

INSPIRED

MARCH 2026 | ISSUE 140



2026 INSPIRED GALLERY WINNERS

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PORTRAIT & CHILD PHOTOGRAPHERS



WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

The National Association of Portrait and Child Photographers is a member-based association representing and promoting the community of professional portrait and child photographers. NAPCP provides a valuable platform for seasoned veterans and rising professionals alike to share their experiences, hone their craft and raise their professional visibility.

*Front Cover Image by Competition
Winner Svetlana Ozik of Lana
Sky Photography*

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Your "To Do" List

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NAPCP

As March comes to a close, we reflect on the transition from the quiet of winter to the energy and renewal of spring. The days are growing longer, and with the changing season comes a fresh opportunity to refocus, create, and step into all that lies ahead. It's a beautiful time to embrace new momentum, revisit your goals, and find inspiration in both your craft and your community.

In this issue, we're excited to look back on a memorable start to the year as we feature highlights from the 2026 NAPCP Gallery Event and Camp Inspired, both of which took place in January. These gatherings were filled with creativity, connection, and meaningful moments that continue to inspire our community. During Camp Inspired, we also had the joy of announcing our 2025 Photographer of the Year. Be sure to look for our June issue, where we'll share an exclusive interview with Julie Hamlin.

As you plan for the months ahead, we encourage you to keep an eye on all that's coming up within the NAPCP community. Master Photographer Certification for the Family category will open in May, and the International Image Competition will open in April, so now is the perfect time to begin preparing your work. The first round of NAPCP Gatherings will also take place in April, so don't forget to check the website and mark your calendars.

Looking ahead to fall, our next NAPCP Getaway hosted by Valerie Eidson will take place this September in Asheville, North Carolina. If you've been thinking about joining us for a meaningful experience filled with creativity, connection, and inspiration, we'd love to have you there.

And as your sessions begin to pick up this season, this is also a wonderful time to streamline your business, strengthen your goals, and invest in your growth. One-on-one mentorship can be a powerful way to gain clarity, direction, and support as you move into a busy season with intention.

We hope this issue leaves you feeling encouraged, inspired, and ready for all that spring has to offer.

Stay Inspired!

The NAPCP Team

APRIL 2026

JOIN US FOR NAPCP GATHERINGS

Our first week of NAPCP Gatherings will take place April 13th through 19th. Check out napep.com/napep-gatherings to find a Gathering in your area.

ENTER IMAGE COMPETITION

Mark your calendars! The 2026 NAPCP International Image competition opens April 13th. Submit during the first week and get \$15 off each image submission.

JOIN US FOR A NAPCP SOCIAL

Join us on April 8th at 10:30AM EST for a NAPCP Social with host Octavia Elease. During this hour of learning, Octavia will show you how to simplify your tech stack and create a streamlined system that works together, from your website to your CRM and everything happening behind the scenes.

MAY 2026

GRAB A SEAT FOR OUR NEXT NAPCP ADVENTURE

Only a few spots remain! If you're interested in joining us for this incredible adventure in Asheville, NC September 14th -17th, be sure to register today!

SIGN UP FOR A MENTORSHIP

Did you know that mentorships help photographers increase their annual income by an average of 20%? If making more money this year is one of your goals, investing in mentorship could be one of the smartest steps you take. Visit napep.com/napep-mentors to schedule a session with one of these industry professionals and start building a more profitable business.

inspired
INSPIRED
A NAPCP GALLERY EVENT

Park Studios, Atlanta | **JANUARY 28, 2026**

The Inspired Gallery Event opened our time together in January with an evening dedicated to celebrating photography as art. Hosted at Park Studios (NAPCP Headquarters), the gallery showcased our Top 100 Artists from the NAPCP Inspired Print Competition in a live, in-person exhibition—allowing photographers to experience their work on the walls, surrounded by peers who truly understand the heart behind each image.





In contrast to our annual International Image Competition, the NAPCP Gallery Print Competition and Gallery Event places an emphasis on creativity and innovation, and gives both members and non-members the chance to place in one of three categories. The categories for our 2026 event were Connection, Red, and Small Worlds. This event provides an opportunity for NAPCP members and friends to explore the art of professional photography in new ways.

**CONNECTION
CATEGORY**

1ST PLACE
LOUISA VILARDI
Louisa Vilardi Photography
louisavilardiphotography.com

2ND PLACE
SVETLANA OZIK
Lana Sky Photography
lanaskyphotography.com

3RD PLACE
LOUISA VILARDI
Louisa Vilardi Photography
louisavilardiphotography.com

HONORABLE MENTIONS
JODI SCHAFFAN
Jay Phina Photography
jayphinaphotography.com

JULIE HAMLIN
Sacred Sage Photography
sacredsagephotography.mypixieset.com

**RED
CATEGORY**

1ST PLACE
JACENTA GROVER
Jacenta Grover Photography
jacentagroverphotography.com

2ND PLACE
JENN CHEN
Jenn Chen Photography
jennchenphotography.com

3RD PLACE
SVETLANA OZIK
Lana Sky Photography
lanaskyphotography.com

HONORABLE MENTIONS
DANIELLE JACOBSON
Danielle Renee Photography
@photographydaniellerenee

KATRINA JONES
Kat Jones Creative
katjonescreative.com

**SMALL WORLDS
CATEGORY**

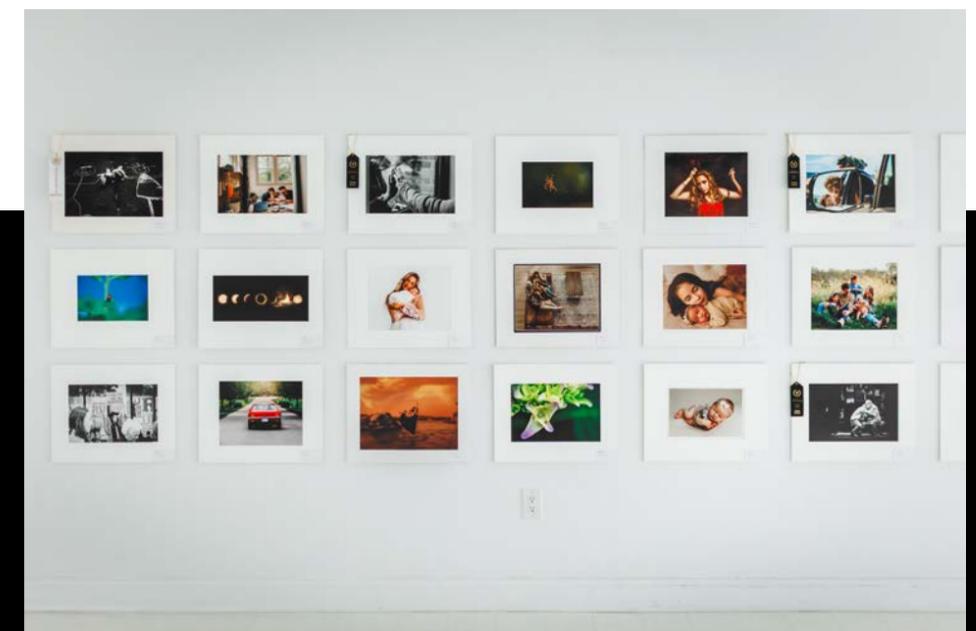
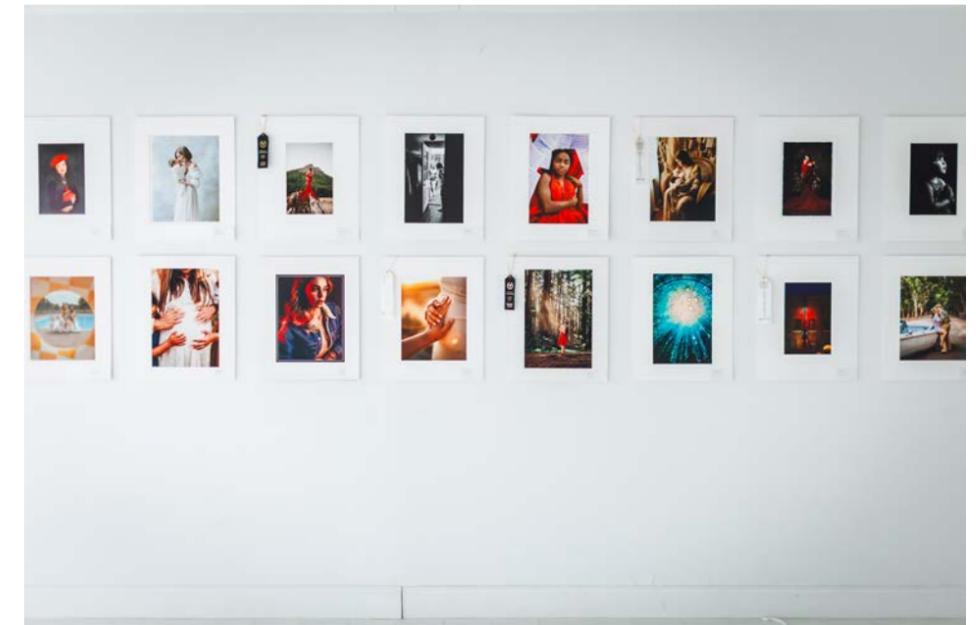
1ST PLACE
ALISON LAPCZUK
Alison Lapczuk Photography
alisonlapczuk.com

2ND PLACE
JULIE HAMLIN
Sacred Sage Photography
sacredsagephotography.mypixieset.com

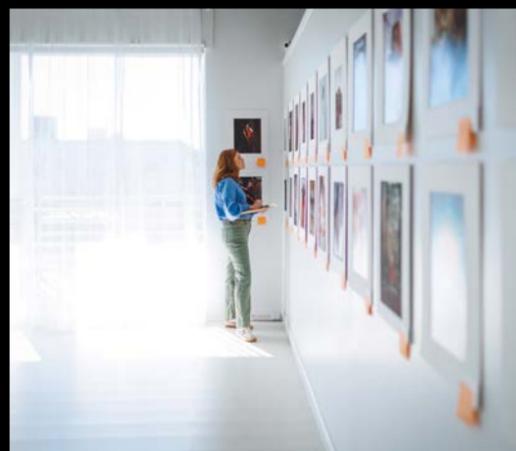
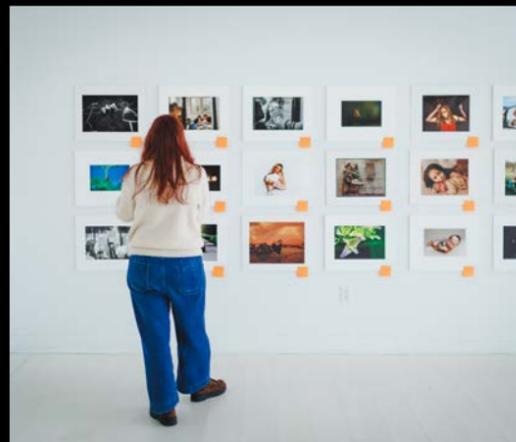
3RD PLACE
LOUISA VILARDI
Louisa Vilardi Photography
louisavilardiphotography.com

HONORABLE MENTIONS
JENN CHEN
Jenn Chen Photography
jennchenphotography.com

ALISON LAPCZUK
Alison Lapczuk Photography
alisonlapczuk.com



Unlike many competitions that are judged digitally, the Inspired Gallery honors the craft of the photographic print. Each selected image is carefully printed and professionally matted before being displayed throughout Park Studios. Seeing these photographs in print—rich with texture, color, and detail—transforms the experience. As attendees walked through the space, the walls became a visual storybook of artistry and emotion. The collective display of work was truly breathtaking, offering a powerful reminder of the beauty and impact of printed photography.



Thank you to our judges!

Earlier in the day, our panel of judges spent hours thoughtfully reviewing each image in person. We are deeply grateful to Karen Clouse, Kristen Montgomery, and Willy Wilson for generously sharing their time, expertise, and artistic insight. Judging prints in person requires a careful and considered approach—examining composition, storytelling, technical execution, and the emotional resonance of each image. Their dedication helped ensure that every photograph was viewed with the respect and attention it deserved.



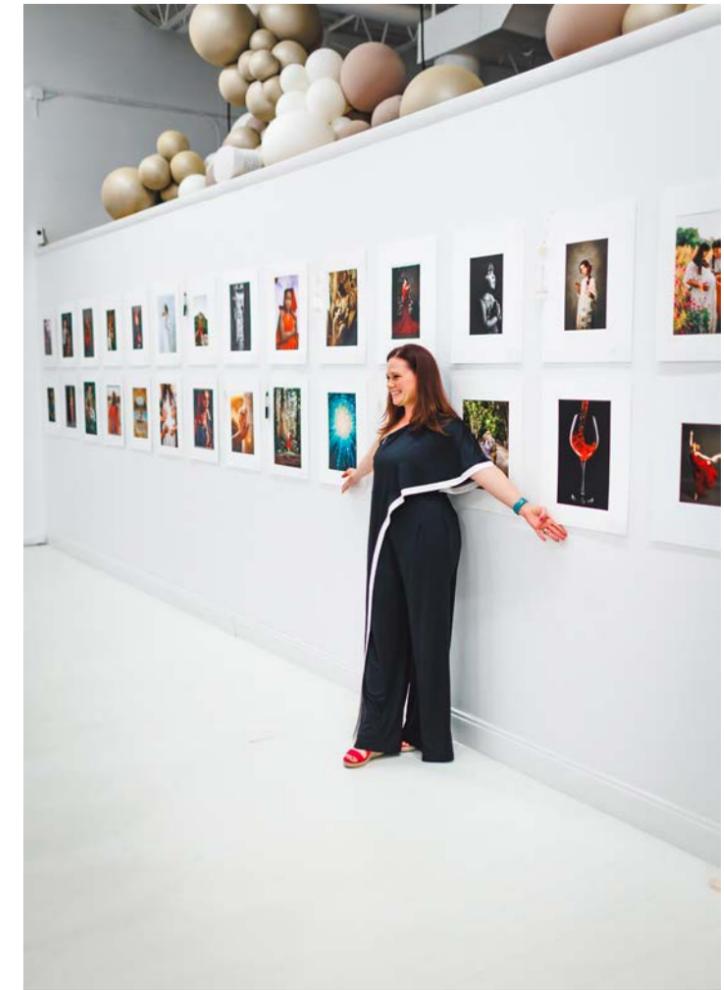
As the evening unfolded, the room was filled with conversation, reflection, and admiration as attendees moved through the gallery, connecting not only with the work, but with the stories and artists behind it. For many photographers, seeing their images professionally printed and displayed on the walls of Park Studios was a powerful and emotional moment—one that celebrates not just the final image, but the passion and intention behind creating it.

We were also thrilled to recognize our category winners. Congratulations to Louisa Vilardi, who earned First Place in the Connection Category, Jacenta Grover, who took First Place in the Red Category, and Alison Lapczuk, who was awarded First Place in the Small Worlds Category. Each of these artists created images that stood out for their storytelling, creativity, and emotional impact. We celebrate their exceptional work and the meaningful moments their photographs capture.

One of the most special moments of the evening was the presentation of the People's Choice Awards, voted on by those attending the gallery. These awards celebrate the images that resonated most deeply with the community in the room. Congratulations to Jenn Chen and KariBeth Kemeys, whose photographs captured the hearts of viewers.

Congratulations to all our Inspired Gallery winners and Top 100 Artists. Your creativity, dedication, and artistry are what make this community so meaningful.

The Inspired Gallery Event set the tone for the next day at Camp Inspired: intentional, meaningful, and rooted in shared experience. It reminded us that photography is not only about creating images—it's about connection, storytelling, and celebrating the moments that bring us together.







NEVER LET GO - LOUISA VILARDI | 1ST PLACE, CONNECTION



PROTECTED - LOUISA VILARDI | 3RD PLACE, CONNECTION

Can you tell us about the winning photograph and what inspired it?

This winning photograph (Never Let Go) was taken during the final dress rehearsal of *Prelude to a Kiss*, written by Craig Lucas and directed by Christine Crawfis, at County Players in Wappingers Falls, NY, where I serve as the production photographer. Theatre photography is rarely recognized in spaces like this, so to see this work honored is amazing!

Every moment on stage is about connection...between characters, between actors, and ultimately between the story and the audience. That idea of connection is at the heart of theatre, and was one of the categories of the NAPCP Inspired Gallery event. Capturing that in a single frame is far more challenging than it appears. You're balancing composition, lighting, and framing in real time while waiting for the exact emotional beat, the glance, the breath, the pause, that tells the story.

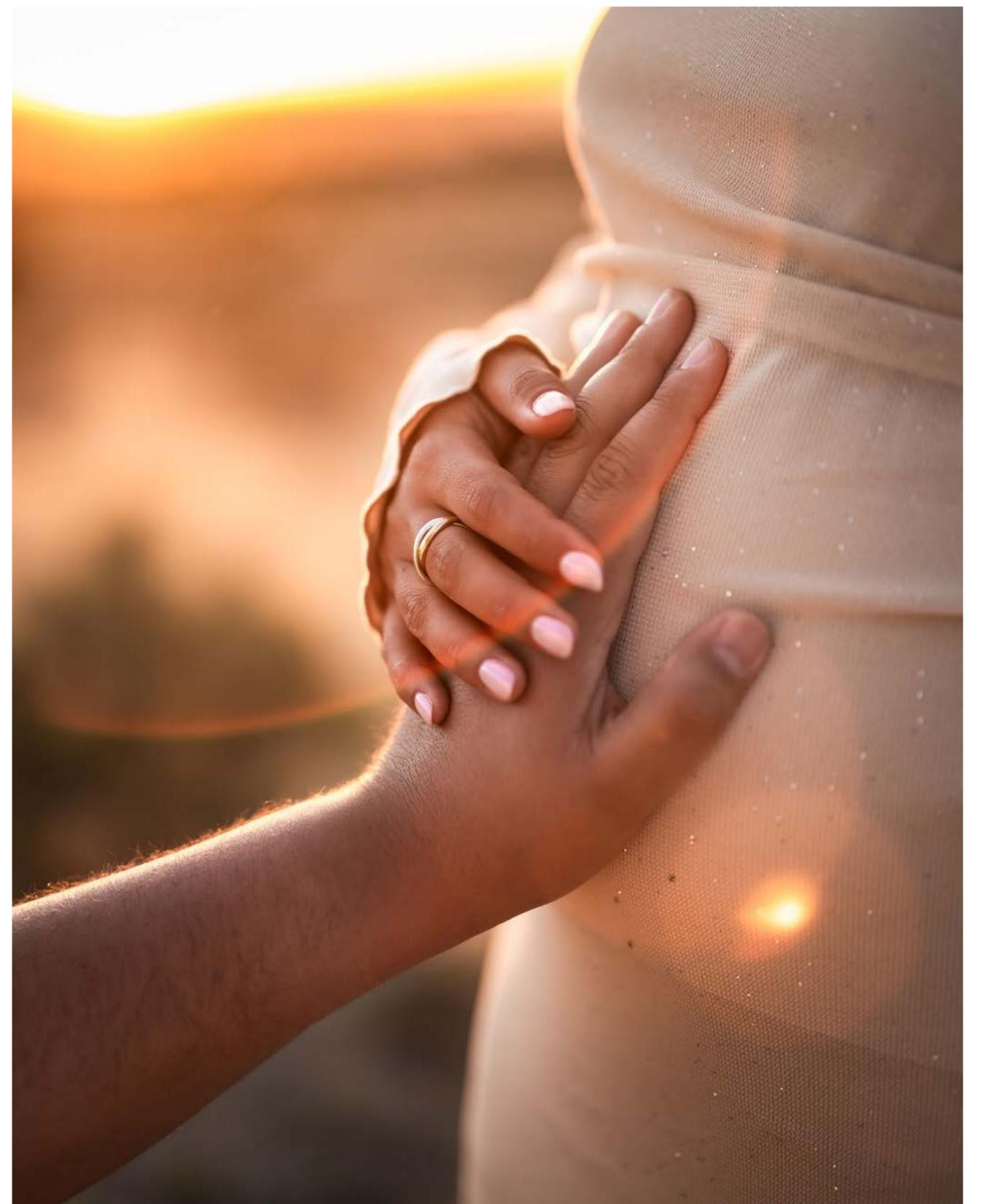
This image represents that intersection of timing, trust, and storytelling. I'm incredibly grateful that this image was recognized, and I'm beyond thrilled that this moment on stage resonated beyond the performance itself and resonated beyond the stage.



ROAR - LOUISA VILARDI | 3RD PLACE, SMALL WORLDS

How does it feel to be recognized in this competition?

It feels incredibly affirming and deeply meaningful to place in the NAPCP Inspired Gallery Print Competition. Being recognized by judges and peers I respect feels like a real validation of both the craft and the intention behind the work. The images accepted into the Top 100 were created in a storytelling-driven environment, so to have them stand out on their own, outside of the moment it was made, is really special. I'm grateful, proud, and honestly energized to keep creating work that connects art, emotion, and narrative.



CARRIED IN LIGHT - JULIE HAMLIN | HONORABLE MENTION, CONNECTION

How does it feel to be recognized in this competition?

The overwhelming feeling I got when I realized that I had won First Place is really unexplainable. I cried, I screamed for joy, I cried some more.

I ran to the living room and told my husband, called my mom (she's the one that got me interested in photography as a child), and made my announcement on Facebook!

Can you tell us about the winning photograph and what inspired it?

This photo was actually taken during my Mechanic Mini Sessions. The outfit, hair style were 100% done by her Moms!

The little rag in the back pocket was my idea. Natallianna isn't a huge fan of photos and she rarely smiles for me but when she turned and looked at me, it was pure magic.

Her moms were trying for a "badass" vibe and I definitely feel like we accomplished that!



GRIT AND GRACE - JACENTA GROVER | 1ST PLACE, RED



RED IN WOODS - JENNIFER CHEN | 2ND PLACE, RED



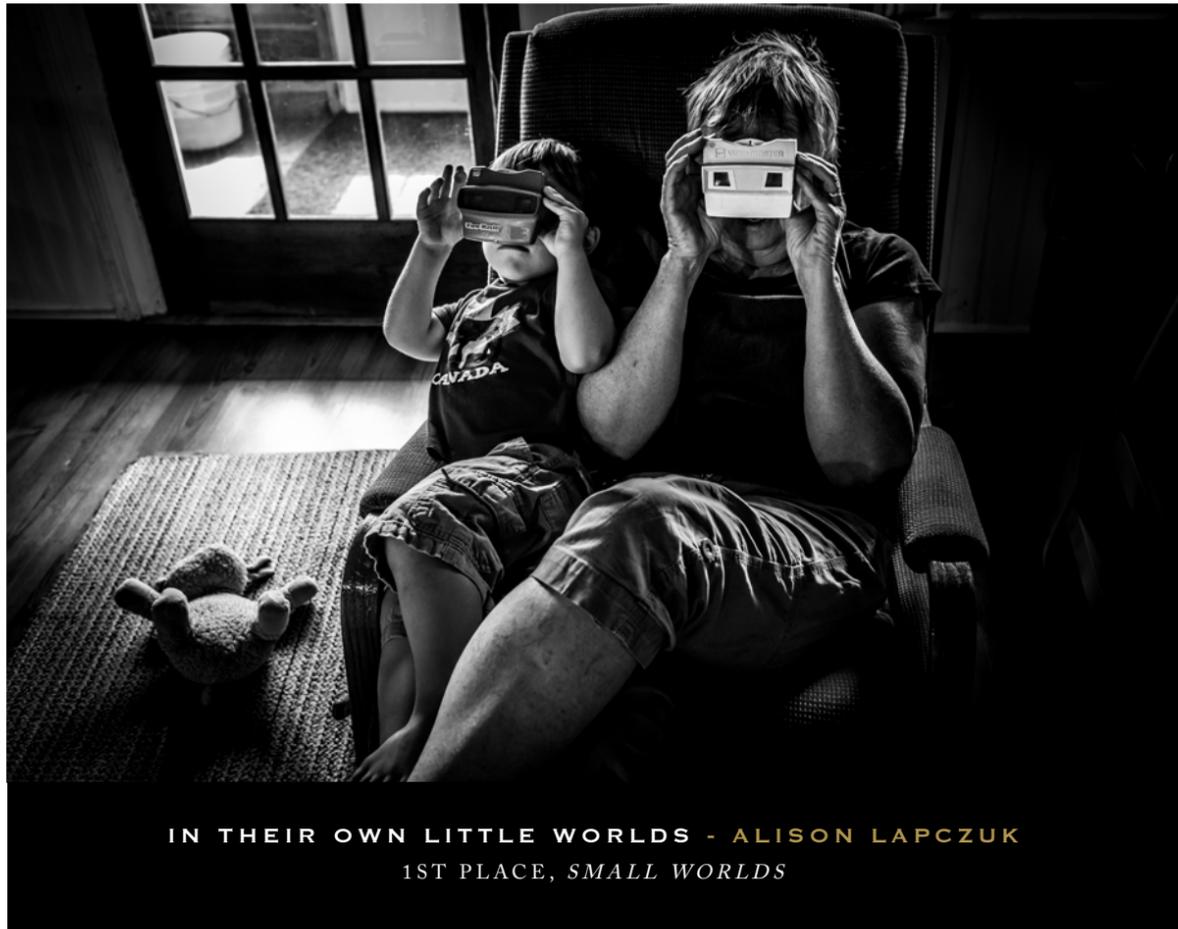
WHERE WONDER GROWS WILD - JENN CHEN
HONORABLE MENTION, SMALL WORLDS

How did you interpret the theme of the competition, and how did that influence your work?

This image was in the “Tiny Worlds” category. My first thought when I heard the category was a macro photo but I wanted to do something a bit different than that. I thought it would be fun to have a double layer of tiny worlds, where I as the viewer have the perspective of peeking in on a little girl discovering the world around her through a magnifying glass. I wanted to make sure that the viewer felt like they were viewing a tiny world as well so I found a spot where I could heavily shoot through some branches to get the “peeking through” feel.

Who or what are your biggest influences as a photographer, and how did they play a role in this winning piece?

My daughters are, without question, the heartbeat behind my photography and the reason this business exists the way it does. Becoming a mom gave me a new life. It changed my eyes. I see the world differently now. More aware of tiny details that used to slip by unnoticed. This image was such a fun way to translate that feeling into something you can actually see.



Can you tell us about the winning photograph and what inspired it?

This photograph was taken about ten years ago during a summer trip back home to Ontario with my kids. I grew up near Prince Edward County in an old Loyalist home, built in 1870. I always documented my visits home. Even then, I had this feeling in the back of my mind that I didn't know how many more times we'd all be together in that house, and I wanted my kids to feel connected to the place and the people I grew up with.

That summer there was a drought, which is why the bucket is there. We had pulled out boxes of toys from my childhood — a Fisher-Price schoolhouse, My Little Ponies, Popples, Strawberry Shortcake, and these old View-Masters. My kids loved discovering them, and I adored the whole experience. The boy in the photograph is my younger son, Sam. The Sleep Sheep on the floor had been my older son Elliott's favourite when he was little. The woman is my mom.

When my mom and Sam both lifted the View-Masters to their faces at the same time, something just clicked. I knew right then that I wanted to remember it.



A WORLD OF THEIR OWN MAKING - ALISON LAPCZUK
HONORABLE MENTION, *SMALL WORLDS*

How does it feel to be recognized in this competition?

Wow — I truly can't express how much this means. This photograph carries deep personal significance for me. It was taken at my childhood home, which my mom had to sell last year, and there are so many layers of meaning tied to that space and moment — including the sheep and the bucket.

I don't expect others to see all the things I see in it — the history, the memories, the emotions — so to have this image recognized in this way is incredibly special. It feels like an affirmation of the value of family, of story, and of how life is always shifting and changing, whether we're ready for it or not.

It's an honour I'll carry with a lot of gratitude.



THE VISITOR - JULIE HAMLIN | 2ND PLACE, SMALL WORLDS

How did you interpret the theme of the competition, and how did that influence your work?

For my image titled “The Visitor”, I interpreted the theme “Small Worlds” as something intimate and layered — not just physically small, but emotionally profound. To me, small worlds are the ones we carry quietly: a child growing beneath a mother’s heart, a fleeting moment that could easily go unnoticed, a tiny creature landing at exactly the right time. In this image, there are two literal small worlds. The baby, unseen yet, but very present, represents an entire universe forming within her. And then the ladybug, delicate and unexpected, arrives and rests just above that new life. It felt like two tiny, sacred ecosystems converging in one frame. That interpretation influenced how I approached the photograph. I kept the composition simple and intentional, drawing focus to the curve of her belly, the softness of her hands, and the stillness of the moment. I wanted space for the viewer to notice the subtlety. The ladybug wasn’t staged; it was a gift. And instead of disrupting the moment, I leaned into it, honoring the symbolism and allowing that convergence to become the story. “The Visitor” felt like the perfect title because it captures both the literal and emotional layers- a small, unexpected presence meeting another small world on the brink of becoming something much bigger.

For me, the theme wasn’t about scale. It was about significance. And sometimes the smallest details carry the greatest weight.

Looking back, what advice would you give to photographers who aspire to win competitions like this?

I love this question, because awards aren’t just about talent... they’re about intention. If I were speaking to other photographers who aspire to win competitions like this, I would say this:

First, don’t chase trends, chase truth. The strongest images aren’t created to impress judges. They are created from a place of authenticity. When you interpret a theme, go deeper than the obvious. Ask yourself what it means to you personally. Your perspective is the one thing no one else can replicate. Second, slow down and notice. The ladybug in “The Visitor” wasn’t orchestrated. It was observed. Award-winning images often live in the in-between- in the quiet, fleeting, unscripted seconds. Train yourself to see symbolism, emotion, light, gesture. The magic is often small.

Third, be willing to risk vulnerability. Enter the image that moves you, even if it feels subtle or different. Competitions reward impact, and impact often comes from emotion, not spectacle. And finally, community matters. Growth doesn’t happen in isolation. Study work that inspires you. Seek critique. Enter consistently. Lose. Learn. Refine. Enter again. The journey of becoming is just as important as the trophy. Because at the end of the day, winning isn’t about the award. It’s about becoming the kind of artist who sees small worlds, and knows how to honor them.



THIS KISS WON'T BE REMEMBERED—
BUT ITS LOVE WILL LAST FOREVER
SVETLANA OZIK | 2ND PLACE, CONNECTION

Can you tell us about these winning photographs and what inspired them?

It's hard to point to one single moment of inspiration for my two winning photographs. After 15+ years and millions of frames, a lot of what I'm looking for happens instinctively. In the moment, I'm watching for small details like connection, a hand placement, an expression, the way the light falls, and the shot often comes together quickly in my mind.

I also tend to overshoot. That gives me options later, and I can choose the one image where the timing, emotion, and composition line up.



HER SUMMIT OF STRENGTH
SVETLANA OZIK | 3RD PLACE, RED

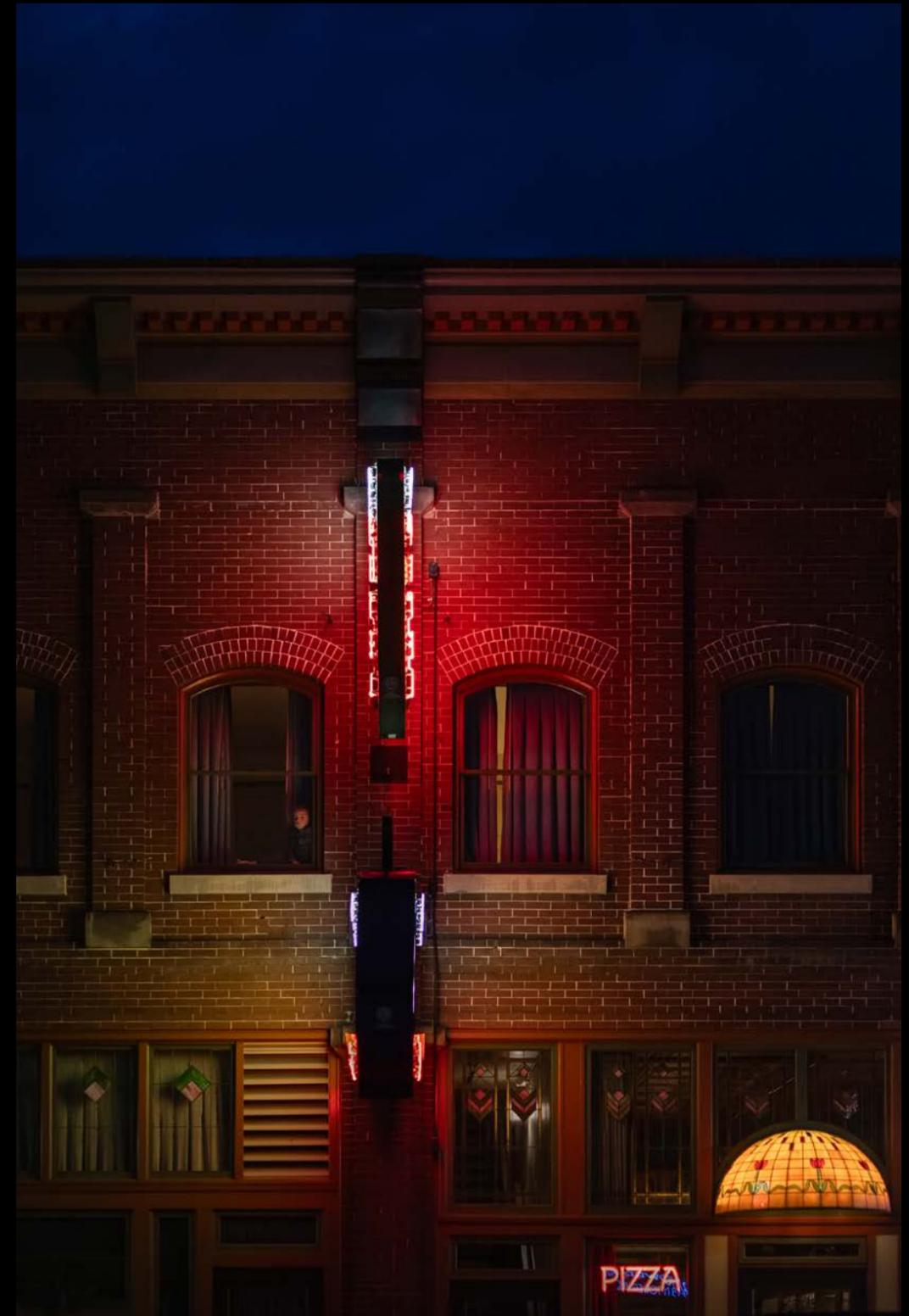
What message, if any, do you hope viewers take away from your winning photograph?

I know different viewers will take different things from the photograph, but since this is for Inspired Magazine, I'll speak directly to other photographers. I hope it lands as a reminder that growth mostly comes from staying with it.

When I started in family photography, I never imagined I'd build a successful business or have my work recognized this way. I just kept shooting—learning, missing, failing, adjusting, and trying again. Persistence has been the biggest difference-maker for me. People have told me I have a “natural eye,” but what you're seeing is really the result of years of refining the craft. I hope other photographers take away that consistency over time matters just as much as talent.

Can you tell us about the winning photograph and what inspired it?

“Night Watch” is a photograph I took of my son on a recent vacation. We were staying in a fun old hotel and as we were settling in for the evening I realized there were a couple things we still needed from our car. As I walked out, I happened to look up and see my son sitting in the window ledge of our room, surrounded by neon lights, and the electric blue sky above. It was such an incredible scene, so I ran back up to our room, grabbed my camera, and asked him to stay put. I tried a couple different lenses, but finally landed on the scale I wanted with my 50 mm. These sort of images are my favorites, the ones that just sort of fall into place. I am definitely more of a documentary leaning photographer, so love capturing real moments from our life. This image is definitely a treasure from that trip.



NIGHT WATCH - DANIELLE JACOBSON | HONORABLE MENTION, RED



FREE - KATRINA JONES | HONORABLE MENTION, RED

How does it feel to be recognized in this competition?

Being recognized in the NAPCP Top 100 Inspired Gallery means so much, especially because it comes from fellow photographers who truly understand the craft and heart behind the work. To have my peers see and honor this portrait is incredibly meaningful. What makes it even more special is knowing that the subject of the portrait is being celebrated too—that their story, presence, and beauty resonated just as deeply. That's always the goal for me.

Can you tell us about the winning photograph and what inspired it?

The winning portrait was inspired by my long-standing connection to birds and the symbolism they carry. I've always been drawn to the idea of a caged bird—or a bird that has just left its cage—that quiet moment between confinement and freedom. This portrait was created to hold both of those ideas at once.

The bird in the image isn't in flight. It's being held—calm, present, and still. For me, that represents a deeper kind of freedom: not escape, but choice. The freedom to stay, to rest, and to exist without restraint.

The girl holding the bird was just as important to the story. She feels sure and grounded, almost proud—of the bird and of herself. There's a mutual trust there. She isn't grasping or controlling; she's steady and confident, holding freedom without needing to cage it.

The red bird was a very intentional choice. Red carries big emotion—it doesn't whisper. It speaks to courage, intensity, and presence. In this portrait, that boldness reflects a freedom that's fully claimed and deeply felt. At its core, the image is about being free—emotionally, creatively, and personally—and honoring the strength it takes to hold that freedom with care.



TREE OF LIFE - JODI SCHAFFAN | HONORABLE MENTION
CONNECTION

Can you tell us about the winning photograph and what inspired it?

My friend Amanda is the one in the image. She is a single mom of 4 wonderful children and the strongest person I know. She does everything for her children and they are the world to her. She also inspired my own breastfeeding journey, she has gone as long as 2 and half years breastfeeding and is such an inspiration. I wanted to make sure I captured that connection between her and her sweet boy.

Were there any challenges you faced while creating the winning piece?

Only that some people don't enjoy breastfeeding images of moms. I don't know why or how they feel that way. Amanda and I are very pro breastfeeding wherever and whenever baby need to be fed.

What role did print quality and presentation play in your submission? Do you believe it impacted the judges' decision?

Printed photos have more of an impact. Seeing them in person and being able to see the image and mat as a whole is way different than seeing in on a phone. I think they were able to see the connection more in print.

How do you think winning this competition will impact your career as a photographer?

I am hoping people want more emotional and impactful photography and not just staged and posed images! Winning any competition is such an achievement and shows that I am doing something worthwhile. All of the late night editing and stress is worth it when I get an achievement like this.

thank you to our partner

MUSEA LAB

TOP 100

FEATURED ARTISTS

Adrienne Mathiowetz

amfamilyphoto.com | @amfamilyphoto

Alison Lapczuk

alisonlapczuk.com | @alisonlapczukphotography

April Cannon

runningmomphotography.com | @runningmomphotography

Betty Laurent

bettylaurentphotography.com | @bettylaurentphotography

Carolyn Ryan

carolynannryan.com | @CarolynAnnRyan

Casey Thomas

caseythomasphotography.com | @caseythomasphotography

Corey Nimmer

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Dana Korba

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Danielle Jacobson

drlegault@gmail.com | @photographydaniellerenee

Deanna O'Connor

deannaconnorphotography.com | @deannaconnorphotography

Elizabeth Dilley

ejdilleyphotography.com | @ejdilley

Emily Cummings

emilycummingsphotography.com | @emilycummingsphotographer

Eva Baker

evabakerphotography.com | @evabakerphotography

Heather Scharf

heatherscharfphotography.com | @iheart_hsp

Heather Blaine

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Heather Bienz

heatherbienzphotography.com | @heather_bienz_photography

Heather Scharf

heatherscharfphotography.com | @iheart_hsp

Jacenta Grover

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Jacqueline Burns

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Jeannie DeSena

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Jennifer Chen

jennchenphotography.com | @jennchenphotography

Jennifer Jackson

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Jennifer Petritz

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Jennifer Sciortino

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Lindsay Corrigan

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Louisa Vilardi

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Mary Okner

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Melissa Hunt

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Meredith Austin

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Michelle Haney

sunshineimages828.com | @sunshineimages828

Svetlana Ozik

lanaskyphotography.com | @lanaskyphotography

Zari Khorshidnia

daryaphotography.com | @daryaphotography.ca



Guidance, Growth, and Goal-Setting

JUST A CLICK AWAY!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXPERT GUIDANCE TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS?

The NAPCP Mentorship Program provides personalized support and professional development opportunities within the portrait and child photography industry. Designed for photographers at all stages of their careers, the program connects participants with a network of experienced mentors who offer guidance tailored to individual goals and challenges.

Why Mentorship?

Mentorship is a proven way to achieve meaningful, measurable growth. Through the NAPCP Mentorship Program, industry experts share their knowledge and experience to help photographers navigate challenges, develop strategic plans, and build strong professional connections. The program is structured to support participants at their current level while helping them progress toward their long-term career objectives. To learn more or schedule a session, visit napcp.com/napcp-mentors.



ALICE PARK



ASHLEY MCBROOM



ERIKA HOLIFIELD



HEATHER BIENZ



JENNIFER KAPALA



JULIE HAMLIN



KRISTEN MONTGOMERY



LENA ANTARAMIAN



LYNDSAY MCNIFF



OCTAVIA ELEASE



VALERIE EIDSON



WILLY WILSON

Join us for the next

NAPCP GETAWAY

Asheville, NC | September 14 - 17



Discover breathtaking locations, fresh mountain air, unwind, and connect with one another – we're excited to share all the details for this extraordinary getaway and welcome everyone to join us!

Hosted by 2024 NAPCP Photographer of the Year and 2026 NAPCP Mentor Valerie Eidson of Valerie Eidson Photography, this Asheville Getaway is designed to inspire, restore, and deepen community through creativity, learning, and meaningful connection. It's not a conference, workshop, or vacation—it's a curated experience that blends education, service, and creative exploration in a way that feels intentional and unforgettable.

We'll experience photographing at the iconic Biltmore Estate, enjoy a styled shootout at DayTrip where you'll learn to use studio lighting hands-on, and gather for brainstorming sessions with fellow photographers. You'll also get a behind-the-scenes look at Valerie's workflow and see how she approaches editing to create her signature style.

And in true NAPCP spirit, we'll come together for a service project to give back to the local community as they continue to recover after Hurricane Helene.

Registration will open to all on March 30. Please visit napcp.com/napcp-getaway-with-valerie-eidson for more information about this event.



MEET YOUR HOST

Valerie isn't just Photographer of the Year—she's a mentor who helps you grow creatively and practically. She's known for elevated, intentional imagery and a signature edit that's refined, cohesive, and timeless. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at her workflow, her editing approach, and the creative decisions that bring consistency and polish to a portfolio—plus real business insight you can apply immediately.

And this one is personal: Valerie is from Asheville, and she and her family were personally impacted by Hurricane Helene, which makes this Getaway—and our giving-back component—especially meaningful.



THE
Playful
ISSUE

MARCH 2026



MEMBER

Business:

Jenn Chen Photography

Website:

jennchenphotography.com

Instagram:

[@jennchenphotography](https://www.instagram.com/jennchenphotography)

Jenn Chen

This was one of the more challenging in home newborn sessions just because big sister wanted nothing to do with her baby sister. Luckily, this situation is plenty common in the newborn photography world so I was able to play some games with big sis to help her enjoy the session as well. I whispered to the mom to just sit on the floor with the baby and then I asked big sister to sneak up behind her mom. We did this for a good 10 minutes and not only did we get adorable authentic images, but mom instantly relaxed!

”



MEMBER

Corey Flint

I liked the low perspective and leading lines, as well as the mischievous expression in this one, as I ran backwards to avoid getting run over by the sled.

”

Gear:

Nikon Z8 | 14-30mm

Settings:

f/5.6 | 1/500 | ISO 5600

Business:

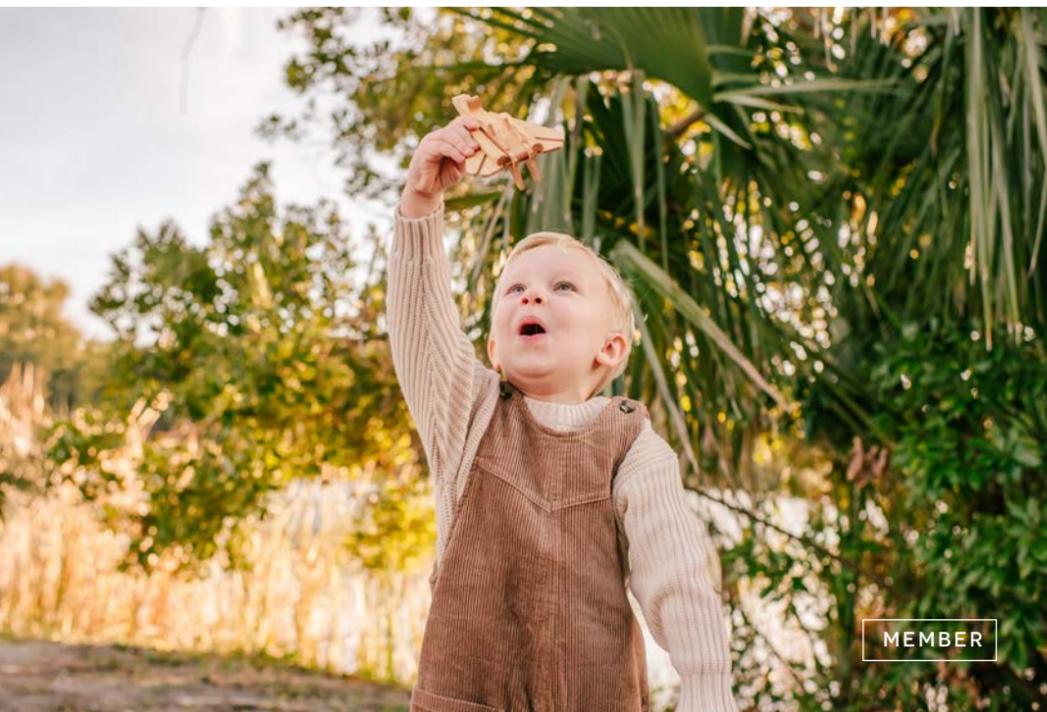
Corey Flint Photography

Website:

coreyflint.com

Instagram:

[@coreyflintphoto](https://www.instagram.com/coreyflintphoto)



Melody Coarsey

Gear:
Nikon D850 | 35mm

Settings:
f/3.5 | 1/800 | ISO 200

Business:
Melody Coarsey Photography

Website:
melodycoarseyphotography.com

Instagram:
[@mcoarseyphotography](https://www.instagram.com/mcoarseyphotography)

Kristin Bourg

Gear:
Canon R5 | 85mm

Settings:
f/2.2 | ISO 160

Business:
K-Rae Images

Website:
kraeimages.com

Instagram:
[@dallasbirthphotographer](https://www.instagram.com/dallasbirthphotographer)



Gear:
Canon R5 | 50mm

Settings:
f/2 | 1/2000 | ISO 1600

Business:
Rhiannon Livardo Photography

Website:
rhiannonlivardo.com

Instagram:
[@rhiannonlivardophotography](https://www.instagram.com/rhiannonlivardophotography)



Rhiannon Stuiso

This is the second time this family welcomed me back to their home for a session celebrating their child's first birthday. At the first shoot we captured beautiful portraits on their red couch at this shoot they wanted to recreate with their daughter but was hoping it would be different than the first shoot. This time around I was inspired by the doors for that room and I really wanted to shoot through them kind of "spying" on their fun time together. And, this was the result!





MEMBER

Dana Skwirut

The inspiration behind this image was literally “playful.” Mom picked the creek location and their wardrobe around wanting to have fun as a family during their session. They nailed it!

”

Gear:

Nikon Z6ii | 24-70mm

Settings:

f/2.8 | 1/800 | ISO 400

Business:

D.Marie.Photography

Website:

dmariaphotographyil.com

Facebook:

[/profile.php?id=100063634655491](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063634655491)



MEMBER

Stefanie Szalacinski

Gear:

Sony A7R III | 200mm

Business:

Stefanie Szalacinski Photography

Website:

szalacinskiphotography.com

Instagram:

[@szalacinskiphotography](https://www.instagram.com/szalacinskiphotography)

Sara Maida

Gear:

Nikon Z8 | 85mm

Settings:

f/2.5 | 1/500 | ISO 500

Business:

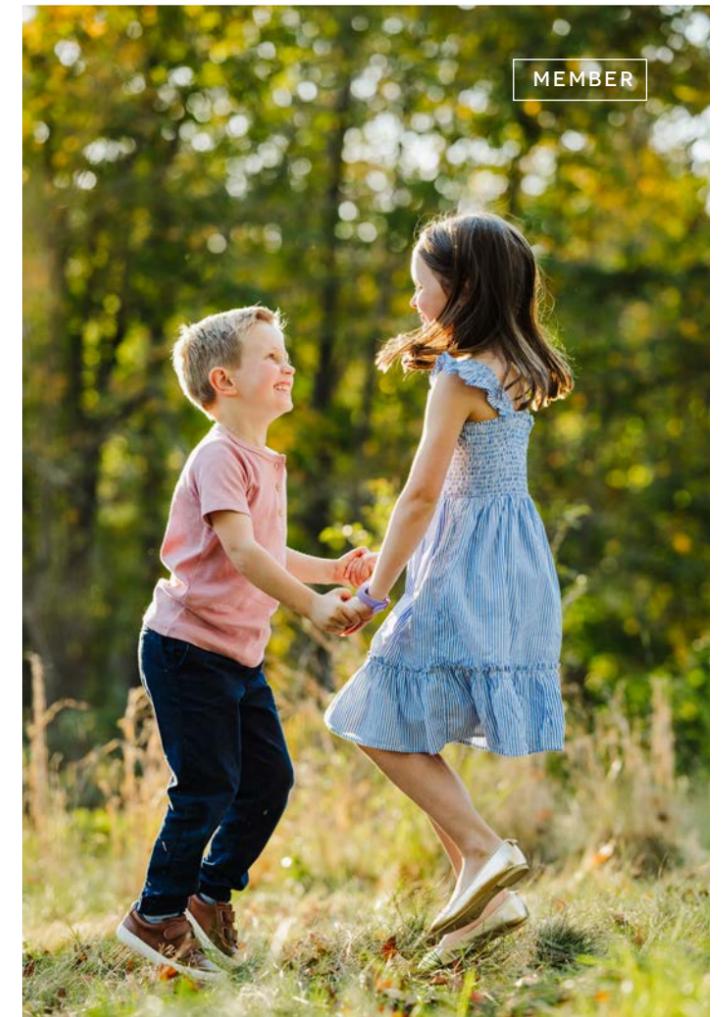
Sara Maida Photography

Website:

saramaida.com

Instagram:

[@sara.maida](https://www.instagram.com/sara.maida)



MEMBER



MEMBER

April Cannon

Gear:

Nikon Z8 | 35mm

Settings:

f/1.6 | 1/500 | ISO 640

Business:

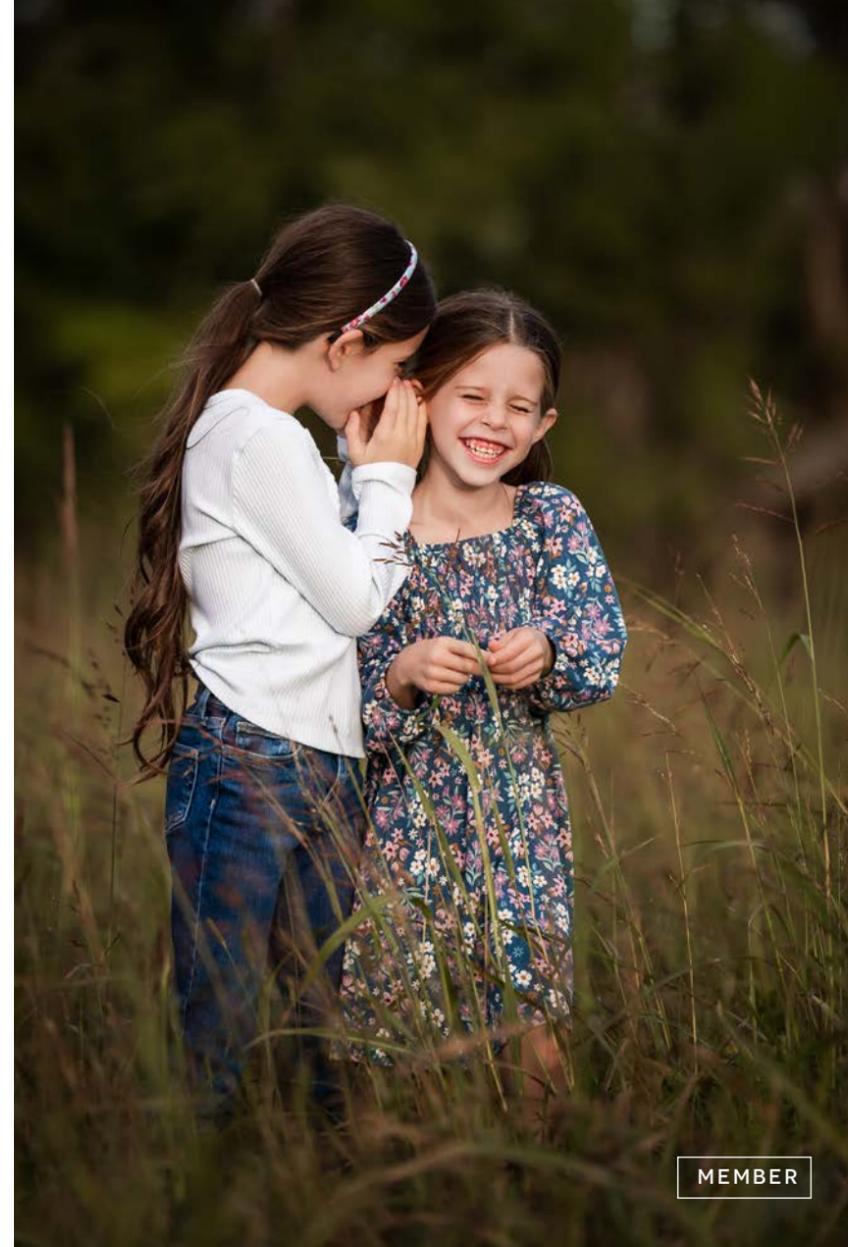
Running Mom Photography

Website:

runningmomphotography.com

Instagram:

@runningmomphotography



MEMBER

Julie Hamlin

Gear:

Canon R6 | 70-200mm

Settings:

f/2.8 | 1/500 | ISO 100

Business:

Sacred Sage Photography

Website:

sacredsagephotography.mypixieset.com

Instagram:

@sacred_sage_photography

Becca Lueck

Gear:

Canon R5 | 28-70mm

Settings:

f/4 | 1/1000 | ISO 400

Business:

Becca Jean Photography

Website:

beccajanphotography.com

Instagram:

@beccajanphotography



MEMBER

Amy Dangerfield

Gear:

Nikon Z7ii | 28mm

Settings:

f/16 | 1/15 | ISO 300

Business:

Amy Dangerfield Photography

Website:

amydangerfield.com

Email:

amy@amydangerfield.com

Instagram:

@amywdangerfield

featured artist

Join us for

NAPCP GATHERINGS

April 13th through 19th



Visit napep.com/napep-gatherings to find an event near you.

IT'S COMING

NAPCP 2026 INTERNATIONAL IMAGE COMPETITION



Congratulations TO OUR FEATURED ARTISTS



Alishia Potter | *The Potter's Hand Photography*



Lyndsay McNiff | *Lyndsay Hannah Photography*



Ute-Christin Cowan | *Ute-Christin Photography*



Reanna Negron | *Reanna Nicole Photography*

A special congratulations to this month's featured artists, selected from our weekly check-ins in the NAPCP Member Community on Facebook.

Want to see your work featured?
Share your work with us on Fridays!



April Cannon | *Running Mom Photography*



Jenn Chen | *Jenn Chen Photography*



Pam Bell | *Pam Bell Photography, Inc*



Elizabeth Simmons | *EK Simmons Photography*



FROM ATTENDEE TO EDUCATOR

*How Camp Inspired Marked a Turning
Point in My Photography Journey*

AN ARTICLE BY HEATHER BIENZ

When I joined NAPCP in 2023, I was simply looking for education. I wanted to grow. I wanted better systems. I wanted to feel less alone in building my photography business. What I did not expect was that one day I would be asked to teach at one of their events.

Camp Inspired this year marked my first time teaching at a national photography gathering. I have attended past NAPCP events before and mentored photographers 1:1. I have taken notes, soaked up knowledge, and introduced myself nervously to speakers I admired. But standing at the front of the room this time felt different. It felt like a quiet confirmation that growth really does happen when you stay in the room long enough with people who are willing to invest their time and energy into helping you grow.



The day began calmly. Coffee, light breakfast, and that familiar mix of excitement and vulnerability that comes with gathering creatives in one space. Alice Park opened with intention setting, and instead of jumping straight into tactics, we paused. We were invited to think about why we were there and what we wanted from the day.

I knew I wanted to set goals for things I wanted to accomplish in 2026, but I also really just wanted to be in the room again with the women who have leveled me up after being in the room with them in the past. Being surrounded by other hardworking, inspiring women makes me want to hold myself to a higher standard. After leaving every meeting I've ever had with other women from NAPCP, I always feel encouraged and equipped to tackle any obstacle that has been standing in my way of growth.



The Strategy Lab was our first activity and was one of the most powerful parts of the morning. We broke into small groups and began brainstorming together. No formal expert leading the table. Just photographers sharing real challenges and real ideas.

We talked about pricing fears. Creative burnout. Marketing that feels forced. Work-life balance that feels impossible during different seasons. It was not polished. It was honest.

When we reviewed every group's ideas and voted on the ones we wanted to learn more about, you could feel the energy shift. The ideas were smart, but what stood out most was the generosity behind them. No competition. Just collaboration.





Later in the morning, during the 2026 Roadmap session, we were guided through identifying one meaningful goal and reverse engineering it into actual steps. Not a vague dream. A plan. Milestones. Calendar blocks.

I watched photographers write down goals they had been carrying quietly for years. Later, some shared with me that they wanted to rebrand their studios, increase profitability, work fewer weekends and spend more time at home with their kids.

It reminded me that sometimes what we need most is space to think clearly about where we are going instead of constantly reacting to what is in front of us.

Lunch, sponsored by ShootProof, was relaxed and conversational. I love that Camp Inspired builds in space for connection. Open seating meant deeper conversations, not just small talk. We talked about systems, software, marketing, and also about family and the reality of running businesses while raising kids.

Photography can feel isolating, but Camp Inspired made it feel communal.





After a morning full of strategy, the afternoon shifted into creativity while we made our own bracelets. At first glance it might seem unrelated to business growth, but it was actually the perfect way to reconnect with why I started photography in the first place. Creating without pressure to monetize anything reminded me that you I am an artist before I'm an entrepreneur.

After bracelet making, it was time for my Live Demo: High Volume Headshot Workflow.



I have spent years refining my high volume headshot process and most of what I have learned has been from piecing together advice from a variety of other NAPCP members. I have learned how to move efficiently while still creating connection and have built a system using Evoto that allows me to serve high volumes without sacrificing quality. However, teaching it live felt vulnerable.

There is something very exposing about working in real time in front of your peers. No perfect slides. No hiding behind edited examples. Just the work.

I walked through my lighting setup, how I guide clients during posing, how I tether, and how I use Evoto to streamline editing while maintaining consistency. I talked about profitability and energy management. I shared not just what I do, but why I do it that way.



“When you are surrounded by photographers who believe in growth over ego, who share knowledge freely, and who celebrate your wins as if they are their own, you start to believe you belong at the table.”



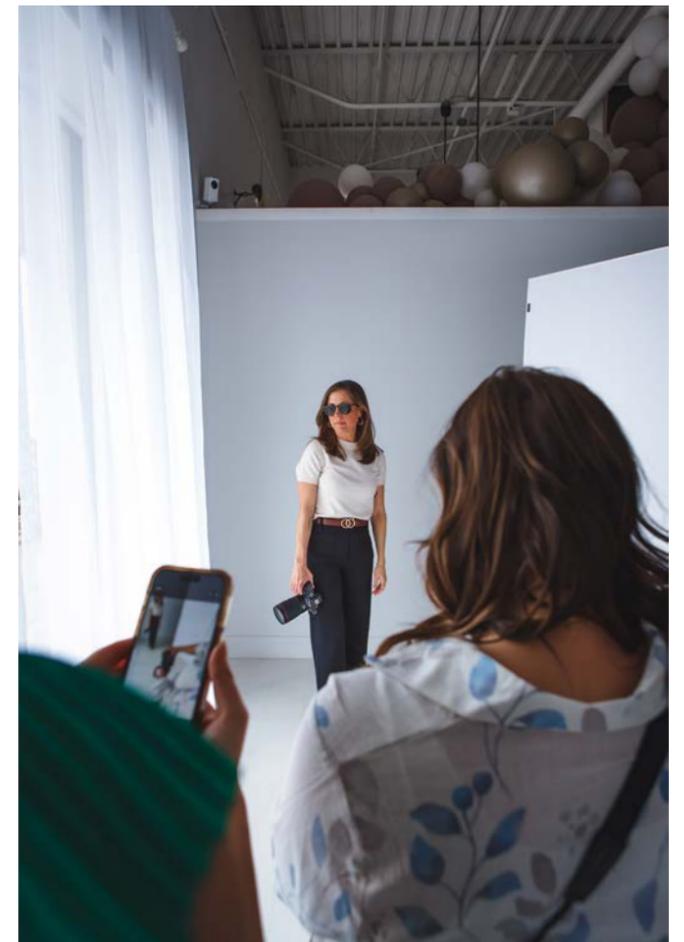


Afterward, several photographers came up to me and said they learned something they felt they could implement right away!

That meant more to me than I expected.

For years, I have worked on building systems inside my business with the help from several NAPCP members guiding me along the way and at Camp Inspired, NAPCP gave me the opportunity to share those systems. Through social media collabs, NAPCP Social presentations, and now Camp Inspired, I have been encouraged to step into teaching others what so many have taught me. Each small opportunity built confidence for the next. Camp Inspired was simply the moment it all came together.

The final session of the day was a collaborative group branding shoot. Photographers stepped in front of the camera and behind it. We styled. We experimented. We captured content for each other. It was joyful and practical at the same time.





For me, Camp Inspired was not just about teaching a workflow. It was about recognizing how far I have come since the first time I attended an NAPCP event back in 2023 - feeling unsure what NAPCP was all about. But now I know, NAPCP is about community.

When you are surrounded by photographers who believe in growth over ego, who share knowledge freely, and who celebrate your wins as if they are their own, you start to believe you belong at the table.

If you are considering attending Camp Inspired in the future, you do not need to be at a certain revenue level. You do not need to have it all figured out. You simply need to be willing to show up. Camp Inspired creates space for clarity, creativity, and connection. It reminds you that your business is built with strategy, yes, but also with courage.

This year, I walked into the room as both student and teacher. And I walked out reminded that growth happens when you say yes before you feel fully ready.

featured artist



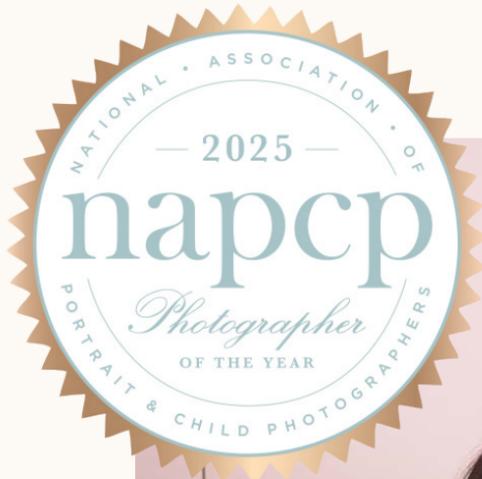
Heather Bienz

Business: Heather Bienz Photography

Website: heatherbienzphotography.com

Instagram: [@heather_bienz_photography](https://www.instagram.com/heather_bienz_photography)

MEMBER



JULIE HAMLIN
Sacred Sage Photography



Congratulations, Julie!

“Julie Hamlin of Sacred Sage Photography is one of those people who just is NAPCP—she’s the heart, the joy, the steady encouragement, the ‘come sit with us’ kind of friend—and I could not be more excited to celebrate her as our 2025 NAPCP Photographer of the Year. Kyu and I have known Julie for over five years, and watching her show up for this community has been one of the sweetest gifts. She’s been an active member for so long, and truly one of our most dedicated Ambassadors—always serving, always connecting people, always cheering others on. Julie also hosted our very first NAPCP Adventure at White Sands, and it was so her—beautiful, intentional, welcoming, and filled with the kind of connection that reminds you why this work matters. I love Julie’s heart for photography, for teaching, for caring for her clients so deeply, and for giving back to the community around her. She leads with so much talent and so much humility, and she is a shining example of the kind of photographer (and human) we’re proud to stand behind.

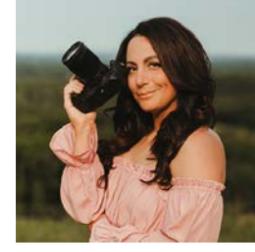
We love her so much, and I’m honestly just thrilled that the whole world gets to celebrate her with us.”

— Alice & Kyu Park, Founders of NAPCP



Welcome

2026 NAPCP AMBASSADORS



SAY HELLO TO OUR 2026 NAPCP AMBASSADORS

Please join us in celebrating and welcoming our 2026 NAPCP Ambassadors! This amazing group is passionate about cultivating strong, creative communities of artists. Through connection, conversation, and collaboration, they bring the NAPCP mission to life in meaningful ways.

They'll be kicking off the year with their first Gatherings happening April 13-19. Interested in joining? Visit napcp.com/napcp-gatherings to find events near you. Want to connect sooner? Head to napcp.com/napcp-ambassadors to reach out to your local Ambassador and learn more about getting involved with NAPCP!



INSPIRED

MONOCHROME | JUNE 2026

NAPCP's monthly Inspired themes celebrate outstanding images from members and non-members, on an ongoing basis. We can't wait to see your amazing "monochrome" themed images for our upcoming issue in June. These monthly themes aim to give professional photographers ample opportunities to show off their work and have it published in print!

Submissions Close June 1st

Master
PHOTOGRAPHER
— FAMILY —

SUBMIT YOUR PORTFOLIO
MAY 4TH - MAY 18TH

March 2026

#NAPCPINSTAFAVES



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

napcp.com/membership-benefits

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

members.napcp.com/napcpapplication

MASTER PHOTOGRAPHERS

napcp.com/napcp-master-photographers

IMAGE COMPETITION

napcp.com/about-our-image-competitions

*Back Cover Image by Top 100 Artist
Melissa Hunt of Oakley Photography*



EXPOSURE

There are so many ways to contribute to the NAPCP Community. Whether it's through speaking, hosting a NAPCP Getaway or Adventure, becoming a NAPCP Ambassador or even simply writing a blog article – there's an opportunity for everyone! We love giving our members a platform through which they can share their knowledge and work with the world.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

For more information, please contact us at: info@napcp.com

- Contribute to Inspired Magazine
- Host a NAPCP Getaway or Adventure
- Contribute to the NAPCP Blog
- Become a NAPCP Ambassador

