



Latow in Focus

Burlington, Ontario

February 2016

The Prez sez...

David Low, President

Reflections and A Challenge!

In the last two issues of *InFocus* we featured a Huffington Post article on the [“Top 30 Most Influential Photographers on the Web”](#). In this column I continue with that exploration with a focus on [#6 Jimmy Chin](#). When you first go to his site and see the photos that scroll the opening page you know you have found something inspiring and magical.

As his website notes: Jimmy Chin lives a life of art and adventure, combining a career as a photographer, documentary filmmaker and a 14-year veteran of The North Face Athlete Team. He has collaborated with, filmed and photographed some of the world’s most progressive athletes and explorers, and shoots for a wide variety of commercial and editorial clients. He has had the cover of National Geographic and his clients include The North Face, Pirelli, Apple, National Geographic and RSA Films.

The trick in terms of discovering those tidbits of advice and information is often digging a little deeper. When you navigate to his [Blog](#) there are a host of high quality articles. Two that I spotted on my visit were a review on editing monitors and *Anatomy of a Shoot - A Weekend in the Tetons*.

When we start rummaging around on the Web we can end up using up a lot of time in fruitless searches or find sites that may have long been known by others. On recent searches through the Internet I found a site with lots of readily available resources which has probably been seen by everyone before, including myself. But when I discovered it anew I thought why have I not been using this resource frequently, that is [Digital Camera](#)



Tower Sunset by **Daniel Cybulskie**. In this edition *In Focus* features some top images from Latow’s Evaluation #2.

[World](#). Some of the titles that came up were: *7 bad photography habits to ditch in 2016*, *52 photography projects: a photo idea to try every week of the year*, *9 creative photo ideas to try in 2016*, as well as Product Reviews and Industry News. There were articles like [10 rules of photo composition \(and why they work\)](#) and a whole list of [Photography Cheat Sheets](#), which included; *Posing, Histogram, and Lighting Lessons*. I don’t know if this was a eureka moment or a rediscovery, but I think there is lots to be learned here.

Another place to learn, explore and be inspired is at our regular (and frequent) Latow meetings and seminars. As always there are a lot of those featured in the annual calendar, which is available for download on [our website](#).

Amongst our many great offerings there are two events that should have some hidden gems of

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information. First on February 2nd there will be a Panel Discussion on "When Does Photography become Fine Art Photography" where the goal is to have members reflect upon their own work and "Raise the Bar" in working towards the next level, however they might define that personally. The session is meant to provoke thought, challenge members to explore their own work, and to engage in a lively and enjoyable session.

The second is the February 16th Panel Discussion on: "The Future of Photography". We have a great panel, one of whom is Yuri Dojc whose work has been exhibited on both sides of the Atlantic and is in museums around the world will be one of those panelists. His pictures are in the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Canada, and the Library of Congress in Washington. I urge you to do a Google search on Yuri Dojc and I'm sure you will not want to miss this session.

And now the Challenge. Without reference to any actual photographs or online resources, in your mind's eye recollection, what are the first 6 images that come to mind, that you recall. Here are the first 6 that come to me right now:

1. An very large elephant with baby beside her with a very menacing look towards the viewer who is too close
2. A polar bear covered in red at a walrus kill
3. A concrete apartment building in Chernobyl being recaptured over time by nature
4. A ballerina bathed in rays of light sitting in an historic setting
5. A pack of snow wolves with one member being disciplined by the leader of the pack
6. An artistic panorama of the Hong Kong harbour.

The list might change on different days, but this is the one for me at this moment in time. All of those images were seen at a photo club meeting or event. Sometimes they are disturbing.

What would your 6 images be? (Without looking at any resources)? What was there about them that made them memorable for you? Are there lessons to be learned from the composition, techniques or subject that could be applied in your own photography? Sometimes the strongest lessons can exist in our own reflections.

Until we meet again,
David.

International Digital Challenge Images Needed

Paul Sparrow

This is just a reminder to everyone to get me two of your best digital images for our International Digital Challenge this year with [Krugersdorp Camera Club](#) of South Africa.

The judging will take place live at the March Digital group but I need your images ASAP this month so they can be sorted and organized to be sent to South Africa.

Again for you new members who are unfamiliar with this international photographic event we submit 30 images to the other camera club and they do the same. Then the total 60 images are judged live in front of both clubs each by a panel of three judges. Not until both scoring sessions are totaled will we know which is the top scoring image overall, which in each club scored the highest and which club is the overall winner.

Images should be submitted at the same resolution as you do for evaluations and e-mailed directly to me at psparrow@cogeco.ca ... and please put "Digital Challenge" in the subject line.

This is always an exciting event with the two judging sessions taking place within days of each other and a real learning experience for everyone.



Together by John Muckle

Members' News

David Low will be participating in St. Catharines Art Association's [Art Lovers Show and Sale](#). David will be introducing his work, a 16 by 60 inch pano titled *Prairie Fire*. The event takes place Feb. 13 to 15 at Hernder Estates Winery, St. Catharines.

This Month . . .

February at a Glance

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Feb. 2 | General Meeting: Panel discussion: Raising the Bar: When does Photography Become Fine Art? |
| Thursday, Feb. 4 | Lightroom workshop |
| Tuesday, Feb. 9 | New Exposures: Bring an image for friendly critique |
| Thursday, Feb. 11 | Studio Group: table-top photography |
| Saturday, Feb. 13 | Outing to the Milton Velodrome |
| Tuesday, Feb. 16 | Panel discussion: the future of photography |
| Wednesday, Feb. 17 | Evaluation #3 entries due! |
| Thursday, Feb. 18 | Basic Camera Skills Workshop |
| Tuesday, Feb. 23 | Photo Art Group: gallery visit and discussion |
| Thursday, Feb. 25 | Board Meeting |
| Saturday, Feb. 27 | Basic camera skills outing |

General Meeting: Feb. 2

David Low

There will be no change in the subject of our February 2nd meeting, but the approach will be altered as our scheduled speaker, Denis Longchamps, is unavailable.

The topic is "When Does Photography become Fine Art Photography" (or perhaps even an abbreviated form of "When Does Photography become Fine Art"). The goal is to have members reflect upon their own work and "Raise the Bar" in working towards the next level, however they might define that personally. The session is meant to provoke thought, challenge members to explore their own work, and to engage in a lively and enjoyable session.

This evening will be presented by a team of panelists consisting of:

Jennifer Bedford - photographer and Photographic

Art Instructor, **Frank Myers** - Editor of *Latow InFocus*, photographer and frequent art gallery visitor with a high appreciation for photographic art, **Keith Marshall** - graphic design background and 2015 Latow Photographic Award Winner; **David Low** - photographer, art appreciator and initiator of the topic; **Joh Friedrich**, leader of the Latow Fine Arts Group, former Latow and CAPA President, with a passion for promoting photography as a Fine Art.

Lightroom Workshop: Feb. 4

Tim Story

For the February 4 Lightroom Group, I will be discussing different ways to import images, both organizing and finding files in the library module and a discussion of the advantages of using multiple catalogs.

New Exposures: Feb. 9

Don Munro

Our 'New Exposures' program provides members with an opportunity to bring images to share for the purpose of getting valuable feedback on how these images can be enhanced.

Thanks for all the great support so far this year. It has been especially gratifying to see so many of our new members participating in this program.

As a result of this enthusiasm, we are asking that you bring just 2 images. We will definitely be able to comment on one of your images, but may not get to your second. Please attempt to arrive a wee bit early and submit your images, stored on memory stick, to Tim Story. Format resolution needs to be 1400 x 1050.

Don and Tim take a light hearted approach to the evening, with the hope that folks who attend will join in the fun and leave with some helpful tips.

Studio Group: Feb. 11

Still Life Workshop

On Thursday February 11 we will demonstrate out-of-the-box techniques that will make your still life photography amazing. Although some post-processing skills are needed, this simple approach is based on the use of non-conventional lighting, manipulation of focus, stacking images, etc.

It's big fun, a mind-opener and a way to unleash your unlimited creativity. More details to follow at our Latow website. This session will be led by NJ.

Velodrome Outing: Feb. 13

Ron Savoline

Our outing at the Mattamy National Cycling Velodrome in Milton is taking place Saturday February 13 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This venue provides the opportunity for many interesting images inside and perhaps outside with a view of the escarpment.

Latow Basic Camera Workshops: Feb. 18 & 27

Bob Melnyk

What is the Exposure Triangle? How do I control Depth Of Field? Is there life after the AUTO setting? Do you have these questions? Do you want to use your camera to its potential and improve your photography skills? All this and more will be discussed at the upcoming Latow **Basic Camera Workshops** for members getting into photography. There will be two workshops.

The **First Workshop** will be a **very basic overview of Photography** with an opportunity to discuss cameras and simple shooting skills. No need to bring your camera, just a note pad and pen. The first workshop will be at the AGB Studio, **Thursday, February 18, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

The **Second Workshop** will be "**Hands On,**" an opportunity to bring your camera equipment and shoot as a group, applying what we learned at the first Workshop. I hope we can go to Palletta Lakefront Park and do some outdoor winter shooting.

This workshop is planned for **Saturday, February 27, 9:00 a.m.** finishing at noon or earlier depending on the weather.

As a Latow member these Workshops are offered as part of your membership at no additional cost. To register, or if you have any questions, please [email](mailto:Bob.Melnyk@latow.org) Bob Melnyk or you can call me at home [905-389-0974](tel:905-389-0974). Closing date for registration is Wednesday, February 10.

Photo Art Group: Feb. 23

Joh Friedrich

On Tuesday, 23 February, we will have our annual gallery visit. We will view and discuss what is in the main AGB gallery at that time. And once again we will derive an assignment from what we have seen. The purpose is to stimulate our creative thought processes to say what the artists have said in their work, using our cameras our own way. I hope to see all of you there.

Annual Photo Weekend: We have a Winner!

Tom Stephens

Seminar speaker David duChemin is a popular man -- we knew that when we invited him for our April event. But ticket sales are breaking records, and Latow members interested in the [Sunday mini-seminars](#) better not procrastinate, or risk disappointment. As of 25 January (when serious promotion has barely started), there are only 9 tickets left for "A Stronger Approach to Travel Photography", 11 for "Portraits of Earth – Stronger Landscape Photography", and 13 for "The Visual Imagination – A Less-Than-Literal Approach to More Emotive Photographs."

Remember these are all limited-seating events, with tickets available by advance purchase only. Since information on the Weekend has been circulated to all 21 GTCCC clubs and to all our past non-Latow attendees, if you snooze, you may lose!

Saturday tickets are also going nicely, and of course members receive a 15% discount on all purchases for yourself. Details will be out soon on the AV Festival presenters. The call for presentations was circulated more widely than ever this year, and presenters who will likely be more varied than ever. Check the [Seminar website blog](#) for updates.



Seminar speaker David duChemin is not only a fine photographer and world traveler, but also a former stand-up comic. Come be inspired, instructed and entertained by David on 16-17 April.

Three-Club Photographic Exhibition

Chuck Burdick

Tickets are on sale for the 2016 Three-Club Photographic Exhibition. The early bird price is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at upcoming Latow meetings from Bill Warren or Chuck Burdick. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$12.

The exhibition will take place on **March 5** at the East Plains United Church (375 Plains Road East, Burlington). There will be two A/V shows – at 8 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Each club will also exhibit matted unframed prints in the church's hall. We will be provided with eight 4 x 8 boards to display the prints. Prints can be any size provided the vertical dimension will easily fit on the 4 foot high boards.

Please provide a list, with the maker's name and print titles, **by February 23** so that labels can be made. Email the list to Chuck Burdick at chuckburdick@crbphotography.ca. The intake of the prints will be on March 1 at the Latow general meeting. Members will be responsible for removing prints from the church hall after the show.

If you have not yet submitted your 1400 x 1050 pixel images for the A/V show to Jason McHattie, please do so **as soon as possible**. All members are encouraged to contribute up to 10 images to Jason using *We Transfer* software. To use *We Transfer*, go to www.wetransfer.com and select the free 2Gb version. Next, input your 1400 x 1050 files, Jason's email address, your email address, and click send. Jason's email address is jmchattie@mac.com.

Volunteers are needed!

Four volunteers are needed at 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on March 5 to help set up the 4 x 8 foot boards and hang the prints. If you have a cordless drill and small bits (1/4 inch or smaller), please bring it with you.

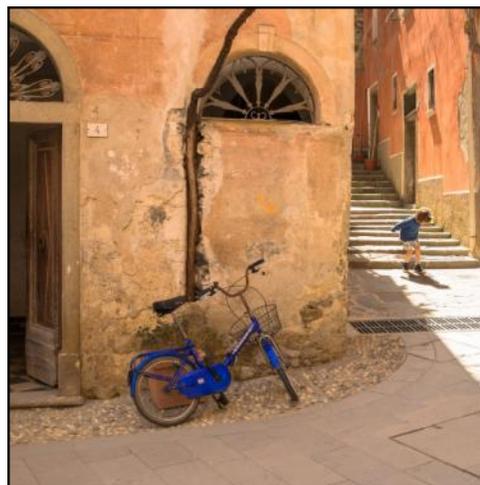
Two volunteers are needed from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. to sell tickets at the door.

One volunteer is needed at 6:00 p.m. to help with preparation and setting out the food in the church hall.

Please sign up with Chuck Burdick by [emailing](#) him your specific interest in helping out.

"Colour is everything, black and white is more."

Dominic Rouse



David duChemin

Evaluations News

Rolly Astrom

First off, we've had great response for our first two Evaluations, especially with newer members. Two hundred and thirteen submissions for the second is the healthiest number we've seen for several years. It's nice to see the club growing with fresh perspectives.

Second: The next Evaluation is a special affair with three highlights: live judging with a panel of three providing instant scoring and feedback; Black and White is an optional theme; and prints may also be submitted for this Evaluation. Any combination of prints and digital adding up to 6 may be submitted. Print entries must also be made on the website, please refer to our Evaluations Regulations download on the Evaluations page for complete information on entering prints. **Feb 17** is the cutoff date for submissions, live judging will take place at our **March 1** meeting.

Finally, changes have been made to Evaluation 4 and Evaluation 5. The optional theme Simplicity/Minimalism is with Evaluation 4. Entries for Evaluation 5 are under consideration for our Annual Awards. Images from earlier Evaluations may be resubmitted (as original, or modified) or entirely new images may be submitted. Prints and digital images may be submitted with a total of 6 combined.

Reminder!

Remember that events may be added or program details may change during the month. Don't rely entirely on this newsletter! Go to the calendar on our [Latow website](#) for the most up-to-date information!

A Day in Havana, Cuba

John Larsen

Over the past couple of years, my partner and I have made trips to Cuba to get away from the Canadian winters. Our preference is to stay in remote locations to avoid the crowds at larger resorts.

This year we decided to stay in Jibacao which allowed us to continue to enjoy a smaller resort and yet it was only about an hour's drive to the capital city of Havana. Prior to our departure, we made arrangements to go with a local tour guide, Anthony, in his 1955 Chevrolet after reviewing feedback from various on-line sources. His first language is English and he allowed us to customize our tour.



Our first stop was the Havana Club Rum museum located near Old Havana. After a significant wait the tour was brief and disappointing in that it only allowed for viewing of a mock facility with poor lighting. We had anticipated a tour of a working distillery.

A short drive brought us to Old Havana. Almost as soon as we exited the old taxi we were faced with an ongoing photo shoot as a fifteen year-old was having her photos taken by a photographer with an assistant and stylist! This was part of her birthday celebration known as "quinceañeras" where young Cuban ladies turning fifteen celebrate a coming of age.



As we continued through Old Havana, the poor conditions were apparent as most apartments and small shops did not have glass windows and have a run-down façade. Classic cars scoured the streets.

Within a few blocks the Plaza Vieja was an unanticipated sight as the buildings encompassing the perimeter have been refurbished as a significant UNESCO project. Unexpectedly, a gallery overlooking the square hosted an exhibition of photos by National Geographic



photographer, Steve McCurry, which we promptly visited. As I walked the stairs from the gallery the entrance to the "Laboratorio Fotografico" stared me in the face. It reminded me of the hours I used to spend in the darkroom...

The central location of a micro-brewery allowed us to take a break to enjoy a local beverage and beautiful weather while listening to live music. During our conversation I reminded Anthony that I would still like an opportunity to take photos of more classic cars. He readily replied with a wide grin, "Don't you worry!"

As we exited old Havana to our awaiting Chevy taxi, the parking lot was filled with classic Cuban cars-this was the photo opportunity I had been waiting for!



Most of these cars are not mechanically original. The Cubans have to make use of whatever they can obtain and most of these classic cars are powered by Russian and Chinese-built diesel engines. What Cubans lack in resources they make up for with ingenuity.

A short drive to New Havana provided another opportunity to photograph more classic taxis as they converged in a parking lot surrounded by new governmental buildings.



We all agreed that we would prefer to return to our resort via a scenic route through smaller towns and villages allowing us to see rural Cuba and experience some astounding passing maneuvers and near misses with tractors, buses, cars, people and animals alike!

Whazzup: Exhibits & Competitions

Compiled by [Tom Stephens](#) (who will gratefully receive suggestions)

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

- Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: [World Wildlife Photographer of the Year](#), continues to 20 March.
- Aga Khan Museum, Toronto: [Doors Without Keys](#), impressive more-than-full-size images of doors by Iranian photographer Abbas Kiarostami, through 27 March.
- [McMaster Innovation Park](#), Hamilton: 19th Exhibit runs to 10 March. Several Latow members have work in this show.
- Ryerson Image Centre, Toronto: [The Light Inside: Wendy Snyder Macneil](#), Photographs and Films, through 10 April.

Upcoming External Competitions* & Juried Show Calls

- [Photolife Showcase](#): "Summer Dreams" closes 15 March, "Celebration" 15 May.
- Art Gallery of Burlington: [All-Guild Juried Show](#), 23 April – 22 May. Intake Tuesday, March 8 with absolute cut-off 7:15 p.m. Details in upcoming e-blasts, newsletters and announcements at Latow meetings.
- [International Salon of Print and Digital Art Photography Varna](#) (Bulgaria) 2016: Deadline 3 May.
- [CAPA](#), Digital: "Creating Motion In a Still Image," Deadline 1 Feb.
- Photolife, The [Best of Photo Clubs](#) Just for photo-club members: submit up to 3 images to be considered for publication in the June/July 2016 issue of *Photo Life* and on [photolife.com](#). Submission deadline is 15 March.
- Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, UK: [International Garden Photographer of the Year](#). Submissions accepted starting 14 Feb; various deadlines, e.g., Monochrome – 31 March; Macro – 1 April to 30 June.

* Limited to contests that do not require you to give up your rights to your images. For this reason, you will not find any listings here from *Canadian Geographic* or *The Globe & Mail*, both of which frequently hold competitions or issue calls for images.

Always read the *Terms and Conditions* before entering a contest!

**BETTER PHOTOS,
BETTER STORIES.**

LEARN HOW, FROM
DAVID DUCHEMIN



**LATOW PHOTO
WEEKEND**
APRIL 16-17, 2016
Art Gallery of Burlington

INFO & TICKETS:
latowseminar.com

Ethan Meleg coming to Oakville Camera Club

The Oakville Camera Club is hosting Outdoor Photography Canada Contributor Ethan Meleg with his talk *For Love of the Landscape* on Monday February 1 at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Studio Space at Queen Elizabeth Park Community Cultural Centre, 2302 Bridge Road in West Oakville. The guest fee is \$10 and all are welcome.

Marketplace

For sale: B&W 8X 67 mm ND Filter
Best offer.
Contact [David Low](#).

Kaleidoscope – April 23 – 24, 2016

Virginia Stranaghan

Spring Guild Sale

Saturday, April 23 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 24 12 noon – 5 p.m.

Kaleidoscope is an art show with many of the artisans offering work for sale. Many items are one of a kind. The following guilds will be participating: Pottery, Wood Carving, Sculpting, Weaving, Spinning, Photography, Painting and Rug Hooking.

There will also be hands-on activities for the children: Latow will provide opportunities for children to develop a photograph in the dark room.

Please see **Glen Jones** or **Joanna Muckle** regarding entry and artwork intake dates and times.

Location: Art Gallery of Burlington, 1333 Lakeshore Rd, Burlington, ON 905-632-7796

See the [Arts Burlington](#) Or [Art Gallery of Burlington](#) websites for more information.



Checking Messages by **Frank Myers**



Firefighter by **Craig Gidley**



Blue Eyes by **Andrzej Pradzynski**



Rain Clouds by **Gerda Wolker**

A word or two from the editor:

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition. The second half of our season is packed with great opportunities for us as Latow members to develop our skills, show our work and get out to practice photography.

If you have comments or suggestions for *In Focus*, please get in touch with the editor **Frank Myers**.

About Latow Photographers Guild

We meet every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. from September to June at the **Art Gallery of Burlington**.

General meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month and other meetings on specialty interests and topics occur on other Tuesdays and Thursdays each month. Board meetings are held monthly at 7 p.m. and any Latow member in good standing is welcome to attend. There are also many field trips and special events that are planned throughout the year, often on weekends.

To ensure that you do not miss any of these great offerings, there is an Annual Calendar, that is frequently updated, on the Latow website at: latow.com. For your convenience a hard copy can be downloaded and printed.

Latow Board

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President | David Low president@latow.com |
| Vice-President | Jim Hamilton jhamilton@sympatico.ca |
| Secretary | Jim Lait laitjames@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Debbie Forbes debbiesforbes@sympatico.ca |
| Directors | Rolly Astrom astroms@cogeco.ca Tim Story perthwa1980@gmail.com Nichala Cutts nichalasphtography@gmail.com Joel Waterman rushbury_valley@yahoo.com Andrzej Pradzynski a.pradzynski@cogeco.ca |

Group and Activity Coordinators

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
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| Arts Burlington | Keith Marshall David Low | kimarshall@cogeco.ca president@latow.com |
| AV Festival | Paul Sparrow | psparrow@cogeco.ca |
| B & W Group | Don Mallory | imagineallorv@gmail.com |
| CAPA | Virginia Jamieson | vjnumbers@gmail.com |
| Christmas Potluck | Nichala Cutts | nichalasphtography@gmail.com |
| Christmas Sale | Virginia Stranaghan | virginia@vasphotography.ca |
| Communications and Newsletter | Frank Myers | fmyers4@gmail.com |
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| Evaluations | Rolly Astrom Chuck Burkick | astroms@cogeco.ca chuckburdick@CRBphotography.ca |
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| GTCCC | Tom Stephens | tom@tomstephens.ca |
| Juried Show | Glen Jones | gjones76@cogeco.ca |
| Kaleidoscope | Virginia Stranaghan | virginia@vasphotography.ca |
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| New Exposures | Don Munro | 98benz@gmail.com |
| NFRCC | David Low | president@latow.com |
| Outings | Ron Savoline | ronsav@cogeco.ca |
| Photo Art Group | Joh Friedrich | johfried@sympatico.ca |
| Program Committee | Jim Lait | laitjames@gmail.com |
| Studio Group | Andrzej Pradzynski, Dave Fernandes | a.pradzynski@cogeco.ca david.nandes@gmail.com |
| Three-Club Evening | Bill Warren Chuck Burdick | wwarren5@cogeco.ca chuckburdick@CRBphotography.ca |
| Volunteer hours | Ort Baldauf | omnione@hotmail.com |
| Website | David Walther | daw4063@hotmail.com |

