

post·di·lu·vi·an (pōst ˈdi lōō ˈvē ən)

adj.

1. Existing or occurring after the Flood.
2. Modern; not antiquated.



24 June 2008

Julia Cameron wrote in "The Artist's Way" that, "Art is an image-using system. In order to create, we draw from our inner well. This inner well, an artistic reservoir, is ideally like a well-stocked trout pond.... We must become alert enough to consciously replenish our creative resources as we draw on them--to restock the trout pond, so to speak." The fishing metaphor doesn't sit too well with this vegetarian, but I did have ample opportunities to restock the creative pond this past month.

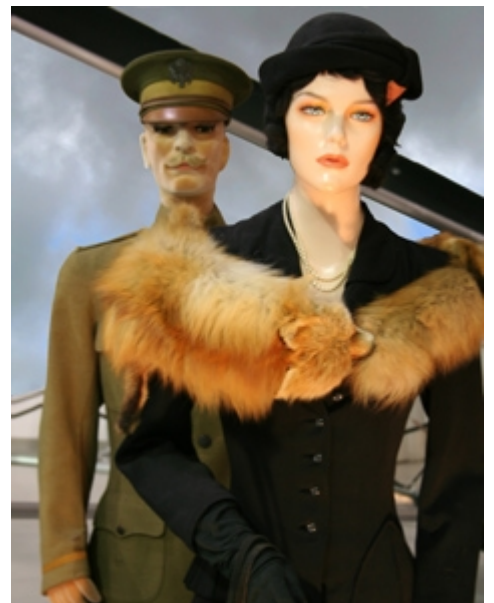
Pro Arts hosted East Bay Open Studios the weekends of June 7-8 and 14-15. I visited over a dozen studios and galleries and spoke with more than twenty artists, mostly photographers. I'd like to think that viewing their amazing work, and gaining insight into their process and inspiration, made me a better photographer. One of the highlights of East Bay Open Studios was meeting [Heather Piazza](#) and [Kathe Welch](#) of [Four Oceans Press & Gallery](#) in their storefront gallery and seeing their work. As an added bonus, before I left, Heather convinced me to take part in their first [Fine Arts Photography Exchange](#). The theme of this exchange is "Movement," and should involve the work of twenty-five photographers. My contribution is "Murder of Crows," an evocative photo of crows taking flight from a barren tree.

Additionally, a colleague at the Frank Bette Center for the Arts reminded me about deviantART, an online community for artists to share and receive feedback on their work. I now review photographs there on a regular basis, and over the past few weeks this has been a source of daily inspiration. If you'd like to check out deviantART, feel free to start with [my user page](#) and browse from there.

Thoroughly inspired, I am looking forward to "Be Still, Life" at the [Frank Bette Center for the Arts](#). Traditionally, "still life" implies representing a subject, commonly a floral arrangement, in an artificial setting. However, for this show artists are encouraged to think also of *life stilled*. The prospectus suggests ideas like calm, peaceful, at rest, and inanimate.

I will submit three photos to this show, each approaching the theme from a different perspective. One of them, "Goodbye," is pictured here. The mannequins were photographed at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, CA. As soon as I saw them I felt they had an intense, personal story to tell. Anyone who has read Dare Wright's "Lonely Doll" series can attest to the emotion that can be conveyed by, or inferred from, the inanimate. How much more still can life get?

"Be Still, Life" runs from July 5-26 at the Frank Bette Center. Note that due to the 4th of July, this month the opening reception will take place the 2nd Friday of the month, July 11, from 7-9 PM.





A narrative photo like "Goodbye" is a departure from my usual subject matter, but I don't want to limit myself to taking only "certain kinds" of photos. I relish the opportunity to stretch myself creatively. For example, I have often stated that I avoid photos of majestic scenes and shun "pretty pictures." Sometimes they are unavoidable, especially when the scene is so unexpected. Case in point: At left is the view behind a gas station off the 405 freeway, a few miles north of Los Angeles.

In other news....

An historic artistic event took place at the former Alameda Naval Air Station on June 7th: [The Kid's Chalk Art Project](#) achieved its goal of creating the world's largest chalk drawing, 90,000 square feet! Most of the drawing was done by Alameda school children, including my two daughters. At right is a detail of the giant, salamander-shaped work.



Two years after [Postdiluvian Photo](#) went online, I rewrote the entire website from scratch. The new site launched April 8, and I've been tweaking it ever since. The site now has a much "cleaner" look with better integration of my photos, expanded links, and improved navigation. Gone is the hokey faux concrete background with its paint swatches and masking tape! Please check it out and provide feedback. Thanks!

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested, and they can [subscribe](#) themselves. If you'd like to catch up on previous newsletters, there's an archive on the News page of [my website](#). Thank you again for your support.

Warm Regards,

Michael Singman-Aste