

George Fellner Photography

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Program Categories

I = Instructional/Techniques
T = Travel
S = Showcase

Programs

- Imaginary Realms: The Macro Photography of Stones and Crystals
(Category S & I)
- Creating Your Photography Book: Design and Publishing
(Category I)
- Architectural Photography: Concepts and Strategies
(Category I)
- Visual Moments in Iceland: Essence of Place, Culture, and the Natural World
(Category S & T)
- Pictures at an Exhibition: A Mindset for Creative Photography
(Category I)
- Optimizing Depth of Field in Photography: Process of Focus Stacking
(Category I)
- The Aesthetics of a Castle: The Architecture and Landscape of Gillette Castle
(Category S & T)

George Fellner Profile

George Fellner, photographer and architect, is committed to a dual life-path involving visual discovery and design, relating to both the natural and built environments. He has been presenting photography programs to camera clubs, art guilds, professional organizations, historical societies, community groups, and schools since 2004.

Inspired by his travels as well as his involvement with photo essays, George's photographic subjects include landscape, architecture, travel, and elements of nature. The prime focus of his work *Imaginary Realms* reveals an endless exploration of the abstractions of reality and the infinite universe. His process involves the macro photography of stones and crystals, offering limitless material for evocative images and inspirational meaning. His passion for photography was sparked while studying architecture and design. George received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Virginia Tech and his Master of Architecture degree from the University of Florida. Now, with over 30 years as principal of Fellner Architects, he continues to utilize his design sensitivities for creative photography.

George's photographs have been published in books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and travel guides. INK Publications magazine (Feb 2013) featured the article *Photographer George Fellner: Architect for Body and Spirit*. The book *Artists' Homes and Studios* (2015) by E. Ashley Rooney features George's studio, art, and creative process. He also wrote and published the books: *Imaginary Realms: The Visual Language of Stones and Crystals* (2016), *Essence of Architecture in East Haddam: Expressions of a Connecticut River Town* (2019), and *Imaginary Realms: The Continual Exploration of Stones and Crystals* (2022).

George's limited-edition prints have been exhibited in art galleries and museums, both in group shows and solo shows. A series of his images are also exhibited in permanent art collections at the Yale School of Medicine, the Jackson Laboratory at the University of Connecticut, and the NYC offices for *Nature Genetics*, an international science journal.

As another avenue of expression, George has also developed the following videos for YouTube: *Imaginary Realms: The Art of Stones and Crystals*; *Manifestations of Surreality: Natural and Man-made Worlds*; *Expressions of East Haddam: Land, Water, and Architecture*; and *Visual Moments in Oregon: Compositions by the Earth*.



Imaginary Realms

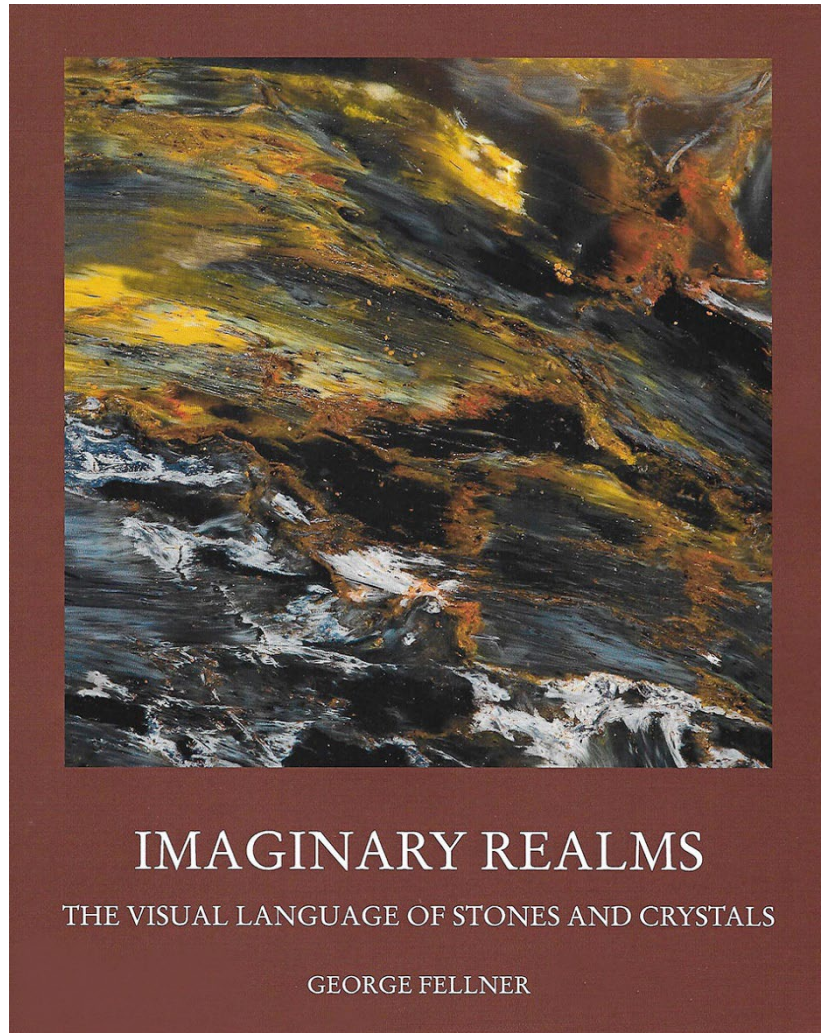
The Macro Photography of Stones and Crystals



This program reveals the visual exploration of stones and crystals through macro photography as illustrated through the theme of *Imaginary Realms*. Starting with a discussion about mineralogy, George Fellner describes the initial spark for this journey and the criteria for the implementation of this Earth source material. The description of camera and lighting equipment, along with the photo shoot setup reveals some of the technical considerations. Through the visual display of images, he discusses the ongoing evolvement of this unique form of abstract imagery. Influential art movements including Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, and Surrealism are examined. In particular, the revelations involving points of departure include messages from history, mythology, geology, astronomy, biology, and many other themes. In turn, this defines the associative relationships of the images with meaningful messages. Consequently, the creative process results in *Imaginary Realms*, evoking ancient and future fantasies, as well as planetary and cosmic-scapes, traversing space, time, and dimension. Ultimately, the intent is to stimulate the imagination of both the photographer, as well as the observer. This presentation includes case studies, photographic and post processing techniques, and lighting strategies.

Creating Your Photography Book

Design and Publishing



Photographers may ponder the potential notion of creating a photography book. There are certainly numerous components to consider and many options to evaluate. This presentation explores the initial spark for a book idea, theme and message, along with the development of contents. A review of format, text, image, layout, cover design, review/editing, and associated criteria is presented and the bookmaking process with basic strategies is outlined. Traditional publishing is discussed along with the strategies for submission. In turn, self-publishing is presented with design/layout options, example features, format, content requirements, text specifics, image specifics, and importing information. In addition, there is an outlined review of the upload process for both printed books and eBooks, as well as a discussion about selling platforms and marketing strategies. Ultimately, the intent of this presentation is to demystify the processes and to inspire photographers interested in the design and publishing of a photography book.

Architectural Photography

Concepts and Strategies



This program covers the essentials of architectural photography in terms of concepts and strategies. The subjects include equipment, camera settings, goals, building/site context, lighting, composition, people, culture, perspective, architectural elements and details, among other topics, as they relate to both interior and exterior architectural photography. In addition, playful juxtapositions are presented, revealing the potential for creative imagery. Furthermore, the multiple and integrated use of architectural photography for the design process is illustrated. This program is for anyone who is interested in the built environment and in photographing the rich diversity that is inherent in architecture. As both an architect and a photographer, George Fellner provides his unique perspective on architectural photography, reviewing strategies, and sharing his personal experiences.

Visual Moments in Iceland

Essence of Place, Culture, and the Natural World



This photographic journey of Iceland explores visual moments that express the essential manifestation of place, culture, and the natural world. The locale, sense of emotional response, and experiencing of place are revealed through the images. In addition, samplings of history, technology, architecture, and the humanities are articulated. The natural world forms the overall theme for the depicted scenes that encompass land, water, fire, and ice. This presentation illuminates the mindset for experiencing and photographing the wonders of this awe-inspiring world. The use of the senses, imagination, communication, and emotion are all key components. In turn, the intentional integration of composition, drama, light, and weather is illustrated. Ultimately, the *Visual Moments in Iceland* aim to spark curiosity, creativity, understanding, and insights for the community.

Pictures at an Exhibition

A Mindset for Creative Photography



This program explores the characteristics and attributes that make a photograph successful. While there are numerous categories and genres of subject material, there are nonetheless certain common denominators that can be used to determine what makes a good photograph. Specifically, there is a set of criteria that can be defined as objectives. For example, an image should have impact and possess a certain attraction that is both compelling as well as captivating for the viewer. A creative expression that is unique and imaginative, helping to convey a message is paramount for a photograph that is intended to leave a lasting impression. Furthermore, drama and emotion have the propensity to affect the viewer's experience. The elements of composition certainly are a part of the equation, as well as the technical understanding of proper lighting, color balance, resolution, detail, contrast, tonal gradation, among other specific aspects. Through a discussion of concepts, strategies, and process, George Fellner presents a mindset for creative photography. His use of visual examples helps to illustrate the positive and negative aspects of a photograph in a descriptive and revealing manner. The intent is to provide an understanding of what makes a good photograph and of what is involved in judging images in a photo show. Ultimately, as photographers, we all strive to learn what works for *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Optimizing Depth of Field in Photography

Process of Focus Stacking



The realities of depth of field sometimes pose limitations for certain types of photography. 3-Dimensional subjects, particularly in macro-photography, are challenging with regard to establishing sharp focus throughout the composition. The process of *focus stacking* involves taking a series of photographs at multiple focus points which are combined into a single photograph with optimized depth of field in sharp focus. This presentation reviews concepts, rationale, photo shoot process, step-by-step procedures, and software options, along with graphic examples. In addition, there is a step-by-step *focus stacking* demonstration using Photoshop.

The Aesthetics of a Castle

The Architecture and Landscape of Gillette Castle



There is potential for the celebration of architecture and landscape, juxtaposed in terms of historical context. The goal is to discover multiple expressions representing the many faces, moods, and personalities of the world of Gillette Castle as well as of William Gillette. Thus, a visual journey exploring form and light with the intent of creating evocative images can transform, transcend, communicate, and often surprise the observer. Indeed, the transformation of the *familiar* into the *unique* can be an enlightening as well as a rejuvenating experience. Mingled among the photographs, there are intriguing bits of information relating to the life and work of William Gillette. This photo presentation serves as a vehicle for this visual journey.

George Fellner

Affiliations

Member of East Haddam Art League
Member of New Britain Museum of American Art
Associate Member of Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts
Past President/Program Director of Connecticut Valley Camera Club
Member of Connecticut Valley Camera Club
Member of Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

Registered Architect: State of CT, MA, & RI
Member of the American Institute of Architects: Connecticut Chapter
AIA Connecticut President (2017)
Member of AIA Connecticut Committee on the Environment
LEED AP: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - Accredited Professional
Member of US Green Building Council
Adjunct Instructor: University of Hartford, College of Engineering, Technology, & Architecture
(2010-2012)