

Through My Electronic Viewfinder

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The 2008 Consumer Electronics Show has come and gone. The Photo Marketing Association's 2008 show has come and gone. As I wrote in the last newsletter, I had great expectations for Fujifilm's new S100fs digicam. The spec sheets showed a large sensor (1 over 2/3 inch), a 11 megapixel Super CCD sensor, a new optically-stabilized 28-400mm manual zoom lens, a high quality EVF, a good burst shooting rate, an a new processor that incorporates the 100-400% wide dynamic range and film simulation options found in their excellent S5 Pro DSLR. The camera is a bit heavy and pricey at \$800 but perhaps a good replacement for my aging A200 and D7 digicams.

Or not quite! The camera has made its appearance in Japan, Australia and Europe and guess what? The lens sucks. Sample images are showing a great deal of purple fringing throughout the lens. What a disappointment. You would think that any manufacturer would put a decent lens on its flagship digicam.

Then out of the blue, Olympus produces the smallest DSLR camera, the Olympus E-420. In addition to being an almost pocket size DSLR camera, this camera has a much improved Live View mode using a contrast detection autofocus system for the live view. The camera is being marketed as a step up from point and shoot digicams for amateur photographers wanting better image quality than a digicam in a digicam size package. My first thought on seeing this camera was that Olympus is only one small step away from throwing out the mirror box altogether and replacing it with my beloved electron viewfinder. Will Olympus be the first to produce a true EVIL digital camera or will they cling to the obsolete 20th century technology?

Once again hope springs eternal.

Dick Budnik