

Collage of Cellphone Photographs



Photographers, left to right starting at the top: Nigella Hillgarth, Martha Dennis, Janet Goff, Ursula Moede, Thespine Kavoulakis, Liz Bonkowsky, Kim Signoret-Paar, Barbara Bank, Nancy Groves. The collage was created by Kim Signoret-Paar. All are in the Oceanids Cellphone Photography Group. See next page.

Oceanids Cellphone Photography Group

Kim Signoret-Paar

We all have our cellphones, and a bonus is the camera that comes with it. A group of us have been meeting monthly since December 2018 to figure out how to improve our use of that camera. We skipped a beat of two months as the pandemic changed everything that we had scheduled into our lives. Then we began meeting on Zoom, focusing on photos that could be taken in the vicinity of our homes.

We initially photographed sights along the streets near us. We then went on to photograph wildlife and plants outside and contents inside our homes. We moved on to studies of a topic each month from a website and book entitled "Seeing Fresh" <http://seeingfresh.com/>: color, texture, simplicity, light and space. The collage of our work is from the topic of Color. We have just finished Texture and are moving on to Simplicity.

We share our images, tips, apps, and camaraderie at our meetings. I think that we find that photographing our surroundings has enriched our lives during lockdown – making us appreciate what is still available to us and, in fact, right before our noses.

Kim Signoret-Paar uses her camera to create images that tell stories from fleeting moments or from structures around us. She won her first competition with a BW photo of a boy in a tree when she was thirteen. With a degree in journalism from the University of Iowa, she went west in 1980. Her career in California and Mexico focused on public relations, publishing, and fundraising. In 2009, Kim returned to creating art with her camera and, in the summer of 2014, she won Best of Show at the International Exhibition of Photography at the San Diego County Fair. Her website is: www.signoretpaar.com

In addition to competing and showing her photography in various venues, Kim teaches iPhoneography at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Retirement Center and OASIS San Diego. She coordinates the Oceanids Cellphone Photography Group.

Other participating photographers are listed on the preceding page.

This piece was sent to SDIS in September 2020.

Reprinted from *COVID-19: getting through with wit and grit*, published by the San Diego Independent Scholars. 2020 (<https://sdscholars.org>) © Kim Signoret-Paar