

IN FOCUS

December 2020

Newsletter of the Latow Photographers Guild Burlington, Ontario

Message from the President

James Elliott, President

When is it going to be safe to go back into the studio?

Compared to what's happening in long term care facilities and the concern over availability of ICU beds as we teeter on the edge, this is a trivial concern.

But it does illustrate why this COVID roller coaster is driving me batty. As promising vaccine trial results are being announced, I'm having to cancel photoshoots because the Medical Officer of Health is telling us it's best to stay home. And we're told the second wave is just beginning, with a third wave sure to come in the Spring. Clearly, getting back into the Studio will not be happening any time soon.

In Latow's first Evaluation for the season, top score went to **Stefan Danielski's** image *Elevator Grain Trimmer*, with a score of 28, Congratulations Stefan!

How are we to cope? A recent article in the Globe and Mail presented a unique

perspective, "COVID-19 is like running a marathon with no finish line. What does sports science say about how we can win it?"

We are all familiar with the expression "sprint to the finish line". Apparently, even the best runners in the world do it. The last kilometre of a long distance race featuring elite runners is often its fastest. But what happens when the finish line is removed?

As it happens, there is a subsection of sports science that looks at how the knowledge of the endpoint influences the results in endurance sports. Their studies - how athletes deal with a finish line that is hidden, moved or taken away entirely - suggest strategies that may be applicable to us all.

One way to deal with a missing finish line is to create your own. Unfortunately, this approach sees many competitors dropping out of the race shortly after reaching this arbitrary point. Envisioning an end to the pandemic may not be the optimal coping strategy.

A study of cyclists suggests a different approach. The novice cyclists seemed to be more focused on their distance from the finish line, while the experienced riders were more concerned with how they were doing right at that moment. Rather than wondering if you can make it to the finish line, perhaps it is better to just ask yourself whether you can keep going.

For Latow, as we try to keep going, I think it's important to focus on what we can do rather than what we can't.

The annual Christmas Potluck has morphed into an online Holiday Party. We'll share favourite holiday photographs rather than favourite dishes.

Our Photo Weekend 2021 is going to be an online event. Without room rentals to worry about, it is now happening over two weekends. Ice storms will not be a concern! Plus, we've already had a taste of Kas Stone's presentation, so we know it's going to be great.

Guest speakers, group meetings, evaluations and numerous opportunities for sharing images are all continuing. If you have other ideas for things we can do, please share them.

Let's work together to make sure we can all keep going!

What's happening in December?

Online Holiday Party: Dec. 1

Since the COVID-19 restrictions prevent us from having our usual annual Christmas Potluck Dinner, we're going online!

Share your favourite holiday memories, be they from recent years or your childhood, candids of Santa, Hannukah celebrations, festive meals, favourite movies (4-min limit applies Jpeg's 1920x1080 min and AV and must be MP4!), decorations garish or tasteful.... Anything and everything goes, within the holiday theme.

A glass of holiday cheer near at hand optional but encouraged.

Members Project Night: Dec 8

Jim Lait

On Tuesday, December 8th, we are having our next Members Project Night with some excellent projects. The agenda so far is:

- **Stefan Danielski** *The Soul of a Ship* social documentary portraying life on board the Great Lakes bulk carrier
- Monique Campbell On Hands
- Rolly Astrom The Wandering Soul

So mark your calendars, come out and enjoy fellow members' projects.

If you have a project that you would like to share with other members, we still have 3 open time slots for that night. This opportunity is open to all members, even if you presented a project last season. Please get in touch with me as soon as possible - laitjames@gmail.com - if you would like to share your project...it can be a work in progress.

Darkroom Group: Dec. 15

Don Mallory

On Tuesday, December 15 we will be presenting our usual darkroom orientation, but this year it will be a little different. Due to the current Covid-19 protocols, we will be delivering it via Zoom.

We'll be covering information about the facilities, their use and important safety protocols.

Evaluations: Deadline Dec. 16

Toni Browning

The next due date for evaluations is Wednesday, December 16 at 11.59 pm. The theme for Evaluation 2 is "Motion".

Please do not wait to enter on the last day in case you have difficulty. Our webmaster advises if you are having problems entering your images, try logging off and logging in again.

Don't forget you can enter now for Evaluation 2, 3 and 4 and revise your submissions any time up until the deadline for each Evaluation.

December at a Glance			
(All events online via Zoom. Watch for invitations in your email			
On now to Dec. 29	Darkroom Group show in the Fireside Room.		
Tuesday, Dec. 1	Online Holiday Party!		
Tuesday, Dec. 8	Members' Projects: What are you working on?		
Thursday, Dec. 10	Board meeting. Members are welcome to attend.		
Tuesday, Dec. 15	Darkroom Group: Darkroom orientation.		
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Evaluation #3 intake deadline.		
Dec. 25, 26, Jan. 1	RBG closed for the holidays.		

Fireside Room Exhibition by Latow's Darkroom Group

Paul Gerroir

This exhibit is being presented by a collective of artists working in black and white photography.

Silver-halide black and white prints were prepared in Latow's traditional film darkroom.

These works cover many of the popular themes in photography.

The members of this collective are: Norman Chan, Larry Feldman, Paul Gerroir, Deborah Kanfer, Mike Lindsay and Paul MacDiarmid.

The exhibition is up now and runs until December 29.



Paul Gerroir

"The important thing is not the camera but the eye." Alfred Eisenstaedt

Free Judging Course from NFRCC

NFRCC is offering a virtual Judging Course which all members of NFRCC clubs are invited to attend. This course is for anyone who wishes to learn what judges are looking for in competition images and for those who are interested in becoming a judge of photography. There is no charge to attend the course; it is **free.**

The course will be held virtually in 3 sessions

Jan 9th, 2021 10am-12pm "What is The Job of The Judge"

Jan 23rd, 2021 10am-12pm "Technical and Composition"

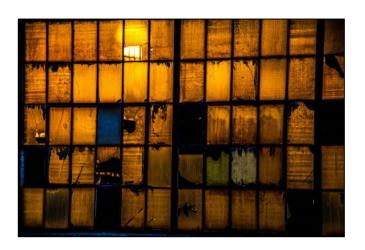
Feb 6th, 2021 10am-12pm "Impact and Artfulness"

For further information details and to *register* please visit our website https://nfrcc.org/nfrcc-judges-course/

Link to Register: https://nfrcc.org/nfrcc-judges-course-registration/

We look forward to seeing you at the course!





Two top-scoring images from Evaluation #1, Creative Hands by Frank Myers and Old Factory by Norman Chan.



Portrait Session Follow-up

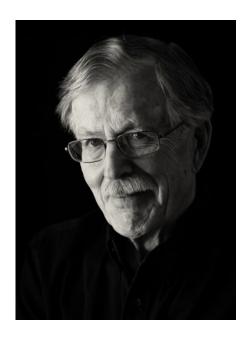
Rolly Astrom

I enjoyed presenting my views on portraiture at the Zoom meeting early last month. I focused on two areas: using window light and outdoor natural light.

Here I'd like to fill in a few thoughts I didn't have time to address in the meeting and also just reinforce some of the key points presented for those who didn't attend. Some rambling thoughts...

Portraiture is planned and not candid. Because of that you are directing and have control. My best advice is move your subjects to your advantage.

Open shade generally is the most flattering light and avoids harsh shadows. Keep distracting objects, people, bright lights out of the background. Use wide apertures to provide shallow depth of field if you have to. Generally do not position your subject square to the camera. Angle the shoulders and experiment. Try a combination of smiles and more serious expressions. Pay attention to your surroundings and adjust; sometimes just a minor move a few feet away improves things.





As you're shooting take the time to critically examine your results in camera for focus, sharpness, exposure, pose and expressions. Adjust and reshoot if needed.

Build rapport. Edward Steichen said, "A portrait is not made in the camera but on either side of it."

A few things I try to do to make people comfortable are: Have my equipment set up as closely as possible beforehand to reduce wait time. The same with location; be familiar with good vantage spots where you are shooting. Keep it light and fun.

As early as you can in the shoot, when you know you have a great shot, give them a quick look at it and most often they are surprised, like the image and relax for more.

If they come with family or friends to watch, distance yourself just a little from them. A close audience usually doesn't help.

I'm currently shooting with Fuji cropped sensor using several zoom lenses and my favourite portrait lens is the 50-140, which provides comparable focal lengths to the Nikon and Canon full frame 70-200 lens. Most of my portraiture lies between 80-120 mm with that lens...and keeps me back a bit from the subject and at wide apertures provides the separation I like from the background.

As for post processing I use Photoshop Elements, Tonality, Luminar, Affinity Pro, Silver efex, Colour efex.....and something else next week. I try to avoid improving skin to the point it looks like plastic. There are lots of examples of that in photo groups. I just tell my subjects they'll look like they're having a good day. Do that and stop there.

"A portrait is not made in the camera, but on either side of it."

Edward Steichen

Let's See your Stuff!

Frank Myers

Latow members have two opportunities to have their work evaluated and receive valuable feedback on it.

New Exposures evenings are an opportunity to show an image or two for feedback and friendly critique by the members in attendance. You will hear what people like about the image and suggestions for how it may be improved. This is a great opportunity to try out an image you're not sure about or aren't certain how to handle. You'll also learn from seeing the work of other members and participate in the process.

Evaluations are a more formal process. We have four evaluation sessions per season, plus Annual Awards. Images are submitted online via the Latow website and evaluated remotely by three judges. These judges are experienced photographers who have taken a judging course offered by CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art) or OCCC (Ontario Council of Camera Clubs).

Images are given a score and there is a scoring structure from Bronze to Master levels. Newer photographers usually begin at Bronze level, but may begin at Silver if they are more experienced. Each level requires a certain score to receive an honorable mention and as these accumulate, the member moves up through the levels.

One caveat regarding judging: Photographers should take Evaluation scores as valuable feedback, but follow their own vision regardless of how well their work scores.

It's surprising that out of a membership of over 100, we have only 25 to 35 or so taking part in each Evaluation session. Having your work evaluated and scored by three experienced photographers is a great way to improve your photography. In fact, getting feedback on your work, both during the informal *New Exposures* nights and in the more formal *Evaluations* process is a major benefit of membership.

An Exhibition to See

Monique Campbell

The Niagara Falls History Museum is featuring North Is Freedom, a photographic journey by photographer Yuri Dojc about the legacy of the underground railroad.

This traveling exhibition celebrates the descendants of freedom-seekers who escaped slavery in the United States in the years before the American Civil War.

Approximately 30,000 people fled north to freedom. Most settled in places such as Windsor, Chatham, the Niagara Peninsula, Owen Sound, Hamilton and Toronto.



His series of portraits of descendants is well worth the drive to Niagara Falls. All COVID-19 protocols are being followed at the Museum.

The exhibition is up until January 10, 2021.

(Members will recall Yuri Dojc spoke to Latow in 2018 about his Last Folio project.)

"I think you reveal yourself by what you choose to photograph, but I prefer photographs that tell more about the subject. There's nothing much interesting to tell about me; what's interesting is the person I'm photographing, and that's what I try to show. I think each photographer has a point of view and a way of looking at the world... that has to do with your subject matter and how you choose to present it. What's interesting is letting people tell you about themselves in the picture."

Mary Ellen Mark

A Photo Weekend Like No Other!

Photo Weekend Organizing Committee (Ort Baldauf, Gary Beaudoin, Debbie Forbes, Frank Myers, Paul Sparrow, Tom Stephens)



That's not just a headline to grab your attention (are you still with us?); it's a concise description of plans for Latow's 41st annual Seminar and 11th annual workshops.

The content will remain as planned for last April and we can still look forward to the wonderful Kas Stone as the speaker. Only the mode of presentation will change with the times: we'll use a Zoom webinar and spread the presentations over more sessions to keep screen time to a comfortable length.

The Seminar -- Landscape Photography and the Meaning of Life – will be presented over two half-days: Saturday and Sunday, 10-11 April 2021.

The Workshops – How to Craft a Landscape Photograph and How to Look at Images – will be presented the following weekend, 17-18 April, also in the mornings.

The International AV Festival will be presented in the evening of the first Saturday, 10 April.

We are confident that this online format will be safe and convenient for everyone. More than that: Kas can stay in healthy Nova Scotia, ice storms will not faze us, and you can enjoy it all in your favourite chair! We hope for a record turnout.

You can find more detail online at the updated <u>Weekend Website</u>. Check it out and mark your calendar.



Marketplace

For Sale: **Nikon d750 body** and **Nikon Z6 body** which has about 3,000 shutter clicks, comes with the box and warranty.

Priced to sell. Please contact Monique Campbell for details at: moniquesuniqueimages@gmail.com

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 ideas 121 to 240. Watch the next edition of *In Focus* for the remainder.

- 121) Photograph a person sleeping on the street in honour of Vivian Maier.
- 122) Look for repeating patterns.
- 123) Introduce yourself to a stranger and make a portrait of them.
- 124) Make an out of focus photograph.
- 125) Find a lone tree and photograph it.
- 126) Try editing a photo with HDR.
- 127) Do a double exposure.
- 128) Photograph a bug up close.
- 129) Shoot with a 50mm lens.
- 130) Make a sunset image.
- 131) Use Natural Light to make a photo.
- 132) Photograph the work of an artist.
- 133) Learn Photoshop.
- 134) Watch a movie and appreciate the cinematography.
- 135) Photograph the wind.
- 136) Enter a photographic competition.
- 137) Submit your work to a magazine like PhotoLife.
- 138) Learn a new technique.
- 139) Photograph someone doing yoga.
- 140) Take a ride in a helicopter and photograph what you see from above.
- 141) Go to a cemetery and photograph.
- 142) Shoot the fall colours.
- 143) Join a camera club.
- 144) Try framing one of your photographs.
- 145) Shoot from the back of a taxi cab.
- 146) Photograph using a mirror.
- 147) Set camera at f16 and photograph a solar starburst.
- 148) Photograph a sink full of dirty dishes like photographer Margaret Watkins.
- 149) Buy photographic stamps and use them on your letters.
- 150) Shoot an element on your stove while it's on.
- 151) Read about the history of photography.
- 152) Try photographing water droplets.
- 153) Photograph a series of a horse trotting. Try to get all hooves off the ground.
- 154) Photograph a vintage car or go to a cruise
- 155) Join a closed Facebook group on photography and share your images.
- 156) Do a flat lay shoot.
- 157) Buy a photo book that inspires you.
- 158) Follow photographers on Instagram.
- 159) Use a minitripod.
- 160) Make up business cards.
- 161) Photograph with a film camera.
- 162) Start a list of places you would like to travel and Snapseed.

- photograph.
- 163) Shoot at various angles including above and below.
- 164) Photograph someone who is sad.
- 165) Spend a day at a museum.
- 166) Capture the expressions of a baby.
- 167) Replicate an iconic photograph.
- 168) Photograph the moon.
- 169) Check out apps used for photographing the night sky.
- 170) Make a friend in another city and share your love of photography.
- 171) Start your own closed Facebook page on photography.
- 172) Sell your work.
- 173) Buy a photograph that inspires you.
- 174) Visualize a photo in black and white.
- 175) Rent a lens or camera to try out.
- 176) Edit a photo to look like a sepia print.
- 177) Use a polarizing filter.
- 178) Shoot a person in their environment.
- 179) Look at the contact sheets of the masters.
- 180) Back up your hard drives!
- 181) Try using a reflector while shooting a portrait outside.
- 182) Arrange a photo story.
- 183) Look for symmetry and photograph it.
- 184) Photograph a neon sign!
- 185) Make photographs at a wedding.
- 186) Photograph your gear.
- 187) Learn how to change lenses in the dark.
- 188) Make an image of fog.
- 189) Scan your old slides and negatives into digital files.
- 190) Take vertical photos.
- 191) Print something with great tonal range.
- 192) Publish your photo in the newspaper.
- 193) Try macro photography.
- 194) Photograph a sporting event.
- 195) Make a nude portrait.
- 196) Have a 30x40 print made and hang it on your wall
- 197) Cull your archives of unwanted shots.
- 198) Have a canvas print made of one of your photos
- 199) Photograph a still life scene in the likeness of a Dutch painter.
- 200) Make a photo collage.
- 201) Create postcards of your images and send them in the mail.
- 202) Learn how to edit with free phone App called Snapseed.

- 203) Make a pinhole camera and make a photo.
- 204) Photograph a headshot.
- 205) Attend a fashion show and shoot from the runway.
- 206) Have a conversation with a person
- experiencing homelessness and make their portrait.
- 207) Find a photobooth and make a portrait.
- 208) Walk your neighbourhood and photograph doors that you see.
- 209) Collect photography quotes in a journal.
- 210) Photograph during the blue hour.
- 211) Limit yourself to making square cropped images for a day.
- 212) Shoot a leaf with water droplets on it.
- 213) Find a unique angle to photograph a waterfall.
- 214) Photograph a room in your home.
- 215) Make images in the style of your favourite photographer.
- 216) Get up early and photograph a sunrise.
- 217) Make a website of your photographs.
- 218) Start a photography blog.
- 219) Learn to read a Histogram
- 220) In the studio create a hi key portrait.
- 221) Photograph a Special Olympics event.
- 222) Shoot lightning.
- 223) Do a Zoom presentation on your style of photography.
- 224) Research Miksang Photography and try it out.
- 225) Pick out a poem and match it with a photograph you made for it.
- 226) Practice photographing with your cell phone.
- 227) Photograph yourself in a reflective surface like a teapot.
- 228) Order paper and ink if you have a printer.
- 229) Get your camera cleaned professionally.
- 230) Donate old gear to a student.
- 231) Go to a part of town that you normally don't go to and shoot.
- 232) Photograph birds at an Aviary or the Raptors Conservatory.
- 233) Photograph at blue hour.
- 234) Have another photographer make a portrait of
- 235) Learn about lighting techniques.
- 236) Shoot someone or something in silhouette.
- 237) Buy a Photo Life magazine or better yet a subscription.
- 238) Attend a Seminar weekend with Latow Photographers Guild.
- 239) Build a website with your images.
- 240) Photograph a rainbow.

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
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Past- President	Andrzej Pradzynski a.pradzynski@cogeco.ca
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Glen Jones

All-Guilds Show

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Explorations Group	Paul Sparrow	psparrow@cogeco.ca
Evaluations	Toni Browning	tonnie@cogeco.ca
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David Walther

Jim Lait

Tori Martin



Calendar updates

Member galleries



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