

Snapshots

2020-2021
Issue 10
for meeting of
January 20
editor
Matthew
Robertson



Sunny Days, by Allan Flagel

Our first meeting of 2021 may have been unique in the long history of the Forum. It brought us nineteen new images – and, amazingly, three returning members. We were very pleased to see our friends Kas, Katherine, and Avi each presenting images to the Forum for the first time in many years.

Steve Rees was our moderator for this remarkable night, as Leif provided the support to run the online presentation. Many members took up the challenge to show something experimental and daring, whether that meant trying new things or approaching familiar things differently. Our electronic format gives us a different dynamic than our in-person meetings, and while we certainly miss being able to see finely-crafted prints, we are also able to recognize the opportunities of this unusual time.

Upcoming Meetings

January 20

Michael Anderson

February 3

Leif Petersen

February 17

Matthew Robertson

At the Toronto Focal Forum we share a passion for the printed photograph: it's our chosen means of creative expression, so we strive for artistic and technical excellence. Our candid print reviews are times for diverse work and different ideas, creating an invigorating, ongoing conversation about our experiences in art and in life. These evenings are times of inspiration, honing our craft of clear vision and communication, enriching our photographic pursuits. This is the measure of our success.

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Images Shown,
January 6

Allan Flagel
Sunny Days

Dass
Shirts in My Closet

Leif Petersen
Old World Map

Matthew Robertson
Life Support

Nick Janushewski
Zabriskie Point

Tom Yates
9084

Bruce Macaulay
*The Embodiment of Grace,
Power, Movement*

Lawrence Sitwell
Winter Moon

Marie Algieri-Goldgrub
Love Has No Limits

Marvin Cooper
Blue Skies Smiling at Me

Michael Anderson
Two Figures

Mort Shapiro
Life Force

Paul Yi
At Dawn

Judy Griffin
Faded Dreams

Carm Griffin
Ghost & His Bike



Blue Skies Smiling at Me, by Marvin Cooper

Jocelyn Ubaldino
Frosty and His Drafty Coat

Avi Cohen
Morning Frost & Ice Formation

Kas Stone
A Walking Shadow

Katherine Keates
In Loving Memory

Blue birds singing a song / Nothing but blue skies from now on
Never saw the sun shining so bright / Never saw things going so right
– Irving Berlin

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Frosty and His Drafty Coat, by Jocelyn Ubaldino

About the Forum

by Tom Yates

Dass gave me a simple request: 'Write about the Forum'.

I get to take that request and bend it/expand it/personalize it as I wish. You will get comment that is much like that we both give and hear at a regular meeting of the Toronto Focal Forum: accurate, imagined, factual, error-prone, sometimes entertaining, usually on-topic. This project is done from memory, without access to the fine TFF Archives that Laurence Sitwell has assembled and stores. I'll admit that my 'once-fabulous' memory is deteriorating. So be it. So be it. The writing style of this document is 'stream-of-consciousness'. So be that, as well.

click to read

'About the Forum: A History by Tom Yates'

on focalforum.ca

The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.
— John Muir

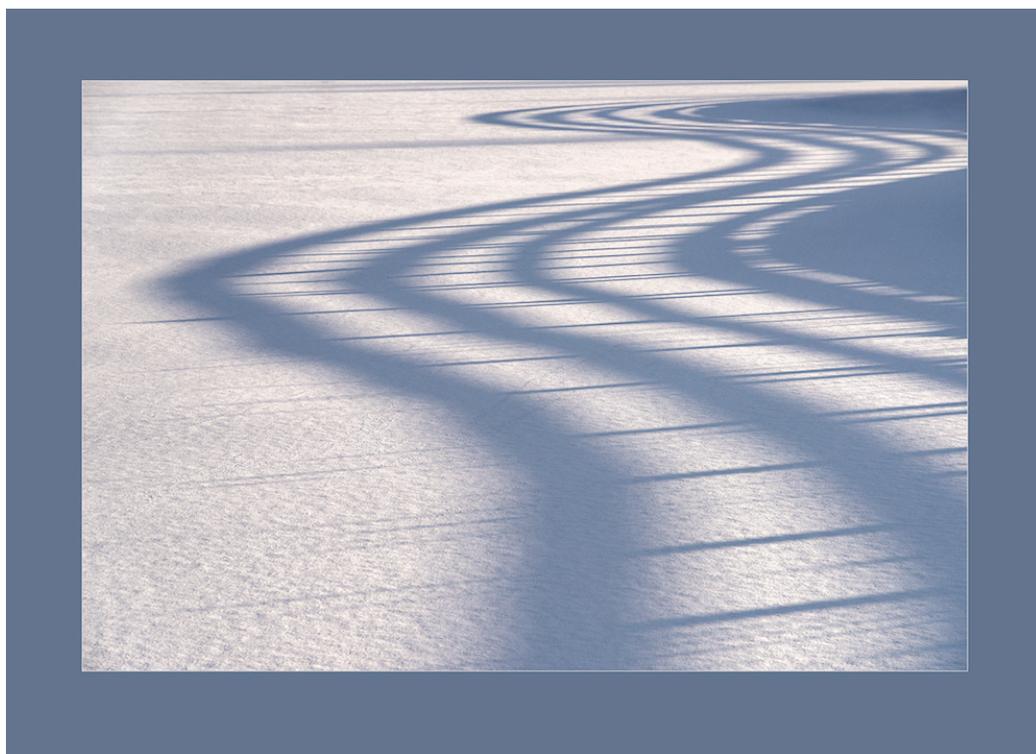
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*Above: Old World Map,
by Leif Petersen*

*Right: A Walking Shadow
by Kas Stone*



My paintings are titled after they are finished. I paint from remembered landscapes that I carry with me and remembered feelings of them, which of course become transformed. I could certainly never mirror nature. I would more like to paint what it leaves with me.

—Joan Mitchell

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*Above: Morning Frost and Ice Formation,
by Avi Cohen*



*Left: Faded Dreams,
by Judy Griffin*

There'll be icicles and birthday clothes, and sometimes there'll be sorrow.
—Joni Mitchell

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*Left: Ghost & His Bike,
by Carm Griffin*

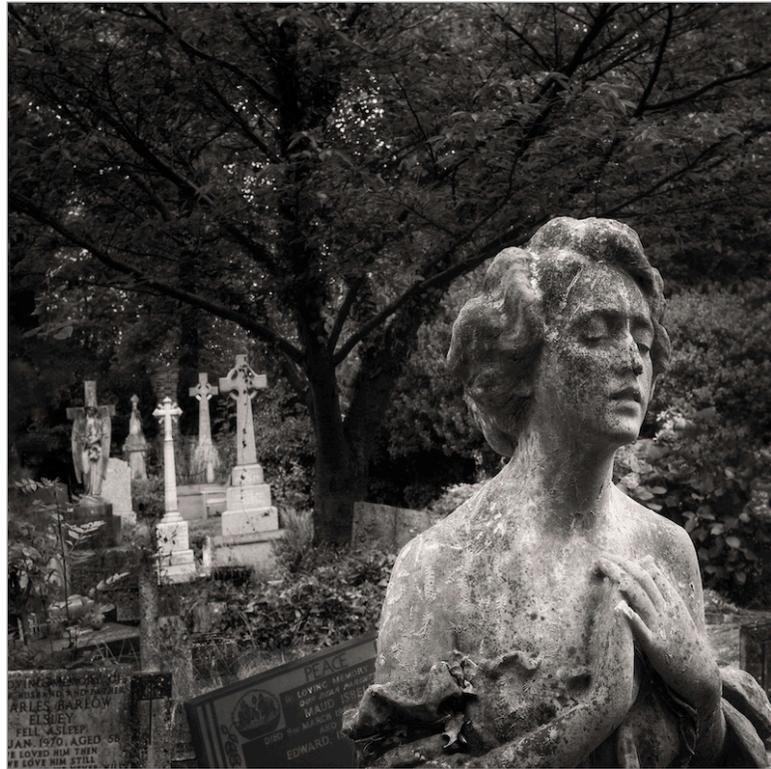
*Below: Two Figures,
by Michael Anderson*



It is most difficult to acquire the, how shall I say?
The 'depth' of a subject in composition in silhouette.
– Ugo Mochi

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*Right: In Loving Memory,
by Katherine Keates*

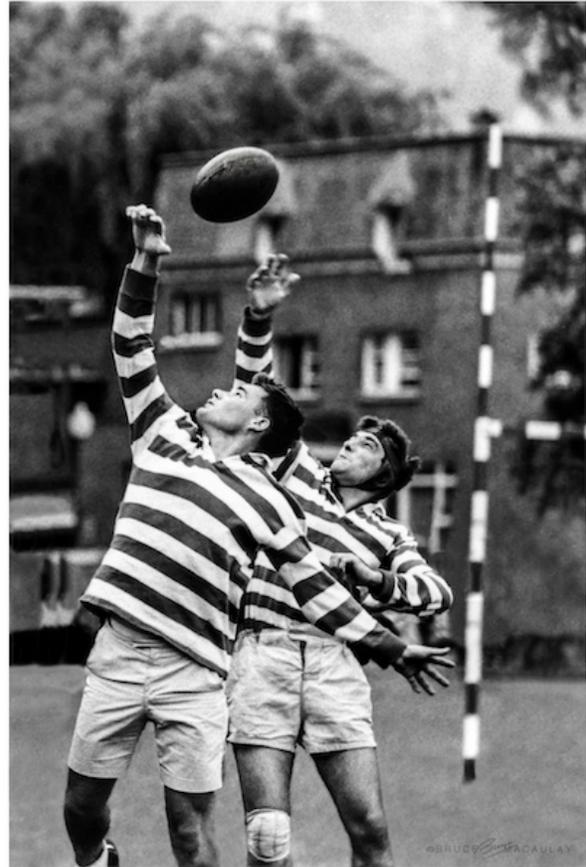
*Below: Love Has No Limits,
by Marie Algieri-Goldgrub*



I think you realize how much you need to have people that you love.
It's not as much about them loving you – it's about you needing to love people.
– Chadwick Boseman

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The Embodiment of Grace, Power, Movement, by Bruce Macaulay

The comparison between these images couldn't be more striking and yet are characteristically alike.

What do ballet dancers and rugby players have in common, and why do they both appear in the same photograph? They are both similar and yet contradictory.

I have always felt that these rough and tumble rugby players somehow gave the appearance of being, frozen in a state of suspended nonviolence for a nanosecond. Almost as if floating in a stone-age ballet.

The Ballet dancers were rehearsing for the Nutcracker, and though not out to batter each other, they nevertheless exude power and strength every bit as much as the rugby players. The comparisons though dissimilar, are yet homogeneous in many ways.

Life and people are complex. A writer as an artist doesn't have the personality of a politician.
We don't see the world that simply.

— Joyce Carol Oates

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This is a shot looking inward rather than outward. While this is an image of shirts, it's not about the shirts. It's about the person who wears them.

Top: Zabriskie Point, by Nick Janushewski

Above: Shirts in my Closet, by Dass

Karl Lagerfeld never touched a pair of scissors in his life.
— *Azzedine Alaia*

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*Above: Winter Moon,
by Lawrence Sitwell*

*Right: At Dawn,
by Paul Yi*



Have you ever seen the stars in the night?
See them closely, they will tell you, how to be open, how to love and how to shine and twinkle
without any differences and jealousy of other stars.

– Santosh Kalwar

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Life Support, by Matthew Robertson

This Time Last Year...

by Matthew Robertson

This is the half-way point: we've had eight regular meetings online, with eight more planned before we conclude the 2020-2021 season. So let's take a moment for a quick update on our unusual year.

So far we've seen 154 digital images, which happens to be exactly the number of prints that we saw in the eleven meetings of our abbreviated 2019-2020 season. Last year our average number of images per night was fourteen, with nineteen shown on our busiest night. So far this year our average is nineteen, with a high of twenty-three – a number that we'll likely surpass before the year is done.

At this point in 2019-2020, only one member had shown an image at each of the eight meetings – thank you, Tom – and three more had shown images at seven meetings. So far this year six people can still claim a perfect record, and seven other people have only missed showing images at one meeting.

(Remember that the list of photos shown at the previous meeting is arranged by the total number of images from each member in the current season, then sorted alphabetically by the maker's first name.)

Many things have changed how, and how often, we are able to participate in our activities this year, so while it's tempting to extrapolate from our online experience, it's far too early to draw any conclusions. But what is clear is just how much we value being able to get together with our insightful photographic friends for evenings of discussion and ideas. That was a strength of the Toronto Focal Forum long before the current situation began, and will continue long after it has passed.

Woke up this morning with a terrific urge to lie in bed all day and read.

Fought against it for a minute.

– Raymond Carver