment can get heavy at times especially at the end of a long day but I prefer to keep it with me at all times. Wear clothes that are easy to wash, good walking shoes and a hat for the sun.

To capture the character of a place, markets and villages provide wonderful opportunities to observe and learn the local culture with people working and going about their daily life. Always keep in mind when visiting these sites, the importance of respecting the local traditions and being especially mindful of taking pictures of individuals without permission. A genuine smile almost always opens "doors" and puts people at ease. So many times I have been welcomed into homes and met several generations of a family. Also, children are usually everywhere and love to have their picture taken.

Look for color in beautiful traditional clothing and crafts, various spices and foods, and livestock. Observe the light playing on architectural details and the picturesque landscape. As I stood on a dusty corner in India I was fortunate to catch the beauty within an everyday scene as the light filtered through the bright yellow sari of a woman passing by. Sometimes the color is more subtle, such as a decaying wall or ancient architecture, and can be equally beautiful in itself or as an interesting background. Color is everywhere even if it's only in a tiny detail like a leaf of green or moss on ancient ruins that exist in many countries.



Yellow Sari  
© Joan Saba

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## Come Travel With Me (...continued)

By Joan Saba

Many of my photo trips coincide with special events and festivals. In Bhutan I hiked to the pilgrimage sight called the Tigers Nest (yes, backpack and all!) and also witnessed the many spectacular festivals. To understand this country you need a basic appreciation of Buddhism. My time spent in various monasteries in Bhutan was very special and I am particularly happy with the adjacent photo of a young monk and myself to remember this visit. Both India and Nepal presented great photo opportunities. The Hindu ceremonies along the Ganges river in the holy city of Varanasi is another wonderful site. The worship, weddings and the cremation at times can be overwhelming, but I still returned for a second time for this incredible experience.

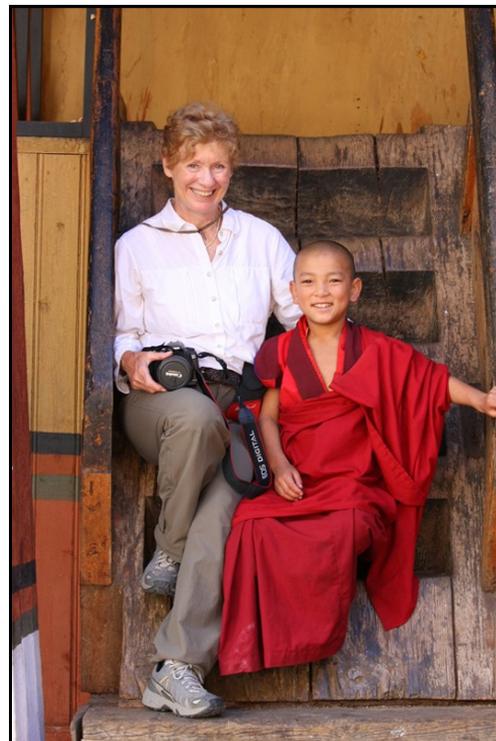
When possible, visit popular places before or after the typical tourist times. It is usually easy to shoot these popular sites but try to find a way to capture these places and images with a slightly different perspective. The Taj Mahal was stunning at sunrise but as early evening approached I found a view



Taj Mahal  
© Joan Saba

from the back of the Taj that made it both special and unique. The picture was complete when I had a friendly encounter with a young boy and his camel who was eager to pose!! And, as I was ready to leave, a young girl wrapped in vivid blue suddenly appeared and stood by the Taj image reflected in the water. That picture won a medal for travel in this year's PSA International Contest with a perfect score. Sometimes the difference between a good and a great shot is simply being patient and "hanging" out at the site.

Some of my favorite images were taken by standing on a corner full of activity with various modes of transportation, people and animals going in every different direction. This can be very chaotic but some of my best and most interesting images were captured in this type of setting. It is also a great time to practice panning shots to show motion. One of my photos captured a family of six riding on one motorbike! Another photo added humor with a woman walking down a narrow street flanked by two cows. You have to anticipate these moments and be ready for the unexpected. This is street photography at its best and presents an array of candid photos. Be prepared for that special moment and you will come home knowing that you gave it your best shot!



Bhutan  
© Joan Saba

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### Baltimore Camera Club 2011-2012 Year-End Competition Results

Special	Awards	Award Description	Image Title	Image Thumbnail	Maker
Wayne Ballard Award	Best Monochrome Image	Select From both Novice and Unlimited Monochrome Prints  (One Image Only)	Comfy In Their Skins		Rebecca Rothey
Graham Cromwell Award	Best Color Print	Select From Both Novice and Unlimited Color Prints  (One Image Only)	Scarves of Morocco		Joan Saba
Dick Smith Award Best Digital Image of the Year	Best Digital Image of the Year	Select from Digital Images	Old Shoes		Arthur Ransome
Best Image of the Year	Select From All Categories, Color, or Monochrome  (One Image Only)	Prints and Digital	Comfy In Their Skins		Rebecca Rothey
Bafford Button	Most Significant Contributor to the Club Activities for the Year	Consider all members for their contributions to events, programs, advancements etc.	(Awarded three buttons this year)	<u>Special Button:</u>  Tom Beck, Chief Curator, Special Collections, Albin O. Kuhn Gallery, UMBC	<u>Member Recipients:</u>  Rebecca Rothey  Jeffrey Wolk

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### Baltimore Camera Club 2011-2012 Year-End Competition Results (...cont'd)



1st Place - On the Ganges  
© Joan Saba

#### Novice Color Print



2nd Place - Do You See What I See? © Errol Bennett



3rd Place - Berber Nomad  
© Joan Saba

#### Novice Monochrome Print



1st Place - Smokin'  
© Chuck Robinson



2nd Place - The Workman's Cart © Chuck Robinson



3rd Place - End of the Fast © Errol Bennett

#### Novice Digital Image



1st Place - Snow Dune © Annette Conniff



2nd Place - Left in the Dust © Joan Saba



3rd Place - The Oranges of Positano  
© Steven Sattler

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### Baltimore Camera Club 2011-2012 Year-End Competition Results (...cont'd)

#### Unlimited Color Print



1st Place - X Marks the Spot © Lewis Katz



2nd Place - Scarves of Morocco © Joan Saba



3rd Place - Spawning © Don Vetter

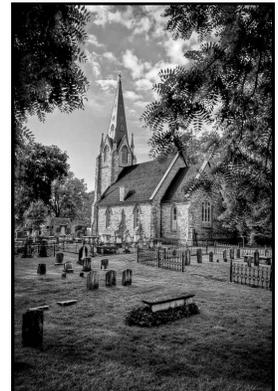
#### Unlimited Monochrome Print



1st Place - Comfy in Their Skins © Rebecca Rothey



2nd Place - Muddy Creek forks Roller Mill © Jeffrey Wolk



3rd Place - St. John's Church © Jeffrey Wolk

#### Unlimited Digital Image



1st Place - Old Shoes © Arthur Ransome



2nd Place - Riding Out the Blues © Sukumar Balachandran



3rd Place - Apple Butter © Arthur Ransome

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### Collector's Corner Leica Copies By Gordon Risk

#### LEICA COPIES

DUCATI

HENSOO ISO  
REPORTER

RECTAFLEX

PERIFLEX

REID

ILFORD WITNESS

CHIYOCA

NITTO ELEGA

HONOR

LEOTAX

MELCON

MINOLTA 35

CANON

NICCA

TOWER

TANACK

YASHICA

KORDON

SHANGHAI

ROBOT

VOOMP

FED

ZORKI

PAX 35



Gordon Risk  
© 2012 Diane Bovenkamp

The Leica camera was first produced in Germany in 1925 and soon various companies from around the world were copying the design. Japan, Russia, England, Italy, USA, China, France and even other German companies cop-

ied the same small compact design that made it so popular in the amateur and professional market. (Image 1)



Image 2  
© 2012 Gordon Risk

Leica produced the "screw mount" body until the mid fifties before changing to a bayonet lens mount of the "M" series. (Image 2)



Image 1  
© 2012 Gordon Risk

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### Collector's Corner (...continued)

Leica Copies By Gordon Risk

#### LEICA COPIES

DUCATI  
HENSOO ISO REPORTER  
RECTAFLEX  
PERIFLEX  
REID  
ILFORD WITNESS  
CHIYOCA  
NITTO ELEGA  
HONOR  
LEOTAX  
MELCON  
MINOLTA 35  
CANON  
NICCA  
TOWER  
TANACK  
YASHICA  
KORDON  
SHANGHAI  
ROBOT  
VOOMP  
FED  
ZORKI  
PAX 35

My own screw mount Leica, model III F, is from the mid 50s as are the Japanese Canon and the Russian FED. You can see the similarities in the Canon and FED to the Leica, with double or triple



Image 3  
© 2012 Gordon Risk



Image 4  
© 2012 Gordon Risk

Cosina and first produced in 2000. The Voigtlanders are very good cameras and a cheaper alternative to Leica. You can find more on these cameras at [www.cameraquest.com](http://www.cameraquest.com).

windows up front for the rangefinder-viewfinder combination. The FED has the collapsible lens, also copied from Leica. (Images 3 and 4)

The black Voigtlander Bessa is made in Japan by



Image 5  
© 2012 Gordon Risk

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## Coming Attractions

### July and August 2012

2011-2012	Event	Info
Thursday July 12	Program	Member Arthur Ransome will host a nite of "Body of Work " presenters from the club.
Thursday July 26	Program	Innovative photographer, Cody Goddard, will share his photography and discuss techniques used to achieve his unique images. <a href="http://www.codexphoto.com">www.codexphoto.com</a>
Thursday August 9	Program	Lewis Katz will conduct a presentation of slides. Other members who have slides are invited to participate as well. Please contact Lewis to coordinate.
Thursday August 23	SWAP NITE	Do you have photo equipment, software, or accessories that you'd like to sell or trade to fellow BCC members? Are you looking for a good deal on used equipment, software, or accessories? Join us for the club's swap night. There is plenty of time to start taking inventory, cleaning and prepping those items that are sitting around collecting dust. Let the summer cleaning begin!
End of the 2011 -2012 Season		

## Opportunities

### **Exhibition: National Gallery of Art - Street Photos - April 22–August 5, 2012** (by Steven Oney)

Read about this in this morning's Sunday NY times, which makes a lot of sense since the exhibition is in DC

:-) <http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/ispinfo.shtm> Let me know if you are interested, if we have enough interest we will try and arrange a guided tour.

### **Places To Take Photographs (From Members, Posted In Steven Oney's Weekly Updates):**

1. 4th of July Fireworks - <http://findlocal.baltimoresun.com/search/category.event?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=july+fourth&sort=rating>

2. 1st Thursday concert - <http://wtmd.org/radio/first-thursday-concerts-in-the-park/>

3. Polo - [http://marylandpolo.com/?page\\_id=22](http://marylandpolo.com/?page_id=22)

4. The BMA - <http://www.artbma.org/> - *it is cool inside*

5. These 2 are close to each other:

- Murals in the Art District - <http://openwallsbaltimore.com/About-Open-Walls-Baltimore>
- Graffiti Alley - <http://www.loadoffun.net/LoadofFun/GraffitiPhotos.html>

6. Since it going to be hot and you might want to stay inside where it is cool, try still life & top top photography

<http://121clicks.com/tutorials/still-life-photography-tips-ideas-and-tutorials>

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## Parting Shot



Baltimore Camera Club 2011-2012 Best Image of The Year: Comfy in Their Skins © Rebecca Rothey



The Baltimore Camera Club is a member club of the Photographic Society of America ([www.psa-photo.org/](http://www.psa-photo.org/))