

Demonstration
May 6, 2019
Stuart Pearl - Photographer



Many thanks to photographer, **Stuart Pearl**, for his presentation “**Art & Inspiration for Better Photography**” at our May meeting. Everyone present, 36 members and guests, enjoyed his very informative talk about his love of photography. A number of people commented on how much they learned from his presentation that they could apply to their own art. Stuart became serious about photography in high school and while in college, he worked for a small newspaper. Since that time he has photographed rock stars, politicians, movie stars, crazy bar mitzvah receptions, beautiful brides and more recently, snails and slugs of the Cleveland Metroparks. He enjoys documentary photography, especially documenting things in transition, like the construction of the new innerbelt bridge and the transformation of Acacia from golf course to Metropark. He said “you’d be surprised what a box of donuts or a breakfast will get you”. It got him permission to enter locations during bridge construction that he would otherwise not have been able to photograph.



Stuart comes from a family of artists. His late father, Moses Pearl, was a well known artist, painting complex urban landscapes in watercolor, and the former head of the art department at South High in Cleveland. Moses demonstrated for the Euclid Art Association in November, 1970. His sister, Sharlene is a teacher and figurative painter. Stuart was recently named president of the Board of The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve, a unique archival facility and regional museum that preserves representative bodies of work created by Ohio artists.



During his very organized presentation, Stuart showed us many of his amazing photographs, depicting the various elements that are **essential for creating a great picture**. He talked about **inspiration** and **who inspires you**, suggesting photographers study the old landscape masters. One of his favorites is Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), Yosemite Valley and Oregon Trail, (*look him up, the lighting is amazing in his paintings*). For inspiration, he said ‘just look in your own backyard’. He showed us images of deer and trees in soft focus light. He likes to play the ‘time machine’ game....what would this look like at different times of day, different seasons. **Timing is everything**, like being at the right place at the right time to capture that ‘moment in time’. **Terrific lighting** is essential...intensity of the light, direction of the light, time of day or season. Stuart likes to photograph the terminal viaduct bridge, capturing the contrast of light against dark. He is challenged to take **interesting subjects** in the 3-D world and transfer to a 2-D sheet. He photographs **strong verticals** and uses **geometric shapes** to

| Elements of a Great Picture | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Terrific Lighting | |
| An interesting subject | Attractive shapes, colors, objects, a unique event |
| Strong composition | Great Point of View, Center of attention |
| Timing | Defining moment? Narrative story? |
| Masterful technique | Does the maker have the 'eye' and skill with her/her tools? Conceptual approach? |



frame other pictures. Not only does he like to to **make the complex interesting**, but he likes to create a narrative, taking inspiration from his muse, Margaret Bourke-White, known for her photojournalism at Life magazine. Stuart challenged us to “**think outside the box**”....look for **unusual compositions**, exploit unusual **shadows** to create special shapes, explore **different viewpoints** for unique looks or just focus on a portion of an object.

Final tidbits: His favorite camera is an early 5D series Canon. He goes to www.archivalmethods.com to purchase supplies.



We thank our May hosts, **Helen Karpoff** and **Joan Milligan** for their beautiful “May Day” themed refreshment table. We enjoyed many delicious treats....mini homemade cupcakes, chocolate-vanilla cake, strudel, pea pods with dip, fresh fruit and assorted candies.

