

SEPTEMBER

ROGER PRUITT &  
TOM VENTRESS

# THE G E S T A L T

PRINCIPLES  
AND HOW THEY RELATE TO PHOTOGRAPHY

THE NPC **HISTOGRAM** <sup>09</sup>/<sub>17</sub>  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NASHVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

# THE GESTALT

## PRINCIPLES

AND HOW THEY RELATE TO PHOTOGRAPHY



**G**estalt Theory was formulated by a group of German psychologists in the 1920s. Comprising six principles, the theory seeks to identify and explain how people view and process visual information. NPC President Roger Pruitt and *NPC Histogram* designer/writer/editor Tom Ventress will explore the six principles and how they relate to photography.

### SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS

#### Roger Pruitt

**R**ight out of high school, Roger took a position as a portrait photographer with a company traveling the eastern half of the United States. He learned to shoot studio portraits and family groups while gaining life experiences from four years on the road instead of college. Tired of being a road warrior, Roger spent eight years managing shoe stores until he found himself back in the photography business as a district manager with the Walmart Portrait Studios, training and directing teams of photographers and sales consultants who traveled the South and Midwest. Tiring of the road once again, he threw himself into the business of durable medical supplies. In 2013 he returned to the profession he has enjoyed the most as an architectural and headshot photographer.

[RogerPruitt.com](http://RogerPruitt.com)

#### Tom Ventress

**A**n international award-winning graphic designer and illustrator, Tom creates brand imagery and messaging for his clients—from logos, packaging, and printed pieces to websites, videos, and photography.

Tom wasn't always a graphic designer, though. He came to Nashville to work at Gruhn Guitars where he repaired musical instruments and created intricate inlays for the likes of Jimmy Buffet, Steve Martin, and ZZ Top, among others, earning him the nickname "The Pearl Wizard". Long hours of careful hand sawing through delicate shell sharpened his eye and fired an appreciation for beautiful form, leading to art school where he majored in illustration. While in school, he worked in the Vanderbilt design office—a major event in his career path.

A friend observed that Tom's penchant for puns serves his designs as he works with a wide range of clients—from entrepreneurs to institutions to national and international corporations.

[Ventress.com](http://Ventress.com)



© ROGER PRUITT

SEPTEMBER CO-SPEAKER **ROGER PRUITT**  
GESTALT PRINCIPLES  
FIGURE-GROUND • COMMON FATE • CONTINUANCE



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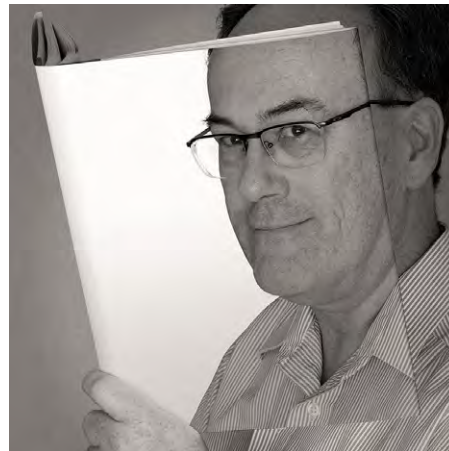
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**CLUB LEADERS 2017-2018**

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

Roger Pruitt, *President*  
Pat Hollander, *President-Elect*  
Justin French, *Secretary*  
Frank Hayes, *Treasurer*  
Louann Dyer, *Assistant Treasurer*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Dana Barrett, Tony Beasley,  
Linda Klinckman, and Bill Scott

**VOLUNTEER OFFICERS  
AND COMMITTEES**

CHARITY EVENT LEADER  
Steve Mabry

EXHIBIT COORDINATOR  
Wayne Wilkerson

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE  
Adraine Meador

MEMBERSHIP  
Frank Hayes

NEWSLETTER  
Tom Ventress

WEBMASTER  
Shelly Rosenberg

**FOCUS GROUPS**

BASICS  
Bill Kotas, Joe Fizer, Jim Bruner,  
Roger Pruitt & Rod Shean

DIGITAL  
Steve Choatic

PHOTO OUTINGS GROUP  
**CO-CONSPIRATORS NEEDED**

© SCOTT ROBERTSON



▲ **FIRST PLACE:** Scott Robertson

© BILL SCOTT



◀ **SECOND PLACE:** Bill Scott



*“I am not interested in rules or conventions. Photography is not a sport.”*

— BILL BRANDT (1904 – 1983)  
British photographer and photojournalist

**AUGUST 2017 PHOTO OF THE MONTH** THEME: DOESN'T WORK

**RULES**

- 1** You must be a member with dues paid up to date.
- 2** Photograph must pertain to the Monthly Theme (i.e. August's theme is Doesn't Work).
- 3** Image size limits: Minimum 4"x 6" to Maximum 12" (long side).
- 4** Place ONE photo in the Folder at the table along the wall.
- 5** Photograph needs to be taken within the 12 months prior to the contest month.
- 6** You must be present to win.

**UPCOMING THEMES**

**SEPTEMBER:** How Many Times?

**OCTOBER:** Don't Look Down

**NOVEMBER:** Something's Changed

**JANUARY:** Take it Away

## Nashville Photography Club Calendar of Events

### CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 6:30pm

Dury's • Crescent Plaza at 1027 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, Tennessee

**SPEAKERS:** Roger Pruitt and Tom Ventress—

The Gestalt Principles and How They Relate to Photography

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH THEME:** How Many Times?

### DIGITAL FOCUS GROUP

Thursday, September 28, 6:00pm • Goodlettsville Public Library, 205 Rivergate Parkway, Goodlettsville, Tennessee

### CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, October 17, 6:30pm

Dury's • Crescent Plaza at 1027 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, Tennessee

**SPEAKER:** Nick Coury, Mirrorless Cameras

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH THEME:** Don't Look Down

### DIGITAL FOCUS GROUP

Thursday, October 26, 6:00pm • Goodlettsville Public Library, 205 Rivergate Parkway, Goodlettsville, Tennessee

### CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30pm

Dury's • Crescent Plaza at 1027 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, Tennessee

**SPEAKER:** Annual Member Slide Show

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH THEME:** Something's Changed

### NPC HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, December 7, 7:00–9:00 pm

Christ Church Nashville, 15354 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee 37211

NPC meets at 6:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month January through November at Dury's. The Digital Focus Group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month March through October at the Goodlettsville Public Library.

## SEPTEMBER 19 AT DURY'S Sensor Cleaning and Lens Calibration

BY PEACHTREE CAMERA REPAIR

Be sure to ask for the NPC member discount



© JAMES FRAZIER

### Eclipse Slideshow on September 19

NPC members gathered at Shelly Rosenberg's Hidden Pond Farm to photograph the eclipse on August 21. Brent Wright has put together a slide show from members who shared their photos.



© LAUNIE GIBBS

# It's Showtime!



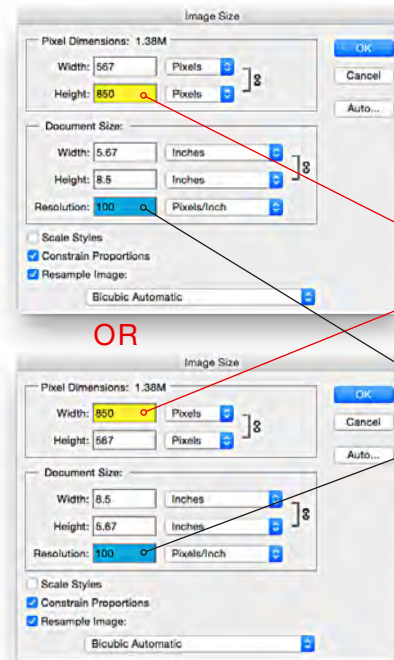
**NPC Member Slide Show  
November 21**

© TOM VENTRESS

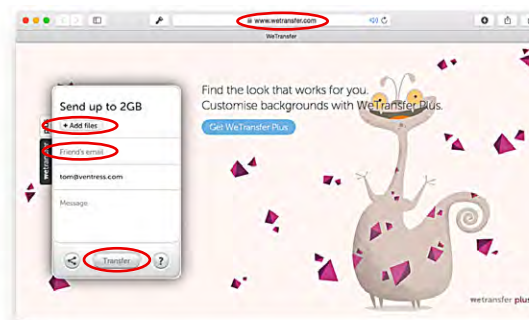
**Submit your image files to Brent Wright by Friday, November 10**

**The Member Slide Show** will be held at the November 21 meeting so start choosing which of your photos you'd like to share with your fellow club members, or shoot in the next few weeks with the Show in mind. As you prepare your images keep the following in mind:

- 1 Maximum of 15 images per person plus your introduction portrait.
- 2 Label images with your name and the sequence number of the image: First and Last Name\_Sequence number. i.e.: Ansel Adams\_1.
- 3 Please include an image of yourself that will be used to introduce your work in the slide show. It can be any type of self image you want as long as it's appropriate.
- 4 Image size 850 pixels on the longest side at 100PPI quality. JPEG images only.
- 5 Images must be submitted to Brent Wright by Friday, November 10 to be included in the slide show.
- 6 Please use [WeTransfer.com](http://WeTransfer.com) to send your images to Brent.
- 7 When you send them please send Brent an e-mail at [bwrightback@comcast.net](mailto:bwrightback@comcast.net) to let him know you are transferring images to him. Brent will send you an acknowledgment e-mail back once he's downloaded them. If you don't hear back from him within two days contact him—don't assume he got your images.



**FILE PREP**  
**JPEG format only**  
LONGEST SIDE:  
850 PIXELS  
RESOLUTION:  
100PPI



**Getting your files to Brent is easy:**

- 1 Log on to [WeTransfer.com](http://WeTransfer.com)
- 2 Click the **Take me to Free** button.
- 3 Click the **+ Add Files** button to add the images that you want to send.
- 4 Locate your images, highlight them, and click **Enter**.
- 5 Type or copy and paste Brent's email address in the "Friends email" field, then click **Transfer**.

# Steve Mabry

*Steve Mabry finished his one year term as NPC's President June and I asked him to share the story of his journey as a photographer and a few favorite shots. Steve—NPC members thank you for your service. It was a great year with you at the helm!* —tv

I always thought taking photos wasn't for me and they probably wouldn't turn out anyway. In the late 70's I purchased a \$36 Kodak camera with the thinking that if nothing turned out it would be no major loss. The camera worked just fine and it was the start of a wonderful hobby!

In 1980 the next camera was a point and shoot Olympus XA-2 one of the coolest looking cameras ever made! One photo in particular made with this camera was on a roller coaster during the golden hour. The colors were very rich but having not studied photography I had no idea why that photo looked much better than the others.

Sometime during 1987 the ever-popular camera the SLR Canon AE-1 program was acquired. Another wonderful photo was captured of a swan on the lake at sunset and photography became a passion. At that point I took a few classes at Wolf camera and read some photography books. I moved into the world of digital cameras with a Canon XT Rebel.

About four of five years ago I joined the Nashville photography club and it was such a pleasure to meet so many people who were so enthusiastic about photography! I became active in the club and took Bill Kodas' class on photography. Since then I've shot ten weddings for friends and really enjoy the world of photography.

Being President of the Nashville Photography Club was a real honor. It's a group of the most friendly folk and the most talented photographers one could ever hope to meet! Wishing all who read this success in your pursuit of the perfect photo!

—Steve Mabry

