



The Garden Club of Norfolk
2024 Photography Show

The Roads We Travel

CURATED BY
ALLISON LAVIGNE

Class 1: Landscape

“Under the Trees from Sea to Sea”

A landscape or intimate landscape image evoking a complete immersion in nature. Capturing moments of nature bathing under a tree canopy or delighting in the curative views of natural waterscapes.

**Glacier Gardens Rainforest Adventure
Juneau, Alaska
Jen Erving**

Fallen trees are placed upside down to create "flower towers" at Glacier Gardens in the Tongass National Forest of Alaska.

Entry 1.4, Following Page & Back Cover







**An Invitation to Linger
View from The Nairn Golf Club, Nairn, Scotland
Lauré Ferguson**

A brooding storm in the distance, but peace and comfort in the moment.

Entry 1.3, Previous Page

Nature's Chorus
Marta Nelson

While fly fishing in Elizabethton, Tennessee I came upon
these birds singing their hearts out! Oh, the glorious sound
they made!

Entry 1.7, Following Page 







Essence of patience: the Great Blue Heron
Naomi Hochhaus

An abiding fascination with herons and egrets caused me to pause on a Nolan Trail bridge tucked behind trees on the edge of Mariners' Lake.

Entry 1.6, Previous Page



Under the Moroccan Sun
Katherine Renfrew

The Acacia tree, a beautiful and majestic sight, is set against the backdrop of the Atlas Mountains, a perfect balance of nature and art.

Entry 1.2, Above



Flow

Katie VanBuren

Water is a powerful part of New Zealand's ecosystem. The land and horticultural depend on it. Water brings life down from the mountains and regenerates back into the Earth.

Entry 1.1, Previous Page

Mother Nature

Catherine Fulton

The wide open spaces when on the sea are often majestic. People are creative but you can't beat Mother Nature's art.

Entry 1.5, Below





Class 2: Close Up

“Details Make the Memory”

A close up or macro image of a natural artifact or botanical capturing interesting texture, color, and tiny details.

A Fall Walk

Humpback Rocks Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway, VA

Vanessa Sigmon

It was raining, so it was dark and misty in the woods when I saw this beautiful green mossy rock with a bright red fall leaf on it and others off to the side. It presented such an interesting contrast and a burst of color on a dreary day that I thought it would make a good photo.

Entry 2.1, Previous Page





Sweet Sunshine

**Gordon Castle walled garden, Gordon Castle Estate,
Fochabers, Scotland**

Lauré Ferguson

So many gorgeous flowers contained in one of the largest producing walled gardens in the world - 8 acres of cutting flowers!

Entry 2.2, Previous Page



Sweet Nectar of the Gods

Sonoma, California

Marta Nelson

Without the bees there would be NO wine!

Entry 2.5, Below





**Patience in Bloom
Rothschild's Slipper, United States Botanic Garden
Ruthie Bryant**

I was drawn to this handsomely pinstriped slipper before I even knew how truly special it was. This “Aristocrat” of orchids takes 15 years to grow and bloom, and are only found on Mt. Kinabalu, in Malaysia. Because of their rarity, they fetch a cool \$5000 a stem on the black market.

Entry 2.3



**Gift of a Storm
Norfolk, Virginia
Naomi Hochhaus**

A June storm reveals unexpected treasures on a downed sugar maple tree branch: moss and verdant green shield lichen.

Entry 2.4



Class 4: Intimate Landscape

“Abode”

An intimate image featuring structural elements that help define a place. Images could include homes, buildings, bridges, doors, hardware or other architectural details that catch your eye.

**O Reflection for Olmsted
Boston, Massachusetts
Colleen Hamlin**

Boston bridge over the muddy river capturing the beautiful reflection, plantings & wildlife of Olmsted emerald necklace.

Entry 4.6, Previous Page





**Beyond the Crumbling Wall
Dry Tortugas National Park, FL
Vanessa Sigmon**

I wanted to capture the contrast between the dark brown crumbling walls of the old fort and the crystal clear blue water, clear blue sky and bright green palm trees beyond.

Entry 4.2, Above



**Welcome
Katherine Renfrew**

The slightly ajar, cool blue door, and inviting stone path reflects the welcoming spirit of the City of Chefchaouen, the “Blue Pearl of Morocco.”

Entry 4.4, Following Page



دار سبilla
CASA
SABILA
GUEST HOUSE

avenida dona a
عاجز

Snow's Reward
Catherine Fulton

Heavy snow covered branches invite entry into this imitate garden. The pagoda's shapes and colors balance the foreground's white snow and backdrop's contrasting architecture.

Entry 4.1, Following Page  







**MacBeth's Secret Garden
Cawdor Castle Gardens, Cawdor, Nairn, Scotland
Lauré Ferguson**

"King, Cawdor, Glamis - thou hast them all - just as the weird women promised." Too pretty to conjure Shakespeare's MacBeth or the witches!

Entry 4.5, Previous Page  

**Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
Boothbay, Maine
Jen Erving**

Lerner Garden of the Five Senses in August, 2023

Entry 4.3, Above 



Gilt in Rhapsody

Basilique Saint-Sernin de Toulouse, consecrated 1096

Ruthie Bryant

There is something about a house of God... one that has stood for centuries, heard all those prayers. The largest remaining example of Romanesque architecture, every turn revealing a more stunning visage than the last. A moment necessary to just rest and meditate, to remember we are just vapors in time.

Entry 4.8 Previous Page

Mirage or Hoax, Floating City in the Sky

Marta Nelson

A city appears to rise in the morning fog over the Cliff Walk in Newport, Rhode Island.

Entry 4.7 Below





Class 5: Portraits

“People Alongside”

A candid portrait of a travel partner, loved one, or stranger capturing authentic images that tell the story of a location.

Reverence

Catherine Fulton

This location's story is horrific and heroic. Even those born after 9-11 do not break the awesome silence honoring America's dead and brave.

Entry 5.6 Previous Page  

A Moment in Melbourne

Katie VanBuren

Melbourne is filled with vibrant culture and attracts tourists from all over the world. However, this photo captures the intimate, everyday moment of local men taking a break from a busy day immersing themselves in the company of each other.

Entry 5.1, Following Page & Front Cover 





Reflection **Katherine Renfrew**

My traveling companion, Sissy, takes a moment to reflect on the awe-inspiring buildings and gardens of this 1471 Kasbah, a fortress built to defend the north coast of Morocco from the Portuguese.

Entry 5.4



**YMCA Camp Kern
Oregonia, Ohio
Jen Erving**

“Just a little further....” I said often to my daughter during week-long family camp. I lived there in 2000-2001 and returned for the first time in 2023.

Entry 5.5



**The Most Magical Evening
Villa Dionora, Montepulciano, Tuscany, Italy
Lauré Ferguson**

Every time I recall our beautiful daughter's wedding, this is the image that always comes to mind. Perfectly evocative of a perfect evening in a most magical place.

Entry 5.3



Wonder

The Hermitage Gardens, Norfolk, Virginia

Ruthie Bryant

Oh to see the world through a child's eyes. To feel the magic in the breeze... to live through all the beautiful moments to come to them. This was photographed with one hand while holding the baby in my other.

Entry 5.2



Niagara Falls Boat Tour
Colleen Hamlin

Intentionally shot into the sun to capture the water droplets from the mist.

Entry 5.7

Judge's Comments

Dana Parker

Virginia Beach Garden Club.

Class One:

1.1: The image captures the roar of a vibrant scene and the composition is balanced and at a pleasing angle. Flat light diminishes the lush landscape.

1.2: The lone tree emphasizes the importance of trees in a barren landscape and contrasts nicely with the back drop. Central placement of the tree lessens the impact and rule of thirds could help the composition, or a selection of a different angle of capture.

1.3: The rule of thirds is well demonstrated here and balances the composition of land, sea, and sky. Flat lighting lessens the vibrance of the lovely scene.

Third Place - Yellow 

1.4: A wonderful depiction of an unusual floral environment showing the gardener's creativity in the landscape. An improvement in the composition (slightly different angle) could use the pathway to lead one into the scene.

First Place - Blue 

1.5: Leading lines of the sky and water draw one's eye into the photograph. Image lacks a true focal point.

1.6: Image captures the peace and tranquility of a lone roosting Heron. As a portrait of the bird, the subject could be given more importance and scale. Think about the rule of thirds in placement of the primary subject and focal point.

Honorable Mention 

1.7: Parallel and diagonal lines of wooden perches enhance this scene and create good balance in an almost conference of Cormorants. Increasing contrast in lighting (in editing) would give the scene more vibrance.

Second Place - Red 

Class Two:

2.1: Excellent capture and conformance to the class in the detail of texture, color, and detail. Central placement of the red maple leaf (focal point) diminishes composition.

First Place - Blue 

2.2: Diagonal line of the flower stem leads the eye into the image and compositionally this is a good photograph. The main flower creates a strong focal point. Background distracts a bit from the strong impact of the flower(s)

Second Place - Red 

2.3: The orchid is clearly the star of the show. Closer cropping would have given the orchid the attention it deserves as elements surrounding the orchid are a distraction. Central placement also diminishes the impact of the focal point (orchid).

Honorable Mention 

2.4: Diagonal line creates a good composition in the image. However, there is no clear focal point in the capture.

2.5: Beautiful backlighting on the subject brings out the detail of the Dahlia petals. Confusing background and central placement diminishes impact of the flower.

Third Place Yellow 

Class Four

4.1: Composition enhances the scene and creates an intimate landscape which is good conformance to the class. Flat lighting of a gray snowy day downplays the pagoda as a focal point. Increasing the color saturation in post processing might bring that to life.

Honorable Mention 

4.2: Excellent use of the framing technique creates intimacy of a vibrant scene. The contrast between elements and light and dark is very effective.

Second Place - Red 

4.3: Textural complexity in this scene are beautifully contrasted against the stone wall. An improved composition could have utilized the pathway as a leading line. *Honorable Mention* 

4.4: Interesting doorways are always a great focal point, and this one is charming, welcoming, and intriguing conforming to the class nicely. Plant life enhances the coziness and intimacy of the scene. Leading lines also lead us right to the door.

Third Place - Yellow 

4.5: Use of framing the garden beyond with the walled doorway is an invitation to enter and creates mystery. Textural contrast in the wall and plants is very effective.

Honorable Mention 

4.6: Framing and contrast of light and dark create intimacy in an otherwise larger scene. The reflection in the water helps focus the narrative and serenity of the image.

First Place - Blue 

4.7: The landscape is a wealth of visual textures and manmade influences. Scene does not conform to an intimate landscape (perhaps better suited to class 1).

4.8: The interior light of the basilica is exquisite and draws the eye to the beautiful architectural elements. However this image does not conform to the class of an intimate "landscape". Some distractions on the edges (ex: fire extinguisher and red sign) emphasizing need for border patrol.

Class Five:

5.1: Excellent capture of an urban scene evoking the strange beauty of humanity surrounded by colorful street art. This tells a story of urban life and possible human hardship in an unforgiving environment.

Second Place - Red 

5.2: Portraiture which evokes innocence and wonder. Focal point of the child's face is perfect with the soft background. Does not evoke a sense of place however and diminishes conformance to the class.

5.3 The presence of the magnificent tree contrasts nicely with the bridal couple in scale and dominance. The color echoes in pink create a soft lighting and balance. Some of the additional lighting sources create distractions.

5.4: Like a pretty painting this scene evokes a quiet moment to drink in the scenery. Placement of the person is perfect and gives meaning and scale to the place.

Third Place - Yellow 

5.5: Great use of the pathway line to draw us into the place. The evocative posture of the person creates a mood and a story. Here the center position works compositionally, but watch the border patrol and crop out the tree on the right edge which draws the eye away.

Honorable Mention 

5.6: The use of the human element is emotional and tells the story most of us will never forget. Even if you have never visited this site you can probably figure out what you are looking at. The excellent use of light focuses on the young woman and helps us imagine her story. This is an excellent depiction of place and the human tragedy it evokes.

First Place - Blue 

5.7: Brilliant light and water spray evoke the harsh conditions and motion of the place. Plastic ponchos create a focus and a leading line. Sun flares are a bit distracting.

Best In Show:

5.6: The emotional value of this scene pulls our heart strings and captures a sense of place that reverberates with the American psyche. The inclusion of the hand on the marble names gives it an additional human touch that makes it a powerful statement and reminder of the loss and grief we felt as a nation. 

People's Choice Award:

GCN members were asked to vote for their favorite single photograph from the show. 4.1 and 4.5 tied for this honor. 

