

IN FOCUS

September 2020

Newsletter of the Latow Photographers Guild Burlington, Ontario

Highlights of the 2020-21 Program

Latow Program Committee (Marguerite Botting, Gail Burstyn, Don Munro, Jim Lait, & Tom Stephens)

This upcoming year will be like no other. Yeah, sure, we have a pandemic to work around (and we will – more on that below), but mainly it's because we have a host of attractive guest speakers and a generous selection of evenings with member contributions on a wide variety of topics.

As usual, all the details are laid out on the <u>website</u>, with a downloadable version of the calendar that you can print and carry with you all year. Except that it will be constantly updated with new details so maybe you should save your paper

Here's a few highlights:

- Guest speakers in October (Street Photography), November (Algonquin Park and Rick McKenzie on making composites), February (storm chasing), March (Wayne Simpson on portraiture), April (Street photography), and May (with the AGM)
- The International AV Festival and international challenge in October
- "Why & How" sessions led by members on B+W Photography, Food Photography, and Night-time and Sky Photography
- Four evaluations with great optional themes: backlit (November), motion (January), isolation (March), and freedom (April). (Will we have COVID-freedom by April? We hope so!)



Latow's Annual Awards were presented at our final meeting of the 2019/2020 season in June. **Keith Marshall's** image *It's a Duesy* was named Image of the Year. Congratulations Keith!

 New opportunities for members to share on a wide range of topics: new genres, photo books, "my quarantine view," your ongoing projects, colour to B+W transformations, different formats, triptychs and other collections, golden oldies from the archives, 2020 favourites, and processing treatments. Considering a slide show for your contribution? Paul Sparrow will have guidance on structuring a show early in the season.

As for the pandemic, we will be continuing Zoom sessions throughout the year. Even when we are able to return to the Studio or Rotary Room with more than five people, we plan to livestream the sessions so everyone can still be involved from the comfort and safety of home.

To get the most out of these Zoom sessions, check out the tips that you'll find online: Latow website > Member area > Downloads > Miscellaneous. Look for: *Guidelines for Member Contributions to Latow programs.*

As always, we welcome your comments at programs@latow.com.

"Photography is the simplest thing in the world, but it is incredibly complicated to make it really work."

Martin Parr

What's happening in September?

"Home". What does it mean to you? - Sept. 8

Program Committee

For several years now, we have asked you to share your summer experiences with fellow members on opening night. Usually, this has meant travel-oriented pieces and they have been good fun and greatly varied in past years. A few members sometimes took a different approach to the evening and shared their "staycations." We want to take that idea further this year, and we encourage you to start thinking about it now!



The theme is "Home" and we're adapting a <u>Canadian</u> <u>Geographic magazine</u> contest for this:

In this uncertain time of social and physical distancing amid a

September at a Glance Aug. 26 to Sept. 29 Latow members' show in the Fireside Room at AGB. Tuesday Sept. 8 Opening Evening: members' presentations on the theme "Home". Tuesday Sept. 15 New Exposures: submit your image(s) for friendly critique. Thursday Sept. 17 Board Meeting. Members are welcome to attend. Tuesday Sept. 22 Explorations: Structuring an AV Presentation. Saturday Sept. 26 Burlington Culture Days at the AGB.

Studio orientation.

global pandemic, home has become even more important. It's not just where we spend most of our time; it's where we find safety, balance, creativity and, hopefully, joy. We're looking for a series of photographs that capture your personal concept of home, be it the house you grew up in, a place you visit when you need to rest and recharge, a landmark that makes your community unique, or a person who represents comfort, hope and identity.

Tuesday Sept. 29

For our September meeting, you'll have up to 5 minutes to share your vision of "home". This can be a set of images or an AV show; the only rules are that it be about your vision of Home and no more than 5 minutes. (Whatever your format, please review *Guidelines for Member Contributions to Latow programs*, found on the Latow website > Member Area > Downloads > Miscellaneous.

Please be sure to submit your contribution to <u>Jim Lait</u> no later than 5 pm on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

New Exposures: Sept. 15

Don Munro

With ever changing times and a new year beginning for Latow, New Exposures hopes to be off and running on September 15th at 7:30. We will be able to sit in the comfort of our homes and share some thoughts about your images.

Having said that, I think it is time for another couple of Latow members to take the lead with this program. Tim is taking a well-deserved sabbatical this year and this seems like the perfect opportunity for me to step aside as well and pass the reins to a new New Exposures team. I realize this is short notice, but Joyce and I hope to be travelling for much of September and October.

It would be helpful if one of the team members knows their way around Lightroom. So please give this some thought and if you are interested in fulfilling this role, please contact Don Munro at munro48@icloud.com

So, start thinking about some images on which you would like some honest and light hearted feedback and then look for an e-blast closer to the first meeting for more details.

Explorations: Sept. 22

Paul Sparrow

Structuring a Slide Show

For our first presentation of the year I'm going to be looking at what things to consider when creating an AV slide show. Many times we shoot a variety of subjects but don't know how to put them into a cohesive presentation of images.

I'll look at the most common show types like Travelogues, Pictorial/Abstract, Action, Documentary and Cinematic. Each various "style" often requires a different approach so I'll be showing you how to structure each type based on the content.

Looking forward to seeing you all for our first presentation of the new season.

Studio Orientation: Sept. 29

Attendance is mandatory for all new and returning members wishing access to our studio equipment.

Members who have previously completed the orientation will be able to leave shortly after announcements

Message from the President

James Elliott, President

I blame it on grade school. When I was growing up, summer was spent at the cottage, living in a bathing suit, playing down at the dock, swimming in the lake, building tree forts in the forest and occasionally terrifying Mom with a roundup of bullfrogs. Of course when September rolled around it was back to school and an abrupt end to this idyllic life!

Is it any wonder that I came to dread this time of year? I did myself no favour this year. We enjoyed August camping, some call it "glamping" as we slept in a tin can on wheels, in northern Ontario. But once again the arrival of September brought an epic adventure to an end.

Fortunately Tom Stephens, Jim Lait and crew have been busy arranging awesome activities for all of us to look forward to. While I was frolicking on the shores of Lake Superior, the Program Committee was hard at work organizing an exciting season for Latow.

They have arranged for a number of guest speakers, encouraged continued Zoom meetings for program delivery and have even tested a hybrid meeting setup that would allow for in-person as well as online participation, for when that is feasible.



James exploring the shore of Lake Superior. Photo by Dorothy Barr.

And let's not forget that the April 2021 Photo Weekend features Kas Stone. COVID cancelled her scheduled live presentation last April. But we did have an online evening with Kas in March where she gave us a sneak peak of what she has in store for us. I can hardly wait!

So, if you're like me and see dark clouds rolling in with the arrival of September, check out what's on offer. I think you'll find the sun starting to peak through!

"He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his heart is an artist."

St. Francis of Assisi

A Gentle Nudge from Joyce

Joyce Munro, Latow Membership Coordinator

If you are past due with your AGB and Latow membership renewal, would you please consider contacting our friends at the Art Gallery to take care of this as soon as possible.

As you can well imagine, these are challenging times for the AGB and I know they would appreciate your support right now. If you wish, you can take advantage of the 4 month extension that is being offered, but you must let that be known when you renew.

As well, there are a significant number of members who have renewal dates coming up in September, so may I kindly request that you make every effort to renew before the end of this month.

Many thanks, Joyce

Latow International AV Festival: Tuesday, Oct. 6

Paul Sparrow

The long awaited presentation of the 2020 Latow International AV Festival will be taking place in the Shoreline Room on **Tuesday**, **Oct. 6**.

Because we missed the original presentation in conjunction with the annual Photography Weekend we have decided to make this special presentation free to all. So this will be the chance to see all the 2020 shows from around the world as they were intended, on the big screen with surround sound.

Also the Award for Artistic Merit jointly awarded by the Art Gallery of Burlington and Latow will be given out at the end of the night.

So tell your friends and fellow photographers about this remarkable display of international photography through this unique medium.





Glenn Hubbers' image *La Grande Hermine* took second place in the 2019/2020 Latow Annual Awards.

Viewfinder - Quotes to Inspire You

Annemarie Toth-Waddell

Growth is a spiral process, doubling back on itself, reassessing and regrouping – Julia Margaret Cameron

A member of the Latow Facebook Group recently posted some excellent images that caught my eye as they reminded me of the work done by a pioneering early photographer. For the times, Julia Margaret Cameron's artistic goals were quite new to the medium of photography. She was not interested in the formalized poses common in commercial portrait studios, but instead aspired:

To ennoble Photography and to secure for it the character and uses of High art by combining the real and the Ideal and sacrificing nothing of the Truth by all possible devotion to poetry and beauty – Julia Margaret Cameron

In our travelling days, we were fortunate to be able to visit her home, Dimbola, located near a scenic, isolated bay on the Isle of Wight. It was here that her children gave her a camera to provide her with a diversion since her husband was away on business in Ceylon and her children grown. At the age of 48, she threw herself into learning how to master the steps of producing negatives with wet collodion on glass plates. Amazingly, within 18 months she began to copyright, exhibit, publish and market her photographs and had sold 80 prints to, what was to become, the Victoria and Albert Museum. Three years later she was offered two rooms there to use as a portrait studio, making her the museum's first artist in residence.

She enlisted friends, family and her staff, costuming them to transform them into the figures and ideals she wished to capture in her portraits. Some of her work was not especially admired by fellow photographers, particularly in an age that valued sharpness and technical qualities, however it is now acknowledged



Ellen Terry at Age Sixteen by Julia Margaret Cameron, 1864

some of her work was often imbued with a powerful spiritual content that set her apart from the conventional portraiture of the time.

Her social circle brought her into contact with some of the most prominent people in Victorian England such as Thomas Carlyle, the poet Robert Browning, her neighbour Alfred Lord Tennyson, the actress Ellen Terry, the scientists Charles Darwin and Sir John Herschel. Her female subjects were chosen typically for their beauty and closeness to capturing the ideals of pre-Raphaelite paintings. Ultimately, Cameron's command of chiaroscuro resulted in her producing the most valuable and finest gallery of eminent Victorians in existence.

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By-election Results

Joyce Munro, for the Nominating Committee

In order to fill recently vacated positions on the Latow Board, a by-election was held during a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, August 4. Positions to be filled were those of Treasurer and a Director.

Gerda Wolker stepped forward and was appointed to fill the position of Treasurer. The successful candidate for Director was **Steve Loates**.

We welcome both Gerda and Steve to the Latow Board and thank them for volunteering their time, energy and expertise to our club.

Call for Entries

From time to time we receive calls for entry to photo exhibitions. These are opportunities to have your work juried for potential inclusion in public exhibitions and generally the works included may be offered for sale. Often cash prizes are also awarded.

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (Oshawa) Exposed 2020 juried photography competition is now open! Why Submit to RMG Exposed?

- RMG Exposed is a great opportunity for exposure and networking opportunities.
- The competition is reviewed by a professional and respected Jury.
- All finalists will be included in a preview exhibition installed at the RMG leading up to the auction, as well as in an online exhibition associated with the event.
- Your work will be promoted across the RMG's online channels and have national reach.
- Cash Prizes and a Top Prize of \$1000!

Deadline for all submissions is September 7, 2020 by 11:59pm EDT. Submit your work at: https://www.rmgexposed.net/

More results from the 2019/2020 Latow Annual Awards:



Third place: *Isolated* by **Tori Martin**



Honourable Mention: *Cute* by **Keith Marshall**.





Honourable Mentions: Family Portrait by Marian Adoranti.

Honourable Mention: Father and Son by 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 various interests and topics occur on other Tuesdays and Thursdays each month.

Due to COVID-19 the Art Gallery of Burlington is currently restricting the number of people allowed in meeting rooms. Latow is making all meetings available via ZOOM so that members have the option of participating from the comfort and safety of home.

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

lames Elliott

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