

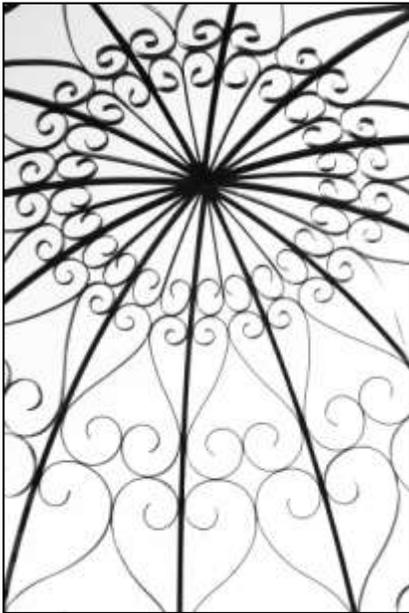
# 2017 THEME CLASS

## WHAT'S UP?

"What's up? Not much. No, what is that *directly* above your head?" Your assignment for next year might very well be one of the most *interesting* and *challenging* assignments that I have given you so far. For years *you* have heard *me* say that the *key* to having your photos on *display* at the Iowa State Fair is to "**Show us the world as we have never seen it before!**" Well, now is *your* chance to do just that.

Your goal is to "*show us the world*" that is *directly* overhead, which most people *never* seem to see or *notice*. There are literally *thousands* of interesting subjects, lines, patterns, shapes, structures, and architectural elements that can be found if *we* only take the *time* to *look up*.

So, how is the *best* way to *successfully* complete *your* assignment for next year? *Get off your feet!* In other words, *when possible*, you should be *lying* on your back and shooting *straight up*. The *toughest* part of *your* assignment is going to be finding *interesting* subjects and *angles* that you can shoot from. Try using *several* different *focal length* lenses for the *same* subject to *change* your *angle of view* and *perspective*.



Remember, *you* must also *focus* on *creating* an image that has a *great* composition and a *clearly* defined *main* subject. If the judges *cannot* figure out what *your main subject* is, it is 'Out of the Show'.

I am NOT looking for *more* photos of fireworks, airplanes, birds in flight, hot air balloons, the dome inside the state capitol, or photos taken underneath bridges. Your photos should also NOT be of *objects* way off in the distance that might be higher than your head. Again, your *main* subject should be *directly* above you.

You will *definitely* need to *think* 'out of the box' and 'get off your feet' for this assignment. Your photos should *excite* and *inspire* the other *photographers* and *visitors* at next year's Iowa State Fair. **More importantly**, *your* images must also *excite* and *inspire* next year's *three* judges. You have to make *them* wish that *they* were the *photographer*. If *you* do this, I can *guarantee* that *your* photograph will be on *display* next year. Because *you* will have had an *entire* year to perfect *your* skills, the photographs in the *theme class* will be *judged* to a much *higher* standard.

Again, always remember to *focus* on the *art* of photography by creating *photographs* NOT *snapshots*. A *photograph* is so much *harder* to *create* than a *snapshot*. It takes time, thought, creativity, and planning to create. A really great *photograph* is actually *created* in the *mind* of the photographer *well* before the shutter is *ever* released. The true **art of photography is to, "Show us the world as we have never seen it before!"**

Charley W. Starnes, Superintendent  
Iowa State Fair Photography Salon

NOTE: Entry Forms will be online at [www.iowastatefair.org/premiumbooks](http://www.iowastatefair.org/premiumbooks) by April 1, 2017.

IowaStateFair

NOTHING  
COMPARES

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AUG \*10-20 2017