

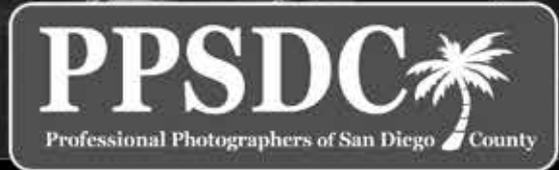
May 2020

# FOCUS

a magazine by the Professional Photographers of San Diego County



*Roses Aging Gracefully*  
by Lisa Miller



[www.ppsdc.com](http://www.ppsdc.com)

# Code of Ethics

- 1 Observe the highest standard of honesty in all my transactions, avoiding the use of false, confusing, inaccurate and misleading terms, descriptions and claims.
- 2 At all times endeavor to produce photographs of a quality equal or superior to the samples I display; to apply my best efforts towards providing the best possible photographic services and to play my part in raising the general standard of photographic craftsmanship.
- 3 Show a friendly spirit of cooperation to my fellow professional photographers and assist them whenever possible should they be in trouble or difficulty.
- 4 At all times avoid the use of unfair competitive practices and hereby subscribe to the Federal Trade Commission Rules of Fair Competitive Practices for the professional photographic industry.
- 5 Assist my fellow professional photographers and share my knowledge with them and encourage them individually and collectively to achieve and maintain the highest standards of quality.
- 6 Recognize the authority of the Association in all matters relating to the interpretation of this code.

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Monthly Meeting:  
 Courtyard Marriott  
 8651 Spectrum Center Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92123  
 6:30 PM - 2nd Tuesday <http://www.ppsdc.com>  
 Check our site to confirm.

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## President's Message

We hope this finds you and your family safe and healthy. We are in unimaginable and unprecedented times. The Covid-19 Pandemic has made our lives challenging, uncertain, and sometimes downright scary. We have been in quarantine for two months, the photography business world has been put on hold, and we're having to find new ways to create and connect. Zoom meetings with clients, family, and friends, and online classes and workshops have become the norm. How are you handling this "new normal"? What are you doing with this "pause"?

Let's hope that this time, which may seem like an eternity, has given you a chance to live life a little more simply; that you've taken pause to be grateful, given yourself some grace, and know that this too shall pass.

I know that we are all anxious for life to get back to normal. We are starting to see more things open up, and we may have a little reprieve in the upcoming months. With that, PPSDC will be here for you, as always. We may be virtual for a bit, but we will continue to bring you the best education and support this industry has to offer. Let us know how we can best serve you.

And remember, be kind. We are all #inthistogether,



Happy Creating!  
 Janet Bark, CPP  
 President PPSDC 2019/20





**Roses Aging Gracefully**

*By Lisa Miller*

We join photography clubs and organizations to stay challenged, to learn new techniques, to make new friends, and to push ourselves creatively. Sometimes that pushing is uncomfortable, at least at first, but when we step outside our comfort zones, we often achieve things we'd never have considered if left to work on our own. This is what happened to me when I participated in a quarterly

challenge last Fall to explore Still Life Photography. "What do I know about still life?" I thought to myself. I was less than enthusiastic. I started arranging objects I found around my house, though, and ended up being pleasantly surprised with the results.

It turns out I love creating still life images. There is something very calming about arranging and rearranging the objects, and exploring new creative expression is very rewarding.

*Continued on page 22*



**BEST-IN-CHILDREN**

*Poised Beyond Her Years*

*- Therese\_Ruffner*



**BEST-IN-COMMERCIAL**

*Saturday Night at the Santa Monica Pier*

*- Lisa Miller*

**BEST-IN-CATEGORY**



**BEST-IN-DIGITAL-IMAGING**  
*When Beauty Meets Art*  
 - Michelle Pennings



**BEST-IN-PETS**  
*The Vacuum Makes Me Vicious*  
 - Michelle Pennings



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 opt = alt    cmd = ctrl

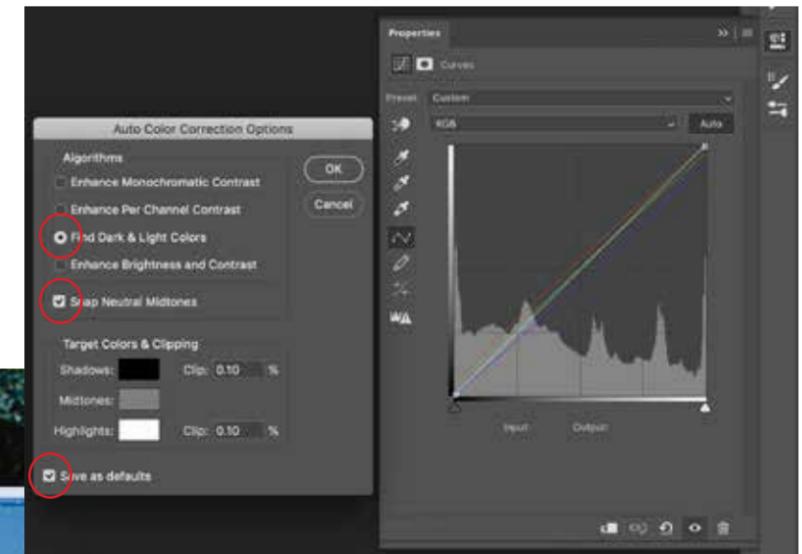
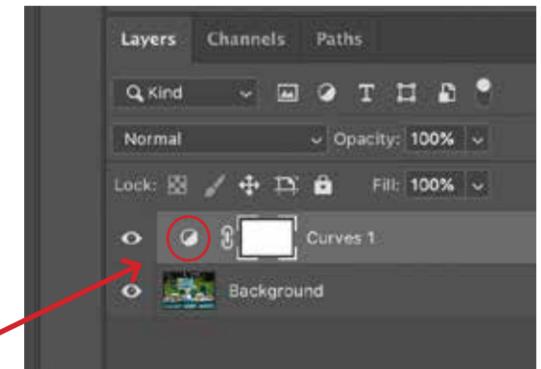
**Auto Curve Done Right**

By Ken Hofheinz

Have you ever pulled up a Curve adjustment and hit the Auto button and been underwhelmed. Well this is how to do it better.

Put a Curves adjustment layer as your top layer. Make sure the Curves icon is highlighted, not the Mask. (Here the Mask is highlighted) Now in the Properties window hold down Opt/Alt and press Auto. This little dialog box will appear. Tick-off the *Find Dark and Light Colors* and check box for *Snap Neutral Midtones*. Then check box at the bottom *Save as defaults*.

Now when you do a Curves adjustment and hit Auto it will give you the best possible "automatic" results. •



After



Before - bit of a blue tint.





**BEST-IN-NATURE**  
*Great Egret*  
- Jean Eichenlaub

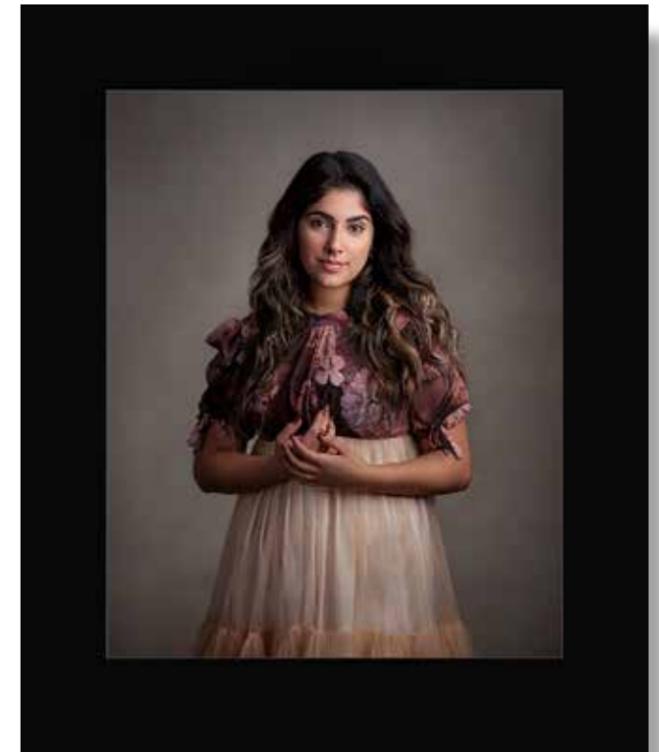


**BEST-IN-PORTRAITS**  
*You are My Life*  
- Antoine Didienne

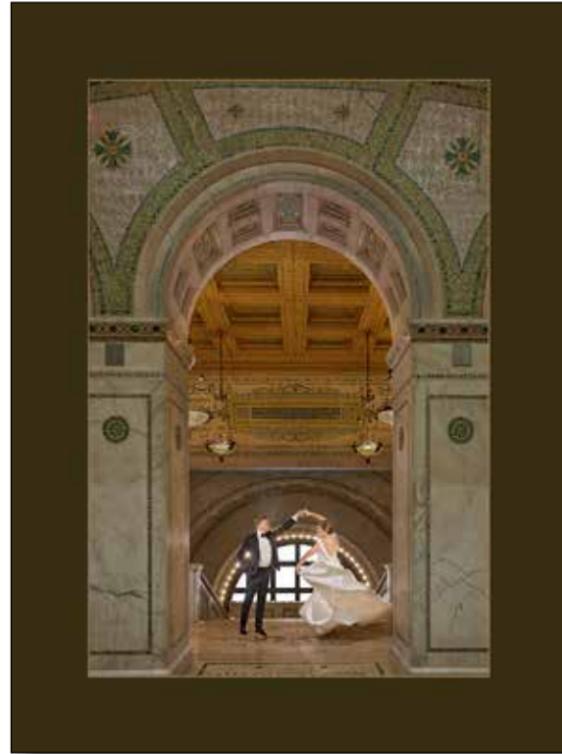
**BEST-IN-PHOTOJOURNALISM**  
*All the Colors of the Rainbow*  
- Lois Fong-Sakai



**BEST-IN-SENIOR**  
*A Little Bit Vintage*  
- Janet Bark



**BEST-IN-CATEGORY**



**BEST-IN-WEDDING**  
*Let's Dance Through Our Life*  
- Yaneck Wasiek

**MERIT AWARDS**



— 911 What's Your Emergency  
- Therese Ruffner

**CHILDREN**

*Me and My Teddy* —  
- Therese Ruffner



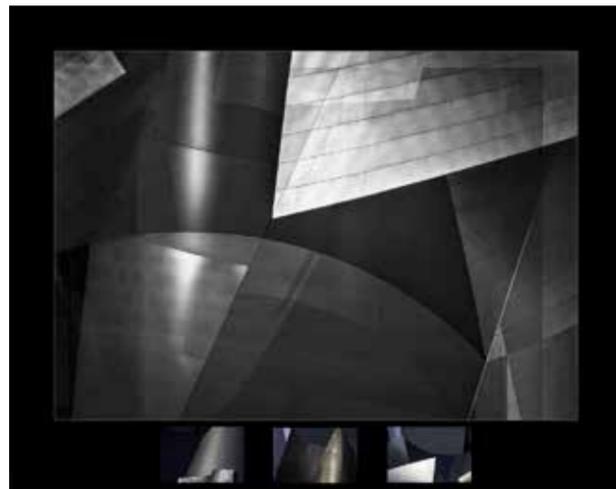
— Adorable From Head to Toes  
- Violet Bowlan



— I Dare You  
- Violet Bowlan

**MERIT AWARDS**

**DIGITAL IMAGING**



— Disney Concert Hall Abstract  
- Lisa Miller

**CHILDREN**



— She Is Such a Cutie  
- Michelle Pennings

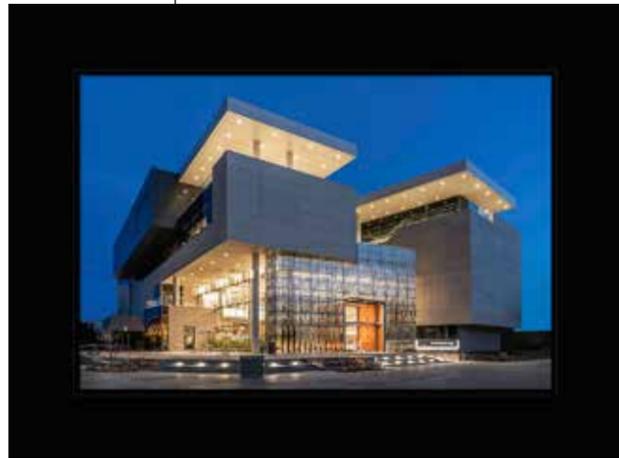


— All Settled In  
- Therese Ruffner

**MERIT AWARDS**

**COMMERCIAL**

*Cleveland Arcade* —  
- Melanie Plummer



— *Hospitality Hall*  
- Thuan Ton



*Milwaukee Museum Of Art* —  
- Melanie Plummer



— *XTerra Wetsuits*  
- Antoine Didienne

*White Tutu Ballet* —  
- Patricia Martinez



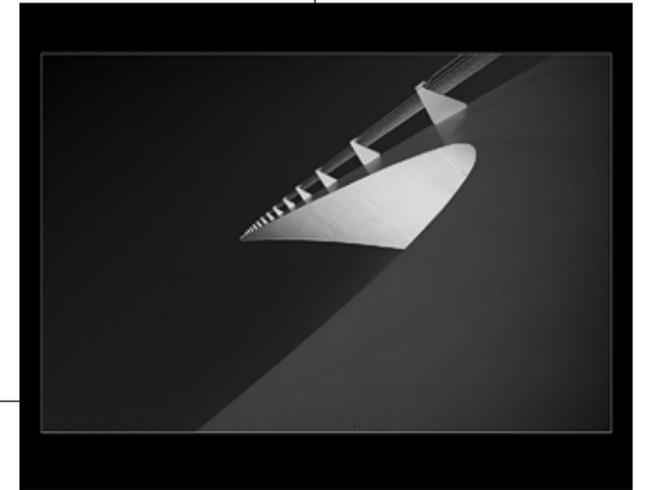
**MERIT AWARDS**

— *Hawaiian Modernism*  
- Oliver Asis



*Sundail Bridge* —  
- Oliver Asis

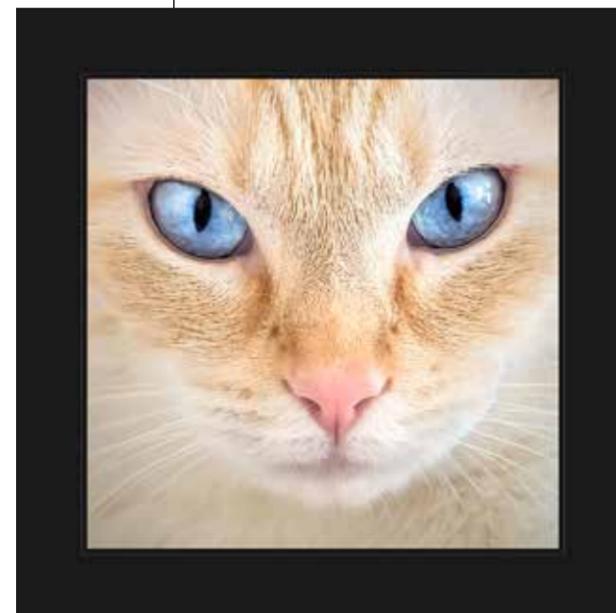
**COMMERCIAL**



**PETS**



*Poppy Peeping* —  
- Kathy Davis



— *Winters Gaze*  
- Thuan Ton

**MERIT AWARDS**

**ILLUSTRATIVE**



– *Lord of the Flies*  
– Michelle Pennings



– *In the Key of Love*  
– Daniel Clouser



– *Mean Machine*  
– Willie Sakai

**MERIT AWARDS**

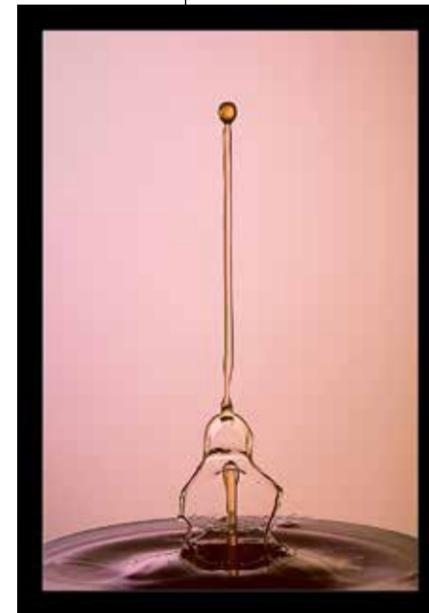


– *On-Pointe*  
– Patricia Martinez

– *I Am The Egg Man*  
– Willie Sakai



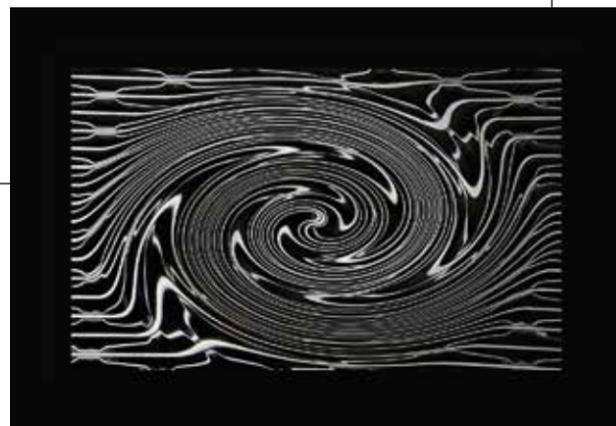
– *Citrus Sunrise*  
– Melanie Plummer



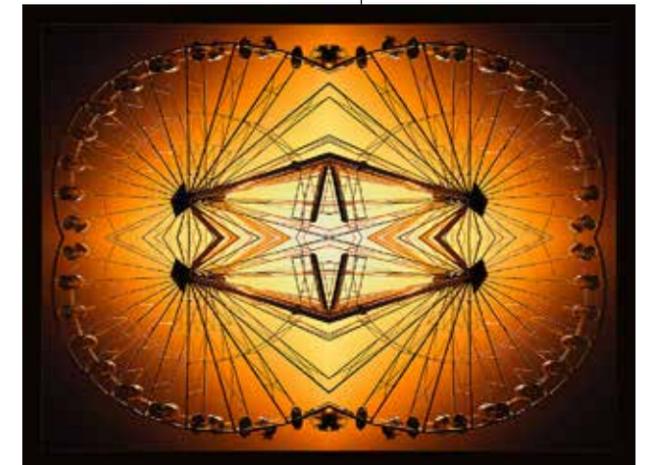
– *Straight as Can Be*  
– Jean Eichenlaub



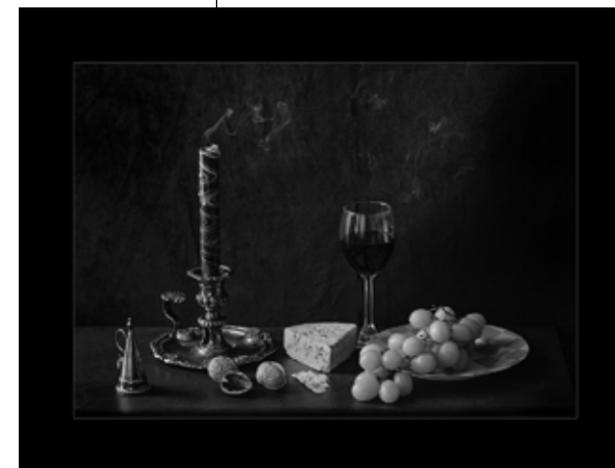
– *A Grate Experience*  
– Kip Cothran



– *Thingamajig*  
– Willie Sakai



**ILLUSTRATIVE**



– *Party's Over*  
– Lisa Miller

**MERIT AWARDS**

*Aspen Sunrise* –  
- Stephen-Hough

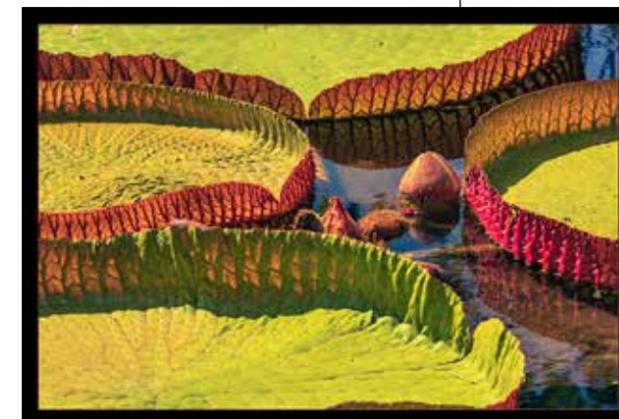


**NATURE/LANDSCAPE**



– *American Pride*  
- Kip Cothran

**MERIT AWARDS**



*Hot Pads* –  
- Daniel Clouser



– *30 Seconds of Peace*  
- Kip Cothran

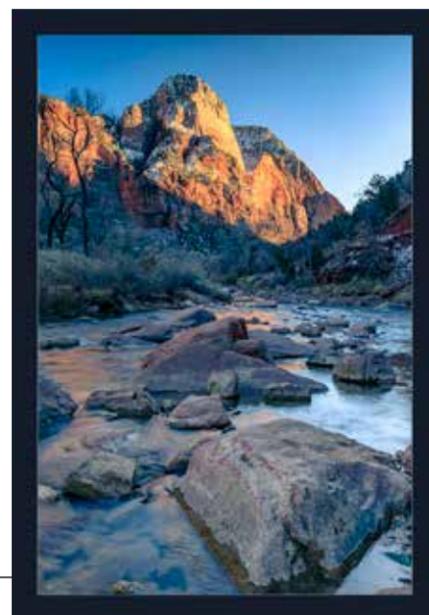


– *But It's a Dry Heat*  
- Daniel Clouser



– *Lazy Day*  
- Paul Berlinguette

*Virgin Sacrifice to the Mountain of the Sun* –  
- Daniel Clouser



*Final Approach* –  
- Jean Eichenlaub



– *Blue Ice*  
- Jim Tomcik



– *Gradient of The Grains*  
- Kip Cothran

**MERIT AWARDS**

**PHOTOJOURNALISM**

*Last Train to Lisbon –  
- Cathy Hasson*



*– Freedom of Speech –  
- Lois Fong-Sakai*



*Screen Time Bonding –  
- Antoine Didiene*



*Trumping the American Dream –  
- Lois Fong-Sakai*



*Billy Gibbons Happy Blues Man –  
- Lois Fong-Sakai*



**MERIT AWARDS**

*– I'll be in the Photobooth if You Need Me –  
- Antoine Didiene*



*When Pigs Fly –  
- Lois Fong-Sakai*



**PHOTOJOURNALISM**

**SENIOR**



*– Black and White Beauty –  
- Janet Bark*



*– Dylan –  
- Thuan Ton*

**MERIT AWARDS**

**PORTRAIT**



*Being Priscila –  
- Melanie Robertson*



*– Charles  
- Melanie Robertson*



*The Poet –  
- Alejandro Meter*



*– Figment of My Imagination  
- Jennie Edwards*



*Motherhood –  
- Monique Hoppe*

**MERIT AWARDS**



*– Lightness  
- Monique Hoppe*

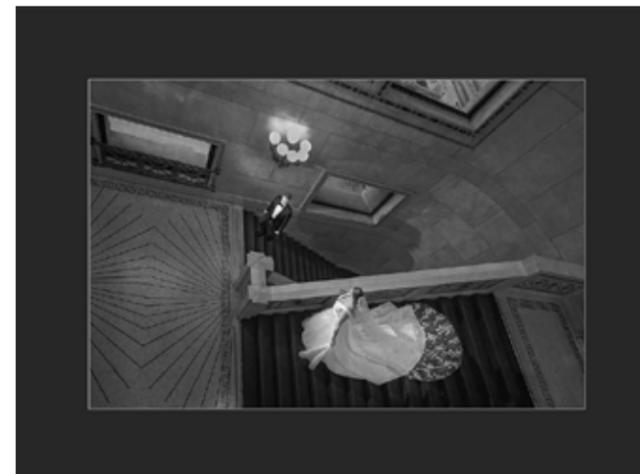


*Mother Love –  
- Monique Hoppe*

**PORTRAIT**



*Armando –  
- Monique Hoppe*



**WEDDING**

*– Soon Together  
- Yaneck Wasiek*

Continued from page 4

## Roses Aging Gracefully

By Lisa Miller

This image includes my mother's silver pitcher and roses from the local supermarket. These particular roses started to wilt within about an hour of being arranged. While not so good if I'd intended to decorate my home, I liked the imperfection and detail I could see in the curling petals. The image was taken in natural light with a Sony A7iii and 90mm f.2.8 macro lens at f/16, 1/125, and ISO 640. It was processed in Lightroom and Photoshop to convert to monochrome, adjust shadows and highlights, and add texture, clarity, and sharpening. I appreciate having this image selected as Best in Show, and moreover, I've enjoyed my new membership in PPSDC, meeting and learning from its members.



Mac to PC conversion  
opt = alt    cmd = ctrl

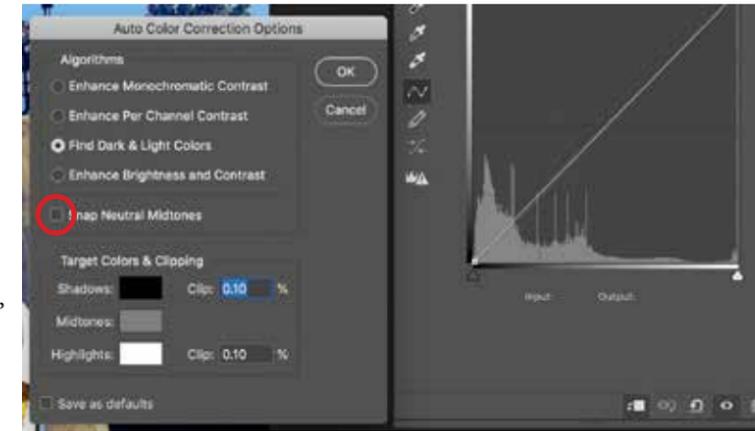
## Composite Color Matching

By Ken Hofheinz

**B**onus time. When doing composite images, if your composite images don't have the same color temperature, or the "color grading" doesn't match, that is a real tell that it is a composite and not originally shot together.

Using the option on Auto curves from page 7 we can match the shadow and highlight colors.

Create a Curves Adjustment layer making sure it is clipped to the layer you are trying to correct. Go through the same steps as page 7, but when you get to the Auto Color Correction dialog box, uncheck the Snap Neutral Midtones. Now click in the Shadows box and you will get an eyedropper tool. Click in a shadow area that you wish to match. You will see the results in real time. Pick a different spot if you don't like what you see. Now click the Highlight box and pick a highlight to match, making sure not to pick a pure white like the sun or a chrome highlight. Click the OK button, but do not save it as your default or you will have this color cast on all your future images. And you •



*Our Imperial Pilot is all cut out and ready to go. But he is a little bright and does not match his environment. His angle of light matches well but the color of light is wrong.*



*Now that's better. And his helmet doesn't look brand new. He seems a little confused - Pilot or Wookiee?*

### My Image Didn't Look Right in Comp

Your file MUST:

- Be in sRGB Color Space
- Be saved at 300dpi in .jpg format
- Sized so that the longest side is 4000 pixels
- Not exceed 4MB in size.
- Follow the naming conventions: category\_Title\_Makerfirstname\_Makerlastname.jpg.

Images submitted without following these guidelines may not appear at their best on the judges' monitor, and you may be asked to fix your title and resubmit if it does not follow the naming convention.

# I UNDERSTAND [SMALL BUSINESS] BECAUSE I AM ONE.



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