

## MAY 2011 GUEST SPEAKER — DARIA DOYLE

Speaker at the May meeting was Daria Doyle, a professional photographer in Baton Rouge, engaging primarily in portrait and wedding photography. She also produces commercial photography projects and has several regular commercial clients, including a local bakery. She also owns and operates Renaissance Gallery along with her husband David. Daria holds a bachelor's degree in graphic design and she has studied fine art, graphic design and photographic art. She learned photography from an early age from her father, photographer Jack Luckett. She has studied art under painter Frank Covino, and she usually approaches her photographic commissions from an artistic point of view.

All of her work is accomplished with digital cameras, digital scanners and related equipment, and she relies on Adobe Photoshop and Corel Painter for editing work. She studies painting's old masters for ideas and inspiration, especially for period effects and historical and religious themes.

In all of her photography, including wedding events, Daria prefers to be adventurous, and she shows her clients examples of various effects, such as black and white, sepia tones, and digital hand painting, so that they can consider the possibilities for their end product. She carefully plans her projects and works with her clients to include poses and scenes that will offer creative possibilities for her final images, often a more painterly look and feel that appeals to her subjects. Many of her portraits are commissioned from old photographs that clients wish to have copied or updated. She utilizes digital scanners along with the editing software for restoring, editing and in some cases altering old photographic prints.

In her portraits and other images of people, Daria often engages in some subtle digital "plastic surgery," by slightly altering an original image to flatter her subjects. Portraying a subject in a two-dimensional photographic image without editing can produce a slight flattening effect, sometimes causing the appearance of facial or bodily weight gain. The effect can be lessened or eliminated through editing technique, but one must be careful not to overdo and make the alteration appear obvious. She has also on occasion altered a frown into a smile with Photoshop. She also uses the digital software to blur or alter distracting backgrounds, and even to substitute new ones. Sometimes clients request or insist on such an alteration. Another often utilized technique, especially in group photographs, is substituting a pleasant face from another photograph in place of a frown or unflattering facial expression in the original. Clients inevitably choose the altered images for their final prints.

Daria also has an interest in fantasy art, and she plans a showing later this year of her fantasy art portfolio series. She exhibited some examples of her fantasy art, and demonstrated how she builds a fantasy image step-by-step, usually beginning with a photograph. In some images, she uses a glazing technique with several Corel Painter brush variants to create and build up a faux 3-D effect.

Throughout her presentation, Daria utilized a slide show exhibiting her work. The images were often in series, with either before-and-after demonstrations of her digital editing techniques, or step-by-step progressive images from the original to the final edited result.

By Bob Connell