

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR BAD PHOTOS SEE WITH AN ARTIST'S EYE (4-PART SERIES)

Photography is a mix of art, expression and technology. Mastering it requires a steep learning curve which may become a joy, a frustration, or both. It may be a joy for the challenges it poses, and a frustration since our vision generally outpaces our ability to express it; this inability to express our vision is often due to our lack of mastery of the available tools.

With the availability of great digital cameras and rather good cameras now built into most phones and other communication devices, most of us have the technology available to produce great pictures. Unfortunately, taking those great pictures requires some minimum knowledge of what makes a picture great and a basic understanding that enables the technology and minimizes frustration.

There Is No Excuse for Bad Photos is a unique presentation covering art, expression and the essential aspects of digital photography technology.

Part 1 of the seminar focuses on developing a basic understanding of what is necessary to achieve the artistic vision and expression and to understand the limits of the equipment. It reviews the variables that affect the photo (aperture, shutter speed and sensor sensitivity) and how to control them in order to achieve the desired selective focus, depth of field, highlights, etc.

Part 2 of the presentation will explore important conventions regarding composition, lighting, fore- and background, etc. It will familiarize the participant with available resources, discuss the pros and cons of popular photo equipment and suggest cost-effective choices for improving photographs without breaking the bank.

Part 3 of the presentation will take the participant on a journey of how to select unusual images and avoid common stereotypes via real examples covering landscapes, cityscapes, wildlife, birds and florals, spanning the use of ultra-wide angle to long telephoto lenses as well as macro lenses for close-up photos and fisheye lenses for special effects. The emphasis will be on how to express an artist's vision through tools like selective focus, depth-of-field, shutter speed, etc.

Part 4 of the presentation will focus on special skills necessary to photograph moving wild life and flying birds, discussing special camera settings for controlling continuous focus and high shutter speeds while maintaining adequate depth of field. It will familiarize the participant with special resources, discuss the pros and cons of popular ultra-telephoto lenses and recommend other cost-effective equipment to improve wildlife photos.

Presenters: The seminar is led by **Linnea & Wolf Koch**, an unlikely collaboration since Linnea is an artist who has worked in the visual arts field for over 40 years, while Wolf is a practicing engineer, former part-time educator and occasional photographer. Linnea accompanies him on many of his business trips throughout the country and Europe;

together, they visit and photograph local landmarks, historical sites and notable gardens. They have made January trips to Bosque del Apache, NM, a Federal Wildlife Management area along the Rio Grande River, to photograph wintering sandhill cranes and snow geese; a trip to Costa Rica to photograph toucans, macaws, hummingbirds, a sloth, capuchin monkeys and other wildlife; and trips to northeast Florida to document migrating and resident birds and wildlife.

Linnea Koch, the daughter of an artist, has had an interest and worked in many different media, from painting and sculpture to etching and weaving. While she had fun with a simple camera during childhood, photography really became interesting when she received her first SLR camera in high school, a used early Exa (Exakta). That camera kept her looking for unusual subject matter, creating a new way of seeing common place subjects. From the beaches on Lake Michigan to travels around the country, as well as explorations in Europe, she has searched for intriguing subjects to photograph. Her photos have been published in corporate publications, calendars and books, including covers of nautical chart books. She has owned and operated a graphic design studio for over four decades, is an Illinois Master Gardener with a special interest in native shade plants, and has given many talks on local landmarks, shade gardening and some of the wonderful gardens here and in Europe.

Wolf Koch was photographing with an old Agfa in his his early teens. He acquired one of the iconic range finder cameras, a Canon 7s, in the late 1960s, moved on to SLRs and twin-lens reflex cameras, established a darkroom and processed his own color slides. His engineering job brought him to the Midwest, where he also spent two decades teaching as an adjunct professor of engineering and became a founder of SciTech Hands-on Museum in Aurora, IL, one of the first science centers in the Midwest to portray difficult concepts in easily understood demonstrations and displays. In 1995, Wolf founded Technology Resources International, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in petroleum products distribution technology. With more than 50 publications and 30 patents, he continues to consult, lecture and write on energy-related and other technical topics. Balancing these left-brain activities with more creative matters, he has spent the last two decades developing presentations on a wide range of historical topics and various photography seminars.