



*40<sup>th</sup> annual photography competition and exhibition*

# **IN-FOCUS**

**2021**

**April 1 - May 9**

# **PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

## **The Evelyn Riedel Memorial Award**

Please vote for your favorite photograph and place it in the voting box. All audience votes will be tallied at the end of the show.

## **The SMILE AWARD**

In its third year, the SMILE Award is in honor of Susan McAllister who was always upbeat and encouraged people to smile. Please vote for the photograph that brings you the most joy and place it in the voting box. All audience votes will be tallied at the end of the show.

# STATISTICS

Category	#Entries	#Displayed
Animal/Wildlife	31	29
Architecture	21	18
Digital Manipulation	19	19
Nature/Scenic	24	20
Open	43	37
People	31	25
Photojournalism	10	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>153</b>

42 photographers from 19 different Indiana cities and towns participated. 39 photographers are featured in this exhibition of 153 works.

# JUDGE

## **ROBEN BELLOMO**

Son of a musician and a professional artist, Roben Bellomo grew up in an environment with the opportunity to access a variety of creative venues in and around Detroit, Michigan. He was captivated by the art of photography in high school, however, he chose a college degree in education over a photography scholarship. After 10 years of attending to the aspirations of his students, he decided to pursue photographic artistry full time.

San Diego became Roben's home for many years, but in 2013, he moved back to the Midwest with his wife Adrienne and their two children – trading sun and surf for the immediacy of family. They now reside in Carmel, Indiana, where Roben runs a gallery, BEHN Gallery, with co owner Jim Hamel.

Roben engages in the community and has an active involvement in several organizations, such as the Indianapolis Professional Photographer's Guild, Winona School of Professional Photography, Daguerre Club of Indiana, Help Protrait, and Indy Honor Flight.

Roben believes in encapsulating time, emotion, and relationships in the images he captures and strives to make each piece "Meaningful, Memorable, and Masterful". To learn more about Roben visit [www.bellomostudios.com](http://www.bellomostudios.com).

# OVERALL REMARKS

It was a real privilege to be asked to judge this year's IN-Focus competition. I was greatly impressed with the overall quality of the images and the variety of styles. It was evident that there is a commitment to growth and support amidst this community of photographers, which also speaks to the dedication and mission of AMOA.

I think it's important to qualify the role of competition and the purpose of a judge. Competition is about personal growth and advancement. It's about paying attention to the elements that make impactful imagery. It's about seeing what others are doing, sharing what we are doing, and learning from that process. It's about camaraderie, support, friendship and passion. Competition is NOT about "This is better or worse than that" or "I'm no good at this" or "That's not fair". This show, just like all other competitions is simply a qualified and calculated opinion in the moment given to evaluate. Ten different judges could see it differently, but the take away is the common elements they would all see as well as the emotional response each had.

There is a technical side to this craft and an emotional side. It's important to learn to control the first, but it's with the intention of capturing the latter. If you "feel" something when you make or view an image, this emotional response and connection is always what art is about, so it's important to never disregard that when trying to improve the technique. I hate having to eliminate images from a competition as everyone is giving their best effort in the place they are at on their journey. If you were one of those people, please, do not take this as a blow to your self-esteem. We all start there, but instead, ask the questions as to "why"? Look at the pieces that did well along with the comments, and study them. Study the masters. Ask questions. Learn learn learn. Find something new that you haven't thought about and then try applying it to your next image. Piece by piece, you will improve and if you stay committed, will grow in direct proportion to your level of commitment and patience. For those of you who did well, you know what I'm speaking of. Be gracious to your peers and when they ask you questions and complement you on your accomplishments, take the opportunity to lift them up.

I certainly hope the feedback I have offered helps you in some way and further invites you to contact me if you have questions. I am humbled to be asked my opinion and do not take it lightly. Keep loving what you do and continue doing your best no matter what that is on any given day. You ALL raised the level of this beautiful art form through your participation and passion and have given inspiration to those who take the time to see. Thank you. - **Roben Bellomo, Judge**

## BEST OF ANIMAL/WILDLIFE



LEA FOSTER

*How Sweet It Is*

NFS

“Being able to capture a moving target with precision at this scale is a major challenge. I was first impressed with the solid focus at such a limited depth of field, but then further that there were also so many wonderful things happening. It is not easy to offer an intentional and strong composition in this moment the ant appears to be drinking from this droplet, which so beautifully shows this reflection of the scene that we can only otherwise feel in the soft colors of the bokeh. Many things were brought together in the split second this image had to happen.”

## **ANIMAL/WILDLIFE SPECIAL MERIT**

LEA FOSTER

*The Itsy Bitsy Spider*

NFS

“From the contrast of the subject to it's environment to precision of the shallow depth of field, this maker made this wildlife capture feel more like a portrait; personal, soft, interesting, and simple. Nice composition and control of brightness also keep my eye right on the eyes of Itsy Bitsy.”

## **ANIMAL/WILDLIFE HONORABLE MENTION**

AMBER BEAMS

*Beyond the Window*

\$250

JACKIE CURTS

*African Sunset*

\$125

JACKIE CURTS

*Duckweed Peekaboo*

\$125

JACKIE CURTS

*Indigo on Yellow*

\$125

LEA FOSTER

*Bluebird Perfection*

NFS

PETER M. MICHAEL

*Birds of a Feather*

\$125

# ANIMAL/WILDLIFE LISTING

JACKIE CURTS

*Red in Winter*

\$125

JACKIE CURTS

*Watering Hole*

\$125

JACKIE CURTS

*Who's Looking at Who?*

\$125

AVA DYAKANOFF

*Sunset Hermit*

\$40

LINDA RIEDEL ELLIS

*Elk*

\$100

LEA FOSTER

*Hurry Up Spring!*

NFS

LEA FOSTER

*Seeing Eye to Eye*

NFS

LEA FOSTER

*The Hummingbird*

*Stretch*

NFS

RAY GRIMBALL

*Lunch Time*

\$150

RON HALL

*Swallowtail Gull  
& Hatchling*

\$100

STEPHANIE METZ

*Fly Me Up to Where  
You Are*

\$100

MARK MURPHY

*BFFs*

\$200



SHERYL MYERS  
*Shadyside Flotilla*  
\$180

STEVEN NAPIER  
*Airborne*  
NFS

STEVEN NAPIER  
*Red Rock*  
*Reflections*  
NFS

SUSAN ROSS  
*Morning Solitude*  
\$150

JENNY MOORE  
SMITH  
*Brothers*  
\$100

JESSICA VAN NESS  
*Hugo's Nose*  
NFS

STEPHANIE METZ  
*Fly Me Up to Where*  
*You Are*  
\$100

JACK WICKES  
*Egret Amidst the*  
*Purple Flowers*  
\$225

JACK WICKES  
*Graceful Nibbler*  
\$200

JACK WICKES  
*Solitary Start*  
\$225

## BEST OF ARCHITECTURE



MICHAEL JACK, *Place for Penitence*, \$75

“This image demonstrated a variety of well-executed techniques that made this a strong, stand-out image. From leading lines, to a high dynamic range, rich textures, strong contrast, and a central point of interest, you can get lost going down this hall over and over finding new things along this walk.”



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**F.C. Tucker/Thompson**  
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## **ARCHITECTURE SPECIAL MERIT**

JENNY MOORE SMITH

*Fibanocci*

\$75

“Capturing the beauty and wonder of great architectural elements often comes from finding the right way to show them. This maker found that angle that captured the true beauty of this staircase. From a well-composed frame to a good demand of exposure, we can see detail and depth of each of the choices that went into this wonderful space. Nicely captured.”

## **ARCHITECTURE HONORABLE MENTION**

MARYELLEN BERTRAM

*Shaker Simplicity*

\$100

# ARCHITECTURE LISTING

NICK DYAKANOFF

*View Box*

\$75

LINDA RIEDEL ELLIS

*Downtown Indy*

\$100

LINDA RIEDEL ELLIS

*Indianapolis*

\$100

RAY GRIMBALL

*Up or Down*

\$100

BERT HAPPEL

*Able to Leap Tall Buildings  
in a Single Bound*

\$200

BERT HAPPEL

*From Above: Mission  
Inn Rotunda*

\$150

MICHAEL JACK

*From Navy Pier*

\$75

BRENDA MORRIS

JARRETT

*Storm A-brewing*

\$100

MARK MAYNARD

*Gracing the Night*

\$125

GARY MOHLER

*Balconies*

\$120

MARK MURPHY

*Gateway*

\$100

DEBBIE RICHCREEK

*Payne Family Barn*

\$75

MELISSA A.

ROBERTSON

*Bright Lights, Small Town*

\$75

GREG A. SOMMER

*Looking Through the  
Door*

\$100

JACK WICKES

*Sunset in Cartagena*

\$250

## BEST OF DIGITAL MANIPULATION



RANDY HEINSMAN  
*Truth Enlightens Me*  
\$120

"This was a piece I kept finding myself coming back to and seeing more in each time. The maker did a nice job of drawing us in with this Mona Lisa like expression that feels open to interpretation. After being drawn in, you can see there are a myriad of contextual elements including text, symbols, graphics, and textures that were wonderfully woven together into a balanced composition offering further complexities for us to examine and decipher."

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## **DIGITAL MANIPULATION SPECIAL MERIT**

BERT HAPPEL

*Operculum*

\$200

“This piece had a nice balance of abstract, almost painterly shapes full of movement. The softness of the painterly technique was strengthened by the choice of soft colors in the contrasting pastels. What made this image most interesting to me was the choice of the maker to offer depth through the use of the shadow under the center element. This additional point of interest and contrast made it interesting and allowed the center-weighted composition to hold me right there.”

## **DIGITAL MANIPULATION HONORABLE MENTION**

RAY GRIMBALL

*Garden Abstract*

\$200

RANDY HEINSMAN

*A Door in the Woods*

\$120

# DIGITAL MANIPULATION LISTING

MARYELLEN  
BERTRAM  
*Luna the Huntress*  
\$100

MARYELLEN  
BERTRAM  
*To Grandmother's House*  
\$100

BARBARA GRIMBALL  
*Disco Nights*  
\$215

BERT HAPPEL  
*Rose Window*  
\$150

BRENDA MORRIS  
JARRETT  
*Monet-ish*  
\$100

RUTH KELLY  
*Cityscape*  
\$100

RUTH KELLY  
*Girl in Motion*  
NFS

RUTH KELLY  
*Summer Dream*  
\$100

LAURIE McLAURIN  
*Hello Kitty*  
\$155

LAURIE McLAURIN  
*The Eyes Have It*  
\$155

STEPHANIE METZ  
*Instruments of Our  
Freedom*  
NFS

MARK MURPHY  
*Lighting the Way Out*  
\$100

MARK MURPHY  
*Skywalker*  
\$100

SUSAN ROSS  
*Time Travel*  
\$150

JENNY MOORE SMITH  
*Urban Pandemic  
Response*  
\$125

## BEST OF NATURE/SCENIC



RON HALL, *Sunrise at Dream Lake*, \$100

“This capture starts strong with a low detailed camera angle that draws us straight into the image from the ground up. This, along with the reflection of form split by the horizon of the shoreline adds a strong interest as well. The natural leading lines of the shore and trees lead us straight down water way and into the beautifully contrasting oranges and blues of sky, water, trees, and rocks.”



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## **NATURE/SCENIC SPECIAL MERIT**

MICHAEL JACK

*Colorful Awakening in the Sierras*

\$75

"The color palette and striations of layers created mood and depth in this image. I enjoyed the variety of texture and detail throughout exhibiting the soft morning array."

## **NATURE/SCENIC HONORABLE MENTION**

JOE DeFABIS

*Reaching for the Sky*

\$99

MICHAEL JACK

*Avalanche Falls*

*Survivor*

\$75

## NATURE/SCENIC LISTING

SUE A. GOFFINET

*Foggy Sunrise*

\$300

RON HALL

*Lower Yosemite Falls*

\$100

RON HALL

*Teton Twilight*

\$125

MICHAEL JACK

*Palouse Trinity*

\$75

BRENDA MORRIS

JARRETT

*Nature's Jewels*

\$100

RUTH KELLY

*Fall Creek*

\$125

RUTH KELLY

*Winter River*

\$125

STEPHANIE METZ

*Joy Still Comes in the  
Morning*

\$150

GARY MOHLER

*Before the Storm*

\$120

GARY MOHLER

*Grand Canyon Light*

\$120

DONNA MOORE

*Zion National Park*

\$40

SHERYL MYERS

*On the Ring of Kerry*

\$180

SHERYL MYERS

*Rowboats- Kylemore*

*Abbey*

\$180

STEVEN NAPIER

*Hoosier Sunset*

NFS

MELISSA A. ROBERTSON

*Man's Road Over*

*Nature's Road*

\$75

GREG A. SOMMER

*The Evening Sky*

\$100

## BEST OF OPEN



RAY GRIMBALL, *To the Light House, NFS*

“This image captured my attention and did not let it go. I kept finding new things that I enjoyed and each of those things led me to the lighthouse, which reinforced the title. This suggests intention by the artist. Additionally, this maker made great use of the challenges of the moment. Shooting in full sun and using that contrast to build wonderful leading lines. Using the spacing and lines of the bridge to frame the biker (who was also traveling towards the Lighthouse). All of this while maintaining the spontaneity of street photographer's moment in time. Well done.”

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## OPEN SPECIAL MERIT

JOE DeFABIS

*Man Behind the Iron*

\$99

“This print exhibits some wonderful contrast highlighting the shape and form of the train engine. The deep tones of the metal and background gave way to the steam, which adds an element of motion and life. I also appreciate the maker’s choice to compose the engine in a way that point it back into the frame toward the man. The way they are facing one another holds the viewers attention between these two main elements. I do wish there were a few more details that reinforced the story that he was, in fact, the man behind the iron, but a nice story all the same.”

## OPEN HONORABLE MENTION

RAY GRIMBALL

*Egg-xactly Balanced*

*NFS*

PETER M. MICHAEL

*Past and Present*

\$125

JENNY MOORE SMITH

*Maestro*

\$75

## OPEN LISTING

AMBER BEAMS  
*A Quiet Night*  
\$250

MARYELLEN BERTRAM  
*Barren*  
\$100

MARTHA CARLSON  
*Misty Morning*  
\$135

JOE DeFABIS  
*Every Track Leads  
Back Home*  
\$99

AVA DYAKANOFF  
*Wire Man*  
\$30

NICK DYAKANOFF  
*Political View*  
\$50

NICK DYAKANOFF  
*Winter Windows*  
\$75

LINDA RIEDEL ELLIS  
*Turkey Run*  
\$100

SUE A. GOFFINET  
*Haunting*  
\$250

BARBARA GRIMBALL  
*Chicago at Night*  
\$225

BARBARA GRIMBALL  
*Weathered Whorls*  
\$205

SUE A. GOFFINET  
*Haunting*  
\$250

KRIS HURST  
*Rorschach Test*  
\$80

MICHAEL JACK  
*Sudden and Fierce*  
\$75

LAURA JOHNSON  
*Tuscan Wine*  
\$25

LAURA JOHNSON  
*White Lilly*  
\$25

JOHN MATTHEW  
*Frazier Lane*  
NFS

JOHN MATTHEW  
*Snowy Woods*  
NFS

JOHN MATTHEW  
*Sunset over the Farm*  
NFS

MARK MAYNARD  
*Deserted*  
\$125

MARK MAYNARD  
*White River Reflections*  
\$125

PETER M. MICHAEL  
*Bridge from the Past*  
\$125

PETER M. MICHAEL  
*Enchanted Morning*  
\$125

TIM MONNIER  
*Race Day*  
NFS

DEBBIE RICHCREEK  
*Gifts from the Garden*  
\$100

DEBBIE RICHCREEK  
*Lily Study in Light*  
\$100

DEBBIE RICHCREEK  
*Mannequin March*  
\$100

DEBBIE RICHCREEK  
*Study in Contrast*  
\$75

SUSAN ROSS  
*Dancing on Glass*  
\$175

SUSAN ROSS  
*Home*  
\$150

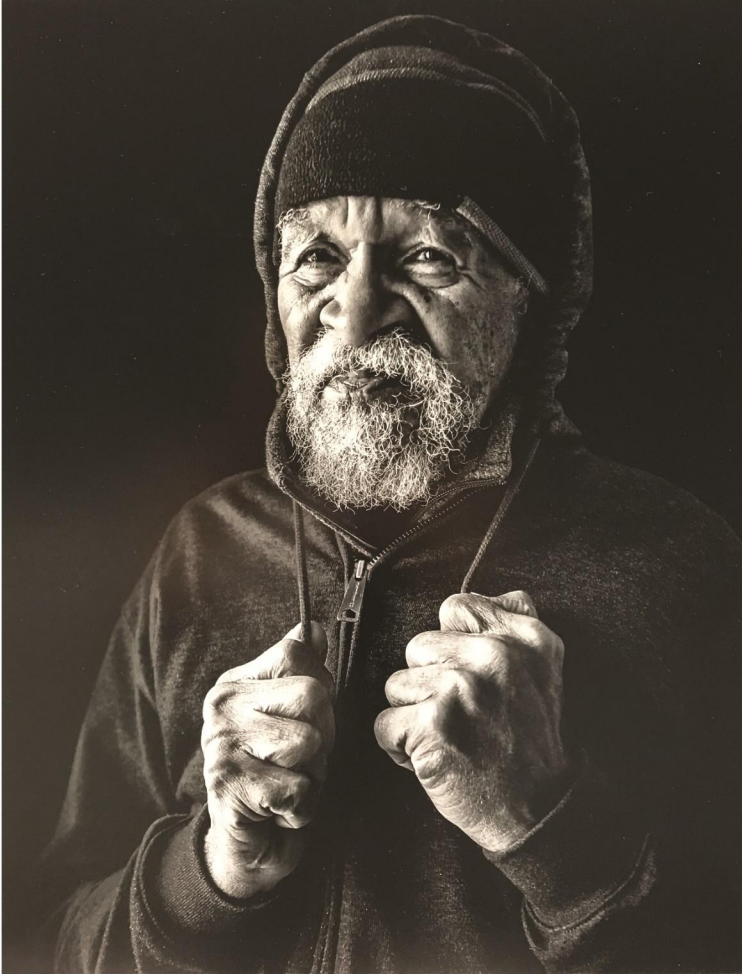
SUSAN ROSS  
*Morning Mood*  
\$150

GREG A. SOMMER  
*The Kiss*  
\$100

JOE WRIGHT  
*8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge*  
NFS



## BEST OF PEOPLE



BARBARA GRIMBALL  
*Facing Uncertainty*  
NFS

“A strong portrait tells a story. In this piece, titled, ‘Facing Uncertainty’, I am seeing that story unfold. From the expression on the subjects face, to the use of his hands which reinforce his emotions, I feel the maker had intent and executed that well. This image processing and print were also well executed technically.”

## **PEOPLE SPECIAL MERIT**

PETER M. MICHAEL

*African Princess*

\$125

“This maker's use of composition, placing the subject towards the center exemplifies her importance. This beautiful necklace of feathers, while emphasizing this point further, also acts as leading lines that hold our attention on her face. Once on her face, we can enjoy this soft quality of light that fits her expression. I also notice this artist's attention to color harmony, however, I feel the texture of the background is not consistent with the story. Very nice all the same!”

## **PEOPLE HONORABLE MENTION**

RANDY HEINSMAN

*Tranquility*

\$120

## PEOPLE LISTING

MARYELLEN BERTRAM  
*Alone in a Room*  
\$100

MARYELLEN BERTRAM  
*Blue Note*  
\$100

BARBARA GRIMBALL  
*Nude by Window*  
\$235

RAY GRIMBALL  
*Sway the Night Away*  
NFS

KRIS HURST  
*Double Vision*  
NFS

JOHN MATTHEW  
*Sophia*  
NFS

MARK MAYNARD  
*Wistful Lass*  
\$125

STEPHANIE METZ  
*Nina's Choice*  
NFS

STEPHANIE METZ  
*You Are Not Alone*  
NFS

PETER M. MICHAEL  
*Aspiring Dancer*  
\$125

GARY MOHLER  
*Beggar Woman -  
Burma*  
\$120

GARY MOHLER  
*Thistle Spirit*  
\$120

DEBBIE RICHCREEK  
*Craftsman, Storyteller*  
\$75

SUSAN ROSS  
*Waiting for Wings*  
NFS

JENNY MOORE SMITH  
*Joy!*  
\$100

GREG A. SOMMER  
*In Deep Thought*  
\$100

JESSICA VAN NESS  
*Sophia Twirling*  
NFS

JACK WICKES  
*Cuban Dancers*  
\$225

JOE WRIGHT  
*Hope, April 2020*  
NFS

JOE WRIGHT  
*Jordan, December*  
*2020*  
NFS

JOE WRIGHT  
*Lydia, September 2019*  
NFS

JOE WRIGHT  
*Mariah, November*  
*2019*  
NFS

# BEST OF PHOTOJOURNALISM



GREG A. SOMMER, *Got any 45's*, \$100

“The soft quality of light and color harmony throughout this image truly draws the viewer in. Once inside the image, we can then enjoy the fine details and textures that all contribute to the vintage feel. Also, the way the maker allowed a nice soft exposure that allowed detail throughout the room, but still allowed detail through the windows demonstrates a strong technical understanding, which facilitated this nice capture.”

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## PHOTOJOURNALISM SPECIAL MERIT

STEPHANIE METZ

*A Homecoming 75 Years in the Making - Charles Rubble is Home*

\$100

“This image was a beautiful tribute to fallen and the respect of his brothers in arms. This strong story was crafted with a balanced composition weighing casket on the bottom right against the hearse at the top left. We have this sense of movement knowing this final sendoff is either moving to or away from the vehicle. Some of the toning throughout the image was inconsistent and distracting. This is a great capture nonetheless.”

## PHOTOJOURNALISM LISTING

BARBARA GRIMBALL

*Long Walk Home*

\$175

BERT HAPPEL

*Boom!*

\$150

BERT HAPPEL

*Early Morning Run*

\$200

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