

Trinidad artist wins Best of Show at photo exhibit

By Tim Keller

Special to The Chronicle-News
RATON — David Frank's "Johnson Mesa Church" was announced Friday night as the Best of Show winner in the professional division of the 6th Annual Ralph Solano Memorial Photography Exhibit and Sale at the Old Pass Gallery.

Sandy Solano presented Frank with a \$100 award check in a brief ceremony that also featured judge Marty Mayfield and the director of the Raton Arts & Humanities Council, Ray Wolf.

Frank's winning image was shot last fall on a trip across Johnson Mesa. He took three separate exposures, including one underexposed and one overexposed, then sandwiched them together in a process called HDR — high dynamic range — which allowed him to produce an almost-magical light.

As Solano remarked, "David makes it feel like you're actually standing in

'David makes it feel like you're actually standing in his photos.'

David Frank
Photographer

his photos."

To further accentuate the sense that this was a painting rather than a photograph, Frank printed the image directly onto canvas, working at his Trinidad shop, Frank Images.

Frank has dominated the Solano professional show in recent years: He won Best of Show in 2010 and served as the judge last year.

This year's judge, Marty Mayfield, told the assembled audience Friday night that judging the show was one of the hardest things he's ever done. He said he began by entering the room and simply scanning the walls, looking for patterns, shapes, and colors that

caught his eye, before zooming in to more-closely examine each entry. He gave brief comments on the other winning images.

First-time entrant Rebeccah Castillo drove up from her home in Albuquerque to accept the 1st Place award.

Veteran black-and-white film photographer Allan McConnell came down from his home in Pueblo to accept 2nd Place.

Trinidad's Michelle Goodall won third place with a vintage train photograph printed directly on polished aluminum. Rounding out the professional entrants were Cimarron's Toby Kessler and, winning an Honorable Mention, Raton's Jean Streetman.

Each year RAHC and the Solano family commission a local artist to make custom award ribbons for the photography show. This year's ribbons were designed and made by Raton's Nancy McGlothlin.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

David Frank shows off his Best of Show award-winning professional-division photograph, "Johnson Mesa Church," at Raton's 6th Annual Ralph Solano Memorial Photography Exhibit and Sale at the Old Pass Gallery Friday night. Frank owns and runs Frank Images in Trinidad.

Student should keep quiet about professor's actions without proof

DEAR ABBY: I am a 19-year-old student taking courses at a community college. One of my classes is taught by a great professor who also works at a state college teaching other teachers.

After an evening class with him one night, I returned to the classroom because I forgot something and ended up walking with him back to the parking lot. While putting stuff into my car I saw him get into another student's car. I waited a while without them realizing I was there and ended up seeing my professor and



Dear Abby
Jeanne
Phillips

this student smoking weed and fooling around.

I feel angry and betrayed knowing he would put his career in danger. They are both consenting adults, but I don't know whether I should report it or not. What do you think? -- BETRAYED STUDENT ON THE WEST COAST

DEAR STUDENT: Unless you have ABSOLUTE PROOF that your professor was smoking something other than tobacco, I think you should keep your mouth shut. As you said, he was with another consenting adult. Are you sure your feelings of anger and betrayal aren't jealousy? Because you asked what I think, I'll tell you: Mind your own business.

DEAR ABBY: A year ago my husband and I met a nice couple on a cruise. We had so much fun

with them we invited them to our home for a visit.

While they were here I showed them the photo album I had made with our cruise pictures. They were in most of them. It has been three months since their visit and we can't find the album. A few weeks ago, while talking to the wife on the phone I mentioned it. She said we didn't show the album to them but she wished we had. Abby, we know we did!

Should I mention it again or just make a new one and never invite them back? -- MISSING MORE THAN THE PICTURES?

DEAR MISSING: You appear to be seeing the picture clearly now. While the couple may have been charming, they're not nearly as "nice" as you assumed. If you want a record of your cruise, by all means create a second album.

(Surely you don't need me to advise you to never invite them back.)

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for 19 years. We have three children and from the outside looking in, you would think we have a wonderful life. But my boyfriend has been unfaithful numerous times, which has caused me to have trust issues and insecurities. I took him back because I wanted our children to be raised in a two-parent home, which is hard to find these days.

The problem is, two years ago I cheated on him. He found out by tracking my phone, bugging the house and monitoring my calls and emails. He "reminds" me of it every day and we argue constantly. I'm sorry it happened, but I still have trust issues because I can't see what he has been up to. I guess

my question is -- is this a relationship worth saving? -- GOOD FOR THE GANDER -- GOOD FOR THE GOOSE

DEAR GOOSE: Let's review your letter. Nineteen years as a couple, three kids and he's a serial cheater. You cheated too, and your complaint is that you can't monitor your boyfriend's activities the way he is scrutinizing yours?

Although you say you're staying together for the children, a household filled with anger and suspicion isn't healthy for them or for you. This is not a relationship worth saving in my book.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



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