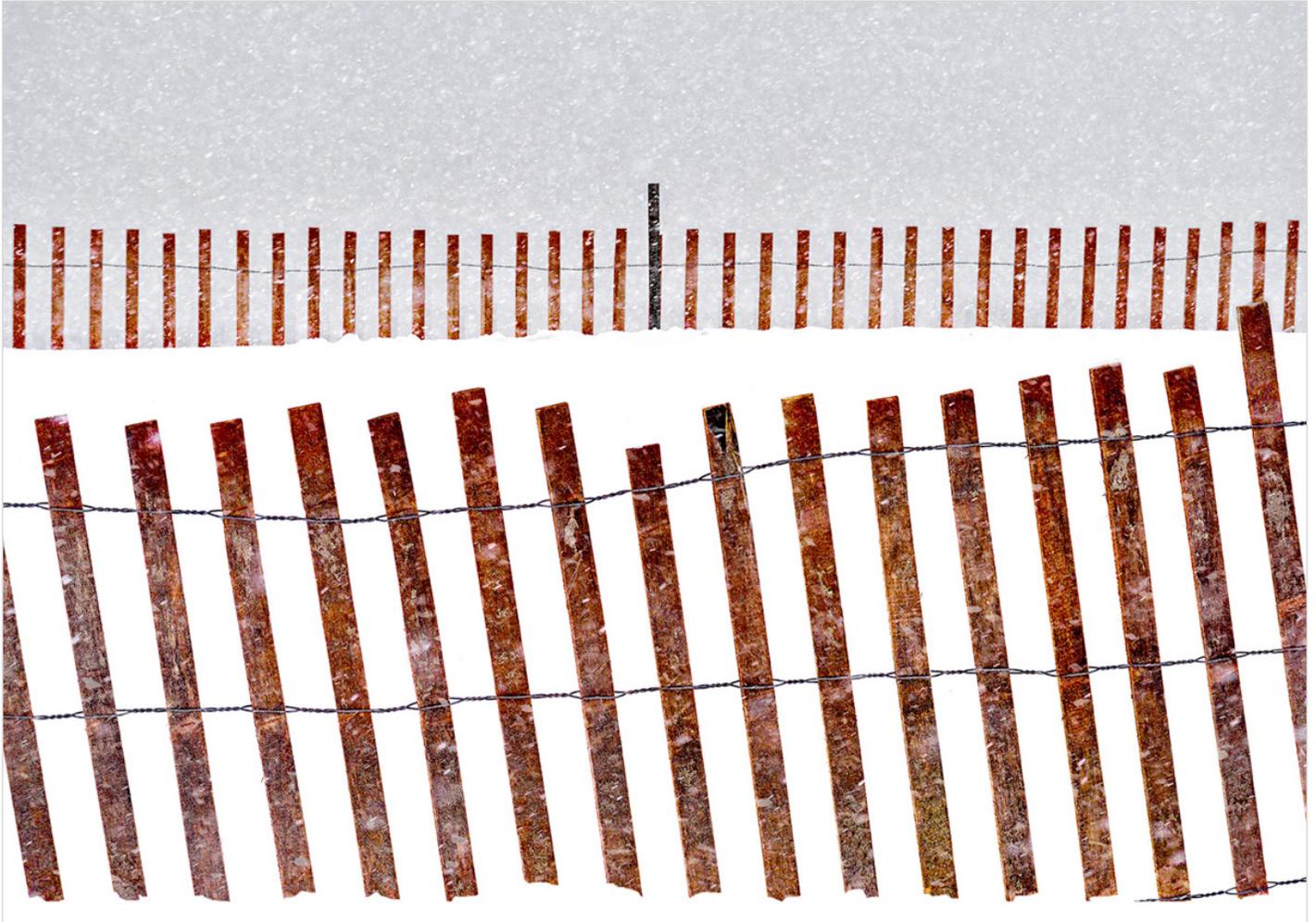


Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1
editor
Matthew
Robertson



Border Lines, by Kas Stone

Our next meeting may be a landmark event: our last regular meeting over Zoom.

We didn't know it at the time, but our last in-person meeting was on March 11, 2020. After that, in consideration for safety and uncertainty, we took the unprecedented step of cancelling the next two meetings. We thought we'd try to get back together for the end of April. And then... well, we didn't.

A lot has changed since then, in too many ways to count. So on Wednesday please join us online, one more time, before in-person meetings resume later in the month.

Upcoming Meetings

February 1
Jocelyn

February 15
Steve Rees

March 1
David

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.

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1

Images Shown, January 18:

Judy Griffin
Solitary

Allan Flagel
Red Light District

Stephen Starkman
Untitled 2

Luba Citrin
Pacific Shore

Paul Yi
NO-EXIT

Steve Rees
Pursuit of Knowledge

Sue Curtis
New Ice

Kas Stone
Border Lines

Matthew Robertson
Nothing Has Inherent Existence

Craig Lauder
Lion After Feeding

Marie Algieri-Goldgrub
The Lightness of Being

Leif Petersen
Brian

Vincent Sheridan
Gail

Christine Kobielski
Washington Bridge



Gail, by Vince Sheridan

Snapshots is on the web!
Explore five years of Forum history:
focalforum.ca/snapshots

It is easy to make a picture of someone and call it a portrait.
The difficulty lies in making a picture that makes the viewer care about a stranger.

– Paul Strand

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1



Above:
Lion After Feeding,
by Craig Lauder



Left:
Pursuit of Knowledge,
by Steve Rees

Taken at the Starfield Library in Seoul, South Korea. The uppermost shelves show 'prop' books with their covers facing out, for decoration. Lower shelves (still pretty high) show real, 'for borrowing' books with their spines facing out.

It is no accident that the photographer becomes a photographer any more than the lion tamer becomes a lion tamer.

– Dorothea Lange

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1

*Right:
Washington Bridge,
by Christine Kobielski*

*Below:
Pacific Shore,
by Luba Citrin*



On my recent vacation to Costa Rica, Sunwing left my suitcase in Toronto.

I was so frustrated, that I did not even take my camera out of the camera bag and just resorted to iPhone photography. Here is one of the images I took with the phone.



Children and geniuses know that there is no bridge, only the water that lets itself be crossed.

– René Char

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1



*Above:
Untitled,
by Stephen Starkman*

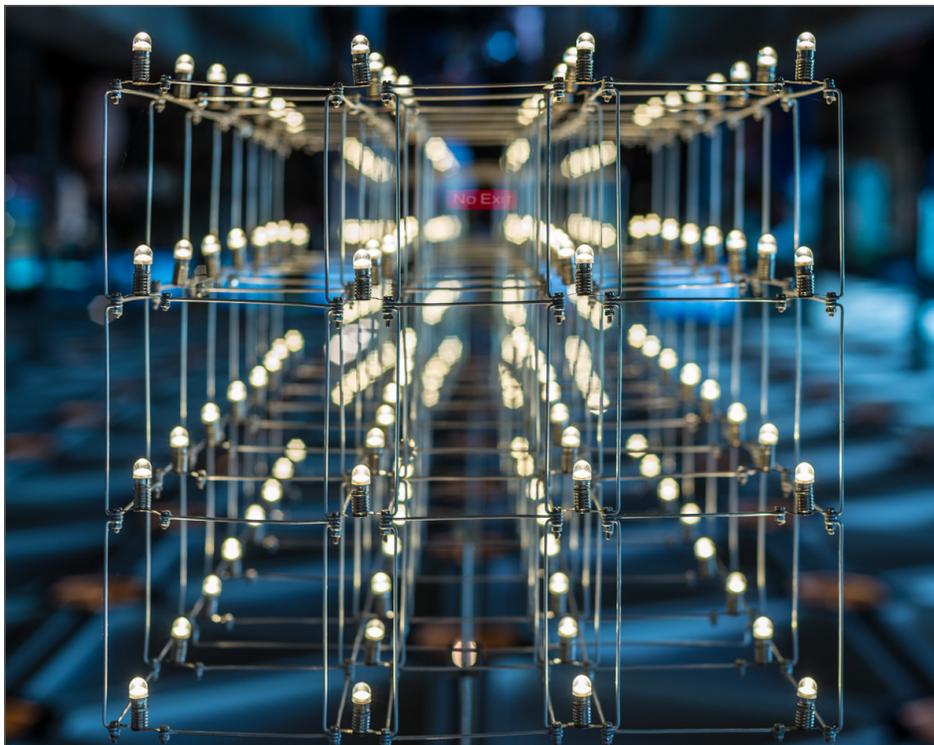


*Left:
Brian,
by Leif Petersen*

The subject gives you the best idea of how to make a photograph.
So I just wait for something to happen.
– Mary Ellen Mark

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1



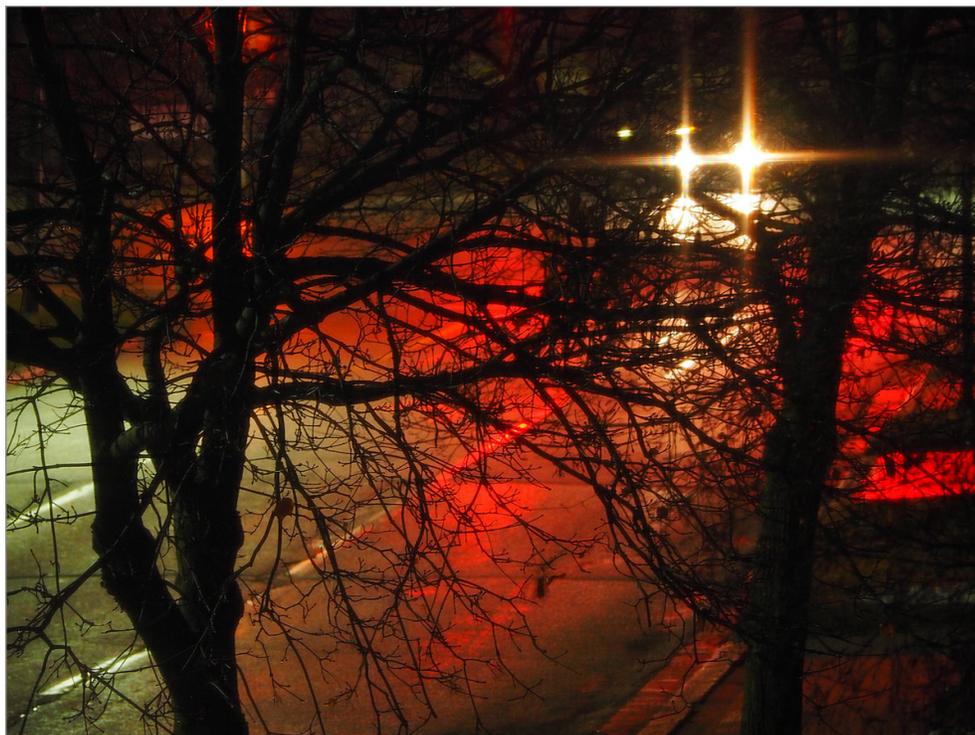
*Above:
New Ice,
by Sue Curtis*

*Right:
No Exit,
by Paul Yi*

To be an artist means never to avert one's eyes.
— Akira Kurosawa

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1



The red light bathing our street corner is coming from the stop lights, but as I listen to the funeral of a murdered police constable on TV this morning, the colour makes me ponder the rising numbers of people being shot, stabbed or run down on our streets today.

*Above:
Red Light District,
by Allan Flagel*

*Right:
Solitary,
by Judy Griffin*



Any art you can make in the face of unbearable sorrow is good art.

– Charlie Jane Anders

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 10
for meeting of
February 1



Glass Dot Photo

by Matthew Robertson
glass.photo/matthewpiers

Glass is a relatively new social media platform that is designed for photographers and photos. It's strikingly different, largely because – like many things in photography – it isn't free. I've had a membership for about six months, and the differences with a platform that isn't driven by advertising and algorithms is remarkable.

When I visit I see only photos that I seek out, without Suggested or Promoted filler that I don't want. There are no ads, or even text, to interrupt the images. Instead any description or discussion is just a click away, where you'll also enjoy a full-resolution photo. And the site is built without status-seeking metrics. There's no easy follower / following counts to compare, and the number of "appreciations" each photo or comment receives is private. Glass fosters a community of participants, not a culture of influencers each vying for an audience in a contest with secret and ever-changing rules.

Chances are, if you're on a social media platform, it has become harder to use since you joined. More ads, more toxicity, and more effort to keep those connections that brought you to the service in the first place. Glass isn't perfect, and no, most of your friends aren't already there. But everyone in the Forum knows the value of finding an engaged and talented community. While the world pivots to video, it's important to have a space online that still values photography.

Sometimes, a person reaches a point in their life
when it becomes absolutely essential
to get the fuck out of the city.

– Becky Chambers