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Happy New Year!

There's something about this time of year that makes us reflect on the year that has past, and the year that lies ahead.



2017 was a huge milestone for my photography career. For a few years I had dismissed the encouragement by friends, who were artists in their own right, that I should be selling my photographic works. A few of them took the time to tell me they weren't just being polite but that they seriously believed my stuff could sell. So, I took the daunting leap from being a hobbyist to a professional photographer by starting a new business, joining professional arts organizations, and putting both myself and my art out there. The results have been simply-put both rewarding and beyond my expectations.

Cultural Centers, which included works sold in a New York gallery. I got into a juried Texas regional photography exhibition, I received an honorable mention with cash award in a nationally juried art exhibition (across various mediums), and I was one of only 26 international photographers invited to participate in another photography show. I participated with the <u>Grapevine Art Project</u> at both of Grapevine's large festivals: Main Street Days and Grapefest. My 2017 ended with the news that my piece "Wide Open Spaces" has been accepted to the 3rd Annual Conroe Art League National Invitational Show in March. I also have received some other amazing news, but I can't talk about it just yet, I'm waiting for the other outlet to post their information. So stay tuned!



P.S. To my dear friends Galina, Rachel, and Mary Ann thank you for encouraging me and telling me to start selling my stuff already.

WHERE YOU CAN CURRENTLY FIND MY WORK



Prints & Ready-to-Hang

Central Arts of Bedford

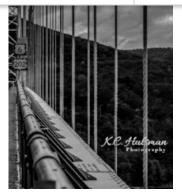
2816 Central Drive, Suite #140 Bedford, Texas

Tuesday - Friday, 9:30am - 5:30pm





Sunflowers - II
Waxahachie, Texas



Against the Rails

Bear Mountain Bridge

Hay! Ennis, Texas

PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES

I happen to enjoy the time sink that is tracing my genealogy and exploring the family history. Recently a number of old family photos have come my way, but all too often they were not labeled. People counted on remembering who was pictured, and with age, illness and death those details are stripped away. So please consider this a public service announcement: for printed family photographs some pencil (not pen) identifying those pictured on the back of a photo (maybe the year and place too) is invaluable when those photos get passed down to future generations. Even if the photos are currently in a scrapbook, and it's identified on the scrapbook page, you should still whenever possible write on the back of the picture. Too often are photos separated from their scrapbooks: whether intentionally or just through age, wear, and tear.

Also, old photo albums are not the best storage solutions. In many cases the cheap plastic ones can actually speed up deterioration significantly! While older technologies of ink were not as color fast as today's pigments, the albums can be cutting their life dramatically short and causing significant fading and yellowing. The cheap plastics in these albums may also be causing the image to blur. Where possible removing photos to scan, and place in newer albums known to be better for the health of your photos: (acid free) is the way to go. You can find acid-free materials (albums, adhesives, scrapbooks and more) at arts, craft & hobby stores. Just remember if it doesn't specifically say it's acid-free, move on and find something that does.

It can be daunting if you have a plethora of photos to carve the time out to scan them yourselves. Another option is to look for places that offer "shoebox scanning" if you'd like to pay the professionals to do it for you. The benefit to the latter is that oftentimes those professionals also offer restoration services so if there are select pieces that have faded, or have incurred damage from tears or creases you can consult with them to see if it's possible to restore or refurbish the image, and discuss with them associated costs.



Silhouette of a Man During New Year's Fireworks Reflected on the water of the Thames River on January 1, 2013 in London, England.

LONDON IS CALLING

A few years ago during the winter holiday season, I was enjoying my vacation in London. Despite England's latitude, the Atlantic Ocean currents keep the island nation a bit warmer than they would otherwise experience. So, the weather while brisk was actually not all that bad as highs were in the 50s. The only place I ever felt was bitterly cold was when I was upon the the open plains at Stonehenge.

While in England I would spend 11 days in London itself visiting the sights, shopping (books most particularly), enjoying various shows, and luxuriating in the vast rich visual arts found in the nation's museums. I'd also ended up spending 1 day further afield as I enjoyed the country side around Stonehenge and Oxford. While I try to soak in wherever I go on my travels, I also take advantage of the opportunity to allow it to be a chance for me to play with my camera and see what I can come up with.





ARTS NEWS

Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas is a recipient of a <u>\$1 million gift from the Moody</u>

<u>Foundation</u> which will help support a \$34 million project for renovations to the university's Owen Arts

Center, restoration to the original meadows Museum and be used to help create a new art studio.

affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Pantone chooses Ultra Violet (#18-3838) as it's color for 2018. It "communicates originality, ingenuity and visionary thinking," Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, said by way of explanation in an interview with the New York Times. Ultra Violet is "the most complex of all colors... because it takes two shades that are seemingly diametrically opposed — blue and red — and brings them together to create something new."

CALLING ALL FELLOW ARTISTS

Are you an artist in the Dallas / Fort
Worth area looking to find a nurturing
group? I would encourage you to check
out the <u>Grapevine Art Project</u>.









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