



Distinctive Image

featuring...

Henry Ng, PPSA

Silver Springs, Maryland



Look there! (taken in Xinjiang, China)

Once again the *Journal* continues its *Distinctive Image* series, featuring this time a Photographic Society of America (PSA) artist who has achieved photographic distinction with an exemplary exhibition record, and whose work can serve as an inspiration to other members. Tucson conference attendees will be familiar with the work of **Henry C. Ng, PPSA**, for his beautiful and exciting presentation of *Splendid China*. In this issue, the *Journal* presents not only Henry's pictures of China but also information revealing the photographic and digital darkroom techniques used to produce these magnificent images. One of our newer members, this *Distinctive Image* photographer joined PSA in 2002.

A look at the *Journal's* 2007 May issue of *Who's Who in Photography in 2006* will reveal that Henry Ng's name appears first in the Top North American Exhibitors as well as third in the world in *Color Projected Image* (CPI) Exhibitors;

and number one again in the *Photo Travel* (PT) *Projected Image Exhibitors*. In years past, his exhibition record also included: 2005, first in the world in *Color Slide* (now called *Color Projected Image*) and tied for the first in the world in *PT Slides*; sixth in the world and second in North America in *Photojournalism Slides*; and tied for the seventh in the world and second in North America in *Digital Imaging-Still* sections; 2004, fifth in the world and second in North America in *Color Slides*; and 2003, thirteenth in the world and fifth in North America, again in *Color Slides*.

In the past four years alone, this PSA-er has had more than 1,500 international exhibition acceptances and received more than 350 Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals or trophies and other special awards; including over 40 "Best of Show" awards from international exhibitions throughout the world. For the past three consecutive years, he has won "Best of Show" in the *Photo*



Great Wall

Travel section of the Annual PSA International Exhibition. Henry has had the PPSA distinction since 2006. In addition, many international exhibitions have awarded Mr. Ng photographic honors for excellence in their international exhibition competitions. 2007 honors included: *Honorary Fellow of the Photographic Society of New York* in New York City; *Honorary Exhibitor United Artists Photographic Association* in Hong Kong; *Honorary Fellow of the Asian American Photographic Salon Exhibitors Association* in Los Angeles; plus many others dating back to 1971, too numerous to cite here. His beautiful pictures are frequently published in exhibition catalogs and his award-winning images are represented in the



Field work. (Taken in Yaun Yang, China)



Hong village pond, panorama



Mongolia girl

PSA's *Tops in Photography* program. Recently, Henry's picture *Fishing Light* was selected as the image for PSA's 2007 handy promotion card.

In addition to his own photographic skills, Henry Ng has made contributions to the world photographic community, promoting the advancement of photography. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors for PSA as Services Vice President and he was the Vice President of *Silver Spring Camera Club* in Maryland and the Vice Chairman of the *PSA Mid Atlantic Chapter*. In addition, he acts as an adviser for many camera clubs in New York, Washington DC, Houston and Los Angeles. He is often invited to judge in international exhibitions and has conducted many photographic seminars for many camera clubs.

Mr. Ng earned a *Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering* in 1973 from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC; in 1978, a *Master of Science degree in Electronics Engineering* from George Washington University, Washington, DC; and a *Professional Engineer degree* from George Washington University in 1984. Currently, he is doing consulting work for information technology companies on agent technology, advanced 3D computer graphics and collaborative engineering environment. Before retiring from the government in January 2007, Henry was the head of the Distributed System

Section in the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington DC, leading scientists and engineers in conducting advanced Information Technologies research. Prior to joining NRL in 1996, he was the leader of the Modeling and Simulation branch in the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Henry, who has been involved in photography for more than 35 years, was raised in Hong Kong and, in 1968 at the age of 18, emigrated to the United States. He currently lives in Maryland. His interest in photography began when he was 13 years old and he particularly likes photographing people, landscapes, human-interest subjects, nature, sports and doing creative work. Henry tells us, "As I lived in Hong Kong as a youngster I was very lucky to be able to learn the photographic cultures of both East and West. This background has greatly helped me to expand my photographic horizon and vision. Photography has bought me many adventures and rewards since I saw my first image emerge in a tray of developer over forty years ago. It has motivated and provided me with the opportunity to go to many beautiful places on this planet, to take pictures and to experience the many natural beauties that this amazing world has to offer. More importantly, I am glad to be able to make friends with so many wonderful people in different parts of the earth and share experiences and a common love for photography."



Li River fishermen



Camel caravan (taken in Xinjiang desert)



Night strolling

TECHNIQUE

Digital Panorama and High Dynamic Range (HDR) Images.

Henry Ng's pictures are taken digitally with Canon® 5D and Canon 20D digital cameras; occasionally they are from his use of a Canon EOS 3 and Fuji® Velvia 100 Professional slide film, especially for sun rise, sunset and long time exposure pictures. A polarization filter is added for most photographs.

This *Distinctive Image* artist's favorite software for the digital darkroom is Photoshop CS3® for generating High Dynamic Range (HDR) images plus Arcsoft Panorama Maker® for creating panoramic images. For HDR, he uses the "merge to HDR" feature in Photoshop CS3 to combine a series of bracketed exposures of the same image into a single image with expanded dynamic range. The technique is especially effective for images of locations that have a wide tonal range, from the brightest levels to the darkest. For scenic images, Henry uses a series of overlapped digital pictures and stitches them together in Arcsoft Panorama Maker to form a panorama image, a technique that is especially successful in making spectacular landscape pictures.



Morning migration



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

With my photographs, I want to express my feelings, artistic impressions, and creativity to capture the different human emotions and cultures, and to show the magnificent beauty of our wonderful world. In order to be an all-around photographer, I choose to take pictures on a variety of subjects so that I may learn the many different techniques needed for various types of pictures. From the very beginning, I was fascinated by the techniques available that allowed me to capture images.

With the advent of digital photography, I was provided with unparalleled, powerful capabilities for making my photographs more artistic as well as being enabled to express my creativity more easily. I had the ability to produce photos with greater dynamic ranges and tones by combining multiple images together with the new technologies. However, it is important to remember not to become enslaved by the software and plug-ins and more importantly, not to overdo our photographs with the new technology which turns our images into computer illustrations, making the pictures unnatural and artificial.