

IN FOCUS

October
2020

Newsletter of the Latow Photographers Guild
Burlington, Ontario

Members are Stepping Out

Frank Myers

The opportunity to exhibit our photographs is a major benefit of Latow membership. Some members, though, take this to another level by entering their work in juried exhibitions and art auctions throughout the region.

Covid-19 caused the cancellation or postponement of many such events this year, but several have been scheduled for the fall months, though at least partially online.

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa is holding its annual photography competition and fundraiser in October. Three Latow members have been selected by the jury as finalists: **Tom Stephens'** image *Mayan Illusions* (aka If the Mayans Had Swimming Pools), **Rolly Astrom's** image *Glowing Fortress* and **Frank Myers** image *NYC Architecture* are all finalists. Results will be announced in November.

Frank Myers also has an image in an exhibition entitled *The Carmichael Canadian Landscape Exhibition: Tradition Transformed* at the Orillia Museum of Art and History. *Lake Superior Pastels* was selected by the jury from among 391 entries. The exhibition runs to January 17.

Connie Munson has been exceptionally busy and provides the following update on what is hanging, where: *Crimson Reflections* is in the juried *A La Carte* show in the Members Only Dining Room at the Ontario Legislative Assembly. It is there until year end.

Tangled Reflections is in two juried shows currently: It's at Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre, with a companion piece, *Mystic Realms*. One is an analogue shot from over 40 years ago, the other shot in 2019 on a cell phone! Printed the same size on aluminum, Connie reports they play off each other incredibly well. At Headwaters Arts in the Alton Mill Arts Centre, it hangs in the *Artful Revival Festival Exhibition*. Finally, *Tangled Reflections* has been accepted into a third exhibition; this one is at McMichael Canadian Art Collection, opening mid-October.

Another opportunity to see your image recognized and viewed by a large audience is in competitions run by magazines such as PhotoLife. Readers of the September edition will have seen **Jim Lait's** image *Passing By* in their *Showtime* feature.

Glen Jones and **Fred Oliver** have taken another approach, establishing a "bricks and mortar" gallery called Studio 3 at Fred's residence in Burlington. Other members have had solo shows in the AGB's Fireside Room, at cafés and branches of Hamilton Public Library.

Exhibiting in these ways may sometimes result in a sale, but for the members, it seems to be more about the satisfaction of taking one's work to another level, showing it along with talented peers to new audiences.

(One goal of *In Focus* is to highlight the achievements of our members. Please let us know whenever your work is recognized by publications, juried exhibitions, solo shows, or in any other way!)



Glowing Fortress by **Rolly Astrom** is one of the prints by Latow members selected as finalists in the photography exhibition and fundraiser at the McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa.

What's happening in October?

Gerda Wolker Exhibition: Oct. 1 to 27

Kaleidoscope of Wild Beauty

About her Fireside Room exhibition, Gerda Wolker says: "Wild and natural landscapes inspire me and I have amazing reverence for the smallest of flora.



Common weeds have a beauty all of their own, yet rarely get a second look. I make it my focus. I try to give them the recognition such natural beauties deserve."

"The question is not what you look at, but what you see." Henry David Thoreau, from his Journal, August 5, 1851.

The show is from October 1 to October 27. Gerda will be at the Fireside Room on Thursday, October 1 from noon to 5p.m., to talk about her inspirations.

How + Why: Black and White Photography as an Aesthetic Choice: Oct. 8

K. Jennifer Bedford

Please join us for an evening all about black and white photography! In this session we will look at one of the geniuses of photographic history, Ansel Adams. Adams didn't just "take" photos—he "made" his photographs, through extensive manipulation of his images.

As a young photographer, I studied and consumed the work of Adams who literally wrote the book on *The Camera*, *The Negative* and *The Print*. We will discuss and draw on some of the lessons learned in these texts and how we can apply them to making striking black and white images in the 21st Century. Take away some practical tips and lessons I've learned from him, and how I've applied these theories to my personal photography practice.

All Latow guild members are encouraged to submit 3 monochromatic images to share during the evening and discuss your interest in black and white photography. Please send images to Jim Lait laitjames@gmail.com by October 8 at 5 p.m. to be included in the presentation. For screen quality, images should be at least 1900 pixels on their long side.

October at a Glance

(All events online via Zoom. Watch for invitations in your email.)

Tuesday, Oct. 6	International AV Festival (All passes are taken. An online presentation will be announced soon.)
Thursday, Oct. 8	Black and White Photography: why and how.
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Studio Night: Natural light portraiture with Rolly Astrom.
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Evaluation #1 intake deadline. Optional theme: <i>backlit</i> .
Saturday, Sunday Oct. 17, 18	Denise Ippolito Visual Expressions online webinar (courtesy of O3C).
Tuesday, Oct. 20	New Exposures. Contribute an image for friendly critique.
Thursday, Oct. 22	Board Meeting (online). Members welcome.
Tuesday, Oct. 27	Darkroom Group: Introduction.
Thursday, Oct. 29	Street Photography with James Ip.



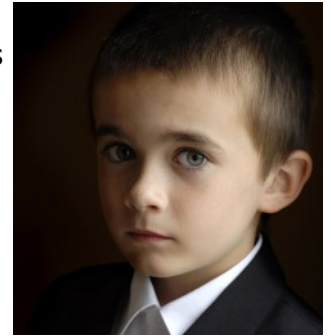
Church and Road, Bodega California 1953 by Ansel Adams

Natural Light Portraiture: Oct. 13

Rolly Astrom

Join me, folks, for an evening where I'll present a collection of my images and describe my origins, influences, and personal approach to portraiture.

I'll share natural light techniques that can be replicated with studio lighting, tips for working with subjects and also some technical info regarding the equipment and post processing I use. A lot of images you may have seen in the past....but stay awake for the grand reveal of some new work and themes.



Evaluations Deadline: Oct. 14

Toni Browning

Just a short note about evaluations. The deadline for the 1st evaluation is October 14 at 11.59 pm. The optional theme is "Backlit".

This will be online judging and Zoom results.

New Exposures: Oct. 20

Mark Emmerson

With both Don Monro and Tim Story retiring from New Exposures, I have taken on the assignment of host for the coming year.

In a subtle change from past practice, attendees will be invited to discuss "what features contribute to the success of this image?" followed by "suggestions to strengthen this image?" The intent is to draw the conversation toward the merits of the piece and its potential regardless of personal likes and preferences and, hopefully, give a better indication of how the image might fare if entered in evaluations or another judging environment.

Because it can be time-consuming, experimenting with Lightroom adjustments will be reduced. We tried this approach in the first session this year on September 15th and got an encouraging response. Most evenings, sessions are about an hour and a half of useful time. At 4 minutes per image, we are at capacity with about 22 images. So, for the next session, scheduled for October 20th, members are invited to forward a **single** jpeg image in sRGB, suitably labelled (for New Exposures), to Markemmerson@wellfoundphotography.com before 5PM on October 20th. To look their best using the Zoom technology, the long axis of images should be at least 1900 pixels.

Street Photography: Oct. 29

Monique Campbell

James Ip has been shooting street photography since 2017, making images that elicit an emotional response from the viewer, giving them a glimpse into someone else's experience of the human condition.

Street and documentary-style photography also allows him to turn a critical eye to contemporary social issues through photos essays and projects. He will give a rare peek of the thinking behind his most popular street photos and the back stories of how they came to be.



Message from the President

James Elliott, President

I want my photographs to be perfect. When striving for perfection, I have always held that a straight and level horizon was a basic requirement.

September's New Exposures turned out to be particularly enlightening for me. And not just because Mark Emmerson was guest hosting! It challenged and changed my view of this element I have long viewed as crucial to a great photo-graph.

Among the usual multitude of masterly images was one that stood out for me, both in the quality of the photograph and that evening's critique of it. The B&W image shows a group of young women in Harry Potter capes walking down a city street. The setting feels European. It is overcast, rainy and I would guess early evening.

The photograph draws you in. There is visible tension between subject and viewer. It holds a great story. As is the custom, we were first asked what features contribute to the success of the image. After several positive comments it was then time for everyone's favourite segment, "What are your suggestions for improvements?"

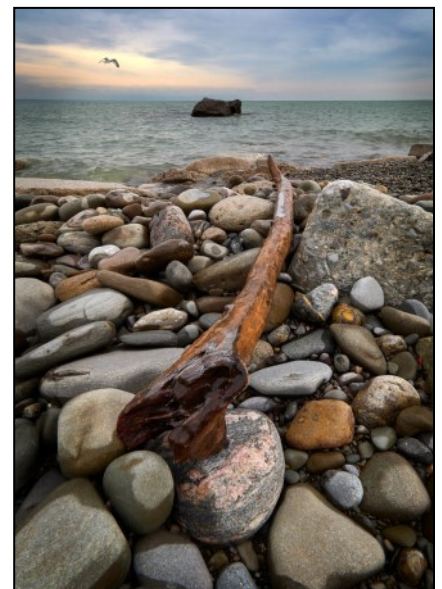
We armchair quarterbacks stumbled over ourselves calling for the horizon to be straightened. Mark, doing an impressive Timothy Story impersonation, dutifully complied. Clicking on Lightroom's Auto Transform and refining the crop led to our perfect rendition of the image.

Then it was time for the author to weigh in. Annemarie Toth-Waddell said that she'd tried straightening the image but preferred the slight angle. She felt it better captured the topsy turvy nature of the streets of Porto, Portugal where the image was captured.

I found myself agreeing with Annemarie. The changes suggested by the group sterilized the image. The story had a key element removed. The image was less interesting. It had lost some of its tension. The glaring young woman at the middle of our story became less formidable. It made me realize that a photograph could be great without being "perfect".



Annemarie Toth-Waddell explains the story behind her image: "The photo was taken in Porto, Portugal. The young women in the shot are wearing the traditional cloaks worn by students of the local university. J.K.Rowling lived in Porto and these were the inspiration for the outfits worn by her Harry Potter characters!"



Jim Lait's image *Passing By* is in the Showcase feature of PhotoLife magazine's September issue.

Latow Name Working Group - A Report from the President

James Elliott, President

At last June's Board meeting, a committee was formed with the mandate to discover the origins of the Club's name. The following is a summary of their interim report, which was presented to the Board in September.

- "Latow" appears to be of Dakota/Sioux origin
- the apparent source document for the name expresses deep respect for Indigenous culture and language
- the committee found no objection on the part of Indigenous writers and commentators to the use of Indigenous terms by non-Indigenous people; on the contrary, such use was encouraged under most circumstances
- the committee also found encouragement by Indigenous writers to identify specific tribal affiliation where known rather than generic terms (eg. "Dakota" would be preferable to "aboriginal")

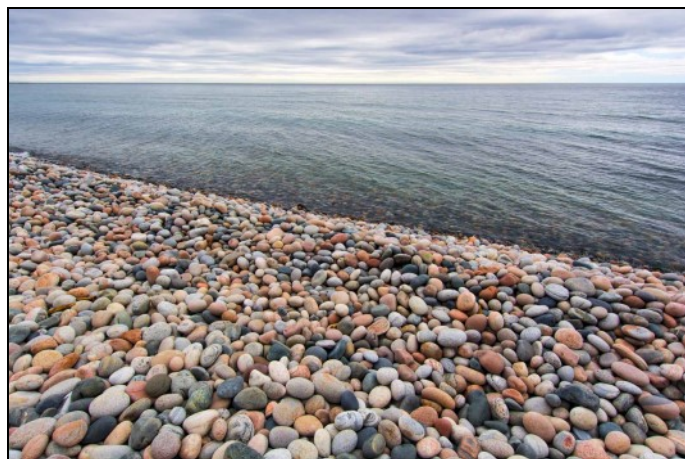
The Board agreed that further research should be done with Indigenous language experts to confirm the precise origin and meaning of "Latow". The sole purpose of the committee is to research the origin and meaning of the club's name.

An Evening on Photo Books

Tom Stephens

Like many of us, I have made photo books over the years, with varying amounts of satisfaction. On **Thursday, Nov 5**, I will share some of my experiences and lessons using different online book makers including Blurb and Shutterfly.

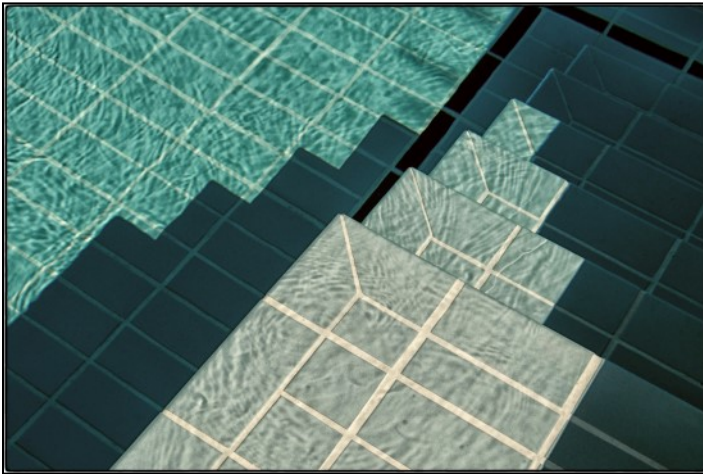
I hope other members with some experience, especially with other suppliers, will join this informal presentation/demo/workshop/rant. Please get in touch if you'd like to be part of this: tom@tomstephens.ca.



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Connie Munson's image *Tangled Reflections* is hanging in exhibitions at the Alton Mills Arts Centre and Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre. It has also been accepted into an exhibition at McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinberg, opening mid-October.





Tom Stephens' image *Mayan Illusions* (aka *If the Mayans Had Swimming Pools*), and *NYC Architecture* by **Frank Myers** are finalists in the Robert McLaughlin Gallery photographic competition and fundraiser. The McLaughlin Gallery is located in Oshawa.

Photolife

www.photolife.com

Dear Latow members,

PhotoLife magazine has been a great supporter of the Latow Photography Weekend, with lots of free promotion over the years. Now they are looking to us for some support. They are worth it! Photo Life is one of the last independent print-media publications dedicated to photography in North America. It has been part of the Canadian media landscape for over 40 years, and -- they say -- we wouldn't have made it this far without you. Some of you have been subscribers from the very beginning; others of you have more recently discovered the magazine and become enthusiastic supporters of Photo Life. We're so grateful for all of you.

Your support as key members of the Canadian photographic community makes a real, measurable difference for us. And this support can be expressed concretely in a number of ways:

1. **Subscribe to the Magazine.** We're very thankful for the support we receive from Canadian Heritage and from our advertisers; however, readers are the real driving force behind Photo Life. Your support as a subscriber is proof that there's an entire community that values the magazine and is committed to its ongoing success.
2. **Subscribe to their newsletters and offers.** Growing our newsletter subscription numbers is another way we can demonstrate that we have strong support from the Canadian photographic community. In addition, we really like to keep you updated on our special offers by email because we prefer to use our printing budget on the glossy pages of Photo Life! ;-)
3. **Follow us on Facebook, comment on our posts and share them.** This helps us develop a real online community—we're so much stronger together!

We are extremely grateful for your help and would like to offer a special discount code as a small expression of our appreciation. Visit our new online store and use this 10% discount code on any purchase, anytime: **RCLUBS20Y6**

About Latow Photographers Guild

We normally 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

President	James Elliott president@latow.com
Vice-President	Gail Burstyn gburstyn1@gmail.com
Past-President	Andrzej Pradzynski a.pradzynski@cogeco.ca
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Group and Activity Coordinators

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Annual Photography Weekend	Tom Stephens seminar@latow.com
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AV Festival	Paul Sparrow psparrow@cogeco.ca
B & W Group	Don Mallory imaginemallory@gmail.com
CAPA	Andrzej Pradzynski a.pradzynski@cogeco.ca
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Christmas Sale	Fred Oliver fred.oliver@cogeco.ca
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Explorations Group	Paul Sparrow psparrow@cogeco.ca
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Fireside Room Exhibitions	Ort Baldauf omnione@hotmail.com
Kaleidoscope	Fred Oliver fred.oliver@cogeco.ca
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