



Make It Your Own, Push Yourself, Try Something New

By Ande Savage

This month, I would like to start with something Keith Carter said in an interview. Keith Carter is an American photographer known for his ghostly images of animals, still life, portraits, and figures in landscapes. He said, "Don't deconstruct it as you do it. You just know there's something significant going on and make the picture -- just make the picture. You've got the rest of your life to figure out what it means." You can find the interview at the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjuWESzRhWo&ab_channel=TheArtofPhotography.\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjuWESzRhWo&ab_channel=TheArtofPhotography.)

I am not a technical photographer, and most of you that know me already know that. I spent a lot of time and money learning how to improve, but could never quite get there. Something was missing. I would even submit my images for critique. It was rare that I got it right. But I continued to try and then I would work on an image. I was so proud of how well I processed this image that once again, I submitted my images and again, I was crushed. He did not like my color combination. I actually stopped creating for about two weeks. Then I said to myself, "my artwork will never be like his, and I have to realize that it's my vision, my art. It's something I create for me and if others like it, that's great, if not, oh well, too bad for them." Somehow in my quest for being like the pros, I forgot that my art was for me and why I create -- not for them but for *me*. In the last few months, I have once again embraced my art. I had forgotten that photography was a way of capturing what I see, that the camera is only a tool I use to help in my journey to create a vision. Make your photography your own by creating your own style and owning it! A list of tips follows.

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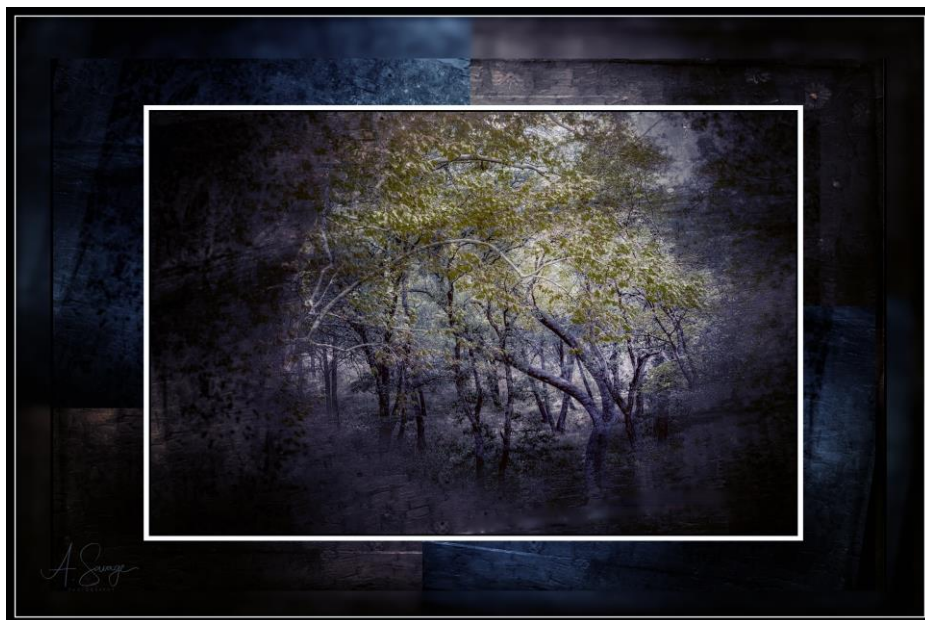
Make It Your Own

(continued from page 1)

1. Make a lot of art or shoot a lot of pictures. It's only through creating a lot of work that you can hone your skills and learn what works for you.
2. Experiment. Don't be afraid to experiment with your photography/art.
3. Analyze your own work. Gather a collection of your work, grab a pen and paper and write down what you like and don't like, and maybe what you could have done better.
4. Narrow your focus. Once you have spent time experimenting, decide what you like best.
5. Get together with like-minded artists/photographers and exchange ideas.
6. Give yourself time. Set a time to create.
7. Create the way you love, not the way you feel you should. Don't create what others will like, but instead create in the manner that feels right to you.
8. Be open to criticism but be prepared to reject it. Criticism can be useful if the person is more advanced than you. They may spot something you missed. However, it is important to also reject criticism because if one person doesn't like your work, doesn't mean others won't like it. That's part of the beauty of art.

The main thing is that you enjoy what you are doing, and what you are creating. If you enjoy what you are doing, the more you will create!

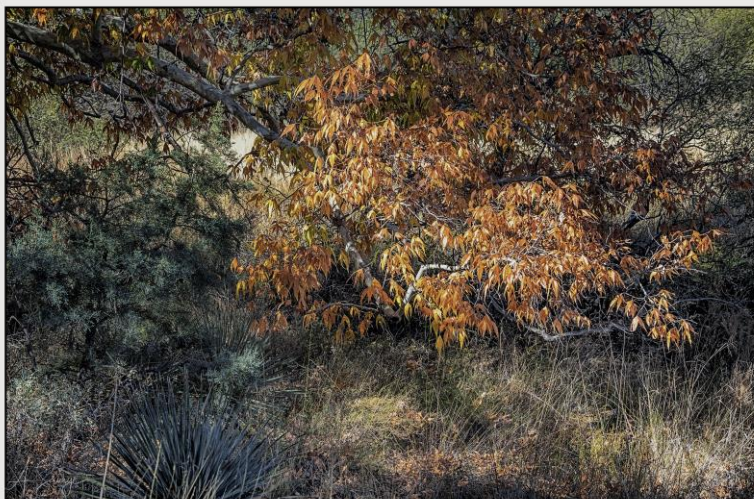
Below, and on page 3, are examples of Ande's creative vision.



Make It Your Own: Examples of Creative Vision

(continued from page 2)

Here are a few more examples of Ande's creative vision



It's Challenge Time!

Each month, we're posting lists of terms to get you thinking about how you can make images that fit the themes posted. Some are straight-forward, while others are more conceptual. Either way, having prompts can help you focus your photography and give you a reason to get out and shoot.

Below are the lists for December (current photos showcased here), and January (photograph these topics in January and they will be showcased at the next meeting - see below – and in the February newsletter)

Please consider joining! It's a fun, no-stress way to keep up your photography skills and your eye for composition. Feel free to photograph one of each word, several of one word, or mix and match. We love seeing what everyone is working on! **Send your photos to:** azval.sleger@gmail.com

December Word List

Lights
Camera
Action
Fresh Start
Farewell

January Word List

Bokeh
Silhouette
Black & White
Motion Blur
Texture

Thanks, Ande, for the word list!

Meeting Schedule

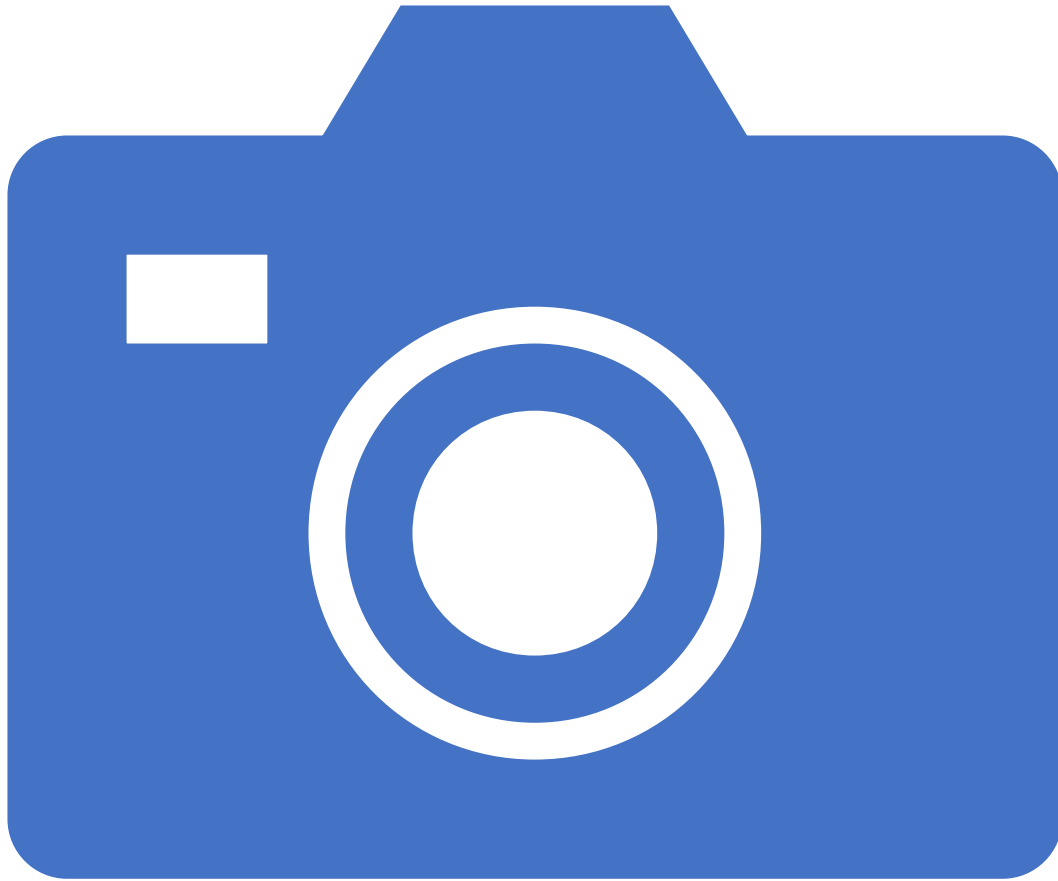
At the time of this writing, the schedule for 2023 has not yet been set. Please watch for email information regarding our next in-person meeting.

Quick Tip: Keep Track of Tutorials and Videos

Nearly every issue of the newsletter has links to web articles and/or YouTube videos related to photography topics. How to best organize these so they can easily be retrieved later?

Using a bookmark in your browser can work, but with too many bookmarks, the list can become unwieldy. It can help to create folders to organize your bookmarks. In Windows, this is simple; click the star in the address bar, and from the dropdown menu, choose New Folder. The process is similar on a Mac. If you wish, you can add keywords, or tags. To later find the article or video, use the Search feature in your Bookmarks toolbar.

The screenshot shows a browser's bookmark manager. At the top, there's a 'Name' field with 'IBM - United States' entered. Below that is a 'Location' dropdown menu set to 'Scrap and Design'. A tree view shows a hierarchy: 'Bookmarks Toolbar' (expanded) contains 'Bookmarks Menu' and 'Other Bookmarks'. 'Other Bookmarks' contains a folder 'Scrap and Design' (highlighted in blue), which contains 'iPad' and 'OneNote'. Below the tree is a 'New Folder' button. At the bottom, there's a 'Tags' field with the placeholder 'Separate tags with commas' and a dropdown arrow. A checkbox labeled 'Show editor when saving' is checked. At the very bottom are two buttons: 'Save' and 'Remove bookmark'.



Member Photos

Feedback from members told me that the old way of displaying Member photos was preferred (multiple images per page).

We love to see your photos – even if you aren't looking for challenge words.
We showcase them in the newsletter, and you are encouraged to bring them to the meeting on a flash drive!

Sam Scherf sent us these photos from the November word list



Change of Seasons



Container



Gather (with the Lord)

Sam Scherf sent us these photos from the November word list



Curves

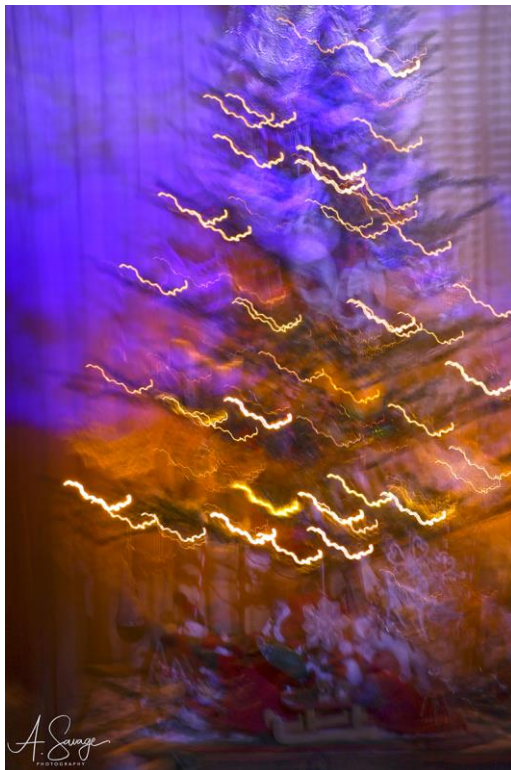


Panorama

Ande Savage submitted these photos from the December word list.



Action



Lights



Action

Ande Savage submitted these photos from the December word list.



Camera



Farewell

Joyce Genske submitted these photos from the December word list.



Lights



Lights

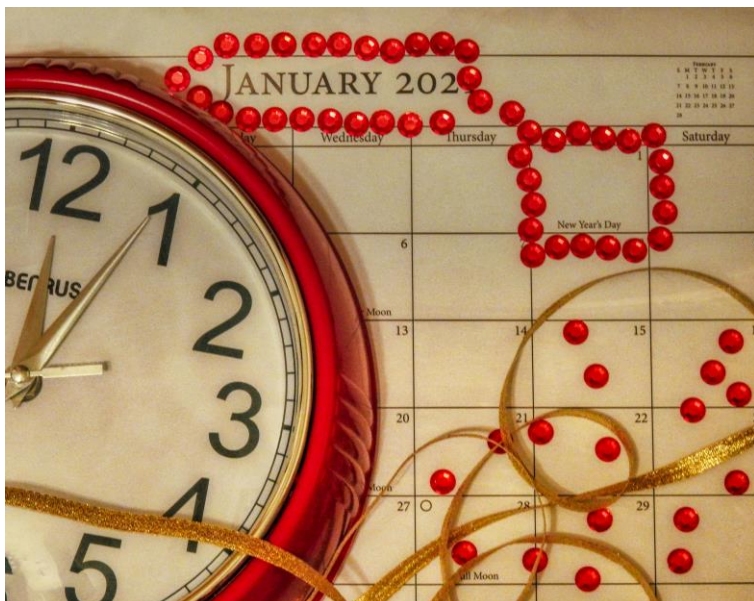
Joyce Genske submitted these photos from the December word list.



Camera



Farewell



Fresh Start

Val Sleger submitted these photos from the December word list.



Camera



Action



Fresh Start

Val Sleger submitted these photos from the December word list.



Lights