

'In-Focus' exhibition is picture perfect

'IN-Focus' photography exhibition returns to Center for the Arts

By Kelly Dickey | The Herald Bulletin



ANDERSON — At a casual glance, the photograph just looks like a hospital with its colorless walls and empty guest chairs. But then you focus on the hanging mirror and the reflection of the IV and medical equipment.

Your eye moves to the corner of the glass, which depicts a portion of a head, resting on a hospital bed, staring back.

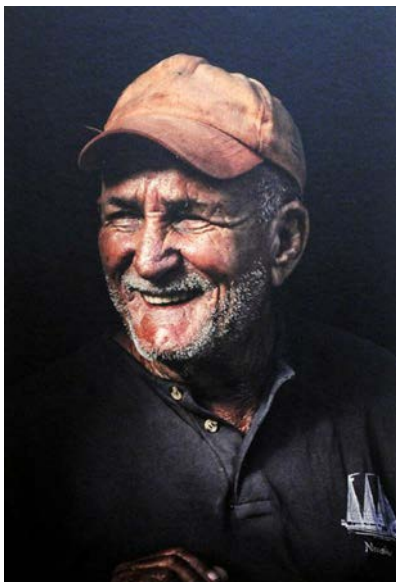
Only a small fraction of the image depicts a person, yet the self portrait reveals so much. The isolation. The loneliness.

Perhaps that's why it got top honors in the People category at the 36th annual IN-Focus exhibition.

The annual exhibition that features work from Hoosier photographers runs until April 8 at the Anderson Center for the Arts, 32 W. 10th St.

“The show is still very, very competitive,” Center for the Arts Executive Director Deborah Stapleton said. “...I don’t think we even need to say what our opinion is about the quality of the show. Sunday at the opening, I had person after person after person come up and say, ‘We think this is the best show.’”

This year’s exhibition received 425 entries from 100 photographers, with 112 adult photos and 80 youth selected for display. The arts center received entries from photographers from 22 Indiana cities and towns.



Categories this year include animal/wildlife, architecture, digital manipulation, nature/scenic, open and people.

As more people embrace technology and digital manipulation, the number of traditional film entries has shrunk. It eventually became its own specialty in IN-Focus.

“This year we didn’t have a single traditional film (submission),” Collections Curator Stephanie Michaels said. “So it’s completely something that’s accessible now. You don’t need a dark room.”

The photographs range from the serious, like Bert Happel’s “Hospitalized Selfie,” to the humorous, like Gary Hutchison’s “The Bourbon Throne.”

Hutchison’s picture shows a man holding a bottle of bourbon as he sits on a throne out of bottles. Its shape and the light replicates the Iron Throne from the popular George R. R. Martin-inspired HBO show “Game of Thrones.”



Meanwhile Lea Foster's "The Perky Little Poser" offers a colorful contrast between a frog and the red flower he's resting on.

Stapleton believes access to camera phones makes people relate to photography more than ever. The photographers from IN-Focus, though, make the captured images more of an art form.

"But at least people understand the concept of photography and so they understand and relate

to it better than maybe some of the other art forms that are presented throughout the year," she said.

The gallery is open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays. The exhibition runs through April 8.

Like Kelly Dickey on Facebook and follow her on Twitter @KellyD_THB, or call 765-640-4805.

If you go

What: 36th annual IN-Focus exhibition

Where: Anderson Center for the Arts, 32 W. 10th St.

When: Through April 8

Cost: \$4, \$2.50 for age 55 and older, \$2 for students and free for children age 4 and younger. Admission is half price on Tuesdays.