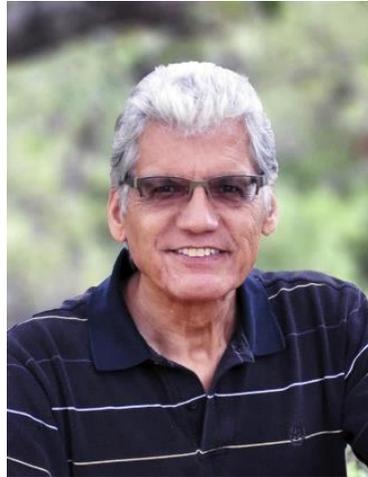


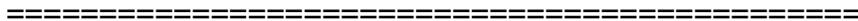
## MEET OUR AWARD-WINNING JUDGES



**Eli Vega**, Photo Artist, is an award-winning and highly published [photographer](#) and author, with over twenty years of experience. His work has been featured in magazines, travel guides, post cards, calendars, and other commercial publications. His photo art was influenced by his three years as a college art major. He has taught photography classes and workshops since 1993. In addition, he has two non-photography college degrees, including a master's in Human Resources Management from the University of Utah. His specialty in the Human Resources field was training & development.

As a former learning and development specialist, he likes to make his courses and workshops engaging, interactive, high-energy and fun. His advice to any photographer is “Be an artist first, photographer second”. His new book, ***RIGHT BRAIN PHOTOGRAPHY (Be an artist first)***, is in its third edition.

Eli offers 3-day photography workshops at Rocky Mountain National Park. His most popular workshop is “Creating An Artistic Eye,” where he teaches how to see with your imagination, not your eyes. He also offers the same workshop at the Ozark Natural Science Center.



**Weldon Lee** is one of America's top wildlife photographers. [His](#) pursuit of wildlife has taken him around the globe to the world's most exotic wildlife locations.

His early work focused on wildlife of the Rockies. *Watchable Birds of the Rocky Mountains*, his first book, depicted a cross-section of avian species found in the Rockies. Erwin and Peggy Bauer, had this to say about his second book, "No region of North America offers so many opportunities for wildlife photographers as the Rocky Mountains. No one has ever described its wildlife and captured their natural beauty so thoroughly as Weldon Lee in *A Guide to Photographing Rocky Mountain Wildlife*."

Weldon's third book, "*Bears of North America*," was released in 2014, and his latest, "*Rocky Mountain Wildlife*," was published in 2016. As one of the editors of Nature Photographer magazine, his images and articles appear in every issue of that publication. Weldon is a charter member of the North American Nature Photography Association.

Weldon is also a member of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers and in 2007 received that organization's Selected Works Award for Excellence in Photography. The American Bald Eagle Foundation honored him as the 2010 Photographer of the Year.



**Geraint Smith** was born in Stanleytown, a small coal mining community in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. In 1978, at the age of 22, [he](#) moved to Los Angeles where he studied cinematography and film but eventually settled on still photography. Following a successful ten year career in commercial photography, he moved to northern New Mexico.

Geraint now resides in San Cristobal, a hamlet, nestled in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico. His knowledge of the American Southwest, and in particular, northern New Mexico and southern Colorado is extensive. Geraint has been traveling the southwest photographing for 35 years. Twenty years ago he started guiding visitors and guests around this place he now calls home and started the area's first official photo tours offering personalized instruction in all aspects of photography including making it fun! He is respected as a photographer and leading expert photo guide in Taos and around the region. Geraint's work has been published extensively in local, national and international publications. His work is collected and hanging in homes from New Zealand to Great Britain, Spain, to almost every state in the USA.