

SUNDAY

ARTS & STYLE



Barbara Loss / Contributed photo

Fairfield photographer Barbara Loss won first place with her piece "We Didn't Start the Fire" at the Ridgefield Guild of Artists' juried "CameraWorks 2021" show. The exhibit is on display through March 28. Below, Redding photographer Andrew Graham received an honorable mention for "Hold On."

Behind the lens

'CAMERAWORKS' EXHIBIT SHOWCASES DIVERSITY IN PHOTOGRAPHY

By Andrea Valluzzo

The stunning range of photography's creativity will be on full display at the Ridgefield Guild of Artists' biennial exhibition devoted to the medium, "CameraWorks 2021," on view through March 28. The exhibition will be in the gallery and online.

Pamela Stoddart, the Guild's executive director, said the exhibition began about 20 years ago due to the wealth of talented photographers in the area that deserved their own show. "It focuses solely on photographic processes and methods: film, digital, pinhole, lomography, photograms, encaustic, disposable, iphoneography, lenticular and videography," she said.

The works featured in the show range from immersive to two-dimensional over the years and this year's entries run the gamut from landscapes and portraits to abstracted/stylized images — in both color and black-and-white. Storytelling is at the heart of each image and one's

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Andrew Graham / Contributed photo

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Waterford musician releases new EP

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CT Folk showcases local talent in virtual concert

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What have you been putting off during the pandemic?

Our urologist takes questions about men's health issues on our St. Vincent's Medical Center Facebook page.



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DEAR ABBY

By Jeanne Phillips

Folks are stingy with appreciation

Dear Abby: I am a male reader with a complaint. Have you noticed that women hardly ever compliment men? On ANYTHING! They expect men to compliment them but never reciprocate.

If you move furniture, take them out for a nice dinner, buy tickets to their favorite show, buy them a gift, they don't have enough manners or coath to say thank you or express appreciation.

Getting a compliment is like pulling teeth from a great white shark while he's feeding. Don't women ever think, "Maybe I should say something to HIM instead of expecting him to say it to me?"

Where do they learn this behavior? Are they taught this growing up? Or do they just not care or even realize? — Shaking My Head in New Jersey

Dear Shaking: My late mother, God rest her soul, once commented to me that people with "class" never use that word.

In this case, I will make an exception and tell you that individuals of both sexes who have class were taught from early childhood the magic words "please" and "thank you," and to express gratitude.

I don't know what kind of women you are involved with, but I'm suggesting it is time to upgrade the quality. Do not spoil anyone who isn't willing to spoil you right back.

Dear Abby: I've been going to the same poke joint for more than five years now. Several of the employees have worked there for years. I feel at this point, I should know their names, but they don't wear name tags, and I'm embarrassed to ask what their names are after so many years. They don't know mine either, but they know enough about me to ask how my son is doing or how my work is going.

I like calling people by their names, but I'm a little shy and awkward and don't know how to ask. Should I just keep our weekly (sometimes biweekly) exchanges at surface-level chit-chat without worrying about what their names are?

—Friendly in the West

Dear Friendly: You can certainly do that. It has worked for you so far. However, if you would like to know the employees' names, just say that you are "terrible with names and embarrassed to even have to ask after all this time, but ... what is your name? My name is (insert name)."

Dear Abby: I'm getting married next month and I'm so nervous. What can I do to not be scared? — Cold Feet in Florida

Dear Cold Feet: I wish you had been more forthcoming about what you are worried about.

Is it the wedding ceremony and your wedding day? If that's the case, have faith that you and your fiancé will make it through together because you WILL.

Is it your wedding night? A talk with your doctor should allay your fears.

Is it that you are unsure about the person you are marrying? If that's the case, postpone the wedding and schedule premarital counseling for you and your intended. In some religions, the clergy recommend this type of counseling so issues like money and child-rearing can be discussed and not cause serious problems later.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at wv@dearabby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Miggs Burroughs / Contributed photo

Westport's Miggs Burroughs took home second place in the "CameraWorks 2021" show with his photo "Signs of Compassion."

BEHIND THE LENS

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immediate reaction to the images is often visceral.

"Variety is always desired whenever we do a call for any show," she said. "We ultimately want the audience to walk away with a sense of what it means to be a photographer and the wide range of outcomes you can have when behind a lens."

Exhibitions coordinator Chris Perry said this year's show is only the second show they have had in the galleries since the beginning of the pandemic. "We feel that our audience, and the artists, are hungry for an in-gallery experience," he said. "In the past year, we have only been able to have online shows, and they were all well-received, but we are really looking forward to welcoming in-gallery viewers on a limited basis for this exhibition."

Nearly 40 area photographers are represented in this exhibition, which was juried by Andrew Delaney of Getty Images. Several awards were presented, including first place to Barbara Loss of Fairfield for her work, "We Didn't Start the Fire;" second place to Miggs Burroughs of Westport for "Signs of Compassion" and third place went to Patricia Pedraza of Katonah, N.Y., for "Purple Majesty." Earning honorable mentions were Ridgefield's Luke Boylan, "Wellfleet Salt Marsh;" Nancy Breakstone of Westport, "Reeds in the River;" Andrew Graham of Redding, "Hold On;" Torrance York of New Canaan for a work (untitled 6341) from Semaphore Project and Tim Nighswander of Hamden for "Magnolia #27."

Both Stoddart and Perry found plenty here that will challenge, surprise and resonate with audiences. "What struck me was the diversity of submission. There were so many types of images and methods of capturing one that I think we were



Luke Boylan / Contributed photo

Ridgefield's Luke Boylan received an honorable mention for his piece "Wellfleet Salt Marsh."



Torrance York / Contributed photo

New Cannan's Torrance York received an honorable mention for "Untitled 6341 from Semaphore Project."

very successful in the first year of requesting work that may be considered beyond the traditional," Perry said. "And our juror rose to the occasion and selected a broad variety of work that reflects this change of

scope. It is my hope that in the coming years we see even more variety of image and method of capture."

Stoddart noted the wide variety of subject matters and exposures as well as materials among exhibition submissions. "Photographs were printed on plexiglass, in black and white or color and the latest trend, printed on aluminum or metallic paper."

Pedraza, a self-taught artist, perhaps best epitomizes the challenges — and opportunities — artists find themselves in during a global pandemic. "I am excited to be in the middle of a major life reset! After decades working in the wacky world of television news, I finally and luckily have a chance to reinvent myself and focus on my passion as a visual creator," she said in an artist statement. "I am currently obsessed with kaleidoscopic creations, which

originate with an original digital photo and take new form through mirroring, repeating, and transforming images."

In his artist statement Burroughs said he is intrigued by all the changes and transitions — large and small, real and imagined — that are part of one's daily life. In his lenticular images he is well known for, he seems to reflect a duality, and sometimes dichotomy. "The lenticular medium allows me to explore these journeys through time, space and emotions, in a fresh and somewhat cinematic way. They are, in fact, like short movies with only two frames, and if I can tell a story with the same impact that a real movie does, with more than 250,000 frames, then I have succeeded."

For more information about the exhibit, visit rgoa.org.

Andrea Valluzzo is a freelance writer.