



# Distinctive Image

featuring...

**Joanne Stolte, APSA, EPSA**

Glendora, California



*Albatross Preening Chick*

The *PSA Journal* continues its *Distinctive Image* series featuring Photographic Society of America (PSA) artist, **Joanne Stolte, APSA, EPSA**, who enjoys many areas of photography and who possesses a commendable exhibition record; which enabled her to achieve photographic distinctions in a relatively short period of time. In this issue, the *Journal* highlights Joanne's images of young animals in their natural habitat.

Joanne has finished in the top ten in North America in PSA's *Who's Who* in the Color Slide Division (CSD)—now the Color Projected Image Division (CPID); the Nature Division (ND); the Photojournalism Division (PJD); and the Photo Travel Division (PTD) during three or more consecutive years. This avid exhibitor has earned a Galaxy in CPID, 5 Stars in Nature, 5 Stars in Travel, and 4 Stars in Photojournalism.

From 2002 to 2006 she received more than 2500 international exhibition acceptances and

earned more than 400 Gold, Silver, Bronze and special theme medals; including 15 "Best of Show" awards from PSA-recognized international exhibitions. Joanne was especially pleased to receive the Greater Lynn International Exhibition's "Best Domestic Animal" medal for five consecutive years. She earned the Proficiency distinction (PPSA) in 2002 and the Excellence distinction (EPSA) in 2007. Ms. Stolte has been recognized by the *Federation Internationale de L'arte Photographique* with their AFIAP distinction.

Joanne Stolte joined PSA in 2000, and quickly became active in a variety of areas: serving as Chair of the PSA Photojournalism Division; the PJD representative on the PSA Uniform Practices Committee; Chair of the PSA Membership Retention Committee; Director of the Introductory Color Projected Image Division Competition for Individuals, and *PSA Journal* News Editor for CPID. These efforts earned her the PSA Early



*Opossum Baby in Tree Fork*

Achievement Award in 2003, the Joseph P. Fallon, Jr. Memorial Award in 2004, and she was elected an Associate in the Society (APSA) in 2007. She has earned two PSA Editorial Silver Stars and is only the seventh person to earn five PSA Membership Stars.

Joanne is currently completing her second term as Membership Vice President serving on the PSA Board of Directors. She created and developed the PSA Region webpages, the PSA New Member Web site (with all its Mentor and Consultant services), the PSA Club Services Web site, PSA Automatic Membership Renewal, the Give the Gift of PSA program, the Show Your Stuff Gallery for renewing first year members, numerous items for the PSA Region Directors to use for the acquisition and retention of members, and expanded the PSA

Membership Regions beyond North America. Under her initiative PSA membership, which had been declining, has increased 17%.

Joanne has held positions in the Glendora and Pomona Valley Camera Clubs, and is presently a member of Exploring Light where she is the PSA Nature Interclub Chair. She has been President of the Southern California Council of Camera Clubs (S4C) since 2002 and has been General Chair of the S4C International Exhibition since 2001. For her extensive service to S4C, she was awarded an Honorable S4C in 2008.

A sought after image evaluator, Joanne has judged for numerous PSA-recognized International Exhibitions including the Southwest, Circle of Confusion, Grand Canyon, Wilmington, Arizona Photographic Society, Welsh Federation, S4C, and Desert Camera Club exhibitions. In California she judged the Antelope Valley Fair in 2006 and the Riverside County Fair Date Festival in 2009.

*Elk Yearling Nursing*



*Wolf Frog Catch Lesson*



Red Fox Nose to Nose



## ARTIST'S STATEMENT



*Nothing gives me more pleasure than being at the right place at the right time to come across or wait for a situation, activity, or behavior I can photograph to share with others. Whether I am traveling around the world, attending an event, or waiting for an animal to make just the right move; I feel a level of excitement and total involvement that I do*

*not find in any other aspect of my life.*

*I can remember the great shots "that got away" because I was not ready and that encourages me to further develop the patience and fortitude that are needed to capture completely uncontrollable subjects and situations. It is the anticipation that I find exhilarating and, when I am fortunate enough to actually record an exceptional story, the adrenaline rush is intoxicating. I know it when I am able to get "the shot" (a baby racoon looking up while eating a colorful apple) and for me the search has become a habit. I am addicted to trying to achieve superb images and the totally alive feeling I get during the process.*

She evaluates images and provides constructive commentary for one or two clubs each month.

Early in her professional career she applied for and received research grants from the National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Education. In 1983 she moved from Philadelphia to southern California to work in the emerging Intraocular Lens (used in cataract surgery) industry. In various Marketing positions she developed programs and trained sales representatives to provide added value services for physician customers. In 1987 she formed Practice Development Resources, a consulting firm addressing the strategic planning needs of ophthalmologists and corporations providing products and services to ophthalmologists.

In 1999 Joanne accidentally found a local PSA-member camera club and within two months she was participating in S4C competitions and volunteered to chair the S4C Exhibition. She had taken pictures since she was seven years old and would study postcards and photography books to try to improve her images. Through the camera club she had the opportunity to explore studio portraiture, still life, and macro photography, among other topics. Her techniques became refined through club programs and field trips. As she began exhibiting, she stopped taking new business clients; and, as she increased her volunteer efforts, she cut back on her business commitments.

Joanne now uses her home office for photography projects (scanning and refurbishing family prints) and all her service activities. She works twelve-hour days and has simply shifted from her passion for ophthalmology to her passion for photography.



*Black Bear Cinnamon Cub*

## TECHNIQUE

Photographing young animals in a natural habitat takes a combination of an ideal location; knowledge of the adult and young animal's behavior and preparation for the anticipated weather, environment, and terrain. Additionally, one needs to hope that the herd, flock, colony, etc. was sufficiently strong to produce an abundant new generation and that the light will be exceptional. Joanne has found that participating in nature photography trips and animal model shoots with a naturalist (e.g., Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris) increases the likelihood that the necessary elements will be as close to optimal as possible. After taking several nature photography trips (e.g., Churchill for polar bears, Galapagos Islands for indigenous species, Falkland Islands for penguins, and Africa for the "big five") Joanne has gained insight and refined her techniques so that she can make the most of a day at an animal park or shooting pelicans on the California coast.



*King Beak on Chick*

To photograph young animals, Joanne carries two digital camera bodies (presently Canon® 20D and Canon 40D); the 20D with a short telephoto lens (Sigma® 18-200 IS) and the 40D with a long telephoto lens (Sigma 150-500 IS) on the lightweight Gitzo® 1228 tripod with a Kirk® head. The majority of the time she uses the long lens, but with the short telephoto always ready, she can capture an animal as it approaches or as she is able to move closer to the animal.

*Leaving the Snow Den*



*Porcupine Baby Eating Hawkweed*

