

# **POLY SPEAKS**

Magazine of the Polyphoto Camera Club



**POLY**  
PHOTO CLUB

Volume 9, No.8

November/December 2018



The Editor  
and Staff of Poly Speaks  
wish you all



Happy Holidays  
and a  
Happy and Successful  
New Year



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Poly Speaks is published by the Poly Photo Camera Club, in San Diego, California.  
President – Diane Patterson | Vice President – Josi Ross | Secretary – Robin Stern | Editor – Jim Mildice  
Treasurer – John Kane

## From the Editor

Well, here we are; the year-end holidays are upon us again. With the Poly year-end potluck now over, there are no more official Poly meetings or events until 2019.

But don't forget, the first Poly monthly competition of 2019 is on January 5. So you can't avoid considering competitive photography during our entire winter break. Poly's 2019 calendar was not published at press time, so you will all need to check the Poly web site next month to get information about the January competition.

Have you all made your Christmas lists yet? With all the new photo equipment and software we've seen in this year, there are "tons" of stuff that I could put on mine. I'm sure all of you have wish lists too.

Speaking of lists, don't forget those New Year's resolutions. Big, generalized goals most often don't seem to work. For example, a resolution to "*be a better photographer*" or to "*learn more about post processing*" usually won't get us very far.

As far as photo-related resolutions are concerned, let me recommend one that works for me. Well-defined, small, incremental efforts are easy to do and take only a short time to accomplish.

Set a small, defined goal for each month. Here are some examples. But I'm sure there are many more that you can think of that are more appropriate to your own photography preferences and skill level.

- Photograph one new subject category
- Learn a new picture-taking technique
  - Back button focus?
  - Slow shutter speed?
  - *Anything else you don't quite understand.*
- Learn one new hardware capability of your camera and equipment
  - Double exposures?
  - How to use an off-camera flash?
  - Practical ISO limit?

- *Try a third-party manual, they're easier to understand than the manufacturer's*
- Learn one new photoshop operation
  - Focus stacking?
  - Sharpening options?
  - Combining layers?
  - Gradients?
  - Straighten an image?
  - *Look to Scott Kelby or Phlearn.*
- Find and learn a new plug-in or stand-alone, special-effects, software package.
- Try a new method of expression.
  - Prints
  - Story telling
  - Photo essay
  - Book
  - Others
- Try/learn anything else you can think of that interests you.

No one will manage to do something every month; but if you set that as regular goal, you'll have more months on than off.

Anything you pick will not likely be world-changing by itself; but just like the equipment technology changes we talked about last month, each small bit of new knowledge will (in time) add up to a large advancement in your photography skill sets.

I guess that's enough said about working to make ourselves better photographers next year. Right now, we should not be worrying about next year, we should be focusing on enjoying the time immediately ahead of us.

I like relaxing by the fire; family; friends; good food and drink; a good book; good cheer; the wonder of a child; the general happiness of the season. We all have our own set of things that make us feel good. Do your own things.

Here's wishing all of you "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" to relax and enjoy the good feelings and good things in the present.

# Musings from Dee

By Dee Elwin

**NIK PLUGINS** - Am I the only person in San Diego who didn't know that the NIK plugins software bundle has been available since June 2018? DXO software, a French company, offers the full suite (7 plug-ins) for free – but, unsupported. The supported version can be purchased for \$69. Yeay – welcome back, NIK! <https://nikcollection.dxo.com/download/>

## THE MEDIUM FESTIVAL OF

**PHOTOGRAPHY** was held October 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> at the Lafayette Hotel in San Diego. Each year, a free session is held at which invited artists display their special style of photography and participants can speak directly with them. I had a free pass (Poly Banquet raffle) to attend the Saturday sessions thanks to Kim Signoret-Paar. Kim attended all four days and was kind enough to write about the tour of artist studios and exhibitions in Tijuana (*see below*).

At the Lafayette Hotel, five speakers discussed their works along with slide shows of their images. It was interesting to see the progress made from the inkling of an idea to a developed style.

One presenter stated, *“Your path is defined by your personal vision.”* I thought about how true those words were. One has a vision and the path unfolds before you - until two of the presenters stated that they have been taking a series of pictures, but don't really have a clear idea of what to do with them!

The lecturers displayed images that went beyond nice landscapes or portraits. They were following themes or projects. If you'd like to see innovative, inspirational photography, I invite you to look at the websites of these five artists:

**Robert Califiore** shoots glassware using a large format hand-built pinhole camera. He was inspired by the glassware he grew up with in an Italian household - some of which he uses in his compositions. (Rick Wiley – take note!) The process he uses is extremely time-consuming and complex, but the results are

beautiful. Look him up to see more of his unique and beautiful images.

**Mariela Sancari**, at the age of 14, lost her father to suicide. She never saw his body, so never had a sense of closure. As an adult, this led her to embark on a photo journey to photograph men who are now the age her father would have been if he were still alive. Some images were even shot with the



men wearing her father's sweater. These images were published in a unique tri-fold photobook.

**Brandon Thibodeaux** was going through a very rough time in his life and spent nearly ten years roaming the Mississippi Delta learning of the history and contemporary experiences of its residents. *“I was in search of something stronger than myself and attended its (Delta) churches not to photograph but to listen, as I prayed for a revelation.”* His black and white photographs depict the rural African Americans' universal quest for faith, perseverance and solace through community. Brandon is a great story teller and the people and places he photographed came to life under his lively tales. (*No photo available.*)

**John Brinton Hogan's** inspiration came partly from the original War of the Worlds movie in which the alien machines “zapped” people with a weapon. They glowed, turned red and disappeared. This artist shoots a landscape which includes several people. The



landscape is transformed into other-worldly colors and printed. He then redacts the people from the scene – replacing their shapes with a cat’s whisker as a brush and glitter gel.

**Martina Shenal** took a year-long sabbatical in Fujisawa, Japan. From the brochure: “Her images become a conscious manipulation of nature, exploring intersections of public and private, natural vs. the build environment, literal and metaphorical boundaries that offer protection as well as isolation.” *(No picture available.)*

**What is Medium?** It is an artist-run 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Its mission is to foster

awareness and understanding of innovative photography. Centered around an annual festival in October, the Medium Festival of Photography offers year round resources to connect photographers of all levels with educational opportunities across Southern California. The festival brings photographers from across the globe for lectures, inspiration, collaboration, and infusing others with fresh ideas. Since 2012 we

have supported our mission fueled by passion, spirited kindness, and unswerving dedication to excellence.

I strongly encourage our members to buy a ticket next October or, at least, attend the free session. It’s a great venue to see what’s going on in the world of contemporary photography and fire up those creative juices that may be lying dormant.

Have a wonderful holiday season and until we meet again in January, Happy Shooting!  
-dee

## Photography Tour of Studios and Exhibitions in Tijuana, October 21

Kim Signoret-Paar

I spent a very rewarding day visiting a small part of the photographic community in Tijuana through a day tour organized by the Medium Festival.

Serving as a capstone to the Medium’s four days of programming, the Tijuana tour included an exhibition of Risograph prints at **Espacio Mariposa**, a studio visit with **Saulo Cisneros**, exhibition visit with **Mariel Miranda**, lunch at **Telefonica Gastropark** and a presentation of four photographers with Tijuana-based **PFC (Programa de Fotografia Contemporanea)**, a photographic initiative gathering photographers from across northern Mexico.

- **Espacio Mariposa** ([www.outhere.mx](http://www.outhere.mx))  
“*Photographic Exercises: Reimagining on Risograph*,” various photographers
- Studio of **Saulo Cisneros**, Northern Exposure scholarship recipient to Medium  
Saul shoots film and digitizes his negatives with a setup he constructed.
- Deslave ([www.deslave.art](http://www.deslave.art))  
“*Los gorriones tambien saben*,” **Mariel Miranda**, a participatory experience with a gorrion (sparrow) choosing questions for you to contemplate and answer in a collective book.
- **Programa de Fotografia Contemporanea** at Cine Tonalá  
([www.facebook.com/PFCmx/](http://www.facebook.com/PFCmx/))  
*(Tour pictures are on the next page.)*





Espacio Mariposa, Carlos Morenos, “*Los muertos de la frontera/The Dead of the Border*”

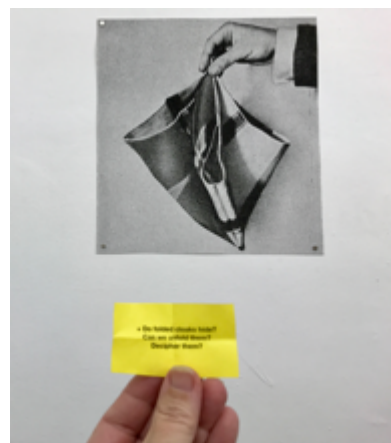


Mariel Miranda explaining the participatory installation at Deslave Gallery.



Saulo Cisneros with his equipment to digitize film negatives.

Deslave  
Gallery: The  
question



Telefonica Gastropark



PFC panel of photographers showing their work.

# This and That

By Clark Winsor

This is the last publication of Poly Speaks for 2018. I would like to wish all of you a most happy holiday season.

As the year ends, let's look back to January and make some comparisons with November. In January there were 15 entries in our Project competition. In November there were 9 entries. The Altered Reality category in January had 9 entries. 7 members entered this category. In November there were 7 entries, and 6 members entered this category. Looking at the Realistic category, there were 51 entries in January and 43 in November. We all know that statistics can tell you just about anything you want them to. I'll let you decide what these numbers show us.

There is one other fact that stands out. We have not exceeded the 49-person limit in the main viewing room for a long time.

I also would like to talk a little about our two-category judging system. We have seen some confusion with our judges when they try to separate the two categories. I believe we all subconsciously look at the competition images and say to ourselves that this or that image may be in the wrong category. Let's face it, the two categories are tied together and no amount of explaining the rules of separation to a judge will change that.

I think November was a very bad month for our judging system. Two of the seven images entered in Altered Reality were called out for being in the wrong category, and one was called out in the Realistic category when our judge said it belonged in the Altered Reality category. The judge really came down on this image and downgraded it to a 6. His final comment was, resubmit it in AR (because he seemed to think it could win first place in the AR category).

That should have never happened, but it did. It was the opinion of the members I talked to after the meeting, that the image in question should have been judged, and did not violate the category rule.

This problem of competition entries being in the wrong category comes way too often and needs to be addressed. A good starting point would be for all competitors to reread the commentary in the August/September edition of Poly Speaks that explains how to decide which category your picture belongs in.

We did one good rule change this year. Our judging now has 6 through 9, with 6 being the only number for not accepted entries.

Clark

