

Group Name: Exploring Your Creativity

Facilitator: Gail Bingham

Group Size: 6 in addition to the facilitator

Skill Level/Other Requirements: Participants should have sufficient mastery of their equipment and the software they use that technical topics are not their principal objective for joining a small group. Participants also are asked to make a commitment to attend all five meetings to build the cohesion of the group, with the understanding that emergencies may arise.

Location: 4713 De Russey Parkway, Chevy Chase MD 20815 (Gail's house)

Days/Dates/Times: 2:00-4:30 pm, tentatively on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every two months (e.g. Sept 17, Nov 19, Jan 21, Mar 18, May 20) *[The group will meet on a weekend afternoon on the months designated, but the specific day will be selected in consultation with those who sign up.]*

Number of Sessions/Frequency: Five sessions (alternate months)

Equipment Needed/To Be Used: None (participants will be asked to bring images on a flash drive and will be displayed on a TV monitor).

Brief Description of Content/Approach: This small group is for people who are exploring their creativity, either to "find their voice," develop a personal style, or try something new in a safe and supportive environment. This group will give members (including the facilitator) the opportunity to share what they are trying to convey in their photography or what they want others to experience, and why... and to learn from others in the group. All styles of photography or photo art are welcome.

The format will be a facilitated conversation. Participants will be given a short exercise to do in advance of each meeting and will share the results at the start of the session with no feedback from the group. For the remainder of the session, participants will be asked to bring a few images to share and will have a few minutes to address any or all of the following three questions to guide group discussion: What am I trying to accomplish? What challenge(s) am I encountering? What would I like from the group? The group then will discuss. The intent is to focus on what each person feels will help them become more creative in their work, rather than on any particular technique. However, constructive critique on technique or composition may be part of the discussion of the images. Participants may wish to share their exploration of a body of work but that is not an expectation. Participants also will be invited (but not required) to share selected short readings or links to art and photography that they have found helpful or that has inspired their work. A reading list assembled by the 2016-17 group will be provided.