

# *DSS* *COVERS*

***VOLUME 23***

Ten featured images from the covers of  
“The Stereo Window” newsletter of  
The Detroit Stereographic Society.

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**“Blue Flower”**  
**by Dennis Green**  
**Competition topic: Open**



This month's cover image was created by your editor in 2007, and it has an interesting story behind it. I had to pick up my son's new glasses, and I found the office was closed for lunch. I had about 20 minutes to kill before they would reopen, and I noticed some lilies growing in front of a neighboring office building. The only camera I had with me was a single 4 megapixel digital camera (that just happened to be in the car, so I passed the time trying some stereo pairs using the cha-cha method - which I had never tried before.

Several months later, I was playing around in Photoshop with different effects. I remembered seeing an image that a DSS member took with print film, and they mounted the negatives in a slide mount, giving an interesting effect. So I found that lily image and tried reversing the colors using the “Curves” adjustment, which rendered the reddish lily as blue and the green background as somewhat purple. I liked the effect and entered it in the December 2007 DSS competition “Bright Colors” and won a 2nd place ribbon.

The moral of the story is that you never know when you may have the opportunity to capture an award-winning stereo image and you do not have to have any kind of a special camera - not even a stereo camera - to do it!

**“Fish Barrels”**  
**by Pauline Sweezy, FPSA**  
**Competition topic “Wood”**



This month's cover is from Pauline Sweezy, FPSA, and is one of the images contained in the PSA Hall of Fame VIII which we will be projecting at the October meeting. Pauline was the PSA President in 1997. This description is from the script of the Hall of Fame program:

*“Fish Barrels” was taken in Nova Scotia in 1975. The strong stereo effect comes from the foreground as our eyes step into the picture. This image, taken on a Realist 45, has two medals and 10 acceptances.*

**“Teton”**  
by Russ Gager  
Competition topic: “Reflections”



This month's cover photo is from Chicago's Russ Gager. It is a good example of an image that would do well for this month's topic of "Reflections". The image was accepted in the digital section of the 2016 Detroit Exhibition, and in the 2021 Chicago Lighthouse Exhibition. Russ shared these details:

*I've been taking more images with my W3 lately--it's so portable! I do use a tripod for morning shots like this.*

*We only had two mornings in the Tetons, so I thought I was very clever to ask at the ranger station where a good reflecting pond was. My wife Pat and I were pleased with the perfectly clear weather and still conditions of the pond until we received an entry in our Lighthouse competition from another photographer. I knew exactly where his photo of the Tetons reflected with yellow flowers had been taken because I took this one in the same spot. So I guess the pond is the ranger station's go-to answer for photographers looking for good reflections, and not as much of a secret as I thought.*

**“Arachnid”**  
by Rich Grubola  
Competition topic: “Begins with S”



This month's front cover photo, a ribbon winner from the January 2020 "Open" competition, is from our own Rich Grubola - a good example of an image for our competition topic this month of "Begins with S".

Here are some details on Rich's image:

*I shot this spider at the Pontiac Reptile & Exotic Pet Expo in September, 2019. After asking for permission from the exhibitor, I used my Nikon D4S with a 105 mm macro lens and Nikon flash to cha-cha a couple of shots. The light naturally decreases towards the back because of flash fall-off.*

*The spider, a Stripe Knee Tarantula, a popular pet, was in a sealed acrylic box so I just shot at an angle to the box so that the flash didn't bounce back into the camera. The most processing I did was to super-sharpen it for maximum impact.*

**Derek Gee**  
**1962 - 2022**  
[Photo by Dennis Green]



Longtime DSS member Derek Gee passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 15, after a series of physical issues. He was just 60 years old.

Derek's interest in stereo photography began with a View-Master and seeing the 3D movie "House of Wax" as a youngster. He obtained a Stereo Realist camera in 1982, and shortly thereafter, he joined the DSS. He received his first winning entry ribbon in March of 1985.

Derek served as the club's slide film projectionist starting in 1990, the Vice President of the DSS from 1992-1996 and as President from 1997-2002. He earned the Rising Star Award (for most improvement as a stereo photographer) at the end of the 2014-15 season, and served often as a competition judge (most recently 5 times in the 2019-20 season). Several of his images are included in the club's "Michigan Magic" program.

In addition to his DSS activities, Derek experimented with 3D movies, and was a fan of amusement parks, World Fairs, and roller coasters, being a member of the American Coaster Enthusiasts and the National Amusement Park Historical Association, as well as the World's Fair Collector's Society. He researched, wrote, published, and produced books and video regarding his favorite "defunct" amusement park, Riverview Park in Chicago.

**"Combat!"**  
by Mat Bergman  
Competition topic: "Toys"



*"Combat!" is a creative stereo image that I entered in the Golden Gate Stereoscopic Society "composite" competition in August 2020. The image combines a street scene background image, captured in stereo with a Fuji W3, with macro stereo photography of toy "army men" figures.*

*The figures were captured with a Canon Rebel Xsi on a sidebar, with a zoom lens set to 37mm, exposure at f8, and 1/60 shutter speed. I experimented to determine the best composition and lens separation to match the background and visually anchor the figures to the ground.*

*To capture all of the figures in focus, I utilized the focus stacking software Helicon Focus. I made five exposures per view (10 total) with the lens incrementally focused, and combined the exposures in the software to generate an image with all figures in complete focus.*

*The figures were photographed against a white card under natural light, and composited into the background photo with Photoshop. I painted shadows in the scene to further sell the effect (it helped that the background image was made on an overcast day with soft shadows).*

*I'm pleased that "Combat!" took fourth place in our August 2020 special "Composite" competition. - Mat Bergman*

**“The Pipe King”**  
by Robert Bloomberg  
Competition topic - “Calm”



*It was taken in February, 2010 in Varanasi, India. I was feeling quite ill that day and was heading back to our hotel when I encountered "The Pipe King" on a small side street. I gave him a donation and asked if he would mind if I took his photo. Just then the young girl passed by and Tenniel's illustration from Alice in Wonderland immediately popped into my head (see below). I asked if she would mind stopping for a moment and looking at "The Pipe King." She kindly obliged.*

*Although I've asked Mr. and Mrs. Google several times for assistance, I am not quite sure what The Pipe King's hand-painted sign meant. Perhaps he owned a chain of head shops or won a local hookah-smoking competition. We may never know.*

*My Wife Marilyn suggested the sign could be an ad for a local business and our guy just happened to be perched atop their "billboard" as an ideal, high-traffic area for soliciting donations. But I like him better as the reincarnation of Carroll's caterpillar.*



**“Ball Wash”**  
by John Bueche  
Competition topic: “Set-up”



*This month's stereo image is from DSS member John Bueche. It shows that you do not need an elaborate set-up to create images for this topic. John tells us this about his image:*

*After seeing many great shots with water frozen in motion over the years, I decided to give it a try. I dumped about 30 golf balls into the kitchen sink, turned on the faucet and started taking images with my Panasonic 3D1. Since I was using the 3D1, I'm sure I probably zoomed in a bit to keep the camera a little further away from the subject. The 3D1 can be fussy if you are too close. I cropped about 30% of the image out but I planned for that.*

*I'm sure I used the forced flash to help "freeze" the movement of the water. I took about 28 pairs and decided I liked the pattern of the splash in the final image best. Due to the flash, there were a few shadows that didn't match up between the left and right so a little Photoshop was necessary. I'm pretty certain that the image has only been shown in Detroit..*

**“Reichstag Reflection”**  
by David Kuntz  
Competition topic: “Open”



*Mirror stereos in which part of the photo is repeated and flipped - either horizontally, vertically or both - have been popular for some time. But the double exposure stereoscopic image I am presenting here is different than other mirror stereos. It doesn't divide up the frame of the photo and repeat the same elements. Rather, the mirrored image is made partially transparent, and then overlaid on top of the original version.*

*I slide the top layer relative to the bottom one to explore the effects it produces when I'm creating a mirror stereo. It's interesting to see how various patterns and correspondences emerge from the visual confusion and complexity of the combination. The human perceptual system is wired to see familiar patterns, so 'faces' and other recognizable objects often appear.*

*The Reichstag in Berlin, Germany is an interesting looking structure, as well as a location with tremendous historical significance. ‘Reichstag Reflection’ is a purely visual exploration of the building. I've enhanced the edges and increased the contrast in this image to make the geometrical shapes of the structure stand out. And I like the way the numerous lines create visual complexity, which can only be resolved by viewing it in stereo.*

**“Fountain at Dusk”**

by Rick Shomsky

Last Year's Stereo Image of the Year



Rick Shomsky's “Fountain at Dusk”, this month's cover stereo image, was last year's winner in the *Image of the Year* competition as selected by the Tokyo Stereo Club. Rick tells us this about the making of this image:

*“I had the idea for fountain fireworks 3D photos for several years before actually trying it. On January 11, 2022 I set a [fireworks] fountain on a tree stump in my backyard. I shot it at dusk because January produces some clear skies and a nice blue color for a background.*

*I used my Canon G15 twinned cameras at 1/4 second shutter, F8 aperture and 80 ISO. I wanted a shutter speed that was slow enough to create streaks, but fast enough to keep everything from blending together.*

*There's a yellow shower of sparks with tiny firecrackers exploding in streaks of white. A slight breeze moved the smoke back and to the right, so the foreground remained clear. It only took a very slight gust of wind to push everything in one direction in some other shots, which were not at all what I wanted.*