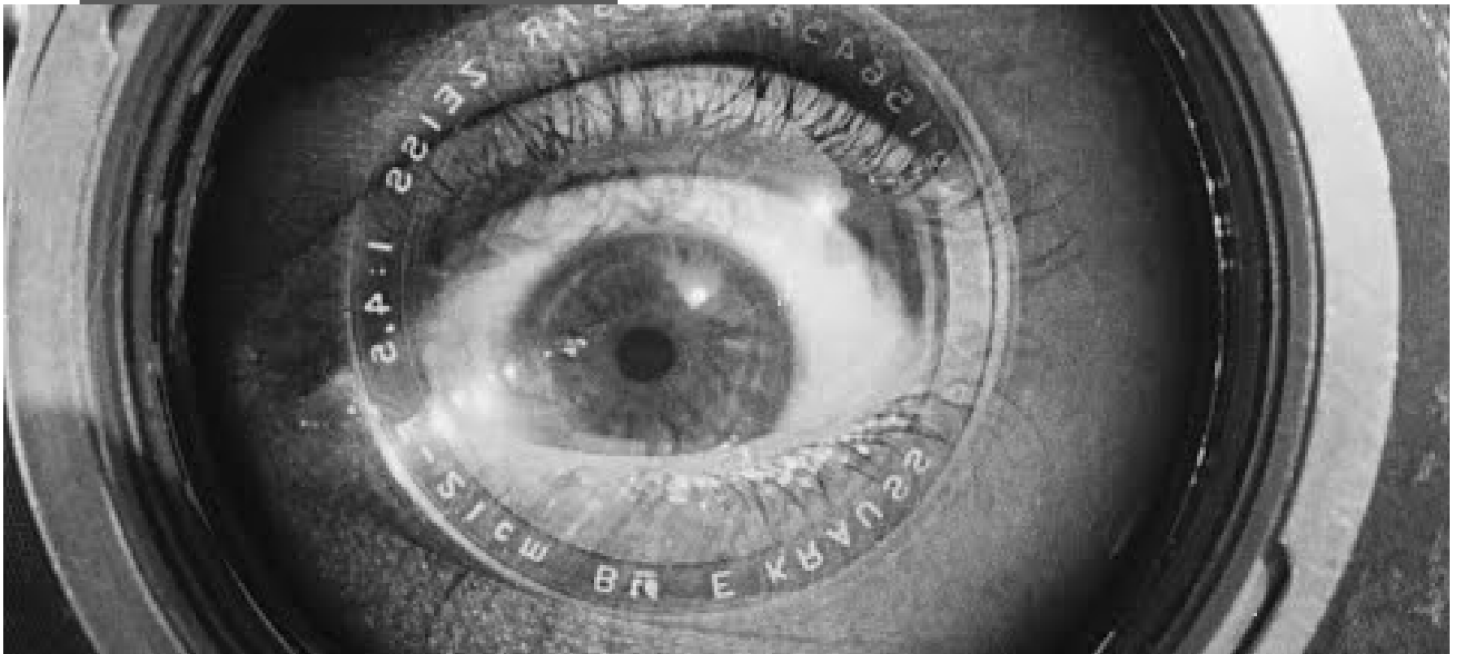


FALL 2022

# A WORKING NEWSLETTER LENS



*Newsletter of  
Class Conscious Photographers*

# FEATURE

## EVICTING WOOD STREET



By Eric Nomburg

**Residents of Wood St, 2022. The resident in the center is being evicted from the encampment. His fellow residents are dismantling the structures themselves in order to ensure that all of his belongings are stored safely.**  
By Eric Nomburg

I went to both Wood Street and the 12th Street homeless encampment to photograph the evictions.

My presence documenting the residents would possibly help reduce aggressive behavior and apathy previously shown by the authorities. They would have to act more cautious if people with cameras were present.

To make images convey a sense of storytelling I got to a stage of familiarity with some of the residents. They all have unique stories to tell about how they came to live there.

To gain their trust, I attended some of their meetings and helped move debris. There was a cleanup underneath a highway pillar. Caltrans agreed to clear the garbage away if it was moved to a designated place. I put my camera down and put on gloves and helped clear the pile.

An eviction happened on the northern end of Wood Street. Garbage trucks disposed of belongings, bulldozers razed structures, and cars were towed.

One structure was torn down by the residents themselves. A resident targeted for eviction asked for their help. He accumulated a lot of stuff and had



**Residents of Wood St, 2022. They are being evicted from the encampment  
By Eric Nomburg**

very little time to move it all away. He was also told that he had a space to move his RV into and a new storage locker.

The Wood St. community is willing to work with the city of Oakland and other agencies. The debris cleanup was just an example. They wanted to prove that the community themselves have the ability to deal with their housing issues. John Janosko, Jaz Colibri and others at the Wood Street Commons said they knew all the people of the entire encampment. They have strong ideas such as having the social services that deal with the homeless go directly to the encampment. It would avoid having the residents navigate throughout Oakland. Some have no cars to get to the appropriate offices and others struggle with mental disabilities.

They collectively came together and won a temporary restraining order to prevent some evictions. But, it eventually came to an end. The City of Oakland, Caltrans and the BNSF Railway provided the court with enough collaboration to begin eviction. "There is no constitutional right to housing," Judge William H. Orrick said. Emotionally distraught, all of the residents now have to deal with the eventual demise of their space but not their community.

The residents of the Wood St. Commons have begun to organize with help of concerned volunteers and civil rights lawyers. They are setting up a bike ride fundraiser to Sacramento to protest at the Capitol.

# VIEWPOINTS

Images from our members



UFW President Teresa Romero tells marchers that the governor won't sign the farmworker voting rights bill, 2022, David Bacon



Port truckers, organizing meeting at a city of Wilmington park, with the ILWU, 1990's, Slobodan Dimitrov



Coalminers March on Paris, *Mineurs de charbon marche sur Paris*, 1983, Jesse Drew



Discarded "help sign" in MacArthur Park in Los Angeles, CA. According to the Greater Los Angeles Homeless count, 69,144 people experience homelessness in the county, Leopoldo Peña



The Visit, 2017  
35mm, digital scan  
Carlos Morales (Ensenada)  
@charlymorse



Palestinian mother and sons walking over the horizon in Jerusalem, Joe Hakim Najib



Olivia Bronx  
@westindiesnyer



Confrontation at a Roe v. Wade rally in Cleveland Ohio on 14 June 2022, Ronald Orlando



Farmworker March, Sacramento, 2022, glenda drew

# HISTORY & POLITICS

Connecting with the History of Revolutionary Photography



Olivia Bronx  
@westindiesnyer

**By Olivia Bronx**

Not knowing what to expect at Cobb on Wood, I exit my vehicle taking in the scene of chaos, confusion, heartbreak, unanswered questions and anger. The residents of Cobb On Wood are being evicted from the only place they felt comfortable to call home. Police officers sectioned off different parts of the street bulldozing home structures that were made out of pieces of wood and shoveling their property into garbage trucks, leaving the residents little time to scramble together their belongings. Being shocked and appalled by what I was seeing, the heartache from the residents begging for the police to stop the eviction only ignited the anger in me, reminding me of how unfair the housing system was when it came to my own housing issues in the past. Unfortunately, it was nothing on this level. A mutual friend of Cobb on Wood invited me to document the residents in their fight for housing security. "There is no security in temporary housing! How can you expect us to leave if there isn't a real plan?!?" Jaz, a resident from Cob On Wood shouted at a group of cops during a standoff. That's a valid question. So why hasn't the city responded with more solid answers?

# THE DARKROOM

Silver Efex Pro-  
A Program for  
Black & White  
Photographers

By Onaje Benjamin



Photo taken at protest by SNUG (guns spelled backwards), an organization in Poughkeepsie, NY addressing gun violence  
By Onaje Benjamin

Upon my retirement a few years ago, I found myself reminiscing years past when I was deeply involved in street photography. In my creative absence, the world became digitalized and though still around, film photography has gone the way of vinyl records and audio tapes. Admittedly a person with a serious case of Gear Acquisition Syndrome, my venture into purchasing a camera introduced me to the world of digital photography.

Though initially impressed with the clarity that comes with high pixel sensors, I found myself adrift in editing software reviews exclaiming the wonders of Artificial Intelligence and magical levels that can make things appear, and more importantly; disappear! But as I delved into one instructional video after another

and began to view my images on the monitor, I realized that I longed to return to creating monochrome images. While all editing software programs I experimented with had the ability to convert files from color to black and white, these programs seemed to approach monochrome editing as an afterthought. A dear friend, who still worked in film and old-school print developing, is a dedicated monochromatic photographer. Though resistant, he has been prompted to enter the digital world of photography. A few years ago, he mentioned an editing software plugin created by the Nik Collection called Silver Efex Pro.

Silver Efex Pro (version 3) is a plugin dedicated totally to exploring creative editing from a totally monochromatic



Photo taken at protest by SNUG (guns spelled backwards), an organization in Poughkeepsie, NY addressing gun violence  
By Onaje Benjamin

perspective. The Silver Efex Pro controls and lever provide a wide range of options for enhancing black and white images. Though not the nostalgic darkroom days of chemical, trays, muted lighting and timers, the ability to move through a full range of editing programming dedicated to defining contrast and integrating the myriad of tones and shading which make black and white photography communicate the visual stories and maintain its place in the field of creative arts, is a pleasure.

Silver Efex Pro 3, is a powerful tool for the photographer dedicated to creating monochromatic imagery. Historically, monochromatic images have been the standard in documentary, historical and street photography. This is especially true for those photographers who work within the realm of socially conscious

photography which seeks to communicate the powerful and intense images that visually capture the fault lines along which social change and political discourse are conveyed.

I have been able to use the Silver Efex Pro 3 plugins work with Lightroom Classic, Capture One & Adobe Photoshop. Silver Efex Pro also includes a range of film grain simulations and presets. There is also a control points feature which allows the user to “burn” and “dodge” and accurately integrate tones, exposures and other variables that contribute to the dynamic range and depth of a monochromatic image.

Silver Efex Pro is the ultimate editing software program for the dedicated black and white photographer.

# VIEWFINDER



Class Conscious Photographers member Abe Menor putting up a temporary photo exhibit on a boarded-up shop in San José, 2020  
By Sharat G. Lin

## WHO WE ARE

Class Conscious Photographers is a project for helping the work of socially-conscious photographers. Images have the power to help working people understand their world and its power relationships, and to appreciate their own power and movements for change. Our perspective is that photography is an important tool for radical social change, if it is produced by photographers who are part of the social movements they're documenting, and if their perspective is to expose the abuse of the system, to show how it can be changed, and by who.

**SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER:**  
[classconsciousphotographers.org](http://classconsciousphotographers.org)

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

This is the first of our newsletters we will be producing, in order to better present the work and aims of class-conscious photography. Our newsletter will come out quarterly so make sure you sign up to be on our newsletter list! Let us know if you would like to join us in our meetings, to discuss photography and share your work!

Our group meets monthly on Zoom, and we share images, give presentations on events and artists from photographic history, share technical knowledge, and discuss practical, historical and theoretical concerns related to the politics of class-conscious photography. We have had numerous photo shows in public spaces in the last few years, centered on the working conditions of "essential" workers during the pandemic, as well as the current housing crisis we currently face. We currently have around 60 members in our group, ranging from Northern and Southern California, to Ohio, NY, Mexico, and beyond. Come join us if class-conscious photography is what you do!