

Filters help color shots

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

There are countless types of filters on the market, many of which are outrageous and needless. But certain filters, used properly, can be important additions to your photo accessories. They can turn an ordinary picture into something quite special.

Today, I'm going to discuss the five essential filters for color film, the ones I feel you can put to good use to help get rave reviews for your photographs. In my next column, I'll talk about the important black and white filters.

Polarizer — This is the most essential filter of all. The polarizer will reduce reflections, cut through haze and, most important, deepen colors, especially the blue in the sky. Shooting at a right angle from the sun, a polarizer will dramatically darken the

sky for an impact-filled photo. Think of a polarizer as putting a pair of sunglasses on your camera.

Skylight — While a skylight filter will slightly warm up colors, its main function is to protect your lens. Think of it as an inexpensive "insurance policy" for your expensive lens.

Diffusion — A diffusion filter will make you a hero when photographing the women in your life. Harsh facial lines will be eliminated and more glamorous shots will result. Diffusion filters are available in a variety of strengths from a very slight softening effect to extreme diffusion.

Close-up — Most lenses can't focus any closer than a couple of feet, so if you want to produce some good closeups of flowers, you're just out of luck. Simple solution: a set of close-up filters. It's like placing a magnifying glass on your camera. Sound exciting? It is! Close-up filters come in sets of three, allowing you to select whatever strength works

best for you.

Colored filters — Orange, red, magenta . . . any color you want is available. Colored filters can be used to really spruce up a sunrise or sunset by adding the filter color to the overall scene. For best results, use slide film and be sure to bracket your exposures.

There you have it! These five filters will help to dramatically improve your photographs.

Short shot

Monte Nagler's popular photography classes begin Wednesday, April 20, at The Community House in Birmingham. Don't miss this special opportunity to sharpen up your photography skills. Call The Community House at (810) 644-5832 for registration information.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1673. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.



Soft touch: Monte Nagler used a diffusion filter to soften facial lines in this family portrait of Sarah and Harold Fried of Birmingham and their delightful daughter, Leah.

EXHIBITIONS

Send announcements of Oakland County and Wayne County art gallery exhibitions to: Creative Living Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009; fax (810) 644-1314. Our complete listing of current area exhibitions is available by fax or mail for \$4.95. If paying by VISA or Master Card, call (313) 953-2022, order document 7301 and leave your name and mailing address. If paying by VISA or Master Card number and expiration date, if paying by check or money order, write: Bryan Waser, information systems coordinator, O&E, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, and order document 7301. With either method, leave a daytime phone number and indicate if you want delivery by fax or mail. The listing is updated weekly.

FIRST THURSDAY
Today is the "First Thursday" of the month. The North Woodward and Townsend Street art galleries in Birmingham will have extended hours tonight. Call the individual galleries for more information.

GALLERY AUTOMANIA
Thursday, April 7 — The eighth annual Hot Rod Heritage Fine Art Exhibit will run through May 21. Artist Ron Vermeiren of Leamington, Ontario, and a few of the other 25 featured artists will attend the opening Thursday.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 304 East St., one block east of Main between Third and Fourth in downtown Rochester. (810) 656-8571.

KARATAT GALLERIES
Thursday-Saturday, April 7-9 — The gallery's 22nd annual International Glass Invitational will continue through May 7, spotlighting works by more than 100 artists. Auction of glass work from the '70s and '80s 7:30 p.m. Thursday; opening reception to meet the artists 8 p.m. Saturday; preview 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday (April only), in the Triatria Building at 32255 Northwestern Highway, Suite 45, Farmington Hills. (810) 851-9090.

HILL GALLERY
Thursday, April 7 — A sculpture exhibit by Donald Lipiski will continue to May 12. Opening reception for the artist 6-8 p.m. Thursday. Lipiski deftly transforms a remarkable range of found objects into poetic works of art. The gallery is at 163 Townsend in Birmingham. Call (810) 540-9288.

LENSBERG GALLERY
Thursday and Saturday, April 7 and 9 — New works by Wendy MacGaw will be exhibited to

April 30. Opening reception 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday; discussion with the artist 2 p.m. Saturday. MacGaw is inspired by the forms of industrial and architectural structure and by their ongoing obsolescence; she searches for forms that are evocative of our particular landscape and yet inherently inaccessible. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and by appointment, 538 N. Woodward, Birmingham. (810) 642-6623.

O.J. HARRIS/DAVID KLEIN GALLERY
Thursday, April 7 — An exhibit of New York City facade paintings by Susan Holcomb and landscape paintings by Robert Poplack will continue through April 30. Opening reception for the artists 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday. Fire escapes, store windows, graffiti and daylight fill Holcomb's realistically painted canvases. Poplack paints the countryside with energetic, expressive grandeur; supplying viewers with a warm, relaxing summer day, from clay-red rooftops lining a river bank to cows grazing in vast meadows. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 430 N. Woodward, Birmingham. (810) 433-3700.

SUSANNE HILBERRY GALLERY
Thursday, April 7 — An exhibit of recent watercolor and oil paintings by native Detroit Ellen

Phelan will continue through May 14. Opening reception to meet the artist 6-7 p.m. Thursday. The featured work is a continuing investigation of the psychological attitudes represented in the image of the doll. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham. (810) 642-8250.

KOCHINPLI GALLERY
Thursday, April 7 — Paintings by award-winning Michigan artist Ellen Will, professor emerita at Eastern Michigan University, are exhibited through April 30. Opening reception for the artist 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday. Will's work reflects her philosophy: making every moment count, exploring every new idea and rejoicing with others in her luck of surviving a near-fatal illness. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment, 568 N. Woodward, Birmingham. (810) 645-1905.

LAWRENCE STREET GALLERY
Friday, April 8 — "Recent Paintings: Pentiment" by Louise Herring continues to May 6. Reception to meet the artist 6-9 p.m. Friday. Herring strongly responds to the relationship between architectural structures and organic forms found on urban walls. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, 29 W. Lawrence, Pontiac. (810) 334-6716.

PONTIAC GLASS COMPANY GALLERY
Friday, April 8 — The newly opening gallery's premiere exhibit, continuing to May 6, will feature a show by the Michigan Glass Guild, a non-profit organization comprised of local glass artists. Opening reception 5-9 p.m. Friday. Fifteen local artists representing different facets of glass work — hot, fused (warm) and flat (cold) glass panels and sculpture — will be featured in addition to a Robert Trainer retrospective. The gallery is at 23 W. Lawrence in Pontiac. For in-

formation, call the gallery at (810) 332-6610 or the guild at (810) 547-0507.

GALLERY FUNCTIONARY
Friday, April 8 — Selected works by Richard Bennett, who combines the art of sculpture with the craft of furniture design, are featured through April 30. Opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday. Gallery: Functionary is at 23-B W. Lawrence, next to the Lawrence Street Gallery and behind the Piko Street Restaurant in Pontiac. Call (810) 333-0333.

DONNA JACOBS GALLERY LTD.
Saturday-Sunday, April 8-10 — In honor of Michigan Glass Month, the gallery will celebrate the 15th annual Exhibition of Ancient Glass through May 7. Opening reception 1-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. The collection originates from Egypt, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Near East and the Roman Empire, including marble, cone-formed, cast and blown glass representing 2,000 years of glass history. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, 574 N. Woodward, Birmingham. (810) 540-1630.

KARATAT/SHAW GALLERY
Saturday, April 9 — A one-person exhibit of the trompe l'oeil sculpture of Victor Spinski, and a display of work by sculptor Michael Hough, will continue through May 7; opening reception to meet the artists 8 p.m. Saturday. Also presented through May 7 will be "Contemporary Jewelers: Nine Modern Masters"; opening reception 8 p.m. Saturday. Spinski produces "trick of the eye" sculpture of great technical expertise and wit, sometimes biting, social commentary; they confront the viewer with the very nature of perception. Hough's work consists of multi-elemental totemic sculptures and wall pieces that are poetic visual mental lives. His totem, 7 to 9 feet tall, are comprised of numerous stacked objects. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment, in the Triatria Build-

ing at 32255 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, (810) 851-8767.

SANDRA COLLINS
Thursday, April 7 — "Slumped Glass: Work by Peter Crisp" continues to April 30. First Thursday Art Walk 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday. April is Michigan Glass Month. Crisp has received international recognition for his work in slumped glass and pate de verre. Slumped glass is a warm glass process. In a kiln at about 800 degrees Celsius, sheet glass laminates are heat slumped using full or part molds. Pate de verre is a paste mixture of crushed glass and oil that is fused onto the piece. The gallery is at 470 N. Woodward in Birmingham. Call (810) 642-4795.

ARIANA GALLERY
Friday, April 8 — "A Touch of Glass," featuring exciting works for Michigan Glass Month, will continue through May 7. Opening reception 7-10 p.m. Friday; meet David Jaworski, one of the featured artists, and preview his newest work. Jaworski will lecture on how his glass is developed and evolves into unusual sculptures 1 p.m. Sunday, April 10; reservations are suggested. The gallery is at 119 S. Main in Royal Oak. Call (810) 546-8810.

300 GALLERIA OFFCENTRE
Friday, April 8 — "Once Upon a Time . . . Happily Ever After," an exhibit and sale of works — all based on fairy tales and fantasies — by 109 Detroit area artists, will continue through May 7. Opening reception, featuring refreshments and entertainment, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday. The show and sale will benefit the Michigan Opera Theatre's upcoming ballet production of "Cinderella." Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, on 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern Highway in Southfield. Call (810) 356-4460 for more information about the opening reception.

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