

Create memorable portraits

Outdoor, informal portraits can be the most exciting and attention getting of all your people pictures. Here is some advice on how to capture these most memorable shots on film.

First, remember that outdoor portraits should be natural. Your subject should be dressed in what they enjoy and the way they wish to appear.

Teenagers, for example, who are inseparable from that old pair of faded jeans should be photographed wearing them. Or that favorite sweater should be part of the shot. If your subjects are dressed in what they feel comfortable with, they'll appear far more relaxed in the finished pictures.

Build a rapport with your subjects. Whether it's a family member, friend, or even a stranger, taking a few moments to chat will relax both of you. Also, your subject will be more likely to follow your posing suggestions.

Look for a meaningful outdoor setting. A cluster of trees, a quiet pond, an old farmhouse, even an urban setting will all provide a natural scene. Just make sure your setting complements, rather than dominates your subjects.

Sometimes you may just "stumble" upon a good outdoor portrait opportunity. I was visiting Yapa village in northern Thailand where the "long-neck" women of the Karen Tribe live.

Natural lighting and moving in close got me the picture shown here. For outdoor portraits, I prefer a normal focal length lens. This way, the subject will be shown in a pleasing size relation-



Yapa Village in northern Thailand provided many photographic opportunities including this portrait of the "long-neck" women.

ship with the surroundings, a wide-angle lens may distort or make the subject appear too small in the picture.

A telephoto, unless it's a head-shot you're after, may cause you to lose too much of the background.

Very important, pay close attention to lighting. Back or side lighting will enhance the picture and make your subject stand out from the background.

Even consider using fill-in flash to add further "sparkle" to your subject's face. Remember, direct frontal lighting, unless

it's an overcast day, will cause unflattering shadows and squinty eyes that will most assuredly spoil your shot.

Shoot a number of pictures with facial expressions characteristic of the subject's personality. You're bound to capture that special mood, that fleeting expression that "says it all" about your special subject.

Monte Hagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave a message for him at (734) 953-2047.

AT THE GALLERIES

Making contact: Please submit items for publication to Linda Chomik, two weeks in advance of the event. Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or fax (734) 591-7219.

OPENING RECEPTIONS

David Klein Gallery

Los Angeles based figurative painter Dan McCleary 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Exhibit continues to Saturday, May 31, 163 Townsend, Birmingham, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, www.dkgallery.com, (248) 433-3700

Revolution

Detroit artist Peter Williams, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, May 3, includes new paintings and watercolors. Exhibit closes Saturday, June 14, 23257 Woodward Ave., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, www.revolution.com, (248) 541-3444

PF Galleries

Two-woman show of contemporary paintings by Pamela Cooper and abstract drawings by Lois Feicher, 1-10 p.m. Saturday, May 3, 213 E. 14 Mile Road at Main St., Clawson, 9-20 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, (248) 593-5997

Lemberg Gallery

Joe Hammond, Shanghai Costumes, new paintings and unique paper objects, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, May 3, Exhibit continues to Saturday, June 14, 23244 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, www.lemberggallery.com, (248) 591-6622

Susanne Hilberry Gallery

David Deutsch, new paintings and photographs, 6-8 p.m. Saturday, May 3, Exhibit continues to Saturday, June 21, 700 Livernois, Ferndale, (248) 541-4700

Au Courant Interior Design

Studio/Gallery. You can leave a message for Allen Berke, Recent Paintings, 5-7

p.m. Saturday, May 3, 23255 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, (248) 540-3770.

ONGOING

Arlena Gallery

Exhibition of Sculptural Glass 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 119 S. Main St., Royal Oak, (248) 546-8010

Artifacts Art Club

Members exhibit a variety of media through April 30, Livonia City Hall lobby, Five Mile, east of Farmington Road, (734) 591-3094

Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center

Exzavine Estola, an installation by Therman Stalom to Friday, May 2, 1516 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham, Children's workshops with Stalom Tuesday-Thursday, April 29-May 1, (248) 644-0666

CPOP Gallery

"The Way I Let Me Be Good" an exhibit by Niagara, continues to April 30. The 80-piece exhibit includes rare early work, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9901

Janice Charach Epstein Gallery

"Mario Glass: Alumni & Students of College for Creative Studies" continues to Wednesday, April 30, at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 Maple, West Bloomfield, Raffle of Steven Weinberg sculpture 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, (248) 432-5448

Habitat Galleries

31st International Glass Invitational continues to May 10, 202 E. Maple, Birmingham, and 4400 Ferndale, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590

Hemlocke Gallery

19th century paintings, contemporary art and copies of the masters, 225 Main Street, between Second and Third, in Rochester, (248) 656-8559

WHERE CAN I FIND?

Through reader feedback, this interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find. If where a product is sold or service is available, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Please be patient about your requests and feedback; we receive an overwhelming number of phone calls. Also, please spell any uncommon items. If you don't see information about your request, we couldn't find it. Requests are published twice.

WHAT WE FOUND
- For sock clips try the Fuller Brush catalog (800) 810-2340.

FIND AND SEARCH
- An organization or company who can donate poly-fill to make Sojourn Bears. Made to distribute to cancer survivors

or cancer patients. Contact on the Internet at jewel@ameritech.net, or call (248) 473-1398. Her Web page is www.livings.com/sojourn-bears.html
- Redford Township Historical and Genealogy Society are looking for doll and adult size mannequins. Call (313) 937-0310.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR
- A store that sells shoes with an AA width for a young adult for Penny.
- Someone who repairs sterling silver jewelry.
- A store that sells Imagine Love Peace & Happiness formerly sold at Bath & Body Works for Cornelia.
- Someone to complete a crocheted bedspread for Mary.
- A store that sells Bonnie Bell bronzing gel for Lillian.
- A store that sells one-quart size glass thermos filler for Mary.
- A store in the Farmington

area that sells Simply soda for Janice of Farmington Hills.
- A store that sells a flag lapel pin was sold at the Hallmark store at Laurel Park. There are a couple of versions with a Navy Seal in blue; Marine Corps seal in red, Army seal in Green. The size over an inch high and inch wide, seal is approximately 3/4-inch in diameter for Robert of Canton.
- Someone to knit or crochet an outfit for an 8-inch Kewpie doll for Carmen of Livonia.
- A store that sells BVD T-shirts for Mrs. B.
- A store or company that buys used computers and monitors for Joyce.
- A store that sells Enchanted Apple hand & body cream (formerly sold by Victoria's Secrets)

- Compiled by Sandi Jarackas