

IN FOCUS

November 2020

Newsletter of the Latow Photographers Guild Burlington, Ontario

Latow International AV Festival Overcomes Challenging Times

Paul Sparrow, Festival Director

Success! ... On October 6th we were finally able to present the Latow International Audio Visual Festival as originally intended, on the big screen with surround sound and most importantly with a live audience.

Because of the Covid 19 situation, with social distancing, we were only allowed 50 seats, with the appropriate spacing. Almost all of the seats were taken so the evening was a great success despite the circumstances.

The ten productions from around the world enthralled the audience, but ultimately only one show could receive the *Award for Artistic Merit*. The



Glen Jones addresses the audience at the Art Gallery of Burlington on October 8. Glen's production, entitled *Gehry*, was the winner of the *Award for Artistic Merit*.

winner was determined by a panel of six representatives from the other Arts Burlington guilds. The \$500 award was co-sponsored by the Art Gallery of Burlington and the Latow Photographers Guild.

The production that was given the award at the conclusion of the evening was *Gehry* by our own **Glen Jones**. Glen's amazing images from around the globe of buildings designed by world-renowned Canadian architect Frank Gehry, put to powerful music, stunned the judges.

The entire showcase presentation, which includes all the shows and introductions (both provided videos and those presented "live" on the night) and the final presentation of the *Award for Artistic Merit*, is now available online through Vimeo.

https://vimeo.com/469819518

So relax with a glass of wine or your favourite beverage and enjoy this year's showcase virtually.

Thanks again for all those that helped make this year's AV Festival a great success even in these very trying times.

"It takes a lot of imagination to be a good photographer. You need less imagination to be a painter because you can invent things. But in photography everything is so ordinary; it takes a lot of looking before you learn to see the extraordinary."

David Bailey

What's happening in November?

Evaluations: November 3

Toni Browning

We had only 99 entries for the first evaluation. Results will be shown using Zoom on Tuesday November 3.

Our next evaluation entries are due December 16. The optional theme is *Motion*, I hope to see some more entries for that one.

I have just realized, we have lost the services of Timothy Story this year, so is there anyone who could assist by showing the images on their screen (shared) on Evaluation evenings? The images will be in what is called Flexishow and you only need to advance the images. I will read the maker, score and title.

There is also a serious need for a couple more volunteers to help with Evaluations. Please

contact me if you are able to assist at tonnie@cogeco.ca.

November at a Glance

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

Tuesday, Nov. 3 General Meeting, Evaluation #1 results

Tuesday, Nov. 10 Seasons of Algonquin with Jesse and Susan of Follow Me North.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 Explorations: Making composite images with Rick McKenzie

Thursday, Nov. 19 Board Meeting. Members are

welcome

Tuesday, Nov. 24 Studio Group: Capturing motion

Thursday, Nov. 26 Members sharing: Outside my window, the quarantine view

Follow Me North: November 10

The Program Committee

Follow Me North is the dream realized by the team of Jesse and Susan, lovers of photography and the great outdoors, and residents of Baysville, on the edge of Algonquin Park.

We knew this presentation would be of interest as soon as we learned about it. And we learned about it through other area camera clubs, who gave this presentation great reviews. You won't want to miss it!

We are inviting non-members to this event, for no charge. In these COVID times, they cannot just show up at the door; it will be an online meeting via Zoom.

We have 50 passes set aside for non-members, and they can get one by registering on our seminar website:

https://latowseminar.wpengine.com/follow-me-north-nov-10/.

Another 50 places are set aside for Latow members, and all you need is the usual Zoom invitation.









Explorations: November 17

Paul Sparrow

Rick McKenzie from the Hamilton Camera Club will be doing a presentation on how he creates his amazing "composites".

He'll cover the background and historical information about composite photography, how to photograph and choose which images to include, a section on techniques in sky extraction and replacement, adding a person or other subject in proper perspective, adding shadows and why shadows are important and finally will add some information on blending everything together by balancing luminosity and colour.

This should be a very informative session for everyone who's wondered how these amazing images are created.

Studio Group: November 24

James Elliott

A big "Thank You" to Rolly Astrom for his evening presentation on Natural Light Portraiture at our October meeting. A very well received event with a good combination of golden oldies and new work. A very inspiring evening from one of the club's Masters!

The topic for our November session is *Capturing Motion*. Using a combination of ambient light and studio strobe we'll be exploring how to capture motion in a single photograph. This will be an online event. Dave Bonnell and I are planning to go into the Studio beforehand to create a video demonstration that will be presented on the evening.

There will be several Q&A opportunities during the video. Fingers crossed this works!! Studio Night is Tuesday November 24. Zoom sign-in begins at 7:15pm.

Members Sharing: Outside the Window: my quarantine view: November 26

COVID 19 has certainly changed our view of the world, with travel restrictions, social distancing and restricted access to restaurants, gyms etc. Here's an invitation to share your view of the COVID world.

This could be literally outside your window, in your community or literally anywhere. It doesn't have to be documentation of COVID's effect; just show us what you've been shooting during these difficult months and perhaps tell how this is different from before the pandemic.

As usual, we're looking for a few images, up to four minutes per member.

Message from the President

James Elliott, President

What is in a name? I typed that query into the Google search engine and it quickly brought me to the work of William Shakespeare... "What's in a name? that which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet."

This, of course, from Romeo and Juliet. And who could disagree with this sentiment? Apparently, Lucy Maud Montgomery! She seems to take issue with this part of the young Capulet's soliloquy... "I read in a book once that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but I've never been able to believe it. I don't believe a rose would be as nice if was called a thistle or a skunk cabbage."

Well that just set off my OCD and a full-blown internet search was soon underway! "Words have meaning and names have power." - Author Unknown

"If names are not correct, language will not be in accordance with the truth of things." - Confucius

"I don't care what you say about me, just spell my name right." - P.T. Barnum

"It is to be observed that 'angling' is the name given to fishing by people who can't fish." - Stephen Leacock

"I don't remember anybody's name. How do you think the "dahling" thing got started?" - Zsa Zsa Gabor

You get the idea.

Our name is Latow. I have often felt that we don't have the full story on our name. Recently I have been on a journey, some may call it a crusade, to discover the origins of our name. I asked long-term members about it. Fred Oliver shared that he believed it was Bob Cawte that came up with the name in 1971. Unfortunately, Bob is no longer with us and consequently I was not much further ahead. Bill Stafford directed me to a 1905 publication that suggested our name was from a language of Indigenous peoples and had the meaning of "sunbeam" or "beam of light". But that is as far as I got.

(Continued from page 3)

One of the perks of being president is that you can ask people to do things. At our June Board meeting I proposed a working group to look into the origins of the name "Latow". Micheline Godbout, Tom Stephens and Deborah Kanfer stepped forward to help.

Where I saw a dead end, they pursued creative new lines of inquiry. Through their collective and determined efforts they have discovered a fuller story to the origin of our name. I'm excited with their results and I want to share them with you.

It was a lead provided by the not-for-profit Native Languages of the Americas that provided the breakthrough for the team. They were directed to a report by the Bureau of American Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, which is one in a series of annual reports published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The publication contains a ceremonial described as the History Myth of the Zuni



Due to COVID 19 restrictions, an audience of only 50 people could be on hand to watch the presentation of the ten finalists in Latow's International AV Festival. Those were very hot tickets! Fortunately, the entire showcase event is now available online at: https://vimeo.com/469819518.

tribe. "Latow" is in the text of the poem, which is written in the language of the Zuni people. The accompanying English translation gives its meaning as "wings". In this context, it is referring to the wings of the sun, hence "sunbeam". I really like the image that "wings of the sun" creates; an image that illustrates why it was chosen as the name for a group of photographers. And a discovery that helps complete the story of our name.

By the way, it was as I was seeking enlightenment from Winston Churchill that my wild web search came to a screeching halt. This zinger, in his trademark understated style, was the cause... "It's a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations."

Another (not so gentle) Nudge from Joyce

Our lives have changed in so many ways during these extraordinary times. I don't know about you, but Latow has helped to sustain me even though we have been unable to meet face to face.

Fortunately for us, Latow's Zoom programming is well underway and thanks to today's technologies, along with a creative, energetic program committee, we can all be the beneficiaries. A wide variety of stimulating topics are offered, regardless of our particular strengths and interests as photographers.

But in order to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities to hone our skills and techniques, we must be members in good standing. If your renewal date is sometime this fall, I am requesting that you take a moment to update your membership. If you do not plan to renew, it is imperative that you let me know as soon as possible. My thanks to each of you who have renewed without my prompting.

As you do so, please keep in mind our friends at the AGB as it is critical that they have our support. It's clear that the continuing impact of COVID-19 has affected this vital organization in significant ways. Even so, they need to be congratulated for their innovative efforts to remain current and accessible.

When you renew with Latow, you offer support to the Art Gallery as well.

The arts heal us, entertain us and give us meaning and they will be a key component in bringing life back to us when we are free to gather again. We will come together at the AGB where space will once again be provided for us to build a renewed and vibrant community through the magic of the visual arts.

Please Renew in a Timely Manner!

Latow Members' Project Night is Back!

Our next Members' Project Night is on Tuesday, December 8. We had a great response to these nights last season and decided to run another this year. For these nights we limit the number of presenters to 6 so everyone has at least 15 minutes to discuss their project, show images and answer any questions.

We have several spots open for this year's program so, if you have not presented at one of these nights in the past, please contact me to reserve a spot. (laitjames@gmail.com) More information on the night is below.

Do you have a Photo project that you are working on or have completed? I bet that you do have one even if you do not realize it. David duChemin, a prior speaker at our Seminar Weekend, is a big proponent of personal projects and inspired us to host nights in which members could show what they were working on. One of the great things about belonging to a photo club is the opportunity to show and share your work. This is your night!

So what is a project? A project can be long term like Frank's *Environmental Portrait* series or it can be short term like a series of Motion photos for the next evaluation. duChemin talks about a Project being about intent and curation, often leading to a body of work. His suggestions for choosing a project if you do not have one already are:

- 1. **Choose Something** There are a lot of choices out there. You cannot pick the wrong one but you have to start somewhere.
- 2. **Create Constraints** What are the constraints around the project...maybe it is 12 black and white images for next year's calendar, images for the evaluation theme topics, a "What I Did in the Summer" slideshow for next year's opening meeting? Does your project have a theme, completion date and deliverables?
- 3. **Be Open** Sometimes one project leads to another one. Be open to changing to a better one. Recently I ended up using images from two of my long term projects when the opportunity arose to make an AV show for a Latow event. Something I never thought of when I started the other projects.
- 4. **Ship It** This means producing something deliverable and it helps with the curation of your work. Is it for a calendar, for a series of prints, an e-book, AV Show, for your portfolio or just for you?

Members News

In October, **John Pingree** had a print *Condo* on exhibit in the *Overzealous Show* at Neilson Park Creative Center in Toronto.

John Pringree and **Frank Myers** were successful selling prints in the Dundas Valley School of Art annual fundraising art auction. One of John's prints, *Lamp*, was purchased by a production company to be used as a prop in an upcoming TV series being produced for CBC and HBO.

Several Latow photographers are participating in the annual Arts Burlington Christmas Sale. It's strictly online this year and so far, we know **Monique Campbell** has sold two framed prints. The sale continues until the end of November, so if you're looking to shop local and support local artists, check it out. Talented members of all the guilds are represented and there are wonderful items for sale.

Here are some exhibitions where Latow members work is currently on display:

Tom Stephens, Rolly Astrom and **Frank Myers** have prints selected for the annual photography competition and fundraiser at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa. Winners will be announced in November. See the impressive collection here: https://rmgfridaysfocused.com/online-exhibition

Frank Myers' print *Lake Superior Pastels* was selected by the jury for the Carmichael Canadian Landscape Exhibition at the Orillia Museum of Art and History. This exhibition runs until January 17.

Until the end of the year, **Connie Munson's** image *Crimson Reflection* is on display in the Al la Carte juried exhibition in the Members' Dining Room at the Ontario Legislature.

Photolife

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





Portrait Challenges: So you think working with ballerinas is easy? They just won't listen!!

One goal of In Focus is to celebrate 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!

Moments by Monique

Monique Campbell

As we approach the New Year the idea may come up of doing a 365 day photo project. It can be daunting to start and continue such a daily series. Photographers have tried to make a photo a day but most find it challenging to create something fresh every day.

Instead, why not start a 365 day project on photography? Leave it wide open and pursue a greater knowledge of your passion. This is more than just photographing; it is encouraging a way of life as a photographer.

I've made a list of 365 ideas that will start a journey to discover photography as a lifestyle. To keep the list manageable, it will be split into three parts. Here are the first 120 ideas. Watch the next two editions of *In Focus* for the remainder.

- 1) Photograph one object in different ways.
- 2) Read a photography book on your favourite genre.
- 3) Start an Instagram feed.
- 4) Post a photograph on Instagram.
- 5) Attend a workshop.
- 6) Participate in a Zoom webinar on photography.
- 7) Print a photo be it with your own printer or sending it out.
- 8) Study the masters.
- 9) Read and appreciate the photos in a magazine you wouldn't necessarily buy.
- 10)Go on a photo walk.
- 11) Have a coffee with another photographer and talk about what excites you in photography.
- 12) Start a series.
- 13) Take a photography class at a local college or arts institution.
- 14) Photograph a flower in the style of artist Georgia O'Keeffe.
- 15)Write a letter to a photographer that inspires you.
- 16) Tag your photos in Lightroom or other catalog programs
- 17) Interview a fellow photographer about their process.
- 18) Try colourizing a black and white photo either with pencils or a digital program.
- 19) Make a book of your photographs.
- 20) Take a different street on your walk and make photographs of what you see.
- 21) Ride a bus and photograph fellow riders.
- 22) If you have a drone, make an image of where you live.
- 23) Try your hand at studio portraiture.
- 24) Create a light box and photograph a product.
- 25) Learn to print in the darkroom.
- 26)Go to the beach and photograph waves.
- 27) Educate yourself on Ansel Adams' Zone System.
- 28) Read your camera manual.
- 29) Photograph your pet or one in the park.
- 30)Attend a concert and photograph a musician or singer.
- 31) Take a studio class and learn lighting.
- 32) Visit a camera store and check out new gear.
- 33) Constructively critique a photograph.
- 34) Study the light.
- 35)Donate your old equipment to a student.
- 36)Mentor someone who is just starting out in photography.

- 37)Go to a gallery and study the art.
- 38) Emulate the art of a master.
- 39) Photograph the long shadows of the day.
- 40) Try ICM Intentional Camera Movement
- 41)Attend a camera club meeting.
- 42) Make a solar print.
- 43) Teach a youngster how to use a camera.
- 44)Document a rally.
- 45) Photograph clouds like photographer Steigletz.
- 46)Make a self portrait.
- 47) Write a review of your camera equipment.
- 48) Photograph using a flash.
- 49) Experiment with slow shutter.
- 50) Try your hand at photographing fireworks.
- 51) Met one of your idols and photograph them.
- 52) Photograph a famous person.
- 53) Photograph everything around you that is red.
- 54) Enter your images into a juried competition.
- 55) Have an exhibition of your photos.
- 56) Read up on insurance for your equipment.
- 57) Make a cvanotype.
- 58) Learn about wet collodion process.
- 59) Create a salon with your friends to discuss photography.
- 60)Organize your prints.
- 61) Try a photography genre you've never tried before.
- 62) Educate yourself on depth of field.
- 63) Shoot on a subway.
- 64)Use a prime lens.
- 65) Photograph a child at play.
- 66)Go to the RBG and photograph the flowers.
- 67) Read Ansel Adams' books; The Camera, The Negative, The Print
- 68)Go out to photograph in the rain.
- 69) Have your camera gear cleaned.
- 70) Buy and study an exhibition catalog.
- 71)Visit Contact Festival in Toronto in May.
- 70) Males a selecte assess with a set land in the second
- 72)Make a photograph without looking through the viewfinder.
- 73)Use a tripod to make an image.
- 74) Learn about zone focusing.
- 75)Go through your archives of photos.
- 76) Photograph a large group of people.
- 77) Post a photo on Facebook
- 78)Go on a hike and make images.
- 79) Make an AV show.
- 80) Study fine art masters and see how they used the light in their work.
- 81)Go through your childhood photos.
- 82) Follow someone on social media that has a

- different style to your own.
- 83) Give one of your photographs to someone.
- 84) Put down your camera and look at the world around you intensely.
- 85) Turn a colour photo into a black and white.
- 86) Hang one of your photos on your wall.
- 87) Compliment another photographer for their work
- 88)Go somewhere you've never been an photograph.
- 89) Try different paper when you're printing.
- 90) Give Light Painting photography a try.
- 91) Light meter and photograph a lit candle.
- 92) Photograph a skyscraper.
- 93)Under expose a photo and see the results.
- 94)Make a back lit image.
- 95) Photograph an abandoned place.
- 96) Look for reflections and photograph them.
- 97) Light and Photograph a green pepper in honour of Edward Weston.
- 98) Photograph in available darkness.
- 99) Become a mentor.
- 100) Play around with cropping a photo to get different versions.
- 101) Photograph your favourite meal.
- 102) Try your hand at night photography.
- 103) Attend a photography seminar.
- 104) Photograph through a foggy window.
- 105) Capture a couple kissing on the street.
- 106) Go out on the first snowfall to shoot.
- 107) Photograph an everyday object.
- 108) Make an abstract photograph.
- 109) Learn a new photographic software program.
- 110) Photograph under water...scuba diving or otherwise.
- 111) Go to an event and document what you see.
- 112) Look for textures and make an image.
- 113) Make one of your images into your Wallpaper.
- 114) Photograph a flag blowing in the wind.
- 115) Practice photographing a vehicle coming towards you at a distance.
- 116) Try editing a selective colour image.
- 117) Go to an airport and photograph the planes landing.
- 118) Shoot a detail shot of someone's hands.
- 119) Do a Zoom presentation with your photos and share with family and friends.
- 120) Go to Google Earth and do a screen shot of something that catches your eye.

(More coming next month!)

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.

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Calendar updates

Member galleries



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