

Detective work clues you in on good photography

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

Did you know that one of the best ways to improve your photography is by closely looking at the pictures of others?

Whether it's browsing through a gallery or leisurely thumbing through a good photography book, many benefits can be yours by a good, hard, critical look and an analysis of the photographs.

Put on your "detective hat," tune into your emotions and ask yourself some important questions as you "read" a photograph. In so doing, you'll gain insight and technical skills that will certainly help you in taking your own pictures.

Begin by asking what the subject or main theme of the photograph is. Does it move you, and how do you respond to it? How do you suppose the photographer felt about it?

Study the lighting. Is it harsh or soft? What direction is it coming from, and what time of day do you think it was? Ask yourself what might happen to the picture if the lighting were different.

What camera position was used: near or far, low angle or high? Why do you think the photographer used a particular camera position, and what does it do for the picture? How might another camera location affect the photograph?

What lens do you think was used and why? Was it wide-angle, normal or perhaps a telephoto?

How about depth-of-field? Is there a lot or a little? Would a change in depth-of-field alter the final image?

What about shutter speed: fast or slow? Is the subject blurred in motion or caught at the peak of the action? Look for the use of filters or any other special effects, too.

Of course, you should carefully

study the composition. How are the elements of the picture arranged and does it all make sense to you?

Is the photograph telling a story? If so, tune into your feelings of it. Try to interpret what the photographer is trying to say and what your responses are.

So, you see? Becoming a photo "detective" can give you deeper insight into photography, which will most certainly help you with your own pictures.

Short shot

There's still time to enter the Oakland County Parks photo contest for both color and black and white shots. All entries must be taken at an Oakland County park. The deadline is Aug. 14. Call 888-0906 for an entry form and further information.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills.



Photo study: There's a lot to "read" in this Monte Nagler photograph and many questions you can ask yourself about it. Study it closely and see what answers you can come up with. This photograph was taken in Monument Valley, Utah.

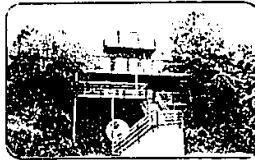


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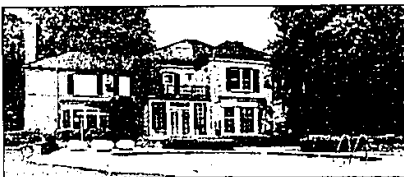


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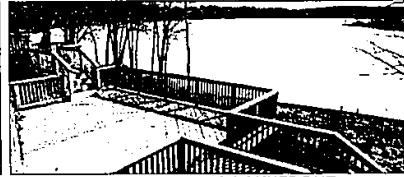
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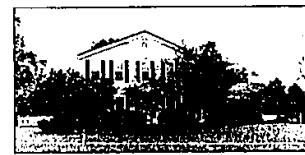
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