NIHCC EDUCATION NIGHT – February 15, 2022

EXPLORING STILL LIFES

Coriolana Simon

Still lifes, as created by painters, have been admired for centuries, from the classic Dutch golden age artists like Pieter Claesz or Willem Kalf to Cézanne in the 19th century or Morandi in the early 20th. But few photographers have seriously embraced the genre.

This presentation is not a how-to; rather, we will explore the particular way of seeing that, as photographers, we can develop, whether viewing or creating still lifes. First, we'll discuss the way most photographers conceive of still lifes, then we'll look at the reasons still lifes as a photographic genre can be attractive. After detailed definitions, with many examples, of what is – and isn't – a still life, the presentation will examine the secret of a good still life, using contemporary and historical illustrations. The presentation concludes by revealing the essence of any still life and showing how we can learn to "read" a still life for maximum appreciation.

Coriolana Simon has exhibited widely in the Washington, DC area since 2010. Her solo exhibits of still life include venues such as Penn Place Gallery in Garrett Park, Artists & Makers in North Bethesda, the Art Gallery of Brookside Gardens, and Glenview Mansion in Rockville. Recent group shows, 2020 and 2021, include several with Biafarin on-line and at the Friendship Gallery, Chevy Chase. Among her honors is a 2nd place at the Strathmore mixed-media juried exhibit in 2019, Best in Show and Best in Still Life at Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions of 2020, as well as a special honor from the Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography in 2021. In 2020, she was the winner of the international still life competition sponsored by MPB and won a similar competition earlier by Popular Photography. Lenswork includes one of her images in "Our Magnificent Planet," published November, 2021. Simon also lectures and gives workshops on still life. Her work is held in private, corporate, and ecclesiastical collections.