



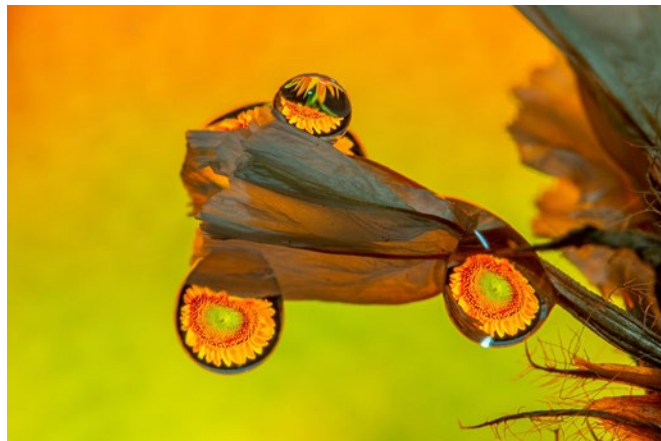
1st Place
"Autumn Reflection"
by **Alfred Uy Boming**



2nd Place
"Morning Smoke" by **Jeff Dytuco**

Refractions or Reflections

Color - August 2022



3rd Place
"SunDew" by **Fria Day Delfin**
ISO 100 / f5.6 / 1/80 sec



4th Place
"Multiverse" by **Angela Panlilio**
ISO 320; f/5.6; 1/60 sec.



5th Place
"Untitled" by **Brian Agana**
ISO 2000; f/3.3; 1/80 sec.

President's Viewfinder

You may have heard August being called as the ghost month, as the Chinese celebrate the scariest festival called the Hungry Ghost, as it is believed that the spirits of our ancestors are freely roaming the whole month.

We've been told not to start a business or buy a new house nor make major purchases during this time. In order to appease the spirits, we were told to wear bright colors, offer food, light an incense or wear crystals and semi-precious stones in order to ward off any negativity.

As with any culture, we've heard the saying that – 'to each his own'. The more important thing in my mind beyond this cultural practice is that we are modest in our ways, be honest in our dealings, practice integrity even when there is no one looking and be thankful whatever circumstance comes our way.

I have been reflecting about the innovative projects we have accomplished so far. I am thankful that we have been successful with last month's Lingkod Larawan, wherein our images are immortalized at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine. Big thank you to all who took part in this initiative. And this early, I encourage the others to take part in the phase 2 of this project.

Speaking of reflecting, for the month of August, our photo contest theme is Refraction or Reflection, the Townhall meeting happens this Thursday, August 11, 2023.

We also have a number of exciting activities both for learning, courtesy of the Z Academy (with Tom Epperson as resource person) as well as the opportunity to shoot together, which is being planned by the Z Places team for our exciting photo walk - and soon - OTS (Out of Town Shoot) as a club! More details on these will be revealed in the coming days.

There is no stopping us now, as we are gearing up for more activities that shall nourish Zone V member's quest to learn, while espousing camaraderie as we shoot together and of course, the opportunity to give back to our community through our art.

Surely, the spirits are smiling down on us because of all this.



Berka

Meet Our New Probee: Kobi Janairo



I met Kobi in class when I took a photography course at the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging (PCCI) back in 2018. What I observed about Kobi was that he knows a lot about the topics discussed and he was intellectually ahead compared to the other students, myself included. From then on, Kobi would be my go-to person when I find myself scratching my head and could not comprehend the topics being discussed.

Kobi's interest in photography started way back when he was in grade school as he was influenced by his father who would do videos of the family back when films were used. His photography passion leapfrogged when he had an assignment during his BS Tourism days in college when his project brought him to Mindanao to take photos of the various indigenous tribes that would form part of a coffee table book for the University of Santo Tomas (UST).

Armed with a Master's Degree in Foreign Service, Kobi is qualified and makes for a good ambassador, though no relation to this qualification, Kobi has been a Brand Ambassador for 7 Artisans lenses.

Kobi has also taught at the UST and at the De La Salle University while pursuing his love for photography. There is no stopping Kobi as he also has a PhD in Sociology and he is currently working on his dissertation to complete the doctorate degree.

He is also a full time photographer who does campaigns, fashion shoots, corporate work and events. During his spare time, he loves to take street photography where he learned closely with Raymond Tanhueco.

Kobi is excited about his growing portfolio and work, hence, he is expanding things by building his own 140sqm. studio which he plans to open by January of 2023. The name of Kobi's studio is Kelaya.

Kobi is married to his long-time sweetheart Pat, wherein they now have a lovely nine-month old daughter named Kelaya Likha, which means, beautiful creation.

Friends, let us all welcome our new probee – Kobi - and we all eagerly await to see your beautiful creations through your photographs.

By Leys Masangcay

If a Z Academy talk can inspire you to get off a creative slump, dust off your camera and take a walk then it must have been one hell of a talk. And that my friends is the Tom Epperson talk effect. It was simply that good. Article done. Now go out and shoot!

If you're still reading this, or perhaps, you just got back from your shoot, allow me to elaborate what I liked about the talk. But first, let's introduce our speaker last August 25, 2022. Tom Epperson hails from Cleveland, OH and started photography at an early age. He started his career as a cameraman for Hanna-Barbera. He first visited the Philippines in 1985 and by 1990 decided to live here since.

Tom's talk was not your usual talk. He started by letting his audience read through half a dozen slides and then quickly went on to share how the principles in those slides were put into practice. He went into great detail about how each of his cornerstone principles were applied in every photo.



Simplicity - you can definitely catch this concept depicted in the portraits that Tom shared with the audience. He removes all that isn't part of his subject and only leaves their essence in the frame. Keeping the background simple, lighting to a minimum helps lead our eyes to what's truly essential - guiding our gaze back to the person baring their humanity in front of us; a cancer survivor with the rosary that gave her the strength to persevere or the stoic resolve of a boxer in his prime.

Intent - Tom in more ways than one stressed the difference between firing a thousand frames in the hopes of getting a few keepers to one that is rooted on the photographer's intent.

ZAcademy

Photography Beyond Borders with Tom Epperson

By Tony Rivera

That's why he suggests exercises like shooting only 36 frames or other handicap like a fixed focal length to help hone our skills in this area. Think with the outcome in mind; what about your subject would best reflect their inner self. During the breaks he would continue to observe his subject and then ask them to repeat a particular activity; like fixing their eye glasses, their tie or even putting a clock in front of their face.

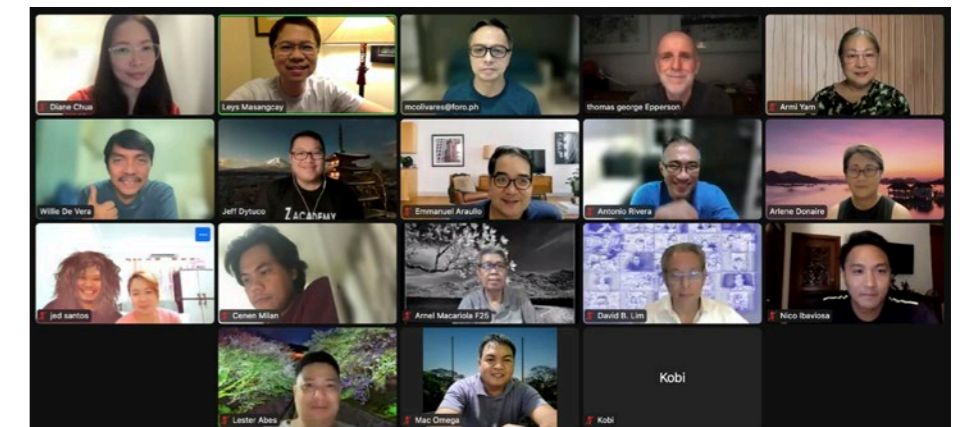
The purpose of photography, Tom shared, ways to communicate. It is a form of expression that the photogra-

cate is conveyed. This is most notably shown in his work with Francis Magalona's back or even Manny Pacquiao's Nike ad kneeling by his corner. These images definitely touch us in one way or another and it sticks with us.

The entire talk lasted for almost 2 hours and a part of me wished we could have spent more time with Tom. To better understand his thought process and how he's able to get out of his shell to ask strangers to come to his studio for a portrait. How he's able to come up with ideas on the fly as he engages with them. He rarely directs

pher uses to convey a concept, feeling or thought to elicit some form of response. It compels you to respond; whether you like it, inspired by it, amused or repulsed by what you see. The photographer's will to communi-

people to pose or use complicated lighting setups and yet he's able to come up with masterful works of art. Thank you for the talk Tom and more importantly, thank you for the inspiration.



SPOTLIGHT

Joaquin "Bobot" Go

By Arlene Donaire



Exposure V tasked member Arlene Donaire to chat with Joaquin "Bobot" Go one afternoon while enjoying a pastime that they continue to mutually enjoy since they first met in 2010. Over a couple rounds of coffee, Bobot shares his photography story.

How and when did you start your interest in photography?

It all came naturally. On family vacations I would often pick up my brother's cameras. I thought that my photos seemed to look different from what they see, so that piqued my interest to keep shooting when I had the chance. I "officially" began photography as a hobby, in college. My first camera was a CANON AE-1, a film camera that was introduced in 1976.

Who or what influenced you in your photography journey? Who introduced you to Zone V and when did you join?

There was no one "influence" in particular but having siblings who had cameras made it easier for me to pick up the habit. I became very familiar in film photography also because I had the benefit of time in my hands to practice. I'd say for most parts, I was a self-starter and self-taught; I was always curious and kept shooting even without anyone prodding me to. When I entered college in UST, where I studied Education, majoring in Biology, I met a fellow photography enthusiast – Mike Velasco, who would later on invite me to join Zone V a year after the EDSA Revolution. I joined Zone V as a probee in 1987 and became a regular member in 1988. Mike Velasco would then teach me the basics of studying lighting while George Cabig would help me how to arrive in my concept of different subjects. Among Zone V members whose photos had somehow influenced my way of seeing are Butch Umali, Angie Amistoso, Jun Perez, and Noris Gervacio.

Why did you choose to become a member of Zone V?

There was that one time, when I made a photo presentation for my family's party, and it so happened that among the guests was a member of a prestigious camera club. That guest later invited me to join their club, but I didn't pursue the invitation because I knew then that I wanted to join instead in a club where camaraderie was more important rather than competition. I saw Zone V Camera Club then as that fun outlet; this was why I pursued being a member of that organization.

Please share some of your experiences as a member in Zone V.

On the 1st OTS that I joined as a probee, I was kind of clueless, so I shot what interested me – macro! In the monthly meetings, I was always nervous when it was time for the critique session. It was in one particular contest after our OTS, when our critique session commentator asked why I had shot the carabao jumping

in the river in Villa Escudero, instead of shooting a classic passive scene, that I came to realize that I will create my own way of telling stories in my images, a sort of "against the grain" approach. The criticism paved the way for me keep shooting for decisive moments, which led me to win in some important external contests, where my style of visual storytelling was recognized.

Do you have formal training as a photographer, and have you worked in a professional studio?

I recall having attended a one-week workshop in Honolulu, Hawaii, where I studied about interior photography. Back then I was already in Zone V. Other than that, I got many of my learnings through personal and vicarious experiences. I've not worked in a studio but was hired from time to time to shoot assignments e.g., by Mabay Magazine, and at events, all on the side because my main concerns were growing my own small business and taking care of the family.

Can you share your achievements in and outside of photography?

On the personal and family side, I first completed a BS Education-Biology degree in UST. I also finished Nursing from Las Pinas Colleges, to support a plan of migrating to the US with my family. But fate led me to another path, a better one – I was able to build up my own small business as my family was also growing. Now at 63, with 6 grown children and 2 grandchildren, I have retired and enjoy family time – they are my pride and joy.

On the photography side, while still in ZVCC, most memorable for me was my 1st winning photo of boats that were shot in Malabon. I think I was in the annual Top Photographers list several times also. Outside of ZVCC, there were some memorable occasions too, when my then unusual perspective in choices of composition or point of interest (subject) earned recognitions outside the club. Mam Edi of FPPF at one time took notice of how I shot the models in a Singapore fashion show i.e., framing a model within another model's spread legs. In the contest I won both 1st & 2nd places.

What keeps you busy these days?

I actually became inactive in Zone V in the early 90s; I guess I had lost the "fun" in what was going on; when contests in the club became seriously competitive. I went on a hiatus from photography for probably about 10 years.

In the early 2000, the digital revolution in camera technology had begun. Having many photographers in my close social circle, I eventually came back to photography. The reason behind me starting with a digital system was when a close friend of mine, George Cabig lent me a digital DSLR and I thought to myself that this is great, I can keep shooting without hesitating unlike the film days where I was bounded. After shooting with a film camera for several years, I felt that using a digital DSLR is more economical and that it is a huge time saver. I felt a huge difference and I was relieved.

As I lived in the south, I became part of a group that founded the Ayala Alabang Camera Club (AACC) in the late 90s. Up until the lockdowns due to COVID19, I have remained an active member of the club. Around 2014, I also became one of the co-admins of the Facebook-based Neutral Ground Reborn community. I have retired

from my business. So, nowadays I enjoy family moments, whether spent at home or travelling. I enjoy road trips and have recently been on a driving tour to Mindanao. I still shoot with a lightweight system – my phone and I'm eyeing a drone so I can shoot from the top; different point of view.

Please give some words of wisdom to our current batch of probees, active members, and others who may be interested in photography.

Two things:

- First, for me, it is very important that my images have soul ("may kaluluwa"), a point of interest that establishes the story. Dapat may kaluluwa,



kasi kung wala lang eh di wala rin. Involvement of oneself in creating the image will turn the photo into something more than just a picture.

- Second, I have a penchant for capturing decisive moments which may seem "off" to others. That, which others might see as unusual or unexpected, is actually what will define the image. What is in the composition? This is what matters; technique is important but is secondary.

What is your vision for ZVCC?

For ZVCC to continue its mission, promoting photography and fun fellowship among its members.

The author, Arlene Donaire, penned the narratives based on her fun conversation with Bobot, whom she considers as her photography standard and "sensei-ble" friend/mentor. She met Bobot in 2010, when she joined as probee of the AACC (the club he co-founded). She recalls that sunset shoot in a stilt house in the middle of Laguna de Bai, at Bayanan, Muntinlupa, as her fondest moment of shooting with Bobot. After that, Bayanan has become her golden hour playground, up till now. Oh, and she swears that Bobot makes one of the best chicken empanadas she has tasted!



In an Ayala Museum contest with "Trees" as theme, I won the 1st and 2nd places, which earned for me a double spread in Manila Bulletin. There was also this Manila Bulletin contest where I won 1st and 2nd places for my infrared film shots of Boracay and carabao cart in a highway with a canopy of trees in Ilocos Norte.

SPOTLIGHT

Oscar Sanchez Soriano

By Leys Masangcay



He always has a ready toothy smile, a booming friendly voice and a warm welcoming presence. Those were imprinted in my mind when I first met Oscar Sanchez Soriano during the 44th anniversary celebration of Zone V Camera Club (ZVCC) last March in Taal, Batangas.

The dapper and always impeccably dressed Oscar is based in San Francisco California for quite a while now. He flew into the Philippines for a holiday and dedicated some precious time to be in that get-together as he received the award of The Club's elite **'Presidential League of Loyals,'** an honor given to past ZVCC presidents that has served for at least 25 years.

Oscar is very prolific with his photographic works and always comes up with fresh ideas on how he shoots. So we asked him about his photography journey.

Oscar shared *"My brother-in-law just finished a job contract in Tokyo, Japan in the late 70s and he gifted me with a brand new AE-1 Canon SLR camera and that started my fascination for photography. Shots had to be precise and that was an early learning experience for me. I experimented with different subjects – flowers, portraits and landscapes, you name it. Children were a big part of my early photography adventures and mostly kids from my family enjoyed posing for me."*

Prior to joining Zone V, way back in 1980, a colleague of Oscar at the bank he used to work for got impressed with his images and convinced him to pursue his photography hobby by enrolling at a workshop conducted by Vic Valenciano at the Fotografika studios in Makati. The learnings from this workshop, Oscar noted *"in a way shaped my techniques and sharpened*

my photography perspective." Vic Valenciano eventually became Oscar's great mentor and great friend and encouraged him *"with great enthusiasm to join this new breed of young photographers - Zone V"*, Oscar added.

As the story goes, in 1981 Oscar joined the Zone V Camera Club. As a probationary member Oscar is grateful as he recollects *"I was honored to*



have been in the company of fantastic and progressive photographers with creative minds – Angie Amistoso (who is my son's godfather at his baptism), Roger Ilem, Romy Morales, Mario Pamintuan and a lot more." Oscar got himself inducted that same year.

Oscar continued *"the stories that were circulating about Zone V were true. Photographers were into more casual drinking and shooting sessions back then. As a serious, aspiring young*

photographer, I was a bit discouraged. But now looking back, my appreciation of Zone V has changed – while photography is what keeps us together both in the competitive arena and learning experiences, it is the bonding, the camaraderie and friendship that cement our legacy. Leadership is also an important factor to keep the ship sailing smoothly as ever."

As far as the masters in photography that Oscar looks up to, he has been immensely influenced by two world-renowned photographers – Ansel Adams and Richard Avedon – the reason being, Oscar recalls with fondness, *"I have always dreamt of capturing great black and white landscapes in the same way Ansel Adams explored the vast, magnificent Yosemite in California. I have been there a couple of time with friends and family, but I just need to make one more trip, by myself, no distractions, with photography as my main focus. Richard Avedon was a prolific*

fashion photographer and visual artist. I wanted to be a fashion photographer in my younger, wilder days, but I honestly did not wish to play the commercial part of it and the stress. Richard Avedon put art in his fashion spreads and that is the part that inspired me. Another great photographer that I follow is Annie Leibovitz - her work is artful, dramatic and tells great stories."

Oscar has been inactive at ZVCC for a while, but when he unleashed his lenses to be an active member again this year - without missing an artistic beat, the first photo he submitted last February got the nod of the discriminating members and it was awarded as the Member's Cup. What a fitting coincidence as it was Oscar's idea way back in 1982 about having the Members Cup Awards.

One achievement Oscar is proud of happened in 1982. He remembers – *"1982 was a tough, tight race for POTY (Photographer of the Year). It started off pretty easy for me in the early stages - #5 or 6# then my entries in the later months either won or scored high, making me a contender for POTY all too suddenly. It was a see-saw battle for #1 between me and the late Nando Limsin. I believe it was the last month that finally decided the winner."* And the POTY award of 1982, as you may have guessed, was Oscar's.

As designed by fate, Oscar immigrated to the USA in 2001 and worked with several hotels and retired in 2015 from the Double Tree by Hilton as an Accountant.



Aside from photography, Oscar is multi-talented as he is verbose and eloquent with words, thus, he is also an active member and a former President of not one, but two toastmasters' clubs – The Peninsula Toastmasters of Daly City and The Meycauayan Toastmasters Club where he won



awards in speech contests. Oscar is also an excellent singer, proof of which is that he sang for two seasons with the world-renowned San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

With immense pride and joy, Oscar made special mention and added *"I have a son, Jan Joshua who will soon get married. My partner Ed and I have*

while still working. I also buy new fabrics when friends or family have weddings and need bowties."

Oscar follows it up and says *"Travel is also a gratifying exercise. The pandemic has set back my plans to travel, but now with a renewed passion for photography, they go hand and hand."*

Finally, when Oscar was asked for snippets of wisdom to share among ZVCC members and those dabbling in photography, he reflects and said *"Competition is fun, it is a learning process as well a great avenue to improve your craft. Zone V provides the means, but it is more than the trophy you take away. It is the friendships you forge and the know-how you gain. Make your own mark, break the rules, jump out of your comfort zone and explore. I know competitions sometimes stifle creativity and you wish to stay within the same confines of the square. Winning is a bonus, but when you create something out of the ordinary, you have already won."*

With his signature innovative concepts, creative ideas and stunning technical work, truly, one of those winning the golden statuette is Oscar.

Acknowledgment:

Alfred Uy Bumping for the research and the help in compiling the materials for this feature.

been together 45 years and got married in San Francisco in 2015."

When asked, what keeps Oscar occupied as he is retired for several years now, he quipped *"I dabble in acrylic and digital art. On the side, I make bow ties from old neckties that I wore*

**Zone V Camera Club
POTY Ranking 2022 as of August 2022**

RANK	MEMBER NAME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	TOTAL
1	Angela Panlilio	8.631	7.254	8.084	8.089	8.161	7.309	7.751	8.919	64.198
2	David Lim	8.612	6.868	8.185	8.312	7.385	8.055	8.172	8.257	63.844
3	Jeff Dytuco	8.337	7.458	8.606	7.959	8.081	7.653	6.894	8.634	63.621
4	Bern Wong	8.243	7.667	8.287	8.342	7.790	7.502	6.938	8.208	62.978
5	Willie de Vera	7.957	7.680	7.888	7.435	7.798	7.773	8.461	7.885	62.877
6	James Singlador	8.531	4.807	7.549	7.669	8.680	8.659	8.351	7.992	62.238
7	Leys Masangcay	7.831	8.290	7.849	6.981	8.461	7.087	6.823	8.492	61.813
8	Arlene Donaie	8.369	5.631	8.436	7.342	8.016	7.657	7.430	8.402	61.284
9	Cha Pagdilao	8.730	3.000	8.921	8.511	7.811	7.469	7.724	8.760	60.926
10	Lester Abes	8.378	6.749	7.061	7.456	7.375	7.461	7.530	8.467	60.478
11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60.137
12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.9
13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.8
14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.7
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.6
16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.5
17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.4
18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.3
19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.2
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.1
21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59.0
22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.9
23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.8
24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.7
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.6
26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.5
27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.4
28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.3
29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.2
30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.1
31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.0
32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.0

Photographer of the Month: **Alfred Uy**
Members' Cup: **Nel Auditor**

Exposure Five is the official newsletter of Zone V Camera Club. This publication is produced by the 2022 ZVCC Communications Committee: Willie de Vera, Leys Masangcay, Alfred Uy, Argyle Camacho, Arlene Donaie, Tony Rivera and Emman Araullo. Adviser: Bern Wong