

IN FOCUS

May-June 2020

Newsletter of the Latow Photographers Guild Burlington, Ontario

Latow donates \$1,000 to Leah denBok

Frank Myers

At our Street Photography meeting on February 11 photographer Leah denBok made a very moving presentation showing her street portraits of people experiencing homelessness.

Since the age of 14, with the assistance of her father Tim, Leah has been documenting the plight of people on the streets of Toronto, Hamilton and other cities.

Now 19, Leah is in her second year studying photography at Sheridan College.

Like many of our evenings featuring speakers, we opened this evening to the public and the Latow studio was full to capacity.

Leah's efforts have drawn much attention in the media and elsewhere. She has published three books of her photographs, donating all proceeds of book sales and speaking engagements to various charities.

The reality is that her work is expensive and her family has been covering most of her costs. The Latow Board decided to help, approving a donation of \$1,000 to be spent as Leah and her father see fit to support her efforts on behalf of people experiencing homelessness.



On March 5 President James Elliott presented Latow's cheque to Leah at the opening of her exhibition at Kitchener City Hall. With James and Leah are Street Photography Group coordinators Monique Campbell and Frank Myers.

Latow International Audio Visual Festival moves to October

Paul Sparrow

As you know the Covid crisis has postponed the Latow Photography Weekend with Kas Stone until 2021 and as a result this year's Latow International AV Festival could also not go ahead as planned.

It was originally thought that we would just do an online presentation of all the AV Festival shows to get them released during 2020. However an online-only presentation can't really do the shows justice, and in cooperation with the AGB, we have been able to reschedule the full public presentation for the fall.

This special presentation will now take place on our regular meeting night of **Tuesday, October 6** in the combined Shoreline/Rotary room and will be exactly as was planned this spring however with one major difference: there will now be no charge to take in the shows.

So this will now give you the perfect opportunity to experience these amazing presentations from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Northern Ireland, Australia, the UK and Canada as was originally planned on the big screen with surround sound.

So put the October 6 date aside and let your friends, fellow photographers and anyone else you know about the re-scheduled date. I'll keep you up to date as we approach the date and this will be contingent on the AGB being back up and running by then with distancing restrictions at that time allowing for it, but if all goes well (a good reason for all of us to still keep up the restrictions) this will be a wonderful start to our new season.

Message from the President

James Elliott

How are you coping?

If you're anything like me, you have longed to have the time to take those multitude of images, perhaps saved with numerous file naming conventions and stored on a variety of hard drives, and organize them into a coherent, easily searchable collection. And then mine that collection for those hidden gems you know are just waiting to be brought to life.

Or perhaps, like myself, you've been looking forward to having an opening in the schedule that allows for an uninterrupted viewing of Annie Leibovitz's online Masterclass!

But, if you're anything like me, none of that has happened during this unprecedented

lockdown. My mood has been more along the lines of "Wake Me Up When COVID-19 Ends" (apologies to Green Day)!



Micheline Godbout

Fortunately, Latow has stepped up to battle these dark clouds. I was crushed to have to cancel the Photo Weekend. I love photography presentations and workshops! Luckily the Program Committee was undaunted. Even with Tom Stephens marooned in Casablanca, he and his team came through big time. The April 14th online session with Kas Stone, who had been booked for the Photo Weekend, was fantastic. The peek behind-the-scenes of her creative process was very inspiring. Just what I needed. It was the perfect teaser for her rescheduled appearance at next year's event!

The Latow Members FaceBook page has exploded with images. Quite frankly I'm having trouble keeping up! But what a great diversion. Looking through the amazing images certainly gets the ideas flowing.

It's also great to see the initiative that individual members are taking as they remain locked indoors. Micheline Godbout sent me a great shot of tulips. The tulips had arrived as a thank you gift with their dog food order!

Attendance and participation in our online events has me thinking that perhaps we should keep them going after this is over!? These get togethers have got me thinking, we might just make it through after all.

Maybe it's time to see what's on this dusty hard drive.

Election Results from AGM Tuesday May 5th, 2020

Joyce Munro, for the Nominating Committee

This year three Directors, Johnny Larsen, Martin Renters and Tom McCormack, are leaving the board. We very much value and acknowledge their contribution to our guild and thank them for their efforts, especially for the many long hours spent attending board meetings!

The nominees to fill the vacancies, Keith Marshall, Micheline Godbout and Bill Stafford, were all confirmed at the AGM on Tuesday May 5th, 2020. Additionally, James Elliott was confirmed as President for the second year of his two year term.

Sincere thanks goes to each of these keen and supportive members for stepping up to fill these vacancies in the Latow Board. The leadership provided by each of our board members, both past and present, is greatly appreciated.

What's happening in May and June?

Evaluations and Annual Awards

Toni Browning

The results for Evaluation #4 will be presented via ZOOM on **Tuesday May 12**. So watch out for your invitation by e-blast from James (our President) to attend the meeting. There were 149 entries.

The entries for the annual awards are due on **Wednesday May 13**. And the results will be presented on Tuesday June 2.

Guidelines for entering this year's Annual Awards are on page 4.

New Exposures: May 19

Don Munro

With our ever-changing times and with the year drawing to an end for Latow, we still have the opportunity to enjoy one last New Exposure evening via Zoom.

On May 19 at 7:30 p.m. we will sit in the comfort of our homes and enjoy sharing what we like and how the image might be improved.

Please send your images to Tim Story

perthwa1980@gmail.com

Image size: 1920 x 1080

You will receive an invitation via e-blast form our President with the information needed to join our Zoom meeting.

May & June at a Glance

(All events are online to end of the season)

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Tues. May 5	Annual General Meeting: Board election, Guest speaker Tim Story	
Tues. May 12	Evaluation #4 results	
Wed. May 13	Cutoff date for Annual Awards entries	
Tues. May 19	New Exposures: send in an image for friendly critique	
Thurs. May 21	Board Meeting: members are welcome to attend	
Tues. May 26	New Look for Three Oldies: pick 3 oldies not seen at Latow, apply your new processing skills, tell your story behind each.	
Tues. June 2	Annual Awards presentation	
Tues. June 9	Studio Group: show and tell	
Thurs. June 18	Board Meeting: members are welcome to attend	
See you in September, hopefully in person!		

New Look for Three Oldies - Never Shown Before

Jim Lait

This is a chance to go through your archives, find those hidden gems and apply your new editing skills. So dig into all those photos sitting quietly on your hard drive, find three that resonate with you, bring them to life, share and tell their story on Tuesday, May 26.

If you like, you can show before and after versions. For an added challenge, try to find ones that have not been shared before at the club.

Please send your 3 picks (before and after optional) to Jim Lait laitjames@gmail.com by 5:00pm on Tuesday May 26th. Unfortunately due to time constraints, only the first 20 participants with submissions will be able to be shown. So it is best to get your entries in early.

Image size should be a minimum of 1920x1080 for best results...larger is fine.

Please note that I will confirm receipt of your images. Please contact me if you do not get confirmation by 5:00pm, May 26th.

Any questions, please contact either Jim Lait or Tom Stephens tom@tomstephens.ca.

Studio Group News

James Elliott

Get ready for Show & Tell! On Tuesday June 9, starting at 7:30 p.m. we'll be holding our annual Show & Tell event for the Studio Group. This year it's online!

Members are asked to send three of their Studio images from this year to president@latow.com.

Maybe they're your favourite three, maybe you have something that's a work in progress and would like some constructive input or maybe you have one that just makes you laugh! It's up to you.

Plus, bring your ideas for next year. Hopefully we are back in the Studio! What sessions did you enjoy from this year and would like to do again. What is something new you'd like to see. Any ideas for an online session or two (just in case)?

Let's make it a fun evening. Everyone is welcome!

Latow Annual Awards for 2019-2020

Entries must be submitted by May 13, 11.59 p.m.

They must be submitted on line on the www.Latow.com website. No Prints will be accepted this year due to Covid-19.

4 Images are allowed per member. The images must have been submitted during the previous 4 evaluations of the current year.

Images should be 1920x1080 pixels.

The judging panel will consist of 3 judges. The images will be judged online, using the "Thumbs Up" feature on Zoom to establish in/out. All entries that make the 10% cut, will receive an HM added to the Database Summary.

There will be awards for:

- Best Digital Image of the Year
- 2nd Place Digital Image
- 3rd Place Digital Image
- Joe Gaudet Award Top Monochrome Projected Image
- Bill Warren Proficiency Award, to the top aggregate score through the season in Evaluations 1-4

The Annual Awards results will be presented online during our Zoom meeting on June 2. Good luck everyone!

Members News

John Pingree has been making good use of the downtime during Covid-19. In the LightSpaceTime Gallery 11th annual Abstracts competition his image *Warp Core* took 6th place in the photography category and his *Stained Glass* received a Special Recognition in the photography category.

Also in LightSpaceTime Gallery Cityscapes competition John's image *Chicago River* received a Special Merit award in the photography category and *King Street Revisited* received a Special Recognition in the photography category.

A few Latow members had work accepted in the Dundas Valley School of Art's annual auction, only to learn the event is postponed indefinitely, probably to take place in the fall. Their photographs, along with many other artworks are locked up in the building until the auction is rescheduled. Some pieces have been chosen to be auctioned online in small lots and in the first group **Franca Marazia's** black and white photograph *Bubblemania* was sold. Congratulations Franca!

Viewfinder - Quotes to Inspire You

Annemarie Toth-Waddell

Recently I came across some articles about a new societal trend that not only has an impact on our way of life, but also the type of images we capture. The world is increasingly caught in a digital reverie, perhaps even more so now with Covid-19.

Joel Meyerowitz, a photographer who has captured the life and times of New York City for 50 years, together with his friend Garry Winogrand, sought to explore what he called the "erotics" of the street. Today the things that entranced him about the street are almost dead. Phones have killed the sexiness of the street.

In the 60s and 70s you could look at my street photographs and trace lines from the eyes of people connecting with other people's eyes, setting up these force fields. ... [Now] nobody's looking at each other. Everybody's glued to their phones—Joel Meyerowitz

American photographer, Eric Pickersgill has created a project he calls *Removed* to show our addiction to modern technology. He achieves the surreal effect in his photography by asking strangers and friends he discovers using their devices to pose for him. He then physically removes the devices before taking the photos so they are left staring at the empty space between their hands.

Personal devices are shifting behaviours while simultaneously blending into the landscape by taking form as being one with the body. This phantom limb is used as a way of signaling busyness and unapproachability to strangers while existing as an addictive force that promotes the splitting of attention between those who are physically with you and those who are not – Fric Pickersaill

between those who are physically with you and those who are not – Eric Pickersgill

In another realm of photography, Dafydd Jones, one of Cody



Cody and Erica by Eric Pickersgill

the world's leading social photographers, is often sent to cover some of the world's most glamorous parties and events. Increasingly Jones realized many of his images featured people staring at their phones. "Old people, young people, mothers with children, workmen, cops, cyclists, everyone – in shops, in the street, on the train, in galleries, in bars and restaurants, everywhere."

Jones' collection of images has just been released as a book called *Screen Time* that is full of candid photos of celebrities surrounded by haute couture, fine art and beautiful architecture, who are oblivious to everything, but the hypnotic light of their screens.

In every social situation the smartphone is not only killing conversation, it's changing the way we look at the world – Dafydd Jones

Given our current circumstances, I am holding on to this faint hope that we may be able to loosen our ties to our phones and learn to treasure the joy of human contact and companionship again.

Unless otherwise noted, all images in this column are © the photographer or their estate.

PHOTO TIPS & TRICKS

Check the background! Before pressing the shutter button, have a good look at what's in the scene behind your subject. Look for distracting details: clutter, objects sticking from your subject's head, reflections etc. Repositioning yourself or the subject can greatly improve the shot and eliminate the frustrating work of trying to remove these details during processing the image.

Morocco

Tom Stephens

How's this for irony? Watching the movie *Casablanca*, about people desperate to leave Morocco during WWII, while in a bus headed straight to the Casablanca airport, so that Sue and I and 20 fellow travelers could leave Morocco before pandemic restrictions shut down all air traffic! (We made it home with difficulty, but that's a story for another time.) As it happened, we were just finishing a very rewarding tour of this scenic, friendly and fascinating country. Even the food is wonderful. And our tour company, Gate 1, gets full marks for a super trip at reasonable cost and outstanding support when the chips were down.

Casablanca: The minaret of the Hassan II mosque on the Atlantic coast towers 210 m over the modest residential district between it and our hotel. The largest mosque in Africa with the second tallest minaret in the world (210 m!), it is a trove of beautiful craftsmanship and it can accommodate 25,000 worshippers. It cost €585 million, a lot of money for a lower mid-income country.



Volubilis: not far from the capital Rabat is this Phoenician settlement, dating back to the 3rd century BCE. Those Phoenicians really got around, and they built this town in a fertile valley surprisingly far from the coast. This was the ancient

capital of Mauretania, the empire that gave the Moors their name. The Romans later took over Volubilis; now the main visitors are storks. And tourists.

Berbers: Regarded as the original people of North Africa, who prefer to be known as Amazighs, the Berbers succumbed to Islamic and Arabic influences centuries ago, but they retain a distinct identity in Morocco and elsewhere in the region. This man was our driver as we headed into the desert (in a Toyota

Land Cruiser, not on a camel) for a night in tents on the edge of the Sahara.



Desert: The fabled Sahara, in eastern Morocco near the border with Algeria, with sunset half an hour away. I had been looking

forward to this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to photograph the night sky. If I'd checked earlier, I would not have been surprised by the full moon. It was a beautiful scene anyway....

Marrakech: The city's main square, Jemaa el-Fnaa, is renowned (in tourist literature, at any rate) for its snake charmers, costumed water-sellers, and outdoor eateries. But I preferred the stalls with their local produce artistically arranged. This vendor specializes in dates and figs. Yum! Agriculture employs about 40% of Morocco's workforce.



"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Pablo Picasso

Planning the 2020-21 Program

Latow Program Committee

(Don Munro, Gail Burstyn, Jim Lait, Marguerite Botting, Tom Stephens)

President James mentioned at the AGM that we have started working on the Guild program for next year. We want to share some of our thinking about that and ask for your input.

The Zoom meetings we've held so far have been pretty successful, judging by attendance and the general level of discussion and questions. We've had two guest speakers, several sessions with members contributing images, and an Annual General Meeting. Soon, we'll have the presentation of Evaluation results.

Nobody knows where we'll be in September in terms of physical distancing, but we expect that, even if restrictions are eased, many members may hesitate to spend their discretionary time in a crowded room for a few hours per week. So here's the approach the Program Committee is taking: we will plan a full program starting in September, complete with guest speakers, Studio and Darkroom sessions, and all the other familiar program elements.

In addition, we will arrange a live Zoom meeting whenever feasible. This will give members a choice about whether or not to attend in person, and it will give us a contingency plan in case restrictions are imposed again. Granted, not all our evenings are amenable to a Zoom presentation and this is especially true of the Studio and the Darkroom, but the group leaders are considering how it might work.

This is a brand-new approach for this new world we are in, and we welcome your reactions to it. We also welcome suggestions for guest speakers, Why & How topics, themes for sharing images à la "My Three Favourites" or "Three from the Archives." Contact any one of us, or programs@latow.com.

Some Links for Online Learning, Amusement, and Productively Killing Time During a Pandemic

Compiled by Tom Stephens

A photography course offered by the Museum of Modern Art in NYC (free): https://www.coursera.org/learn/photography

Newsletters from National Geographic via email, with a lot of great photography. Sign up at https://www.nationalgeographic.com/newsletters/signup?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=Travel 20200428&rid=FF780871DC32E84530FAD2EB8C6E36BE

Visual Wilderness newsletters for nature photographers – good quality free instruction on a wide range of topics, by 2014 Latow Weekend speakers Varina and Jay Patel, two excellent instructors. Paid courses also offered. Check it out and sign up: https://visualwilderness.com/

Contact Sheet, a twice-monthly email from David duChemin: well-written, thoughtful and free. And frequent deals on books and courses. David was our Seminar speaker in 2016. Sign up here: https://craftandvision.com/pages/about

Photostories and more, from the National Film Board of Canada.

And for art more generally, not just photography -- National Gallery of Canada: https://www.gallery.ca/virtual-ngc

Ryerson Image Centre. Browse their extensive collections online: https://ryersonimagecentre.ca/collections/

<u>Home with Olympus:</u> a collection of free tutorials on a wide range of subjects from photographing the aurora to beads of water. Almost all techniques apply to any brand of gear.

Images, Ideas and Reflections, Freeman Patterson's occasional letters. http://www.freemanpatterson.com/newsletters.htm

PhotoLife has done a lot of work for us:

https://www.photolife.com/2020/04/an-online-arts-and-culture-inspiration-list/

Latow's Facebook Group

Frank Myers

The Latow Facebook group seems to be getting a big "like" from Guild members during these weeks when we are spending so much more time at home. Here are some interesting facts and a few personal observations about Latow Photographers Guild Group:

- The group currently has 72 members. With a total Latow membership of 108, that represents exactly two-thirds of our members. It's a good bet that many of the remaining third are not on Facebook, so that's an impressive percentage.
- The group is a benefit of membership in Latow. It's a private group, not open to non-members. It is another way for members to share work as well as interesting stories and articles about photography.
- Posts typically are seen by over half of the group members. That indicates members are looking at the page and it's a pretty good rate.
- Although engagement (the number of "likes" and comments) often seems low, this has picked up with the introduction of weekly image themes. Since a major purpose of the group is to be a venue for sharing and friendly critique, it would be nice to see comments and even simple "likes" increase. Let the maker know you've seen their image and appreciate it by clicking on "like" or one of the other reactions. It's disappointing to see a fantastic image, seen by 40 or more viewers, but getting only a dozen (or less) reactions. If you're looking, let us know what you think of what you see.

If you're on Facebook but haven't joined the group, or if you joined sometime in the past but haven't looked at it lately, check it out. You may find it's a good place to spend a little time.

This week's theme for the Latow Facebook group has been #cityscapes and here are a few of the great images that have been posted in response.



Little Italy, Boston by Ort Baldauf



Eighth Ave. & East 34st Street, NYC by Dennis Martin



Dubrovnik, Coratia by Frank Vajda

Driven to Create

E. Connie Munson

Round and round, and round it goes, And where it stops nobody knows!

And so in the face of such upheaval and uncertainty what do you find yourself doing, what do you notice others doing? How are people managing the vast amounts of time at home, without the regular routines of work and social time?

People are baking, 'cooking from scratch', starting seeds to plant gardens, turning to music, dance, yoga, guided meditations, art, writing, and even turning back to hobbies and childhood passions. Families are walking together, having evening ping pong bouts, and digging out those board games.

There are on-line webinars to take while school is on-line assignments, consults, and projects to complete. You can find free lessons, complimentary kits and downloads for adults and children. Or, check out and join any number of Facebook groups to share experiences and trade information.

People live-stream or Zoom with music jams, hold meetings, attend Open Studios for work with other artists, visit with friends and family on Facetime, and take art lessons or workshops through social media.

Parking Lot Cafes are noticeable where cars are pulled up near each other, windows put down, and, correctly distanced, people can chat in real time over a coffee or tea, maybe even a burger. The need for social contact with others is real and it is being met.

But back to the flowering, so to speak, of all these creative-expressive activities. This is a mass movement rippling across the world of people going inside of themselves, of personal journeys into the centre of being, and the explorations of inner realms.

As above, so Below, As Within, so Without

Perhaps this is a time to turn to the artists and wonder about their experiences of creation. After all, they are used to this arduous process, not unlike the patience and endurance needed when peeling back the layers of an onion, and a process also known to provoke one to tears.

"What am I feeling ,and how is that filtered through my daily existence? Who even cares, where can that energy be expressed, when and how will it manifest, and **why** did I ever think I needed to be an artist?"

This inner probing and plumbing of personal depths that provides the impetus to create requires fortitude and honesty to continue the journey of knowing one's self. It requires space and time, lots of reflective time. And this is where we can learn from the artists, since not all of us might be used to having this much time at home nor to manage it in a mindful and fulfilling manner.

Our collectivity, as shown by our societal infra-structures, the daily routines which govern our lives, the grand backdrop of any one culture's gestalt or ethos, is rarely thrown into our faces as boldly as we are experiencing it today. We are confronting big truths about our effect on the environment with physical excesses and the impact we have on each other through our governments, economics, and social lifestyles.

So like a road map then, these artists' journeys are valuable again, not only for the artists on those paths, but for the clues of hope they offer all of us on how to make meaning out of chaos and find significance in our lives.

Part Two to be continued in September.

Henri Cartier-Bresson - The Decisive Moment

Paul Sparrow

The pioneer of street photography, Henri Cartier-Bresson looked at documenting the human condition and every day life... not as a photojournalist but as an artist with a camera capturing that "decisive moment". He explained his approach to photography in these terms, "For me the camera is a sketch book, an instrument of intuition and spontaneity, the master of the instant which, in visual terms, questions and decides simultaneously. It is by economy of means that one arrives at simplicity of expression."

In this special time where we as photographers are trying to stay creative, I stumbled across a video of Cartier-Bresson describing in his own works how he used the camera along with the many images he made in his career. I invite all members to check it out and think about *your* approach to photography: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=14ih3WgeOLs



Final Approach by Glen Jones



Storm Passes North of Hamilton by Jay Trout

Latow members' advertising

This space is offered **free** to Latow members who wish to advertise their photography-related business to the membership. If you do not have an ad graphic, simply send text.



Let the ink flow! Economical Canvas prints are here!

Gear: Printed on Epson SureColor P6000 printer using Epson Ultra Chrome HD ink. Epson

Exhibition Canvas Satin in stock, others by arrangement.

Uses 24 inch wide rolls so print size limits are: if long edge exceeds 24 inches, 24 by whatever the long edge is. If long edge is less than 24 inches, short edge by up to 24 inches. Free gallery wrap resizing and setup. (Some image dimension allowance required for gallery wrap.)

Why Canvas? No glass and no glass-darkening of the image; no breakages; much lighter and more easily transportable; no reflections; no fingerprints. Anti-dust and anti UV coating. Clear, bright, sharp images.

Stretcher mounting available. If you must, the piece can be framed.

This printer loves work, which eliminates ink clogging problems. Happy to offer economical printing to keep her ladyship running smoothly. Contact: **Mark Emmerson**; 905-849-0014; markemmerson@wellfoundphotography.com

Corby Custom Framing

We provide quality framing with a lightning-fast turnaround and at very competitive pricing.

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We specialize in large orders for artists preparing for exhibitions. We'll work with the artist to achieve the best pricing and delivery possible.

Visit our website <u>www.corbyframing.ca</u> or our <u>Facebook page</u>.

e-mail <u>info@corbyframing.ca</u> or call at <u>905-689-1976</u>The gallery is open daily 9-5 and Saturdays until 3pm. 26 Carlisle Road, Freelton, ON.

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 various interests and topics occur on other Tuesdays and Thursdays each month. Board meetings are held monthly and any Latow member in good standing is welcome to attend. There are also many special events throughout the year, often on weekends.

To ensure 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 of Directors

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