

Snapshots

2018-2019
issue 12
for meeting of
February 20
editor
Matthew
Robertson



Approximate View of the Weather at our Previous Meeting, Maker Unknown

As with a good haiku, our meeting summaries should always reference the season or the weather. Our entry for February 6 can be no exception, as for the first time in recent memory a Focal Forum meeting was cancelled due to a winter storm.

This was not an easy decision to make, but the Forum Executive and Katz's Deli were in frequent contact throughout the day to evaluate our options. As conditions worsened it became undeniable that even the best print critiques would not be worth the difficulties and outright hazards involved for either our members or the many people at the venue that make our evenings a success.

While it's never fully possible to recreate the magic of an evening at the Forum, your print director is working on a plan to allow those who had created images for our February 6 evening to present them in the lightbox at an upcoming meeting. More information will be available soon, and thank you for your understanding.

Upcoming Meetings

February 20 - No Seal

Bruce Macaulay
Maker Anonymous, Title Announced
Invoking Passion

March 6 - Seal

David Kennedy
Maker Anonymous, Title Announced

March 20 - Seal

Matthew Robertson
Maker Anonymous, Title Announced
Voting by Ballot

Remember: Snapshots is **your** Toronto Focal Forum newsletter.
Have something you want to share? Send it in! tffsnapshots@gmail.com

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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Sticks and Stones

by Leif Petersen

When I committed to preparing a Multi-Print Presentation, I did it without giving a lot of thought to what the subject would be. I certainly have groups of photos that I could call a series - landscapes, architecture, macro - but I wanted to go for something a little more out of the norm. I've settled for 'Sticks and Stones'.

As I think about it, I guess I unconsciously started to build this exhibit almost 8 years ago, when I was on a Franklin Island photo workshop, with Philip Sun. The island is an ancient formation of rocks of all shapes and sizes with sparse, windblown pine trees sprouting from them. Shortly after that, I had an opportunity to exhibit at a downtown Oshawa restaurant and, since the workshop was fresh in my mind, I built the show around my Franklin Island shots and called it 'Sticks and Stones'.

Since then, when the mood and subjects are just right, I've continued to take shots for the collection, not always taking them much further than that. The series has grown and includes a variety of images: those straight landscape shots, composites, montages, mirror montages, trees, rocks, ivy on brick walls, whatever struck me as I was out shooting other things. They come from, among other places, Franklin Island, Newfoundland, Cobourg, Oshawa, Algonquin, England, Norway, or a combination of those locales.

The Multi-Print Presentation spot has given me the impetus to have another look at what I actually have in my collection and I have chosen 8-10 images to exhibit on February 20th. Rather than going into a description and explanation here, I'll wait until we are together. I'm looking forward to presenting them to you, but I'm especially looking forward to your usual insightful observations and comments.

Disclaimer: No bones were broken, while gathering these sticks and stones.

Snapshots Wants Your Photos!

by Matthew Robertson

Snapshots is always looking for submissions from the Forum membership, and we do especially like to look at and talk about photos. So if you have a favourite photo then send it in with a few words about it, even if it hasn't appeared in the lightbox. To get you started, consider answering a few of these questions:

- Where and when was it taken?
- Is it part of a series, project, or larger body of work? Where does this image fit in?
- Does the camera and equipment used to capture the image matter? If yes, why?
- What part of its meaning is personal or specific to you as its maker?
- What part of its meaning do you hope is universal?

Images that are submitted with an accompanying article will often be featured on their own page, so do take advantage of this presentation format that's very different from our critique evenings. And if you don't feel like writing that's okay too. Any image that has been shown in the lightbox or as part of a multi-print presentation is welcome in the following issue of Snapshots, so don't hesitate to send yours in.

Art is another way to bring us into the naked awe of our own minds' interaction with experience.
Entertainment is how we *avoid* that challenge.

- Ethan Nichtern