

There are over 200 signs and other objects on display. The collection ranges from the 1800's to the 1970's. The collection includes samples of gold leaf lettering on glass and a fiberglass Frisch's "Big Boy" statue.

We arrived on a rainy Monday to a view of a vintage Holiday Inn sign. The fellow working on it told us the museum was closed. He asked us where we were from and then told us he would open the doors and let us in. Once inside, he turned on a dozen or more switches and the workshop lit up with neon from all kinds of signs. This was just the workshop. There were signs on wheeled carts ready to be repaired or refurbished. There were signs on workbenches and signs hanging above the work area. Once he turned on all the signs in the museum, I felt like a kid in a candy store. The signs were all lit up and beautiful and perfect for photos.

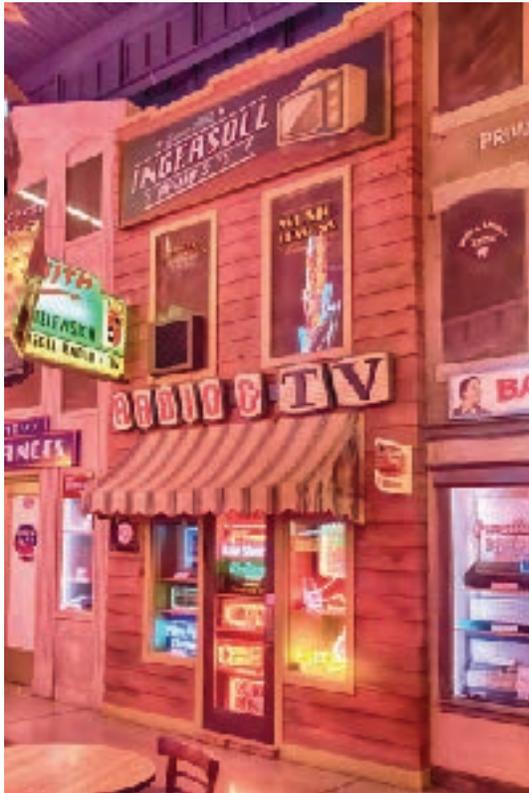
Because the museum was closed, there were workers on ladders and lifts cleaning and repairing signs. There is a glass blowing shop for repair of neon lights and there was a craftsman in the shop mending some glass tubes. It was like having special access to the museum since we got to see some of the work being done.



Top: Illuminated signs hang above a well-organized workshop.
Bottom: A GE sign sits on a wheeled skid ready for its next life.

To be sure, the flashy neon signs are the big attraction, but that's not all the museum has to share. There are wooden signs, plastic vacuum-formed signs and gold leaf painted signs. There are sample signs from Beverly Sign Company of Chicago. These are signs that sales people would show to their prospective customers so they could show off some of the fancy lettering or lighting.

Part of the museum is set up like an old Main Street scene with mock store fronts surrounded by all types of signs. The scene includes an old time gas station with illuminated gas pumps.



Storefronts on "Main Street"

If you plan to photograph the signs, you can expect to use ISO in the range of 400 to 1000. I shot all of my images hand-held at 1/200 sec. For many signs, I used HDR since the neon is bright and the backgrounds may be a lot dimmer. Because the area is flooded with red and orange neon, your images are going to have a very warm cast to them and there is not much you can do about that. I got good results using a cellphone as well.



Cell phone shot



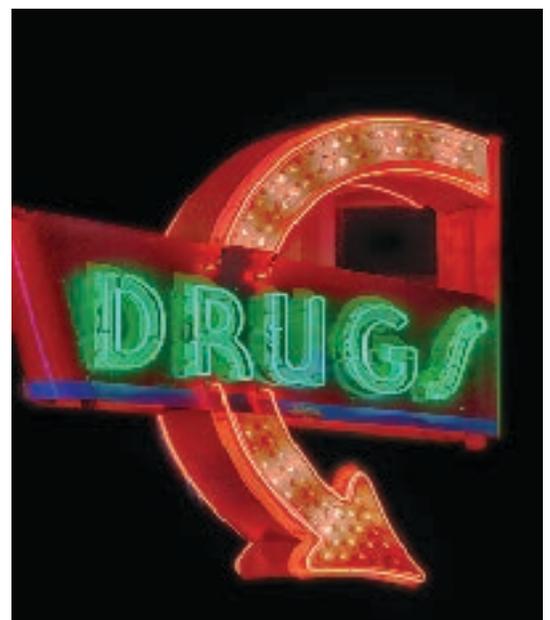
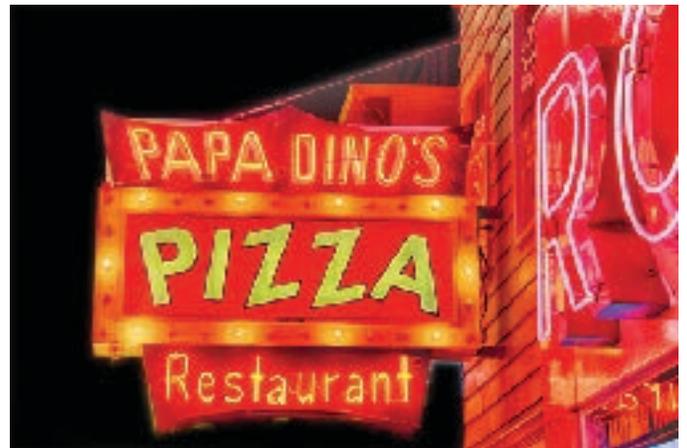
A craftsman in the glass shop repairs a piece of neon.

Your experience doesn't end once you leave the museum and step outside. Around the building and in the parking area are more signs. Some are painted signs on brick, others are wooden and there are some billboard style signs. The last one you may see is the Thank You sign on the Holiday Inn marquee.



American Sign Museum
1330 Monmouth Ave,
Cincinnati, OH 45225

Hours: Wednesday through Saturday
10 AM to 4 PM
Admission: \$15, Seniors \$10
Food: There is an old Big Boy
restaurant in the neighborhood!



A Photo-Shoot Outing to the Genessee Theatre

On November 28, 2019 a group of ten ACC members met at the Genessee Theater in Waukegan. In addition to the theater's ornate public areas we were given access to the stage, and the basement wherein sits the antique air conditioning equipment. So in addition to the expanse of the main hall there were many details worth photographing.



The main theater hall.



Members photographing the old air conditioning equipment.



A mural depicting the theater's history.



Attendees: First row: Judie Reynolds, John Coens, Bob Reynolds. Second row: Fred Gold, Lance Lagoni, Bill Foulks, Judy King, Rich Milburn, Larry Brady.



An ornate chandelier in the main entry.

A past article from a 2015 “Through the Lens.” Interesting today in that many photographers are weighing whether or not to switch from their DSLRs to a mirrorless camera. The experiences cited by the author are worth considering by DSLR owners today.

Mirrorless vs DSLR

Article by Vesela Ziateva

Two years ago I bought my first mirrorless camera, Sony NEX 6, to “try out” this new type of camera, since my Nikon D70 seemed pretty antiquated even to me. Two years later as I am reading all of these articles about whether the DSLR is dead I started asking myself, what is the future for me – should I really forget the DSLR system, sell all of my lenses and completely convert to or is it too soon?

I read numerous articles listing out the pros and cons of each. At some point I became confused by all the technical details and all the different types of newly released mirrorless cameras. It also depends on what particular mirrorless we are talking about vs which particular DSLR. For example, articles claimed that electronic view finders are better, except at low light, however, the newest release of the latest model of manufacturer X claimed to solve this problem.

Instead of helping me make a decision, I felt that it was becoming even more difficult. And then I decided to take a step back and think about myself personally: what has the experience been for me, more from an emotional, than technical perspective. So, here is some insight of

what the mirrorless has given me and what I miss by not using DSLR anymore (or SLR for that matter).

- - I realized that I carried my camera much more often than before, which should not be considered a surprise considering its much lighter size – the main advantage of mirror-less cameras. This was already a plus. I am working full time and it is difficult for me to find the time to take pictures between work, family, friends, etc. The NEX6 has been perfect since it still provided most of the things DSLR did, but in a much smaller format. I felt liberated by the freedom of it – I could put it in my purse or even in my pocket and have it with me all the time.
- - To add to the point above, it wasn't as eye-catching as the bigger DSLR and I felt more liberated of taking casual or street photos – something that I always felt afraid of. Many people in articles have commented that DSLR looked more “professional”. Well, for taking street photos, the last thing I wanted is to attract attention by looking “professional”. I liked the freedom of not being seen, not being taken seriously.
- - Contrary to many people who commented that they hated the electronic view finder, I liked it. What I liked about it was that I could judge better the exposure and what I would see in the final product. I liked it that when I adjusted the white balance settings I

- could see the effect right there on the screen and play with it by making the image more vivid or vice versa. This probably shows my ignorance, as I never really learned to work with histograms well, and you always need to enlarge the image to really see whether it is well focused, but it gave me the pleasure to play with color more.

Now, what did I miss?

- I noticed that I changed the types of photography I did. Even if my NEX 6 gave me the opportunity of walking around and taking pictures in more places, I noticed that I started turning into a more casual snap-shooter and losing some of the things I was doing before. The equivalent to that would be that ten years ago I used to write letters, carefully composing sentences about my life and experience, then I started just sending emails, which were much more abbreviated and finally, now I often just send a text – the ultimate “disgrace” from a writing perspective. From a photography perspective, I stopped planning my photo trips as carefully. By always having the camera with me, the urge to plan a day and go out in the field for a photo day somewhat disappeared.

The other thing I was missing was the wide variety of lenses available in my old Nikon system. This is improving, but I feel weird having huge telephoto lens on this small body. Maybe this is a matter of habit, but I just don't do it. Therefore the

type of pictures I take are different than before – less macro, less telephoto.

Battery life was also a problem – even more so in the winter. I discovered that all the electronics definitely require more battery. This, however, I was able to mitigate by having more backup batteries.

So, in summary, what did this analysis show me? Am I debating for or against mirrorless? In reality, I am doing neither. I am almost convinced that the DSLR will go away with time. And when I say “go away”, I mean for people like me – semi-serious amateurs. For professionals it really depends. There probably will be a niche for them of special DSLRs. But technology is moving ahead, there will be more lenses and better batteries. In many respects mirrorless offer more flexibility than DSLRs at a lower price. There are some aspects where they are generally better, like autofocus.

What I realized though, was that I shouldn't worry so much about the type of camera I have, but how do I approach photography. The things I miss by not using DSLRs just require more discipline from me when I go out and take a picture. I definitely did not exhaust the possibilities of my current mirrorless. I haven't made the final decision yet and I may still try one more DSRL, just because I have too many lenses accumulated over the years. But I will not give away the mirrorless for all the new opportunities it has provided me.

Scheduled 2020 Exhibits

2020	Place & Space	Theme
March	Arlington Hts. Library	Water (anything that is or includes water)
	Case	
April	Mt. Prospect Lib	Spring Scenes
May	Palatine Library	Architecture
	24 ft Wall	
June	No Exhibit	Summer Break
July	No Exhibit	Summer Break
August	No Exhibit	Summer Break
September	Schaumburg	Open
October	Open	
November	Prospect Hts Library	Mountain scenes
	Wall & cases	
December	Open	

2020 Program Schedule

Feb-20	Competition
Feb-20	Image Feedback Night
Mar-20	Creative Photo Night
Mar-20	Showing and Sharing Creative Photos
Apr-20	Competition
Apr-20	Image Feedback Night
May-20	TBD
May-20	Park Challenge and club awards

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Rich Milburn	Field Trips & Outings	BillHeiderACCOuttings@gmail.com
Carol Arnolde	Corporate Secretary	pcarnolde@sbcglobal.net
Susan Paasch	Hospitality	

December, 2019 Competition Results

Small Monochrome Prints

Bob Reynolds, "I'm on Break", AW-24, Small Monochrome Print of the Month
Bill Foulks, "Mongo", AW-22
Larry Arends, "Ponte Vecchio Bridges", AW-23
Barrie Burr, "Guitar Man", HM-23
Ken Olsen, "Come into my Parlor", HM-23
Ken Olsen, "Frisco 1630", HM-24
Mort Lerman, "Urban Disconnect", HM-22

Large Monochrome Prints

Rich Milburn, "In the Antique Museum", AW-23, Large Monochrome Print of the Month
Larry Arends, "Vertigo", AW-25
Paula Matzek, "Walking the Waves", AW-26
Nancy St. Clair, "City in Morning", HM-23
Patrick Grady, "Oxbow Bend", HM-24
Patrick Grady, "Upper Terraces Yellowstone", HM-24

Small Color Prints

Mort Lerman, "Graceful", AW-24, Small Color Print of the Month
Herb DeBarba, "The Eyes Have It", AW-25
Judy King, "Sherbet Glass", AW-22
Paula Matzek, "Old Mill, Lake Delton", AW-23
Mike Garber, "Chinese Temple", HM-22
Paula Matzek, "Purple Trio", HM-24
Mort Lerman, "Stretching the Balloon", HM-23
Barrie Burr, "Italian Doorway", HM-23

Large Color Prints

Larry Arends, "Vienna Waltz", AW-24, Large Color Print of the Month
Mort Lerman, "Prime Nation", AW-24
Jan Van Leijenhorst, "Morning Mist", AW-23
Kathy Grady, "Morning in the Tetons", AW-24
Paula Matzek, "Hitchhiker", AW-24
Paula Matzek, "Roadside Stand", HM-23
Bob Reynolds, "Local Character", HM-23
Herb DeBarba, "Lighthouse & Pier", HM-23
Rich Hassman, "Bod Reflection", HM-23

DPI Mono

Bob Reynolds, "Bass," AW-23, DPI Mono Image of the Month
Larry Arends, "The Mag Mile," HM-22

DPI Color

Ken Olsen, "Lotus," AW-25, DPI Color Image of the Month
Joanne Barsanti, "Red Rocks Amphitheater," AW-24
Reinhard Schwind, "Crystal Ball," HM-25
Patty Colabuono, "Heart of a Rose," HM-24
Larry Brady, "Bahai Garden," HM-24

Small Monochrome



Bob Reynolds, "I'm on Break", AW-24,
Small Monochrome Print of the Month



Larry Arends, "Ponte Vecchio Bridges", AW-23



Mort Lerman, "Urban Disconnect", HM-22

Large Monochrome



Rich Milburn, "In the Antique Museum", AW-23,
Large Monochrome Print of the Month



Larry Arends, "Vertigo", AW-25



Paula Matzek, "Walking the Waves", AW-26

Small Color



Mort Lerman, "Graceful", AW-24,
Small Color Print of the Month



Herb DeBarba, "The Eyes Have It", AW-25



Judy King, "Sherbet Glass", AW-22



Paula Matzek, "Old Mill, Lake Delton", AW-23



Mike Garber, "Chinese Temple", HM-22



Paula Matzek. "Purple Trio". HM-24



Mort Lerman, "Stretching the Balloon", HM-23

Large Color



Larry Arends, "Vienna Waltz", AW-24,
Large Color Print of the Month



Mort Lerman, "Prime Nation", AW-24



Jan Van Leijenhorst, "Morning Mist", AW-23



Paula Matzek, "Hitchhiker", AW-24



Paula Matzek, "Roadside Stand", HM-23



Bob Reynolds, "Local Character", HM-23



Herb DeBarba, "Lighthouse & Pier", HM-23

DPI Mono



Bob Reynolds, "Bass," AW-23,
DPI Mono Image of the Month



Larry Arends, "The Mag Mile," HM-22

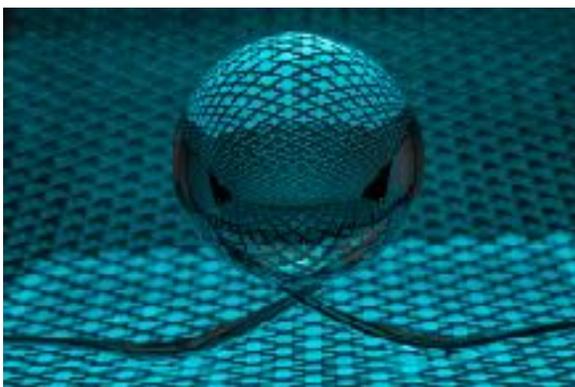
DPI Color



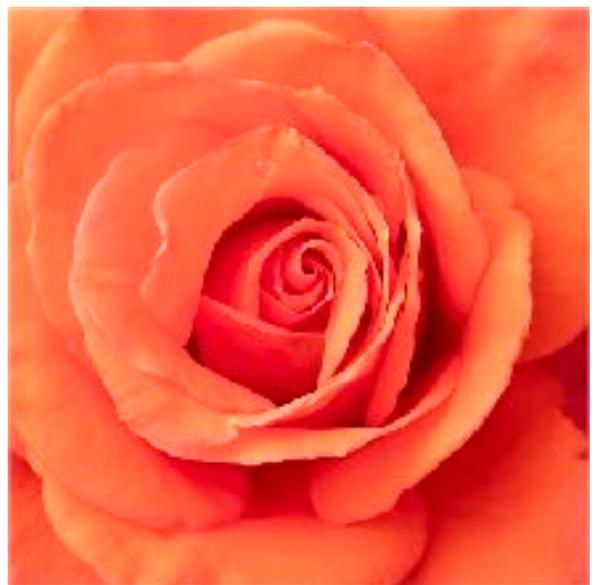
Ken Olsen, "Lotus," AW-25,
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Joanne Barsanti, "Red Rocks Amphitheater,"
AW-24



Reinhard Schwind, "Crystal Ball," HM-25



Patty Colabuono, "Heart of a Rose,"
HM-24



Larry Brady, "Bahai Garden," HM-24

***ACC meets at the Christian Church of
Arlington Heights, 333 W. Thomas Avenue, three
blocks west of Arlington Heights Road, across
from Hasbrook Park on the 1st and 3rd
Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.***



***Chicago
Area
Camera
Clubs
Association***