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## THROUGH THE LENS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of ISLAND PHOTO GROUP

Dedicated To Excellence In Photography

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### Photographing Flat Art

by Jeff Barlowe

Regardless of your photographic specialty, all of us will occasionally photograph two dimensional subjects. These can be paintings, drawings, printed documents and photographs.

Times have changed, and flatbed scanners take up routine document copying. However there are times where scanners aren't appropriate, such as oversized originals or framed work behind glass. If your original is behind glass, not only do you have to be careful with your lighting, but reflections from your camera must be eliminated. I have often found myself applying pieces of black masking tape to areas of chrome on my camera to eliminate those last few mysterious ghosts! These reflections can be minimized through the use of spot lights that are directed at the art work with minimal spill. Keep your lights symmetrical at 90 degrees from each other and 45 degrees from camera axis.

Lens choice can also be important. Distortion can be controlled by using a longer focal length. If your artwork is enormous and you are forced to use a normal or wide lens, getting the correct camera position is of paramount importance, especially if you're shooting film. The camera back has to be absolutely parallel with the original. I found a technique which helps. Attach a small mirror to the absolute center of your original. While looking through the viewfinder, move your camera until you can see a reflection of your lens perfectly centered in the mirror! When using a wider lens, move your lights further apart.

Sometimes I've encountered photographs to be copied, which were very dark. So dark, in fact, that little detail was visible. One trick that I came up with was to transilluminate it! That's right, shoot light through the back of the print. A print is not unlike a transparency laminated to paper. If you look out for ( and can avoid ) the paper manufacturer's backstamping ( or watermark ), this technique can bring out additional detail in ink-black shadows.

And then there are the coarsely textured oil paintings, where the brush strokes leap off of the canvas. Some people will use cross polarizers and diffusers on the lights to minimize the texture. But the few times I've shot these beauties, I would have been disappointed if the brush strokes didn't leap off of my reproduced image. It's like those images of deeply weathered leathery old faces, someone worked hard to get that texture. Why take it away! For maximum texture, use small strobes without umbrellas or diffusers.

*continued on page 2*

### What's New ....

Rosh Hashanah Holiday - Open IPG Meeting .....	October	3
IPG Program - Photoshop Down & Dirty Tips DVD ....	October	10
L.I. Photoshop - No Meeting - Yom Kippur Eve .....	October	12
IPG Critique Night .....	October	17
PFLI Selection Committee .....	To Be Announced	

### Quick Tips for October

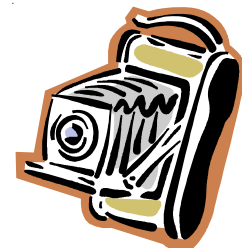


The following question comes courtesy of Tim Grey's Digital Darkroom Questions e-mail list. The DDQ is an almost-daily e-mail list providing answers to questions related to the digital darkroom. For more info go to: [www.timgrey.com](http://www.timgrey.com)

**Just purchased CS2. Is it best to uninstall Elements 3.0 prior to installing CS2 or will it install directly over my old Elements program?**

There's no need to remove Elements first. Photoshop won't actually install over the top of Elements, or even over the top of prior versions of Photoshop for that matter. It will install in a completely new folder, so you can have multiple versions of Elements and/or Photoshop installed on the same drive and alternate between their use as you see fit.

The only minor issue is that file associations will be updated by default, so that image file formats currently set to open in Elements when you double-click on them will instead open in Photoshop. This might, of course, be a good thing for you, as you're probably going to be working more in Photoshop than in Elements. However, you will have the opportunity to adjust the file associations during the installation process, and you can always change those file associations later. But the bottom line is that you can install Photoshop regardless of Elements being installed without any special action on your part.





# PNYISI Photo Group

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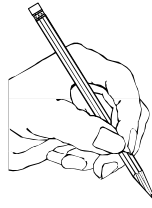
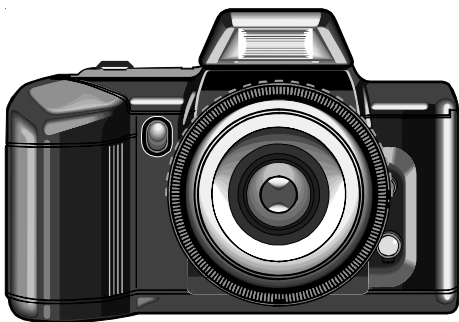
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## President's Message

This is the month to get out and photograph!

October is a great time and there are a lot of opportunities to capture some fantastic images. The vibrant colors of fall is just one idea. You don't always have to go upstate or to New England to get great fall foliage. Open up the yellow pages or a Long Island map and look at all the great places right here in our own backyard. Here are just a few:

Old Westbury Gardens, Planting Fields Arboretum, Sands Point, The Arboretum in Oakdale, The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, Clark Gardens, Eisenhower Park and many other Long Island attractions. Try some photography even in your own backyard. No one has ever said that fall foliage has to be a bunch of trees in a mountain or valley setting. Capturing the essence of fall colors can be as simple as just one or a few leaves floating in a pond or even a little puddle. Keep your eyes open and don't always think of the big scale.....get in close.....move around, WORK the subject.

Other ideas include capturing the fun filled excitement of children playing and with Halloween coming up, your shooting can be endless.....Also check your local newspapers for upcoming events. October has a lot of things happening from car shows, craft fairs, festivals, parades and more. SO, GET OUT THERE AND SHOOOOOOOT!



Joe McGahan - IPG President



### *Photographing Flat Art continued from page 1*

Occasionally I've copied paper documents where black type on the reverse side was showing through. The cure to this was to lay a sheet of black paper under the document, and instantly the offending type disappears.

Contrary to what you might think, shooting flat art can be a creative process. Overcoming technical obstacles and bringing out the "subject's" best attributes can be a rewarding endeavor.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate IPG member Bob Makely for his first place win in the color print division of the ***Long Island Beach Festival***. The event took place on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at Smith Point Beach and was sponsored by the Nature Conservancy. Co-sponsors of the event included Arrow Electronics, Camera Concepts and Vytra Health Plans. Bob received a \$100 gift certificate from Camera Concepts for his win and the image was printed in the South Shore Press. According to Bob, "The money issue wasn't nearly as gratifying as to the taking of 1<sup>st</sup> Place." Presiding over the event was County Executive Steve Levy and Assemblyman Fred Thiele.



*Bob Makely's Long Island Beach Festival First Place Photo*



### IPG Meeting Information

*IPG meetings* will be held  
from 7:30 - 10:00 PM  
on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays  
of each month,  
except for holidays, at our meeting room  
located at:

Ellsworth Allen Park  
101 Motor Avenue  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

*Critique Nights* will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday of every month

All IPG members can submit 2 photos  
in each of the following categories:

*Color Prints, B&W Prints and Slides*

