

## RCC Artistic Challenge 2024 “*Our House (Portrait of a Home)*”

*Due Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

*This is a long-term project to allow sufficient time to shoot, organize, edit, and process your images, and to allow ample time to design the output into its final book form.*

### **The Challenge**

To create a photo book that captures the essence of your home — as expressed in pictures — in such a way that evokes what your home means to you. Think of this as creating a “portrait” of your living space. The challenge is essentially a study of your personal space, and how you occupy it. Ask yourself: how do you define your space, how do you see it, and what does your space say about you?

### **Requirements**

- All images must be taken from within your home, or within the boundaries of your property
- Text is allowed, but not required, and can be in any form such as narrative, descriptive, quotations, poems, etc.
- There are no restrictions as to the size or length of the book, but it must be a physical book (or zine, etc)
- Use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is prohibited as is generative fill software

### **Final Output**

The printed book (or other printed format of your choosing, zine, etc)

### **Tips for those participating**

- Keep your camera out and readily available at all times. This is really important.
- Light changes quickly in the home, more so than outdoors. A small window may only get a few minutes of light each day.
- Try to capture the “personality” of your home (your space is a reflection of you)
- Train your eye to look for images, particularly of spaces that are meaningful to you
- Everything in your home is in play: people, pets, plants, furniture, instruments, books, gardens, your yard, basement, attic, your favorite chair, your favorite window. You are free to shoot as much or as little of your “content” as you like.
- The long term nature of this challenge is intended for you to shoot on a daily basis over an extended period of time. Some days will yield more than others, even if you only shoot for 5 minutes a day, make the best use of this time, don’t waste it.
- As you begin to gather images, re-assess the direction your project is heading, looking for themes and styles in the types of images you’re making. Be open to change direction as you progress with the work.
- This is a **creative** challenge, so be **creative**... and express yourself
- And lastly, **Have Fun!**

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**As a final note, the title of this challenge was inspired by the CSN&Y song: “Our House”.**

*Graham Nash wrote this song sitting at the piano in Joni Mitchel's house in Laurel Canyon when they were dating. He wrote the song in about an hour while sitting at the piano as the scene played out before him (Joni placing the flowers in the vase she bought that day etc.). It was a simple, beautiful expression of their home life. What Graham Nash expressed in music with that song, is what we would be attempting to do in pictures. I couldn't describe this project any more simply than that.*

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