

Best of class expert presenters



Freeman Patterson Hon FPSSA, FPSSA, FPSA, Hon EFIAP

The Vital Connection Between ART and CRAFT and why it's so important for Photographers

SUPERBLOOM: The Flora and Ecology of Namaqualand

Freeman Patterson had a profound influence on many South African photographers, and South African photography in general. He is a mentor who inspired many to look beyond the obvious and many of our top photographers credit the workshops Freeman and his friend, the late Colla Swart, presented in Namaqualand, with unlocking their photographic creativity.

His visit to South Africa this year to do two presentations at the Struisbaai Congress will be his 50th. After congress he will undertake his 47th annual pilgrimage to Namaqualand where he and Colla presented the famous workshops in her family's Kamieskroon Hotel.

It would be a fair estimate that over the 30 years that Freeman photographed the Namaqua flower season he took more images of the flowers in bloom than anybody else. He is therefore the best qualified person to talk to photographers about the flora of Namaqualand.

"I've spent about eight years of my life in South Africa," says Freeman, who hails from Shampers Bluff, New Brunswick, Canada. "Also, I still have the black wool beanie with the white knob or tassel on top that I was given at a PSSA National Congress years and years ago and wore to every annual banquet at following congresses. (My first congress was in 1972!)."

Freeman is both an Honorary Fellow and a Fellow of PSSA (1976 and 1995) and an Honorary Life Member of the Helderberg Photographic Society.

His career in photography and visual design spans more than 60 years. He has taught innumerable workshops in Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Isra-

el, France, the UK, the US, and other countries. He has authored 15 books, five of them on photography and

visual design; his most recent, *Embracing Creation*, was published in conjunction with the opening of his large retrospective exhibition at New Brunswick's Beaverbrook Art Gallery in September 2013-14.

The accolades and awards bestowed on Freeman is testament to his stature in the global photographic community. Among them is the Progress Medal, the highest award from the Photography Society of America (PSA), whose other recipients include Ansel Adams, Eliot Porter and Jacques Cousteau.

He is a recipient of the Order of Canada (1985), the Order of New Brunswick (2013), the National Film Board of Canada's Gold Medal for Photographic Excellence, and is an elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art. He received the highest award bestowed by FIAP, namely Hon. EFIAP, has been elected a Fellow of the North America Nature Photography Association (NANPA) and the association presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The Nature Photography Society of New Zealand also awarded him an Honorary Fellowship. In 2023 he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

We are indeed privileged to welcome him as a speaker at the Struisbaai congress.

See more at www.freemanpatterson.com





Francois Roux Hon MPSSA, MPSSA, AV-LPSSA, EPSSA(Mille), EFIAP

Fallacies of judging in club photography

'Ysland perd' by Francois Roux.

Everybody who likes to complain about all the PSSA rules in photography should be urged to attend Francois Roux's presentation at congress to find out just how wrong their perceptions are. Francois is bound to shake and stir the convictions of a few ingrained judging law believers with his talk on judging fallacies. For example, he says there is only ONE rule in photography, and that is that everything in the image must be your own work. Francois is one of the most knowledgeable PSSA directors when it comes to judging photography. He has been a co-organiser of the Honours Judging sessions for more than 20 years as a committee member; he was one of the developers of the PSSA Judging Accreditation Programme (JAP) and is a frequent JAP presenter and a presenter at congresses. Francois is also a member of the PSSA Salon Committee, which makes the final decision about disqualifications of salon images.

He has been a member of Vanderbijlpark Photographic Society for nearly 43 years and has served as PSSA company secretary and treasurer for many years. He was

elected PSSA president between 2005 and 2007 and again between 2019 and 2021.

In addition, Francois has an impressive list of Honours:

- He was awarded FPSSA in slides with a specialist sport panel and another FPSSA digital with a specialist landscape panel.
- Hon FPSSA was awarded to him for outstanding service to PSSA and to photography, as well as an outstanding overall ability in the art and science of photography.
- He also earned the highest PSSA award, MPSSA, with a top-quality panel and educational presentation on landscape photography.
- In 2021 Francois was awarded Hon MPSSA for exceptional lifelong service to PSSA and to photography, as well as an exceptional overall ability in the art and science of photography.
- In addition, he earned EPSSA (Mille) and EFIAP with local and international salon acceptances and for good measure, also obtained AV-LPSSA.

Kim Stevens FPSSA, DPSSA(Vers), EFIAP

Architecture – Innovation, Form and Structure

Kim Stevens' eye for composition, detail and the narrative power of spaces enables her to create beautiful and unique architectural images. Her images can be described as a celebration of lines, angles, and the harmony between form and function. She is keen to share her expertise and knowledge gained through many years of exploring architectural subjects at the Struisbaai congress.

Kim Stevens can truly be described as a scholar of photography. She spends many hours studying the work of top photographers, new ideas and trends, places to photograph and the ideal time and conditions to capture the perfect shot.

That is, when she is not attending local or international courses or workshops presented by some of the top names in photography – or introducing select groups of photographers to the architectural wonders she came to know so well in cities like Valencia and Venice.



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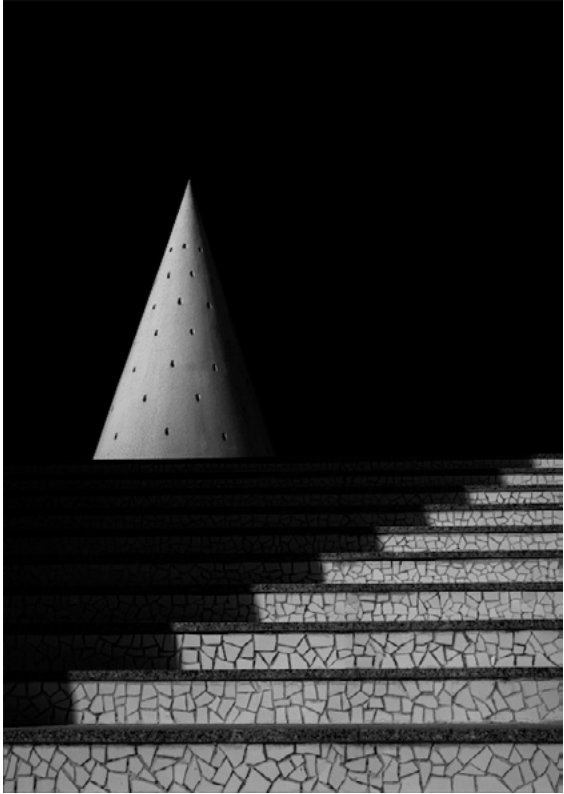
Kim Stevens (continued)

Her meticulous attention to detail contributed to the print panel she submitted for a FPSSA in 2020 being unanimously accepted. She won the Impala Print Trophy in 2020 and 2023. She serves as a member of the Honours Judging Panel to evaluate the work of PSSA Honours applicants.

As a long-time member of the Cape Town Photographic Society council, members benefitted for ten years from her extensive contacts worldwide and knowledge of the latest photographic genres through the speakers she invited to present monthly educational talks and the information links she still shares on the club’s Facebook page.

She is a versatile photographer and her extensive portfolio include various genres. Apart from architecture and design she enjoys photographing ballet and other stage performances, infrared, landscapes, portraits, street photography and black and white, to name a few. Visit her website www.limelightfoto.com.

‘Calatrava Graphics’ by Kim Stevens.



Koot Marais MPSSA, APSSA(Vers), EPSSA(Mille)

Wildlife photography — the simple truth

Left: ‘Jackal Fight’ by Koot Marais.



Koot Marais’ approach to Wildlife Photography can be summarised with the acronym: KISS (Keep it simple, stupid). For him, less is certainly more when it comes to processing photographic images, especially when depicting nature.

This disciplined approach has earned him many local and international awards and accolades, for example, the FIAP Silver Medal for his image *Jackal Fight* in the 2016 Nature Biennial, and the best Nature Salon Image of the Year in 2013 with *You’re Mine*.

Koot was the overall winner of the last two PSSA Mono Leagues in 2012 and again in 2013, before monochrome became one of the categories in the Impala Trophy competition. He consistently finished in the top 5 of the Impala Trophy during both the slide and digital era and won the Impala Trophy for three consecutive years. His 1 000 salon acceptances earned him the EPSSA(Mille) award.

He holds the highest PSSA photographic honour, namely MPSSA, awarded to only a few exceptional local pho-

tographers, who entered a top-quality panel and presented an educational lecture once they fulfilled certain criteria.

At the Struisbaai congress Koot will demonstrate how he achieves success by following only a few steps after downloading an image to his computer. These mainly consist of correcting camera and lens mistakes – e.g. removing noise, because Koot has an eagle eye when it comes to spotting noise in an image. He will also demonstrate the mistakes photographers make when over-processing an image.

As an aside though: he is a versatile photographer who creates incredible visual art and altered reality scenes with manipulation in Photoshop, but that is an entirely different story.

Koot joined the Bloemfontein Camera Club in 1987 and is still an active member. He holds **Continued**

Koot Marais Continued

the highest star rating, namely Galaxy, and still consistently enters at the club as he believes this is an important opportunity to test his work and ensure that his processing is of acceptable standard.

He served on the committee of the club and has been president on a number of occasions.

He regularly judges salons and other competitions and often lectures at congresses, academic institutions and at other organisations. His photographs have been published in various publications.

Koot has been a member of the PSSA Honours Judging Panel since its inception and serves on the Honours Judging Committee.

Laetitia Kenny MPSSA, EPSSA(Mille-Platinum), EFIAP

Taking portraiture to the next level

Laetitia Kenny's unique portraits have made her an inspirational role model for creative portrait photographers. She pushed the envelope with her portraits, which tell compelling stories, to earn numerous medals, Honours and other accolades. In addition, she shares her knowledge of this genre in such a way that her audience become inspired to take their portraiture to the next level.

She has been serving photography for more than 20 years on the committees of Boksburg and Benoni Camera Clubs, and at national level on the PSSA board in 2014, 2015 and 2016, where she was responsible for the Diamond Ratings and founded the PSSA Facebook page. She also served as a member of the Honours judging panel for a number of years.

During this time she proved herself to be one of the leading creative photographers who has won the Impala Trophy for prints consecutively from 2010 to 2012 and two years later added the Digital Monochrome Impala Trophy to her achievements. In the 2025 Impala year she again set her sights on the trophy and halfway through the year she was leading on points.

Her image, Swan Lake, received the PSSA Gold Medal for the Best Open Image entered in a salon during 2021.

Laetitia earned the title FPSSA with a colour panel in 2011 and the rare Honour MPSSA (which includes a presentation at Congress) in 2013. She earned EPSSA(Mille-Platinum) with 1 750 national salon acceptances, and EFIAP with 250 international salon acceptances.

Laetitia is a captivating speaker who was awarded a PSSA Service Medal for willingly sharing her knowledge and experience at a number of regional and national congresses, workshops, and as a judge at club competitions.

She achieved all of this while she built her business as a full-time commercial photographer.



'Can you hear me' (above) by Laetitia Kenny won the portraiture category in a recent salon.

All the presenters featured in this document had been confirmed at the time of publication. But, we know from experience that their circumstances can change due to unforesee circumstances. We'll let you know as soon as it happens.

Martin Barber MPSSA

Don't just take it, make it ... Travel photography with a purpose



Left: 'Streets of Galata' by Martin Barber.



Versatile Martin Barber is a master photographer, who is the current holder of the PDI Impala Trophy; a mentor and teacher for numerous grateful students across the country; and more recently, a photographic tour guide to Türkiye.

People who had seen the stride-stopping images Martin had taken on scouting trips to Istanbul will want to ensure that they attend his congress presentation to learn how he created art from such well-known landmarks. They will also want to attend his talk for tips on how to make their own travel photographs just as special.

Another reason why Martin's talks are always so popular is because he is an entertaining speaker who surprises his audience with amusing ways to convey his boundless passion for creative photography. No matter how many times you might have heard him, Martin never ceases to inspire with his talks.

His creative courses – also conducted one-on-one online

- are the envy of most club photographers. Thanks to Zoom he now presents these country- and worldwide.

His images mostly tell a complex story and his work regularly win him medals. He managed to earn the most points in the 2024 PDI Impala Trophy competition without entering a single image in any of the (often two) Nature categories – a true testament to his creative abilities.

Martin was awarded the highest PSSA Honour, MPSSA, for his image panel and presentation at the Nieu Bethesda Congress.

He joined the Southern Suburbs Camera Club in Alberton in 2009, where he worked his way up to their highest level, Grand Master, and also served on the committee for seven years. He was elected as a PSSA director in 2018 and served one year as 2nd Vice President from 2021, before his work commitments compelled him to resign from the Board.



Martin Osner: Mastering the art of landscape photography

Cape Town's award-winning fine art photographer, teacher, mentor and gallery owner Martin Osner has inspired many local photographers to look at photography with a new, more creative, eye. One of the most popular courses offered by the Martin Osner Photography School is the Landscape Masterclass, presented during winter because this is when "the weather fronts roll in, bringing with it the most interesting skies and beautiful light conditions," he says. The weather conditions you are bound to experience when you attend the Struisbaai Congress in August.

"Landscape photography is one of the most popular disciplines, yet, because of changing light conditions and weather patterns, it is one of the **Continued**

Martin Osner Continued

most challenging disciples to master,” says Martin. “You need a good eye for a great composition, but composition is just one aspect. To be able to capture the splendour of a scene is something completely different. Understanding the characteristics of light, to be able to work with contrast, to capture the colour and mood of a scene, are all fundamentally important.”

These insights are just a few of the reasons why he is such a popular teacher ... apart from his sense of humour and informal, self-deprecating approach.

To appreciate Martin’s photographic work you’ll enjoy a visit to his Art at Napier Gallery on the way to congress. It houses the Osner Collection, curated by Andre de Koker and featuring work by Martin and his daughter Samantha Lee Osner. This is an addition to the Osner Gallery, Africa’s first dedicated photographic art gallery, which Martin first opened in Green Point, Cape Town, in 2010. The rapid growth of this gallery and the number of artists represented necessitated several moves to larger premises in the city, until the Covid era prompted him to move the gallery to his home in Hout Bay.

During Covid he also introduced online courses via zoom instead of the in-person workshops he conducted from Hout Bay. These proved to be so popular – especially with students from overseas and other parts of the country – that many of the fine art and landscape photography courses are still being offered online, in addition to on location workshops, creative break-aways and creative retreats offered in town and in the Overberg.

Martin started his career as a commercial photographer when he opened his first photographic studio in Johannesburg in 1985. He founded the National College of Photography in Pretoria in 1993, before moving to Cape Town. Over the years he has become a favourite guest speaker at photographic events, congresses, photographic clubs, where he is always willing to share his vast knowledge and insights. See more at <https://www.learn-photography.net>



Phil Sturgess FPSSA: *Sand, sea and surf*



‘Colourful curves’ won a salon medal for Phil Sturgess.

Hermanus photographer Phil Sturgess loves capturing the changing moods, movement and colours of the sea. With this presentation on Sand, sea and surf he’ll provide a simple framework that will help congress delegates develop a photographer’s eye and to see beyond the obvious. Hectic waves and bad weather make good photos, he says – and these will be the prevalent weather conditions during August in Struisbaai and neighbouring L’Agulhas. His presentation should therefore provide ideal guidelines for congress goers interested in capturing the sea scapes on their doorsteps.

Even though Phil dabbled in photography as a young man in the UK, he became a serious amateur photographer when he joined the Johannesburg Photographic Society (JPS) after completing **Continued**

Phil Sturgess Continued

an MBA at Witwatersrand University. He moved to South Africa from the UK in 1980.

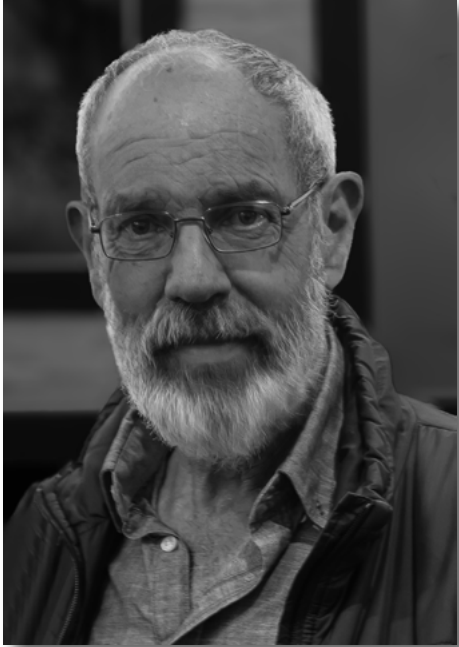
He joined JPS “thinking I was the bees-knees but quickly realised all of my photographic learning was ahead of me!” he confesses. My assigned mentors, Colin Mead and Barry Wilton, were topflight wildlife and nature photographers, but the Society boasted many of South Africa’s most accomplished image-makers of the day, who dominated the PSSA’s Impala trophy for a decade. Through their guidance and encouragement, my photographic skills developed inexorably.

“The highlights of my fifteen-year association with JPS include my beret award (and yes, senior members wore their beret to meetings!) and serving as President for five years,” Phil continues. “During this time, I guided the Society’s transition to digital and its reincarnation as the JPS Camera Club and subsequently received my PSSA Fellowship award in slides.”

After retiring to Hermanus in 2018 Phil and his wife,

Carina de Klerk, became active members of the Hermanus Photographic Society, with Carina serving as chairman and Phil as treasurer. They were also able to devote more time to their own photography and entering salons. Several medals contributed to Phil’s high score in the PDI Impala Trophy Competition that placed him in the Top20 consecutively in 2021 and 2022 ... the best position achieved by a Western Cape club member in many years.

Last year he earned another PSSA Fellowship in colour digital images.



Piet van As: the man behind the fascinating ‘Kontreistories’



Piet van As is the ‘go to’ person if you want to learn about the social history and people of the Strandveld. In the days before television, people entertained each other by telling colourful stories about people from the ‘kontrei’. This is a tradition that Piet van As continued in print with his book ‘n Bek vol Strandveld’ with the subtitle ‘onthou-verhale uit die Suidpuntstreek’. He is just as famous for his sketches, which illustrate the book and earned him the nickname of ‘Piet prentjies’.

Piet van As of the farm Springfield between Struisbaai and Elim is famous for being the unofficial historian of the region. His keen interest in the people and events that shaped the character of the Strandveld provided him with a treasure trove of stories, which he shares in his distinctive entertaining and humorous words.

We are privileged that he agreed to entertain congress delegates with some of these stories during the opening ‘kontrei’ function.

Born and bred in the Strandveld, he spent his early

childhood years in Mount Pleasant, Agulhas, the old barracks, where the soldiers manning the radar station during World War II, were housed. He grew up in a family that excelled at the local pre-television pastime — telling stories when visiting each other.

Piet joined the navy as mechanical engineer and later as instructor at the navy academy, where he was known for the drawings he made on any available surface. Six years on South African Antarctic research vessels widened the topics of his stories. **Continued**

Piet van As Continued

In 2006, after he retired from serving on the sea, Piet and his wife, Marie, moved to the farm Springfield, which belonged to his forefathers in the late 1800's.

If anything, his interest in local history intensified and he spent many hours in the Bredasdorp museum. He became the 'go to' person if anybody wanted information about farms, old buildings, shipwrecks and people in the area.

After 1988 the acclaimed writer Dalene Matthee became a good friend and regular correspondent when she required local flavour, technical information about seafaring or the district, or verification of facts for her books. She loved listening to his 'Strandveld-stories' and appreciated his colourful use of words.

Her last book, *Die Uitgespoeldes*, was inspired by a Piet van As anecdote about the local British aristocrats, Baron de Saumerez and his wife who had ties to the Swedish royal family. They owned the farm Springfield,

where Piet and Marie van As currently live.

The Lord and Lady, as they were known locally and in Matthee's book, also bought the farms Renosterkop and Ratelrivier, which also play a role in *Die Uitgespoeldes*. Many of the characters in the book are based on real people — introduced to her by Piet — including the main character, who is based on a genuine shipwreck survivor. Piet has fond memories of Lord de Saumerez, whom he describes as a down to earth person.

His sketches and stories published in the Agulhas National Park newsletter inspired conservation officer Emmerentia de Kock to dig deeper about the people mentioned, and Piet therefore contributed to the Agulhas National Park's cultural history.

In 2018 Piet's stories were published as *'n Bek vol Strandveld — onthou-verhale uit die Suidpuntstreek*, illustrated with his sketches. A biographical chapter by his daughter, Andriette, introduces Piet to the readers.



Richard will introduce delegates to photogenic scenes like his image 'Overberg Church' during his presentation at congress.

Richard Goldschmidt: Best photo opportunities in the district

As a seasoned engineer Richard Goldschmidt understands the need for meticulous planning and understanding of the terrain and weather conditions when planning photographic outings. That is why the monthly outings he organised for Cape Town Photographic Society (CTPS) members for eight years, followed by several memorable weekend outings, are still talked about.

The secret to Richard's successful outings is the scouting trips he undertakes so that he not only knows where the photographic gems are, but also when the light will be best and how long it takes to get from point A to B.

His talk during the opening kontreikos supper on the first evening of the Struisbaai congress will therefore

provide valuable background to the district maps and suggested photographic opportunities delegates will receive in their goody bags.

He will also offer suggestions about where the best canola fields can be photographed, because remember, the farmers don't plant canola in the same fields every year, nor does the canola fields all ripen at the same time of the year. It is therefore impossible to predict in advance where they will be seen, unless you do a scouting trip close to congress (as Richard will do). This will also be your opportunity to ask questions about road conditions and scenic scapes.

A working life spent building up a mechanical /electrical consulting engineering company left Richard no time for photography, other than to capture **Continued**

Richard Goldschmidt Continued

a growing family.

After retiring in 2010, he and his wife, Joyce, were talked into attending a CTPS meeting. Digital cameras were purchased, and they started to learn the ropes. Richard especially enjoyed the outings, which encouraged his progression from Beginner to Master.

His own photography has grown exponentially, especially after joining a photographic workshop in Spain in 2023. He started entering salons last year and earned several medals and COMs. After the first six months of the current competition year he features among the Top50 on the Impala PDI Trophy.

Yvette Jordaan APSSA Applied: *The art of food photography*



Yvette Jordaan is a passionate food photographer, with a keen eye for detail and a passion for culinary storytelling, which will make her talk on how to compose and photograph still life and tabletop subjects a pleasure to attend. Her bubbly personality and styling tips and tricks will inspire you to raid your food cupboard and create compositions to photograph as soon as you return home.

Yvette's repertoire extends to working in France, where she photographed the cookbook *There's a Vegan on my Verandah* on the Le Rembucher estate where co-author and South African artist Louis Jansen van Vuuren has his studio. Innovative chef, food writer and journalist Isabella Niehaus is the other author of this lifestyle cookbook, described as follows: *prepare yourself for delicious, easy-to-make dishes, illustrated by photographer Yvette Jordaan in such a way that it will most certainly make your mouth water.*

The book won the *Best Vegan Cookbook* at the 2024 Gourmand Awards. This accolade was topped this year by the authors winning the *Best Cookbook* Gourmand Award for *Skepselkos*, to which Yvette also contributed

some photographs. In 2020 Yvette had taken photos for Isabella Niehaus' Gourmand Award Winning cookbook, *Duinhuis*.

Yvette was shortlisted for the *Pink Lady* International Food Photography competition in 2021. This prestigious international competition '*celebrates the very best in food photography and film from around the world*' and has been described as the '*most prestigious award in the industry*'.

Yvette also created and self-published her own cookbook, *Shades of Olive*, which focusses on teaching cooking enthusiasts how to cook with olives and olive oil. Her photography in this book was deemed to be of high enough standard to earn her APSSA Applied Honours in January this year. The book was inspired by her years working in the olive industry and in her foreword Isabella Niehaus describes Yvette as a highly acclaimed food photographer with a unique eye for the smallest detail and an exceptional use of light.

Yvette is a versatile photographer, who is also making a name for herself as a wildlife and nature photographer.