

MARCH, 2022

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980



Lion King Portrait

Monochrome by Joe Norton

Award & Image of the Month for February, CACCA Competition Honorable Mention

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From Rich's Archives

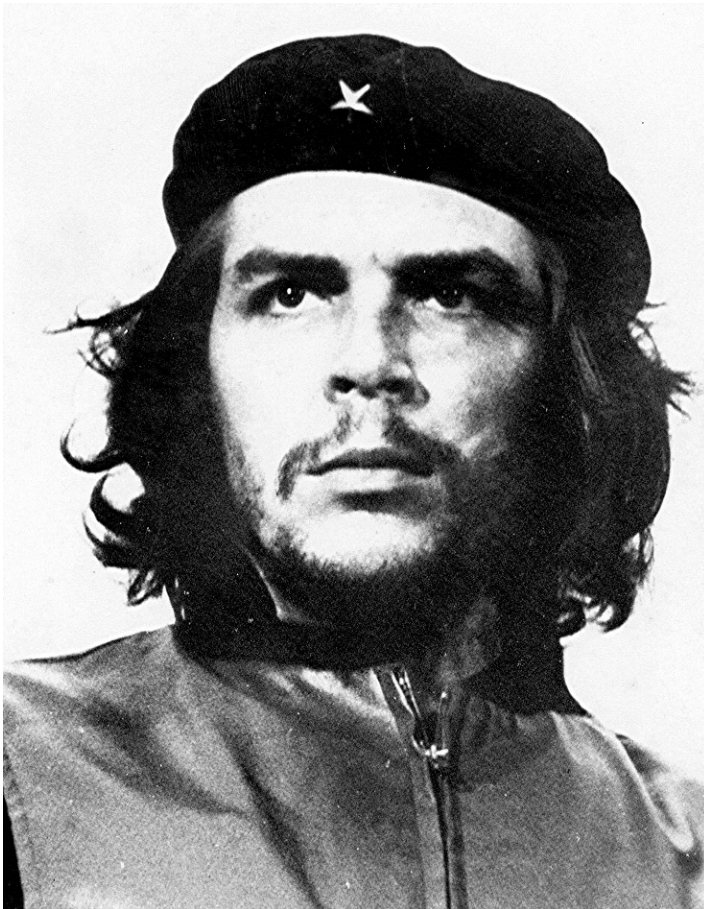
*Rich Bickham was Editor of the CLCC newsletter for over five years (October 2013 to January 2019)
In this column, he shares some of his previous stories.*

ICONIC PHOTO OF A MARCH DAY IN HISTORY

Submitted by Rich Bickham

(Originally published in the February 2017 CLCC newsletter)

During most of the 1950's, the Caribbean island nation of Cuba was a dictatorship, under the control of dictator Fulgencio Batista (1901 - 1973). The government was supported by the United States (as were several other countries in both Central and South America, together commonly known as Latin America). Rebellious uprisings were not uncommon in many Latin American countries, and Batista's regime was no exception. Fidel Castro (1926 - 2016) and his brother Raúl Castro (1931 -) were born, raised and schooled in Cuba. They were jailed in 1953 after attempting to overthrow the government. Then in 1955 they were granted amnesty and soon afterward fled the country to Mexico.



It was in Mexico that the Castro brothers met up with Ernesto "Che" Guevara (1928 - 1967), a well-educated Argentine physician and revolutionary. Having witnessed much poverty, hunger and disease in his travels throughout Latin America, Guevara was determined to fight for the human rights of its many powerless citizens. Guevara and the Castro brothers shared many political interests and quickly became friends after meeting in Mexico City. Along with about 80 other similar-minded Cubans living in Mexico, they traveled by boat back to Cuba in late 1956 to engage in guerrilla warfare against the corrupt Batista regime. Their small effort was quickly thwarted by the Cuban military. The three men survived, along with only 19 of the others who came with them from Mexico. They then regrouped and hid out in the Sierra Maestra mountains, meeting up and training with other revolutionary groups. They then began guerrilla warfare activity against the government.

(Iconic Photo Of A March Day In History, continued)

In early 1958 the group emerged as a forceful enemy of the Batista government. Led by Fidel and Guevara (whom Fidel had appointed his second in command) they initiated more widespread attacks in an internationally publicized revolutionary movement within Cuba. The revolution was ultimately successful, and Batista fled the country on New Years Day, 1959. Fidel and Guevara were hailed as heroes by the Cuban people. Fidel formed a new government appointing himself as leader. He remained in power until he stepped down due to illness in 2008, nearly fifty years later. Raúl then assumed leadership of the country.

From 1959 until early 1965 Guevara held several key positions in the Cuban government, including Minister of Industries, Cuban diplomat instructional director for the Cuban military. While representing Cuba abroad, he made speeches at many venues including the United Nations. He disappeared from public view after leaving Cuba in 1965 to fight for other revolutionary causes in the Congo and later in Bolivia. In October of 1967 he was captured by Bolivian government forces and summarily executed.

Upon his death, Che Guevara was recognized as a martyr within the socialist world. The image on the left was taken by Cuban photographer Alberto Korda (1928 - 2001) on March 4, 1960 at a memorial service for the 100-plus victims of an explosion of a munitions-filled freighter in a Havana harbor. Guevara's legacy has grown since his death and is still alive today. Time magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century in its December 31, 1999 issue. The Maryland Institute College of Art cited Korda's picture as "... the most famous photograph in the world". The Victoria and Albert Museum of art and design in London declared it likely the most reproduced photograph in history (including photographs, newspapers, magazines, posters, silk screened tee shirts, etc.). It stands as an iconic symbol of cultural revolution.

The Future of CLCC

Notes and News from February, 2022

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

Welcome to our new Treasurer, **Gail Schulz!** Thank you for filling this important position. Gail recently moved to our area, and came to our December in-person meeting at the Dole. She was treasurer in her former camera club.

As of this writing, we continue to look for a webmaster to manage the club web page (www.crystallakecameraclub.com). Sandy Whitman has done a terrific job for 9 or 10 years. If you have some experience managing web pages, or know someone who does, contact [Rich Bickham](#).

There was lots of interesting items submitted for this newsletter! Thank YOU!

The February competition was full of great images. From my perspective - the discussion about the submitted images was an incredibly valuable experience.

Guidelines for the March 1 Show & Tell are on the Club Calendar on page 11. See you on 3/1!

FEBRUARY 2022 COMPETITION WINNING IMAGES



Lake Decatur
Color by Joe Norton
Award



Whoo Me?
Color by
Kim Walkup
Honorable Mention

Bald Eagle Portrait

Color by
Joe Norton
Award



Ice Crystals
Abstract
Monochrome by
Teresa Baber
Honorable Mention



Leopard Portrait
Monochrome by
Joe Norton
Award



Think Spring
Color by Connie Sonnenberg
Honorable Mention



Dole Mansion Staircase

Color by
Mike McGuigan
Award

Moonlighting
Monochrome by
Connie Sonnenberg
Honorable Mention





White Pelican Glide
Color by
Joe Norton
Honorable Mention



Rainbow Bridge
Color by
Jeff Chemelewski
Honorable Mention

‘Not starving artists anymore’: Chicago photographer blazes NFT trail for others like her

By Alison Bowen

Chicago Tribune

Feb 13, 2022

(<https://www.chicagotribune.com/people/ct-people-brittany-pierre-photographer-nfts-art-20220213-7iii3d4bszaqjjrwpucutntgehq-story.html>)

Submitted by Sandra Whitman

During the pandemic, **Brittany Pierre** began wandering her neighborhood, taking photos of interesting buildings and other Chicagoans.

She had taught herself photography decades earlier, and decided she wanted to start selling her art. But while she could bring in around \$40 for each of her shots, it came only after she first paid \$30 for printing and framing them.

Meanwhile, she was falling behind on rent.

“I wasn’t making anything,” Pierre said.

Now, a year after scraping by and being late on bills, she has profited so much from selling her photography as NFTs that she is now able to help others afford to find themselves similar sales.

“The first time I paid my rent on time, consecutively, my landlord was like, ‘Did you get a new job?’” she said.

NFTs, short for *nonfungible tokens*, are a one-of-a-kind digital item that someone can own, from videos to photography like Pierre’s. NFTs have garnered interest in the art-collecting world as a way to ensure ownership of something that could otherwise be easily duplicated.

Pierre, 36, began shooting photos years ago, when she lived in Houston and did not have a car. She spent a lot of time walking, which gave her time to appreciate small details and streetscapes.



Photographer Brittany Pierre in the Loop on Feb. 8, 2022
(Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune)

“I was always walking, I was always observing,” she said. “When you look through a camera, it kind of gives you a different perspective of the mundane.”

She’d first been inspired by seeing Life magazine images of Gordon Parks’ photographs of the Black experience.

In Houston, after Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017, she went out with her camera, photographing things like flood-soaked photos and “everybody’s discarded lives on the side of the road.”

(‘Not starving artists anymore’ continued)

After 15 years there, she moved to Chicago in 2019, having visited her former hometown for the Taste of Chicago and feeling drawn to the creative community and the architecture she loves. “That’s kind of where my eye would go,” she said. She loves, for example, the Wrigley Building’s ornate design. “It’s just really beautiful.”

But it was during the pandemic that she regularly took her camera outside. She felt trapped in her home, trying to work remotely as a service coordinator at a car wash.

Instead, she found herself going on walks and looking through her lens, shooting what she saw as she walked around her Ravenswood neighborhood.

“I said, ‘You know what? I’ve got to do something to get my mind off of things,’” she said.

One day, self-described doom scrolling, she saw that [Elise Swopes](#), an artist she respected on Twitter, had sold an NFT for far more than Pierre was making with her own prints.

She thought, “OK, I need to find out what that is, and I need to do it, and I need to get on it right now.”



Photographer Brittany Pierre looks for a picture while doing street photography in the Loop on Feb. 8, 2022.
(Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune)

At the time, like many, she wasn’t entirely sure what an NFT was. She taught herself through YouTube videos, Google and asking questions of others already in the community online.

Now, she helps explain the acronym, and also helps other creatives get involved so they can have more control and profit from their art too.

An article last fall in the [School of the Art Institute of Chicago’s magazine](#) examined NFTs and their impact on the art world, including former alums creating NFTs, and the \$69.3 million artwork that sold at Christie’s in 2021 by the artist known as Beeple.

Delinda Collier, a professor of art history, theory and criticism and

interim dean of graduate studies at the School of the Art Institute, said NFTs have increased opportunities for artists to control the outcomes of their work and have contracts and contractual relationships be more transparent.

“My hope is that NFTs can change the balance of power in the art world to benefit artists to the extent that artists can have more control over the sales and ownership of their intellectual property,” she said.

Collier said it can be a steep learning curve, but many are helping artists learn to use these powerful tools. They discuss them in class.

(‘Not starving artists anymore’ continued)

Colleagues and people online helped Pierre understand the NFT world, a generosity she seeks to replicate. After she was given an invitation into one of the marketplaces, her first NFT sold in May 2021 for about \$250. Her work ranges from streetscapes featuring textured details of buildings to portraits and black-and-white scenes from the “L.”

“My mother was very giving with the little that she had,” Pierre said. She wants to help uplift Black artists and offset inequality that communities of color face. She has helped dozens of women learn about NFTs, hoping to boost the percentage of women on marketplaces. People have to pay fees to get into marketplaces, so she helps people pay those, as others did for her.

“The most important thing is making sure we’re seeing a different route for Black creators,” she said.

With a recent photography project, she photographed portraits of people, often Chicago creatives, splitting the profits with them so they could afford to join the marketplace and make money there.

Since starting to sell NFTs, she’s been profiled in a recent CNBC story highlighting how she was able to make more than \$109,000 in 2021. Her business has grown again after the publicity, she said.

Formerly unable to pay bills or afford a car, she’s now buying a Tesla. “I never thought that could happen.”

The biggest change, she said, is simply choosing how she spends her time. When she was struggling to make rent, she was only thinking about her next meal. Now, she has more creative bandwidth and feels more freedom. She recently started painting again.

And before, she was focused on getting her work into a gallery, thinking that was the only path to prominence. Now, she can choose her price and where she sells.

“We’re not starving artists anymore,” she said. “I get to set my own standard now.”

(Editor’s Note: You can view Brittany Pierre’s work on her web site: <https://www.brittanypierre.com>)

LOOKING AHEAD - CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

CLCC meetings are always on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and will remain Zoom meetings until it is safe to meet in groups, and we have a place to meet. Before each meeting, members are sent the Zoom login information by CLCC Secretary, Royal Pitchford.

Competitions are always at the February, April, October and December meetings.

March 1, 2022

Show and Tell Discussion

Submit JPG Color or Monochrome images to

Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net)

No theme or size restriction

Limit of 3 Color and 3 Monochrome per person

April 5, 2022

Competition (See submission guidelines on Pg. 14)

May 3, 2022

To Be Determined

The Orchid Show: Untamed

The Chicago Botanic Garden

1000 Lake Cook Road

Glencoe, IL 60022

(847) 835-5440

www.chicagobotanic.org

The show is open now through March 27, 2022

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (last entry 3:30 p.m.)



No matter what, nature finds a way. This year's Orchid Show celebrates the unexpected verve of wild orchids. See what happens when sweeps of orchids take over an old secret garden, twine around abandoned pillars, and break through the whimsical spaces of our imagination. In the quiet of winter, you'll soak up the color and fresh blooms of thousands of orchids and other tropical plants. Check the web page for COVID-19 requirements.

TICKETS (member/non-member)

Adult: \$12/\$19

Children (3-12): \$7/\$16, Children 2 and under: Free

Members have free parking; Non-members parking is \$8.

THE ORCHID SHOW PHOTOGRAPHERS HOUR

Take advantage of special photographers' hours. Tripods and monopods allowed; no screens or backdrops please.

Tuesdays, February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22

8:15 – 9:45 a.m.

Adult: \$7/\$19

Children (3-12): \$5/\$16, Children 2 and under: Free

FREE DAY! (The regular ticket fee applies; limited tickets available.)

March 8, 2022

Adult: \$7/\$9

Children (3-12): \$5/\$6, Children 2 and under: Free

ORCHIDS AFTER HOURS

Treat yourself and friends to a night out at Orchids After Hours, featuring cocktails and light bites for purchase, and an evening look at the Orchid Show. Open Thursday evenings, 5 to 8 p.m.

Thursdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24; 5 – 8 p.m. This is a separate ticketed event.

Adult: \$12/\$19

Children (3-12): \$7/\$16, Children 2 and under: Free

Ansel Adams: Early Works

An Exhibition at the Liberty Dunn Museum (Libertyville, IL)

Submitted by Sandra Whitman

Dunn Museum

1899 West Winchester Road

Libertyville, IL 60048

(847) 968-3400

<https://www.lcfd.org/museum/>

The exhibition is open now through March 27, 2022

Hours & Fees

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10:00am - 3:30pm

1st & 3rd Thursday 5:00pm - 8:00pm Free admission

Sunday 12:00 noon - 3:30pm

Nonresident Adult \$10

Nonresident 62 yrs.+ \$6

Nonresident 62 yrs.+ \$3 Discount Tuesdays

Take a trip to see the interesting **Dunn Museum**. *Ansel Adams: Early Works* focuses on these masterful small prints from the 1920s into the 1950s. By capturing the abject power of nature, Adams changed our understanding of landscape photography, solidifying it as a legitimate form of modern art.

The in-person exhibition has over 40 images on display. You can also view eight of the images with commentary online at **Ansel Adams: Early Works Online**.

GALLERIES AND STORIES ON THE WEB

Sony Photo Contest - Stunning images from around the world

https://apple.news/A-bFyUFeuSNodR4_Lhe2eeg

50 Important Historical Photos That Might Change Your Perspective On Things

<https://www.boredpanda.com/historical-pics/>

This photographer is the only person who's shot all 56 Super Bowls

<https://youtu.be/gyVHXV3HIEY>

50 Rarely-Seen Historical Photos That Might Change Your Perspective On Things

<https://www.boredpanda.com/amazing-rare-historical-photos>

This Photographer Is Having a Very Bad Day

<https://fstoppers.com/news/photographer-having-very-bad-day-595319>

6X6 PROJECT ARTS FUNDRAISER

Raue Center's **6×6 PROJECT** fundraiser and online art auction/exhibition celebrates its fourth year of supporting arts with Art! All proceeds benefit Raue Center's fine arts education programs, Mission Imagination and Raue Center School For The Arts, which have been enriching the lives of over 20,000 kids a year in the local community since 2001.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate by creating original works of art, in a variety of mediums, on 6×6" canvases. Since our inaugural event in 2019, 6×6 Project has raised over \$45,000 for MI and RCSA with canvases coming from around the nation!



All artwork submitted to the **6×6 PROJECT** will be available for viewing and bidding online at Auctria.com starting June 6, 2022. Artists and the public are cordially invited to our Reception on June 25, 2022, from 5:30-8 pm to mix, mingle and bid on your favorite pieces!

Create a mini-masterpiece and support the arts in your community!

Several of our CLCC members have participated in this event. It is a good way to get your images seen by a public that loves art, and you are supporting an arts venue right here in McHenry County. Entering is easy! Complete instructions are at the [6x6 PROJECT WEBSITE](#).

Purchase one or two 6" X 6" canvases from the project partners (listed on the website and the links below) for \$5 per canvas. You must use these official canvases. Mount or print an image on the canvas and drop your artwork off by May 9, 2022. All artwork submitted to the 6×6 PROJECT will be available for viewing online and can be bid on in an online auction starting June 6, 2022. All auction proceeds go to education programs at the Raue. On June 25, 2022 will be an artists's reception at the Raue Center that is free and open to the public.

[Click here for Participation Guidelines.](#)

[Click here for the FAQ Page.](#)

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS:

Out of the Box – 71 N. Williams Street | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 444-7446

Brush Studio – 121 W. Main Street | Cary, IL | (847) 516-3880

Creative Arts Inc. – 400 Highland Avenue | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 219-9243

Material Things – 103 E. Van Buren | Woodstock, IL | (815) 575-9710

Piano Trends – 35 Berkshire Dr | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-4266

SUPPORT THE ARTS WITH ART!

GET READY FOR THE APRIL COMPETITION!

Our next intra-club competition will take place for the April 5, 2022 meeting.

Here's what you need to know:

- As in February's competition, this is all digital--no prints. You may submit up to three (3) color images and three (3) monochrome images.
- The size limit for competition entries is 1400 pixels wide x 1050 pixels high
- We ask members to submit their entries well ahead of the meeting, as we did for the December meeting. ***Please submit entries to Rich Bickham by Sunday, March 20.***
- Each judge will review and score the entries "off line" and provide results to Rich Bickham before the meeting. Scores will be tabulated for each image and all images and scores will be presented during the meeting.
- At the April 5 meeting, we will view the images and scores, and then review them with open discussion by anyone who cares to comment.
- **Send your entries no later than March 20 to Rich Bickham at richbickham@comcast.net.**

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

Vice Presidents	<u>Rich Bickham</u> <u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Royal Pitchford</u>
Treasurer	<u>Gail Schulz</u>

YOUR IDEAS MATTER!

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to [Steven Szalaj](#), **Newsletter Editor** at the email address in the club directory. **Please make your submission by the 15th of the month.**

CLCC SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Newsletter Editor	<u>Steven Szalaj</u>	Publicity	OPEN
Webmaster	Sandy Wittman	Competition Chairman	Rich Bickham
CACCA Delegate 1	Lance Lagoni	Competition Assistant	John Williams
CACCA Delegate 2	OPEN	Competition Assistant	Ernie Hagenow
Education	Peter Pelke II	Small Groups	Maureen Harris
Advisor	David Jilek	Outings	Andy Gruber
Advisor	Jim Pierce	Refreshments	Larry Swanson
Facebook Administrator	Scott Migaldi	Librarian	OPEN
Membership	OPEN	Mentor Program	Paul Minkus