

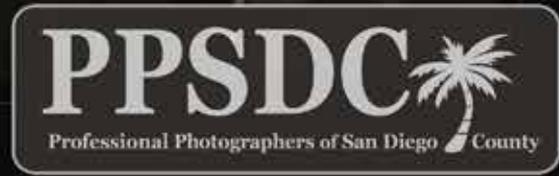
September 2020

# FOCUS

a magazine by the Professional Photographers of San Diego County



*Prayer*  
by Thuan Ton



[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:

<http://www.ppsdc.com>

Check our site for upcoming events.

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## President's Message

What a year this has been! Who would have ever thought we'd be in a world shut down, have to wear masks to work, and feel so unsure of what the future holds. Yeah, maybe somebody with an orbuculum knew something, but I sure didn't see this coming!

Therefore, here at PPSDC, we've tried to maintain a sense of normalcy by continuing our monthly meetings with wonderful speakers such as Gary Hughes, Irene Bowers, and Roberto Valenzuela to name a few. We've also figured out how to move our Image Competition online. (Thank you Yaneck!) Our May competition ran flawlessly, and being virtual gives us access to many more top judges across the country.

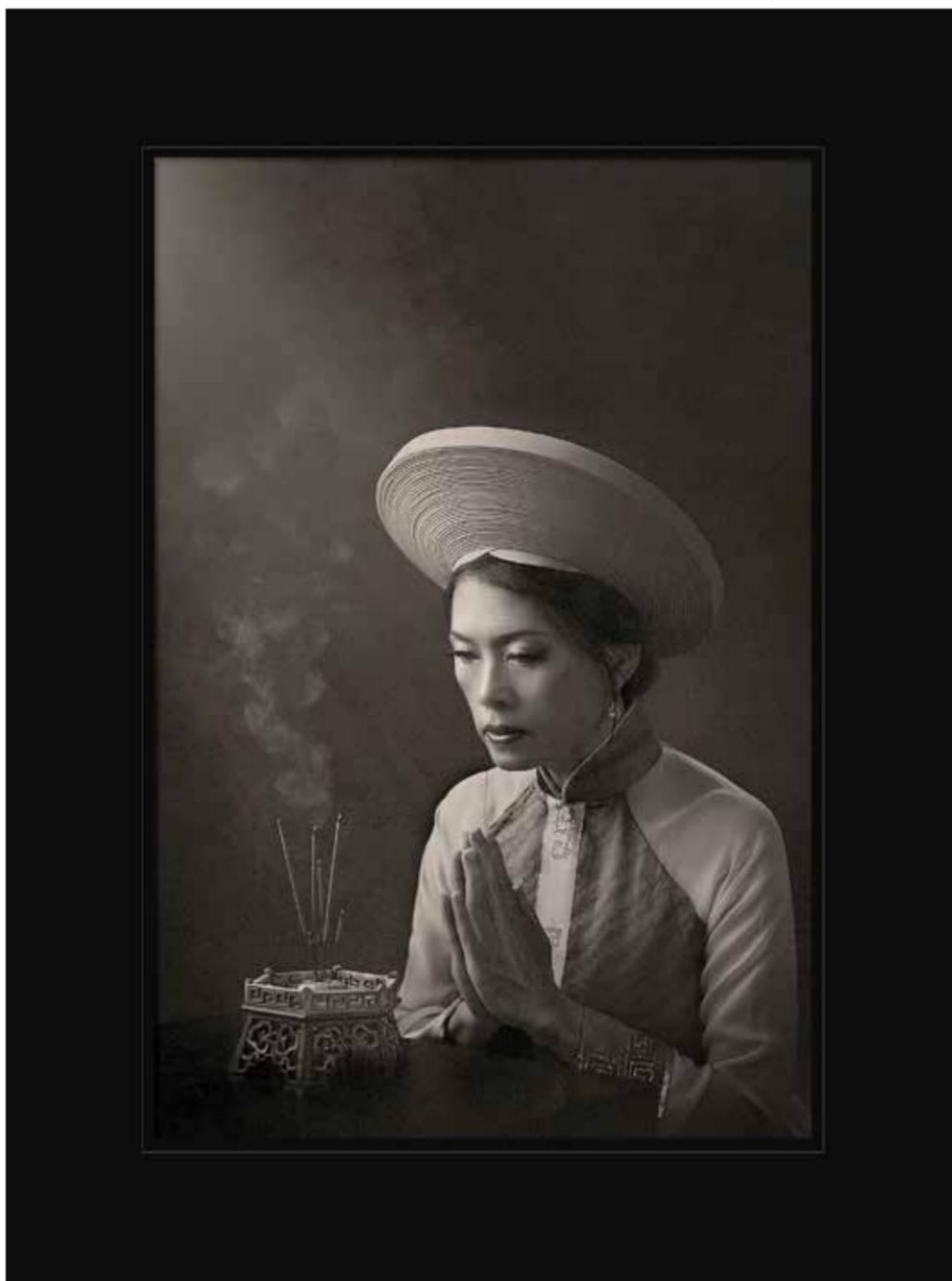
Yes, we want to meet in person again so we will be planning events when it is safe to do so. For now, let's continue to support each other and challenge each other to keep learning and growing in our craft. As always we are here to support you.

Thank you for sticking with us, and being part of this wonderful community of professional photographers. Together, we can stay strong and help each other along this journey. Happy Creating!

Janet Bark, CPP  
President PPSDC 2019/20

*orbuculum = crystal ball, someone has been using their thesaurus.*





Nikon D750  
50mm lens  
@ f4 1/250 ISO 80

**Prayer**

By Thuan Ton

For this image, I set out trying to capture the tradition of paying ancestral respect while showing the traditional Vietnamese dress. The overall shoot was more of a test of getting the lighting right more than anything else. I knew I wanted a dark and moody image, so after shooting different lighting layouts, this short-lit image best represented what I had envisioned. A gridded 60" octabox was placed as close to the subject as possible (about 2 ft...just out of frame) for softness as well as to achieve the maximum fall off I could

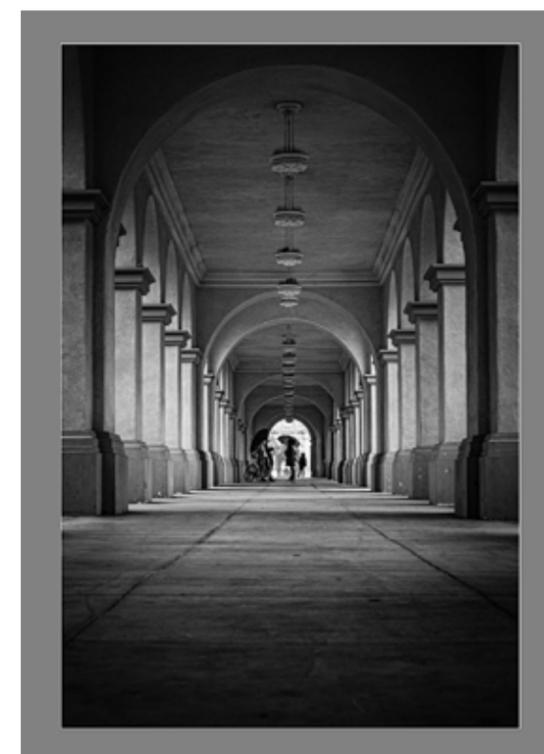
get without light spill. A second kicker light was used to give a hint of definition to the back side of the subject as well as to help separate her from the background. The most challenging part was controlling the light spill with such a large modifier in such a small space (10'x11').

In post, the image was converted to black & white with a slight desaturated sepia tone color grade. I also did a little dodge and burn, frequency separation, and added a slight grain.



**BEST-IN-CHILDREN**

Promise, I Didn't Eat The Cake  
- Violet Bowlan



**BEST-IN-COMMERCIAL**

Balboa Park Archway  
- Oliver Asis



**BEST-IN-DIGITAL-IMAGING**  
 COVID-19 Cancels Comic Con  
 - Willie Sakai

**BEST-IN-ILLUSTRATIVE**  
 Up  
 - Willie Sakai



Mac to PC conversion  
 opt = alt    cmd = ctrl

**Check Layers**

By Ken Hofheinz

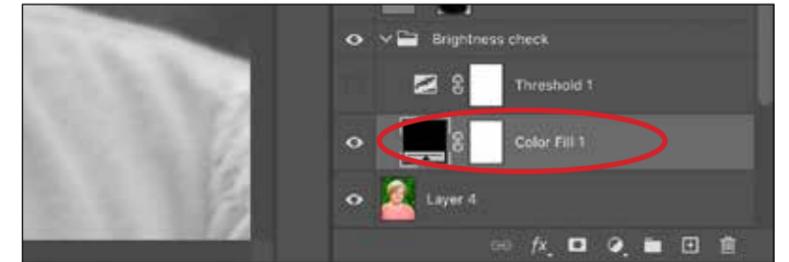
Just as the name sounds, these are layers that you use to analyze some aspect of your image and when you are done you delete the layers. The first one we are going to look at is a “*luminosity*” check layer. Color is often times a distraction, keeping you from seeing the areas of contrast, brightest and darkest areas of your image. This is important since the human eye is drawn to these areas of contrast.

We need to look at our image in black & white. The best way to do this is with a *Solid Color* adjustment layer, picking a neutral color. Anything on the far left side from white to black. Now set this layer’s blending mode to color. This is better than a *Black & White* layer or a *Hue/Saturation* layer set to zero saturation. This neutral *Solid Color* adjustment layer is how the human eye perceives the luminosity of color. The eye is drawn to the brightest areas. If these areas are still not evident add a *Threshold* adjustment layer and move the slider all the way to the right (255). Now gradually move the slider to the left. The first white spots to show are your highlights.

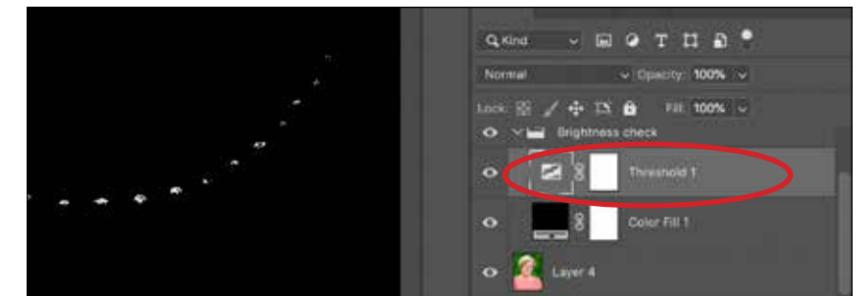
Here in our example her pearls and the top of her head are the brightest, and they are not the points where I want your eye to be attracted. So I burned both of those areas down some. Check previous *FOCUS* article January 2016 to see how to burn down the highlights.

Go to the back page to see the before and after.

*Continued on page 20*



*Solid Color adjustment, with H-0 and S-0, B at whatever. Layer blending mode set to color.*



*Threshold adjustment layer, normal blend mode.*



*This is the B&W view using the Solid Color adjustment. Also a good way to convert your image to a B&W image.*

**BEST-IN-CATEGORY**

**BEST-IN-NATURE**  
*Sunrise Between Storms*  
- Daniel Clouser



**BEST-IN-CATEGORY**

**BEST-IN-SENIOR**  
*Heart Broken*  
- Melanie Robertson



**BEST-IN-PETS**  
*King On His Throne*  
- Michelle Pennings



**BEST-IN-WEDDING**  
*Always The Best Time With Friends*  
- Yaneck Wasiek



**MERIT AWARDS**

**CHILDREN**

*When You Wish For a Miracle & Get Two —  
- Svetlana Aleynikova*



*— I Barely Touched Him  
- Violet Bowlan*

**COMMERCIAL**

*Pretty In Pink —  
- Thuan Ton*



**MERIT AWARDS**

**ILLUSTRATIVE**

*— Creation of Love  
- Kip Cothran*



*Submersed In a Dream —  
- Michelle Pennings*



*— Full Circle  
- Willie Sakai*



*— Family Outing  
- Lisa Miller*



**MERIT AWARDS**

**NATURE/LANDSCAPE**

*Endless Aggression* —  
- Kip Cothran



**PETS**

*Social Dog Distancing* —  
- Michelle Pennings

**SENIOR**

*A Little Bit Rustic* —  
- Janet Bark



*Ready For The Ball* —  
- Melanie Robertson



**MERIT AWARDS**

**PORTRAIT**

— *Antoine*  
- Antoine Didiene



*Forest Dweller* —  
- Michelle Pennings



— *Lady in Red*  
- Thuan Ton



*Oh, Yes I Am!* —  
- Cindie Wolf



**MERIT AWARDS**

**WEDDING**



- Am I Happy or What?  
- Yaneck Wasiek



Peacefully Together ↵  
- Yaneck Wasiek

**This Year's Winners  
- 2019-2020**

Wow what a year we have had. We have all made adjustments. Our PPSDC category winners have stepped up their game. Congratulations to everyone. Here is the list of this years winners and some of the images that they created to win their categories.

- Photographer of the Year** - Willie Sakai
- Image of the Year** - Willie Sakai  
"Ballerina In Old Havana"
- Children** - Therese Ruffner
- Commercial** - Oliver Asis
- Digital Imaging** - Willie Sakai
- Illustrative** - Willie Sakai
- Nature** - Kip Cothran
- Pet** - Michelle Pennings
- Photojournalism** - Lois Fong Sakai
- Portrait** - Monique Hoppe
- Senior** - Melanie Robertson
- Wedding** - Yaneck Wasiek
- Professional Development Award**  
- Thuan Ton

**Photographer of the Year - Willie Sakai**

*Image of the Year, Digital Imaging and Illustrative*



*Ballerina In Old Havana*

**UP DATED**

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

- Your file **MUST**:
- Be in sRGB or Adobe Color Space
  - Be saved at 300dpi in .jpg format
  - Sized so that the longest side is 4000 pixels
  - Not exceed 10MB in size.
  - Follow the naming conventions: category\_Title\_Makerfirstname\_Makerlastname.jpg.

Images submitted without 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.**



**Howard Burkholz**  
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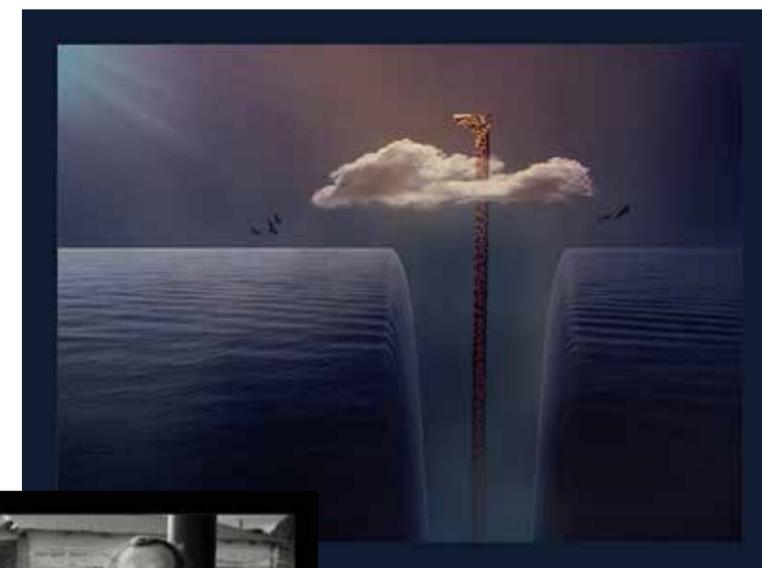
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*Enlightened*



*Reach for the Sky*



*Defiant to the End*

**Children Photographer of the Year - Therese Ruffner**



*I Am*

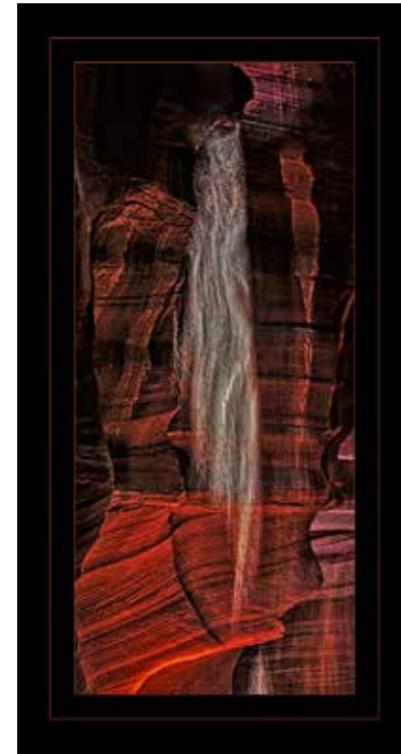


*Her Fine Features*



*I Was Supposed to Wait?*

**Nature/Landscape Photographer of the Year - Kip Cothran**



*Light Within the Darkness*



*Gradient of the Grains*

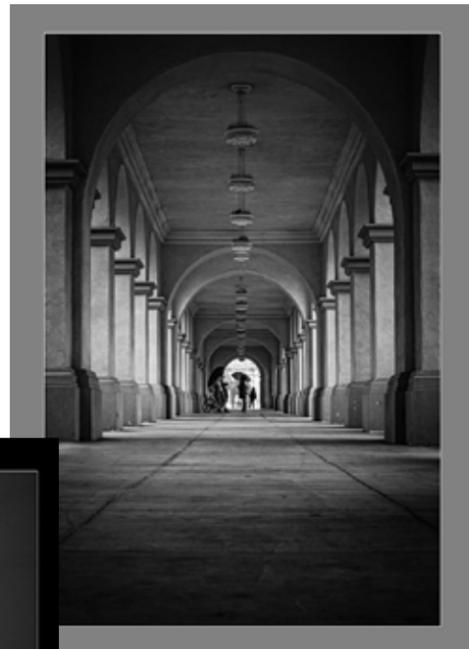


*Morning Walk*

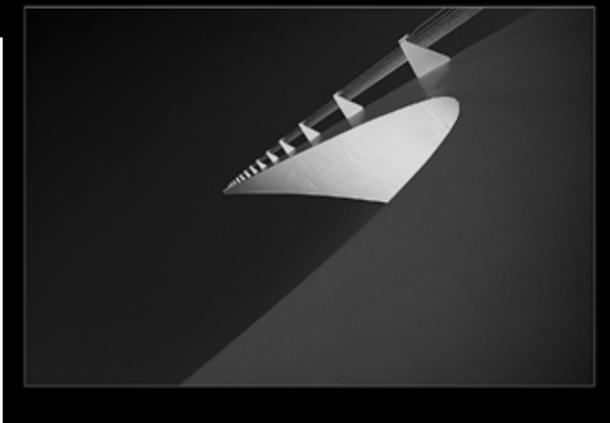
**Commercial Photographer of the Year - Oliver Asis**



*The Louisiana*



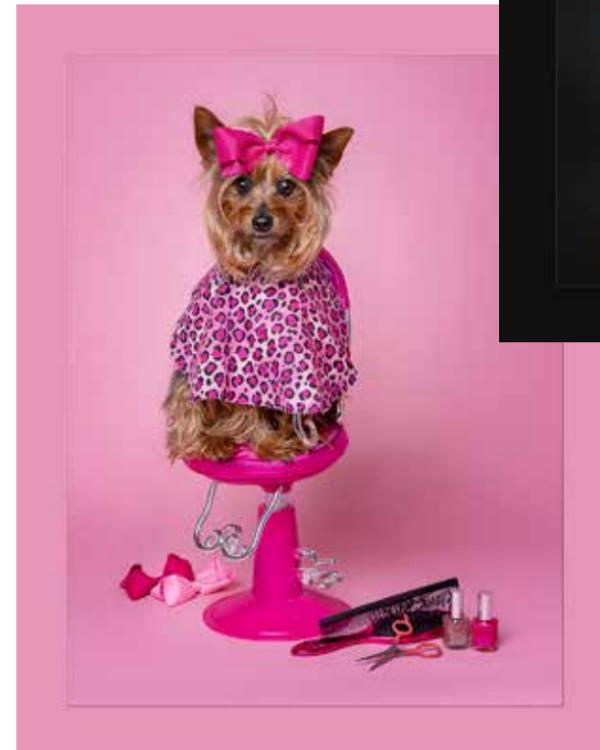
*Balboa Park Archway*



*Sundail Bridge*

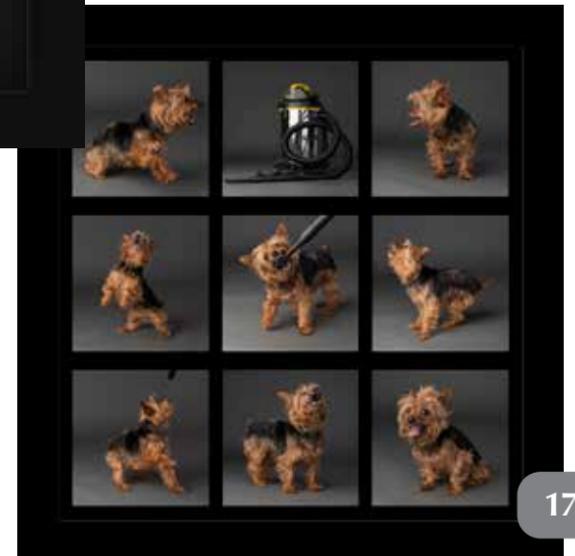
**Pet Photographer of the Year - Michelle Pennings**

*My Mom Did This to Me*



*The Mighty Brando*

*The Vacuum Makes Me Vicious*



Photojournalism Photographer of the Year - Lois Fong-Sakai



All the Colors of the Rainbow



Minimalist Halloween Costumes



Cuban Malboro Man

Portrait Photographer of the Year - Monique Hoppe



Citadel



Raven

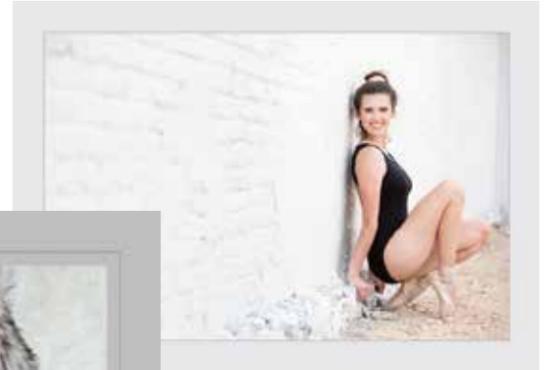


Great Gatsby

Senior Photographer of the Year - Melanie Robertson



Natural Glow

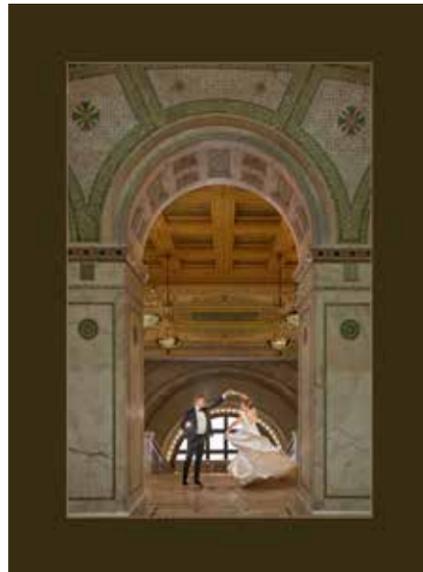


Ballet in the Rubble

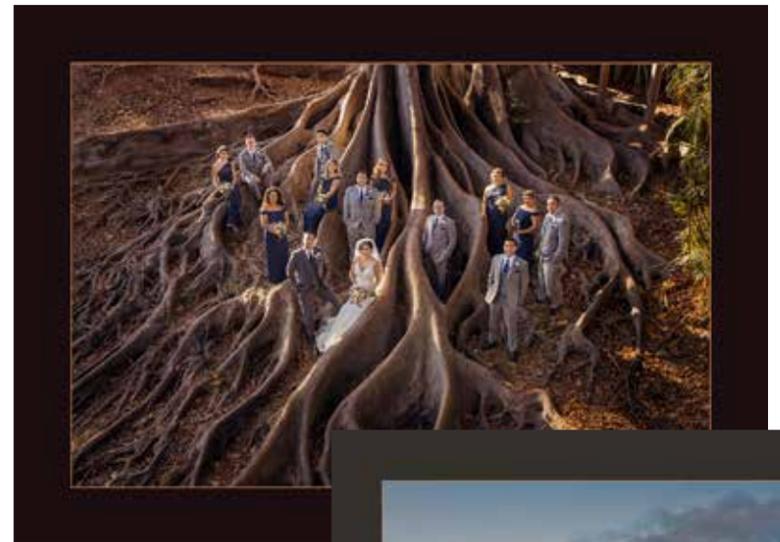


Arctic Eyes

Wedding Photographer of the Year - Yaneck Wasiek



Let's Dance Through Our Lives



Roots of Love



Sunset

## Professional Development Award - Thuan Ton



Atkinson Hall



Pretty in Pink



Winter Blues



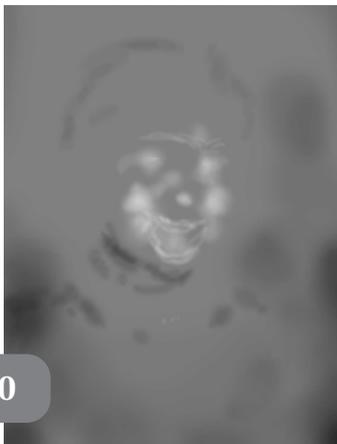
Continued from page 7

### Check Layers

By Ken Hofheinz

Here are the Before and the After. There are some serious saturation issues as well. The green foliage is very saturated. That will be the next issues article. Saturation Check Layers.

Just for a bonus here is the Dodge & Burn layer used, it was set to *Soft Light*. •



Before - Some basic clean up



After - With dodge and burn



Blue contacts, before anyone says anything to me.