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# Photo Exhibit At SAC

By Karl B. Hille  
*The Winchester Star*

Ideas worth pursuing will resonate throughout "Shenandoah Photography: New Directions!" an exhibit opening today.

The Shenandoah Arts Council Gallery at 811 S. Loudoun St. will house thematic work by a variety of local photographers, according to organizer Geraldine Kiefer.



Winchester photographer Rosemary Swope hangs her exhibit, "Seasons of Change," documenting Winchester orchards and workers, for the "Shenandoah Photography: New Directions!" art show opening today at the Shenandoah Arts Council Building in Winchester. In bottom photo, Joseph P. Kelley hangs his collection of photos for "The Sepia Edition Project." The show continues through July 25.  
*(Photos by Jeff Taylor)*

"The best photography, in my opinion, resonates emotively, aesthetically, and culturally," said Kiefer, an artist and art professor at Shenandoah University.

Throughout the history of this modern art form, Kiefer said various photographers have distinguished themselves through the themes they pursued.

She looked for bodies of work that focus on a coherent theme and

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concentrate theme and illuminate life in the Shenandoah Valley.

An opening reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. today.

Artists exhibiting at the SAC gallery include SU independent study student Joseph P. Kelley, Jeffrey Harris, Christy Dunkle, Dennis Wise, Karl Mueller, Joanna Cochran Pecha, Rosemary Swope, Edvard Thorsett, and John P. Lewis.

Harris said he prepared black-and-white photos for the exhibit.

"I work entirely in black and white. I just enjoy that tremendously," he said. "I have a small darkroom at home and do a lot of my developing myself."

His work in this exhibit includes various perspectives of a stairwell and images of people waiting at the Free Medical Clinic of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, in Winchester.

Dunkle will present 10 altered Polaroid images in a series called "Open Doors."

"I started out exploring cemeteries, and it turned into doorways and windows," said Dunkle of Bluemont.

She scratched portions of the image off the back of the Polaroid surface to display other images in the background in her framed, 3- by 3-inch photos. "I like the layering aspect of it," she said.

Kelley will display an in-depth study of sepia-tone effects on photography and the emotional appeal of these images, Kelley said. He named his submission "The Sepia Edition Project."

"When you look at those pictures, your mind has got to go through some kind of interpretation or translation" because now blue is brown, Kelley said.

The name sepia comes from an early ink the Greeks and Romans, derived from squids, Kelley said. The more recent photographic technique, he said, bore similar color results, though it involved treating photographic plates with harsh bleaches and foul-smelling agents to bring about the "gold-tone."

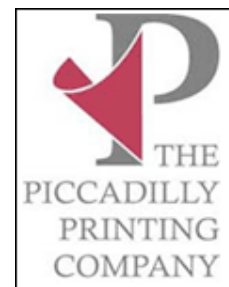
Though he has



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experimented with these processes, Kelley now uses the sepia setting on his computer printer to achieve the same effect.

By comparing color photos with their sepia editions, he said viewers have to make a choice between the formats, and that heightens interest. "It has a lot to do with whatever previous history you bring to the table regarding the color brown."

In addition to the emotional glaze of "antiquity" that sepia lends ordinary photos, many viewers find greater clarity and detail revealed by the process, Kelley said



"Drowning Justice" by Joanna Cochran Pecha is one of the works on display in "Shenandoah Photography: New Directions!" show opening today at the Shenandoah Arts Council building in Winchester. In bottom photo is Edvard Thorsett's ivy on bricks entry. (Photos by Jeff Taylor)



"Brown represents a tonal range that is greater than anything in the (color) tone system and anything between black and white," he said. "I've had people tell me they can see so much detail they couldn't see before" in black and white or color.

Kelley also will hang a concurrent exhibition at The Knowledge Point to coincide with the Valley Road Conference, hosted by Shenandoah University's Historical and Tourism Center. This exhibit, which he called a subset of his sepia project, focuses more tightly on U.S. 11 and its landscape.

For information on that exhibit, visit [www.theknowledgepoint.org](http://www.theknowledgepoint.org).

"Shenandoah Photography: New Directions" is free and open to the public. The exhibit will be open from June 4 through July 25. Hours of operation are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment for group tours.

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