

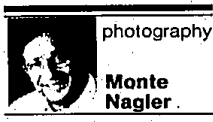
Document valuables in pictures

There's a very simple way to make strong and effective photographs of objects such as sculptures, vases and figurines. These pictures can be used for documentation for insurance purposes or to satisfy your artistic pursuits.

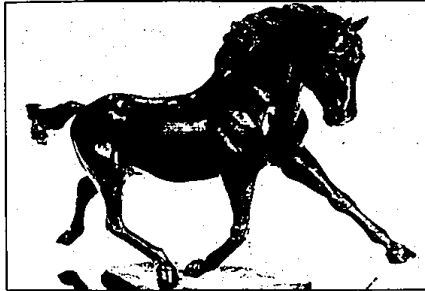
To begin with, let's talk backgrounds. As I've discussed in the past, a background can make or break a photograph. So keep it simple. A plain piece of posterboard or mat board in any color you desire is all you'll need. Place a card table or kitchen table against the wall and tape (masking tape works best) the posterboard both to the wall and the table curving it to obtain a plain, solid colored background.

Place the object to be photographed on the posterboard and set up your camera. You'll need a tripod and cable release to keep things steady. Remember to move in close and fill the frame with the subject. If what you're photographing is small, you'll probably need supplemental close-up filters or a macro lens to allow you to get in tight.

USE A small aperture such as the f-11 or f-16 to provide enough depth-



photography
Monte Nagler



Monte Nagler used two tungsten lights and a plain white background to photograph this bronze by local sculptor Sharon Sommers.

of-field so the entire subject will be sharp in the finished print or slide. Remember that shutter speed is irrelevant with a tripod and non-moving object.

What's the best film choice? Use slow to medium speed film in either color print, color slide or black and white. Just keep in mind that with color films you must match the film with the lighting. For example, I prefer using tungsten lights so therefore I make sure to use the tungsten balanced film.

If using flash, you must use daylight balanced film. Or when using natural window light, you again use daylight film.

With black and white film, any light source will work well. Your local photo dealer will be happy to

help you with film and light selections. Whatever you choose, photographing objects around your home is fun and easy. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the results.

Monte Nagler is a professional photographer based in Farmington Hills. His column runs the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Tour Matthaei's garden grounds

What comes after April's showers? Come to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and see.

May is the month for wildflowers. These welcoming spring beauties bloom for a short period before the trees cast dense shade.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5, the docents at the Gardens will lead tours through the natural areas along Fleming Creek. The tour will also include a stop at the Woodland Wildflower Garden.

Dress for the weather, include sturdy or waterproof footwear. The tour will last 1 1/2 hours. All those interested are to meet at the steps to the building at 1:45 p.m. to register. There is no fee.

You will not have to travel far to see some of the most valuable plants of the world, plants which form the backbone of large industries, and, in some cases, the entire

economy of some countries.

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens has many economically important plants in its collection.

The docents are offering economic plant tours for the public on the following dates, at 2 and 3 p.m.: Saturdays, May 11, 18, 15 and Sundays, May 12, 19, 26.

Because of space limitations in the Conservatory, the tours are restricted to 30 persons per hour. Visitors should register with the receptionist prior to the tour. Telephone registrations cannot be accepted.

Conservatory entry fees apply: \$1 per person, Friend's members (with identification) free.

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens is at 1800 N. Dixboro, Ann Arbor; 2 1/2 miles north of the Geddes Road intersection.

New World String Quartet to play at temple

The New World String Quartet returns for a fifth appearance at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 5, in The Birmingham Temple, 2811 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills (between Inkster and Middlebelt).

Tickets are \$10 general, \$9 senior citizens or students. Call 647-4632 or 288-3953.

The ensemble has planned a diversified program that includes these string quartets: Mozart, No. 16, K. 428 in E flat; Bartok, No. 3, Dvorak No. 12 in F major, Op. 96, "American."

Since the Quartet's last appearance at The Birmingham Temple,

the group has remained Harvard University's Quartet-in-Residence.

After the New World's 1989 London debut, the Financial Times viewed it as being "firmly entrenched within the tradition of the best American groups."

The quartet is scheduled for a repeat London engagement this year

with plans for performing in Austria, Yugoslavia, Switzerland and Italy.

The quartet has made 12 recordings, the most recent being works of Schubert, Ravel and Debussy.

Soon to be released under the MCA label is a major recording of Brahms chamber works for strings.

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THE ULTIMATE! Professionally decorated Contemporary home with every amenity. Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, master bedroom suite with jacuzzi soaker tub, formal dining area, library, great room and 2 car attached garage are just a few of the many features of this beautiful home. \$364,900 851-8100 02-B-5451

TREES AND MORE TREES! Contemporary in Farmington Hills is a rare find with a natural backyard. The spacious interior includes 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and an oak kitchen with ceramic flooring. Master bedroom with jacuzzi. Fireplaces in the great room and lower level. Central air and security system \$294,000 626-9100 02-B-5598

ALL IN SPECIALTIES! Lavish custom Tudor is nestled in prestigious Strathmoor sub of Farmington Hills. Accents crown moldings, oak floors, cathedral ceiling and fireplace in family room, bay windows, French doors to library and island kitchen. Offers 4 bedrooms including elegant master suite. \$249,000 851-8100 02-B-5261

DRAMATIC AND IMPRESSIVE! View Dabow Lake while relaxing on the deck of this Contemporary. Accented by soaring ceilings, full wall fireplace in great room, terrific 1st floor master suite with whirlpool tub and walk-in closets. Over a half acre of manicured land. Custom decor! \$229,900 851-8100 02-B-5198

ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR! Incredible Tri-level in Farmington Hills offers quality features throughout! Provides 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths and fireplaces in both the living and family rooms. Beautiful grounds include a screened patio and granite in-ground pool. Kitchen has a barbecue and oven with microwave. \$184,000 626-9100 02-B-5614

SUPER SHARP HOME on a private treed lot! Enjoy year-round comfort with a new furnace and central air. Spacious interior shows sunny Florida room, family room with pegged oak flooring and fireplace. 4 bedrooms with hardwood floors, 2 1/2 baths and a formal dining room. Security system and window treatments. \$171,900 626-9100 02-B-5509

OUTSTANDING HOME! Completely updated 3 bedroom Ranch in Farmington Hills. Charming kitchen with new cabinets, imported tile walls and 2 pantries. Family room with vaulted ceiling, skylights and fireplace. Formal dining room, rec room. Florida room and finished basement. Central air. \$152,500 626-9100 02-B-5600

CLEANER THAN A WHISTLE! This ideal family home in Farmington offers the privacy of a cul-de-sac and the advantage of being close to downtown. Features 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, master bedroom with bath and dressing area, updated kitchen, screened porch and family room with fireplace. MORE! \$144,900 626-9100 02-B-5497

SECLUDED COLONIAL! Marvellous Quad-level in Southfield with stately mature trees. The affordable luxury of this home includes 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, country kitchen and open slate foyer. Fireplace in family room. Other extras include doorwall to patio and 2 car attached garage with opener. \$108,000 626-9100

METICULOUS! Great 3 bedroom Ranch in Farmington has been well-maintained. Offers many updates including new roof, newer furnace and updated kitchen. Spacious family room, breakfast room and 1 1/2 baths. Large basement is partially finished. Central air and some appliances. \$105,900 626-9100 02-B-5575

GREAT LOCATION! Convenient to downtown Farmington Hills, this 3 bedroom Ranch is priced to sell. Updates include a newer furnace, garage door and opener. Interior offers formal dining room, Florida room and living room with fireplace. Storage shed on a large lot. \$103,900 626-9100 02-B-5601

OPEN AND BRIGHT! Gorgeous Tri-level is located in a quiet area of Southfield. Offers a sunken living room, 3 bedrooms, spacious family room, formal dining room and 1 1/2 baths. Unfinished bonus room could be 4th bedroom. Finished walk-out basement. New carpet and paint. Central air. \$24,900 626-9100 02-A-5613

ONE OF A KIND! You'll love this tri-level style Condo in Southfield. Offers moving details such as the cathedral ceiling and openwall in the living room. Super cozy fireplace in the family room and plenty of storage in the master bedroom with a full wall of closets. Private courtyard and art appliances. \$87,900 606-6000 01-B-5524

HERE IT IS! Southfield 2 bedroom Bungalow with Birmingham schools. Very well-maintained, hardwood floors, sparkling updated bath and landscaped private yard with deck. Enjoy the shady street in the summer, the wood stove in the winter and the attached garage with heat and electricity. \$64,900 626-9100

PERFECT FOR THE PROFESSIONAL! Sparkling clean lower level condo unit. Developsburgh Historical Park and has lots of custom extras. Starting with the 2 large bedrooms, you'll love the storage space and closets. Formal dining room, carpet and major appliances included. \$57,900 626-9100 02-B-5616

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