



## Shooting for the win!

### Different strokes for different folks

By Cha Valmonte



Jake Lagonera: *First Place*



Manny Gaite: *Second Place*



Rey Ortiz: *Third Place*

Is photography an art form? Scholars, artists and photographers have always writhed with responding this query. To some, it is art; strongly believing that it is simulated and has nothing to do with the original form.

Russian writer Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy – also known as Leo Tolstoy – might have theorized photography as an art form. He believes that art is the outpouring of emotions because those who view it bonds with the its creator. Their collective emotions, and those of other emotions, towards the piece unite them. For as long as the photographer conveys such emotion which the receiver absorbs, that photograph would be considered art by his standards.

Photographers execute their art differently, but the outcome has always been to evoke that primordial emotional instinct from their audience. Such is the case of CCP perennial winners Jake Lagonera Manny Gaite and Rey Ortiz as they share their thoughts with ViewFinder readers on how they do it (so well). Here goes:

#### Jake:

*How do you choose your subject?*

"I choose my subjects based on the inspiration they provide. Whatever inspires me at that moment is what i will start to shoot. But my mind starts with a black and white image. My eyes see color but my mind transforms it into gray tones. So contrast and light are two important factors".

*What do you look for in a great picture?*

"Pictures affect us in many different ways. Photography must have an emotion - something I can connect with. Normally it has something to do with people. I prefer seeing the presence of a person or persons in the photograph".

*What advise can you give aspiring photographers in a digital age?*

"Technology has evolved and continues to provide us with the necessary tools to get that perfect picture. In the rush to make a submission, we can lose track of the original reason we take pictures. Just take photos as much as you can. Do less thinking. Let your heart do the 'clicking'. As in many cases, it is the next photo that you have not yet taken that will be better, and then the next. In short, the perfect shot will always be elusive."

#### Manny:

*How do you choose your subjects?*

"I choose a subject with graphic composition, inter-play of lines, colors and texture. For the theme 'Pattern, I just pulled out from my files a shot of the Hong Kong Airport terminal departure lounge. While waiting for his flight, my eyes caught the wave-like structure of the ceiling. The longer I looked at it, it appears to move as you shift your gaze from one end to the other. To add accent to the monochromatic undulating ceiling, I replaced the airport signage with Abueva's cross from the UP Chapel. My other photo was taken at the Flower Dome of the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. Instead of viewing the various plant and flower exhibit below, I was taken aback by the immense dome structure that covered the whole place, its lines and those of steel and glass, provided a graphic pattern. The three workmen on the roof, was added after the shot. In addition, a great picture must convey a message or a story. It must have a something that should stop the viewer to take a longer view.

*What advise can you give aspiring photographers in a digital age?*

"With photography now made easy with digital cameras and many apps, Manny says that we should keep in mind that technology can only enhance the image, but a beautiful photograph

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springs in the mind of the photographer."

#### Rey:

"My winning shot was culled from my old files in the Vietnam OTS sometime back. It is in OTS where you could find good subjects for submission later. Sometimes I shoot from the hip, sometimes I do well-thought-of execution. It really depends on my mood at a particular moment. For me, photography's main asset is human interest; but it does not mean that your photos have to have people in it. Bright colors, dimly lit street with soft lights, people celebrating or just going through the day. These are what make photos interesting. Framing these subjects to capture such moments is what you have to master.

"Enjoying the hobby of for some, their profession is what makes photography worthwhile. Your cam will be an extension of yourself. Sooner or later you'll develop a deep love affair with it that it would reflect your art. Master its use specially its technical aspects. You'll be surprised what you can do with it."





## CCP Meeting FEBRUARY 2017

### CONTEST PATTERNS B&W

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	TOTAL
1	Lagonera, Jake	4.3516	4.5216	8.8732
2	Gaite, Manny	4.5550	4.0900	8.6450
3	Ortiz, Rey	4.0666	4.4916	8.5582
4	Camarillo, Sonny	3.7516	4.4833	8.2349
5	Yuson, Fred	4.1916	3.9916	8.1832
6	Arroyo, Kakai	4.0250	4.1416	8.1666
7	Samson, Adel	4.1683	3.8500	8.0183
8	Riingen, Leo	4.0916	3.8183	7.9099
9	Montifar, Miko	3.8100	4.0516	7.8616
10	Abejo, Tim	4.2016	3.6383	7.8399
11	Santos, Raffy	3.8333	3.9833	7.8166
12	Cancio, Tony	4.3516	3.4500	7.8016
13	Juat, Nedy	3.9350	3.8416	7.7766
14	Garbanzos, Gino	3.7550	3.9500	7.7050
15	Chavez, Annabelle	4.0416	3.6516	7.6932
16	Bautista, Bien	3.8333	3.8500	7.6833
17	Venturina, Nap	3.9250	3.7500	7.6750
18	De Guzman, Jijo	3.7150	3.9516	7.6666
19	Flores, Javi	4.0216	3.6000	7.6216
20	Hermogenes, Jaime	3.6516	3.9530	7.6046
21	Cumagun, Jaime	3.9000	3.6950	7.5950
22	Mondoñedo, Billy	3.6583	3.9350	7.5933
23	Villanueva, Val	4.0133	3.5183	7.5316
24	Sison, Bob	3.9683	3.5500	7.5183
25	Littaua, Raoul	3.8166	3.6500	7.4666
26	Antonio, Joey	4.0500	3.4166	7.4666
27	Samson, Juni	3.9800	3.4850	7.4650
28	Guingona, Jojo	3.8600	3.5966	7.4566
29	Aliling, Jan	3.3016	4.0333	7.3349
30	Dejos, Esse	3.6083	3.7166	7.3249
31	Quimel, Lito	3.7833	3.5416	7.3249
32	Ner, Rene	3.7333	3.5850	7.3183
33	Castillo, Quincy	3.5850	3.7133	7.2983
34	Apuya, Armand	3.7000	3.5516	7.2516
35	Buenaventura, Jorge	3.4166	3.8083	7.2249
36	Barlund, Anna	4.0916	3.1166	7.2082
37	Burgos, Mark	3.6550	3.5500	7.2050
38	Del Rosario, Fred	3.7016	3.4916	7.1932
39	Santos, Tito	3.7850	3.4016	7.1866
40	Sonora, Jeff	3.6833	3.5016	7.1849
41	Yu, Philip	3.5666	3.5933	7.1599
42	Villarica, Udsie	3.5333	3.6000	7.1333
43	Lagdameo, Dindin	3.4250	3.6833	7.1083
44	Viñas, Chito	3.6166	3.3933	7.0099
45	Dela Merced, Narcing	3.6166	3.3850	7.0016
46	Cruz, Gino	3.4183	3.5166	6.9349
47	Montalban, Joey	3.5833	3.3500	6.9333
48	San Pedro, Paul	3.5500	3.3666	6.9166
49	Lilles, Tony	3.5333	3.3083	6.8416
50	Uy, Patrick	3.5666	3.2500	6.8166
51	Balagtas, Kiko	3.5500	3.2183	6.7683
52	Gozum, Lito	3.3416	3.4183	6.7599
53	Montifar, Raul	3.6183	3.1283	6.7466
54	Gutierrez, Gutch	3.4666	3.2666	6.7332
55	De Leon, Rudy	3.3333	3.3883	6.7216
56	Serrano, TG	3.4500	3.2500	6.7000
57	Cachero, Eric	3.3166	3.3170	6.6336
58	Dela Merced, Melissa	3.4166	3.2000	6.6166
59	Fidelino, Boyet	3.1500	3.2850	6.4350
60	De Vera, Arps	3.5666	2.8500	6.4166
61	Garrido, Jun	3.3500	3.0500	6.4000
62	Mills, Vicente	3.1916	3.0833	6.2749
63	Benitez, Manette	2.9500	3.2483	6.1983
64	Reyno, King	3.1500	2.9166	6.0666
65	Paraan, Renee	3.1833	2.8666	6.0499
66	Ang, Garrick	2.8016	3.2300	6.0316
67	Ocampo, Nesty	3.1033	2.9000	6.0033
68	Carnero, Henry	2.8833	3.0916	5.9749



The Fifth Element Exhibit in Solaire.

### CONTEST BINONDO OTS DIGITAL FILE

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	TOTAL
1	De Guzman, Jijo	4.3162	4.4477	8.7639
2	Bautista, Bien	4.1287	4.5657	8.6944
3	Cancio, Tony	4.5362	3.9805	8.5167
4	Garbanzos, Gino	4.2375	4.0385	8.2760
5	Lagonera, Jake	3.9625	4.2977	8.2602
6	Santos, Raffy	3.9387	4.1280	8.0667
7	Arroyo, Kakai	4.2375	3.7647	8.0022
8	Santos, Tito	3.9502	4.0175	7.9677
9	Ner, Rene	4.0887	3.8072	7.8959
10	Chavez, Annabelle	4.1112	3.7545	7.8657
11	Aliling, Jan	4.3112	3.5262	7.8374
12	Sto. Domingo, Raymund	4.0012	3.8052	7.8064
13	Balagtas, Kiko	3.7400	4.0655	7.8055
14	Garrido, Jun	3.7837	4.0150	7.7987
15	San Pedro, Paul	3.7487	4.0305	7.7792
16	Castillo, Quincy	3.8887	3.8862	7.7749
17	Lagdameo, Dindin	3.8900	3.8762	7.7662
18	Apuya, Armand	4.0762	3.6660	7.7422
19	Gaite, Manny	3.7350	3.9845	7.7195
20	Benitez, Manette	3.9750	3.7410	7.7160
21	Antonio, Joey	3.4625	4.0707	7.5332
22	Viñas, Chito	3.4937	4.0187	7.5124
23	Samson, Adel	3.8037	3.7062	7.5099
24	Barlund, Anna	3.6450	3.8105	7.4555
25	Buenaventura, Jorge	3.9572	3.4920	7.4492
26	Cachero, Eric	3.8975	3.4970	7.3945
27	Montalban, Joey	3.7412	3.6030	7.3442
28	del Rosario, Fred	3.6292	3.7142	7.3434
29	Quimel, Lito	3.5650	3.7605	7.3255
30	Villarica, Udsie	3.8470	3.4425	7.2895
31	Bautista, Mark	4.0137	3.2492	7.2629
32	Fidelino, Boyet	3.5732	3.6615	7.2347
33	Flores, Javi	3.5500	3.6430	7.1930
34	Yuson, Fred	3.5702	3.5900	7.1602
35	Venturina, Nap	3.3387	3.8017	7.1404
36	Cumagun, Jaime	3.3462	3.7765	7.1227
37	Sonora, Jeff	3.5637	3.5367	7.1004
38	Gutierrez, Gutch	3.5662	3.5045	7.0707
39	Dela Merced, Melissa	3.7550	3.1277	6.8827
40	Reyno, King	3.6750	3.1075	6.7825
41	Serrano, TG	3.3540	3.4175	6.7715
42	Paraan, Renee	3.3012	3.4625	6.7637
43	Ortiz, Rey	3.2512	3.4790	6.7302
44	Hermogenes, Jaime	3.7412	2.9280	6.6692
45	De Leon, Rudy	3.8500	2.8005	6.6505
46	Ocampo, Nesty	3.5375	3.0050	6.5425
47	Riingen, Leo	3.7812	2.7217	6.5029
48	Lilles, Tony	3.2012	3.0687	6.2699
49	Uy, Patrick	2.8925	3.0540	5.9465



The Fifth Element ribbon cutting



New probee, CharmaineValmonte, being inducted by Dr. Amado Castro.



New probee, Rocky Chan, being inducted by Dr. Amado Castro

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

May 1, 2017, Monday (Labor Day holiday) CCP  
Monthly meeting has been moved to May 8, 2017,  
Monday, Rockwell Club





Jaime Cumagun, newest regular CCP member, with his grandparents, mother and sponsor, Jake Lagonera



Winners of Chinatown OTS Jijo de Guzman, Bien Bautista, Tony Cancio with Jan Aliling, contest chairman



Winners of Patterns theme Manny Gaité, Rey Ortiz, Tony Cancio and Jaime.

## CCP 30 years ago, this month:

- Regular monthly meeting was held at the Skytop, Hotel Intercontinental, Manila
- CCP had OTS in old downtown Manila, attended by 29 members, with Emil Davocol winning the 'Best Picture' and 'Best Photographer' titles
- Theme competition 'HANDS' was joined by 33 members, with Benjamin Palma Gil garnering the 'Best Picture' and 'Best Photographer' awards
- Viewfinder Bulletin Committee was composed of the following:

Roberto M Paterno, *Chairman*

Emil V Davocol, *Creative Director*

Luis O Abiva, Jr., *Business Manager*

Raymundo M Sto Domingo, *Newsphotos for March*

### Profile:

## Rocky Chan, CCP Probee



Let us all welcome our newest Probee, Rocky Chan!

Rocky is a lawyer by profession who just recently started his own legal consultancy firm which targets foreign investors who want to establish their business in the Philippines. He is happily married to Yen-yen King Chan for nine years, with two children: Marion Claire K. Chan (seven years old) and Manuel Roque K. Chan (four years old).

He was invited to join Camera Club of the Philippines by our Lifetime Member Ernie Fajardo, a long time

family friend (Rocky's parents being close family friend of the Fajardos, Ernie and Nining for over 40 years) and King Reyno, a long time family friend as well.

Rocky said that he decided to join The Club because he was inspired by his Tito Ernie's awesome photos and slides. They always fascinated him no end on how his Tito Ernie was able to tune his artistic vision thru his images at The Club; thus, when he decided to seriously pursue photography, he always had it in the back of his mind that he wanted to join the Club.

Rocky's passion is photography. He started and got interested in photography during the '80s when his Dad brought home a Ricoh SLR and some lenses which he started to tinker and operate. Moreover, growing up, his mother, while employed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, enrolled him in a photography class where he learned the basic rudiments of photography - camera operation, composition and dark room film developing. Later on he figured that he enjoyed photography when he found himself taking pictures of subjects other than snapshots of people in places while on vacation or during an event where he had his camera. Welcome Rocky and we are happy to have you as our co-Probee!

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## MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER'S CUP FEBRUARY

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	TOTAL
1	Jijo De Guzman	25.7642
2	Kakai Arroyo	25.3500
3	Tony Cancio	24.3415
4	Manny Gaité	24.1482
5	Adel Samson	23.9887
6	Jake Lagonera	23.7611
7	Gino Garbanzos	23.7477
8	Raffy Santos	23.4378
9	Paul San Pedro	23.3200
10	Joey Antonio	23.2402
11	Bien Bautista	23.2244
12	Rey Ortiz	23.1516
13	Dindin Lagdameo	23.0202
14	Jan Aliling	22.8075
15	Annabelle Chavez	22.7548
16	Javi Flores	22.4766
17	Fred Del Rosario	22.1718
18	Quincy Castillo	22.1681
19	Rene Ner	22.0766
20	Kiko Balagtas	21.8605
21	Armand Apuya	21.6390
22	Leo Riingen	21.5570
23	Jorge Buenaventura	21.5440
24	Fred Yuson	21.5256
25	Chito Vinas	21.2363
26	Nap Venturina	21.1696
27	Udsie Villarica	21.1505
28	Tito Santos	21.1145
29	Jaime Cumagun	21.1086
30	Anna Barlund	21.1012
31	Gutch Gutierrez	21.0636
32	Manette Benitez	20.9450
33	Jeff Sonora	20.8703
34	Jaime Hermogenes	20.8080
35	Eric Cachero	20.5878
36	TG Serrano	20.4502
37	King Reyno	20.2681
38	Rudy De Leon	20.2098
39	Joey Montalban	20.0585
40	Boyet Fidelino	19.7786
41	Melissa Dela Merced	19.4728
42	Tony Lilles	19.3685
43	Nesty Ocampo	19.2980
44	Patrick Uy	19.2923
45	Renee Paraan	18.6778
46	Jun Garrido	18.1999
47	Bob Sison	15.4610
48	Miko Montifar	15.3950
49	Philip Yu	14.8358
50	Lito Quimel	14.6504
51	Val Villanueva	14.4771
52	Raoul Littaua	14.4365
53	Jojo Guingona	14.4046
54	Sonny Camarillo	14.2801
55	Esse Dejos	14.1483
56	Gino Cruz	13.9594
57	Juni Samson	13.9592
58	Billy Mondoñedo	13.9520
59	Mark Burgos	13.9457
60	Raul Montifar	13.5965
61	Garrick Ang	13.3980
62	Vicente Mills	12.9286
63	Narcing Dela Merced	12.7950
64	Arps De Vera	12.6710
65	Lito Gozum	12.1766
66	Henry Camero	11.9853
67	Tim Abejo	7.8399
68	Raymund Sto. Domingo	7.8064
69	Necy Juat	7.7766
70	Ruben Asedillo	7.6109
71	Jerry Tieng	7.3415
72	Mark Bautista	7.2629
73	Rengie Galvez	7.1742
74	Nitoy Velasco	7.0355
75	Jay Jaucian	6.4399
76	JR Velasco	5.9202
77	Vicoy Risma	5.8499
78	Mon Abad	5.7627



In the 1970's, Osmundo V. Esguerra (who was called "Omeng" for short by his relatives and friends) was a master artisan and art dealer who traversed the country in search of antique art-works and furniture.

Because he wanted only excellent items to sell, he took photos of the pieces he was considering to purchase so he could assess first where to best display them in his shop. He would have these photos developed in a small photo booth owned by Sonny Camarillo at the Makati Commercial Center near Rustan's, where he and Sonny would have countless conversations about photography. This was how his love of photography blossomed.

It was during this time that a group of hobbyists, referred to as the "Coño Group," would frequent the stall to have their photos developed. These hobbyists were members of the Camera Club of the Philippines (CCP) who regaled Sonny with stories about the Club that they were able to convince him to apply for membership. There were only about 20 to 30 CCP members then. After a year of being a member, Sonny began encouraging his customers to join the Club. One of those he recruited was Omeng.

Back then, after being a regular guest for three months, one could become a bonafide CCP member on the fourth month. Membership acceptance was based on good character borne out of a careful background investigation. Omeng,

## Omeng Esguerra: A Lifetime of Craft Mastery

By Renee B. Paraan, M.D.



entered in May 1973. Unfortunately, on his third month as a regular guest, Omeng could not enter the meeting venue because it was a meter-deep in flood water. As the Club rules required, Omeng had to repeat the three-month cycle, and was finally admitted into the CCP membership roster in October 1973. Omeng and his batchmate Rudy de Leon would go in the Club annals as having no absences for 10 years straight, from 1974 to 1984.

By 1978, there were already 109 regular CCP members. Members had to submit two to three photos for the monthly photo contests, with different themes each month: landscapes, portraits, etc. Judged by non-CCP members, the competition would also have different venues every month, including the Manila Peninsula, Hotel

InterContinental, Sulu Hotel, and a place near Cartimar.

The Club's annual contest was capped by the WRIGLEY CUP which was brought from Japan. There were two groups in contention: the "Coño group" led by Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala, and the "Indio group" led by Omeng Esguerra. Competition was fierce, but laced with much merriment and banter. During one such competition, Don Jaime was abroad but continued to submit his photos monthly. It was a close fight among the Coños and Indios. Don Jaime won first prize; Omeng, second, and Bobby Paterno, third. Omeng believed then that had he not changed his submitted photo from a topless Igorota carrying her babies to a portrait of their godchild, which his wife Lanie convinced him to submit instead, he could have won the top prize.

In 1985, after making his ten-year no-absence record, Omeng began missing monthly meetings and contests. When asked why, he replied that digital photography was becoming the rage, and he was not keen in making that part of his craft.

Today, Omeng Esguerra is not only one of Manila's most prominent antiquaries and its finest craftsman with natural-hewn hardwoods, he is also one the CCP's most distinguished lifetime members. He has donated his time, energy and talent to the Club as a Director in 1978 and 1981, and Vice President in 1998. Without doubt, Omeng is a master of his craft.

## Through Sonny's lens

# THE SPIRIT OF EDSA LIVES

By Rocky Chan

Regardless of where you find yourself in the political divide, February 22-25, 1986 is nevertheless important to our nation's history. It was one of those rare moments where you knew exactly where you were and what you were doing when the first call from Cardinal Sin came on the radio.

Our very own Sonny Camarillo was there, front and center.

EDSA 1986, Before & Beyond: Dapat Na Ba Ito Kalimutan? is an honest and gripping retrospective that captures not only the People Power Revolution, but every significant event that led to it. From the sweeping crowd shots, the tension-filled candid moments, to the images of jubilation and relief, every frame grabs the viewer and pulls him or her back to that time of uncertainty, of fear and anguish, and, most importantly, of hope.

But more than this, the exhibit captures the spirit of the one person not in the shot: Sonny, who dedicated a few rows of his exhibit to images spanning the breadth of his extraordinary career as a photographer who has seen it all.

Sonny's exhibit was held at the Ground Floor of the Ayala UP Town Center along Katipunan, and its opening was attended by no less than former President Fidel V. Ramos (who showed off his still well-built 89-year old body) and former DILG Secretary Rafael Alunan III. Nadine Jacinto of DZRJ was likewise in attendance, and produced an audio presentation with snippets from Radyo Bandido, which brought an aural context to the images that completed the experience. CCP President, Marivic Lopa Silva, also gave a few words as an active participant of EDSA, and the event was most ably hosted by our Club's Master of Ceremonies, TG Serrano.

The American photographer Aaron Siskind is quoted as saying "Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything". Thank you, Sonny, for the images that will ensure our country will Never Forget.

