

Snapshots

2020-2021
Issue 15
for meeting of
April 7
editor
Matthew
Robertson



California Surf, by Carm Griffin

For our thirteenth meeting we were able to enjoy twenty-two images, providing a good variety of subjects and treatments. Carm served as our moderator for the evening, and asked us to introduce our images and reveal something about our inspiration in its creation and presentation.

This led to lively and engaged discussions around travel, interpersonal interaction, music, friendship and family, and seeing details. Photos were captured in locations in Italy, India, Bhutan, Aruba, America, and Vaughan, among others. We are a wide-ranging group, both in geography and in interests. It was a very enjoyable evening in our most unusual season.

Upcoming Meetings

April 7
Marvin Cooper

April 21 - AGM
Marie Algieri-Goldgrub

May 5
Leif Petersen
Year-End Celebration

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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Waiting for Spring, by Marvin Cooper

Images Shown, March 17

Allan Flagel <i>A Perfect Day</i>	Marvin Cooper <i>Waiting for Spring</i>	Rhonda Starr <i>Musical Dispersion</i>
Dass <i>My Covid Relief Program</i>	Michael Anderson <i>Monastery Wall</i>	Carm Griffin <i>California Surf</i>
Leif Petersen <i>Courtyard Seating for Three</i>	Mort Shapiro <i>Parallel Play</i>	Avi Cohen <i>Tree Tapestry</i>
Matthew Robertson <i>Curbside Pickup</i>	Nick Janushewski <i>Joseph's Farm</i>	Kas Stone <i>Polar Vortex</i>
Tom Yates <i>Buggy</i>	Paul Yi <i>Blue Monster</i>	Katherine Keates <i>Shadows and Light</i>
Lawrence Sitwell <i>You're On</i>	Judy Griffin <i>Nature's Curves and Lines</i>	Mandeep Bal <i>Generation Gap</i>
Marie Algieri-Goldgrub <i>Let Your Imagination Take Flight</i>	Jocelyn Ubaldino <i>Beauty Amidst the Fog</i>	Vince Sheridan <i>White Marked Tussock</i> <i>Moth Larva</i>
		Luba Citrin <i>Shrine</i>

I start to think of sharing my work with others there are doubts that invariably creep in,
but I try to shut those out and stay focused on the practice of making work.

– Tara Wray

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*Above: Beauty Amidst the Fog,
by Jocelyn Ubaldino*



*Left: Shadows and Light,
by Katherine Keates*

The grace of a curve is an invitation to remain.
We cannot break away from it without hoping to return.
— Gaston Bachelard

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Polar Vortex, by Kas Stone

Typically my images come with (long-winded?) backstories, and their titles are a vital component of the 'package'. This time, however, I am presenting an image whose inspiration was purely aesthetic – the swirling patterns on a frozen pond.

The title, "Polar Vortex", seemed a clever way of linking the visual pattern with a larger, trendier message about climate and extreme weather events. But I worry that in this case the title may distract from the image rather than enhance it. What do you think?

Well, I know now. I know a little more how much a simple thing like a snowfall can mean to a person.
– *Sylvia Plath*

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*Left: Tree Tapestry,
by Avi Cohen*

*Below: Blue Monster,
by Paul Yi*



I often find myself not wanting to exist in this world that currently exists.
I'm hoping that work I make in the future is more magical, more surreal,
more rooted in ancestral veneration, knowledge, and ways of being.

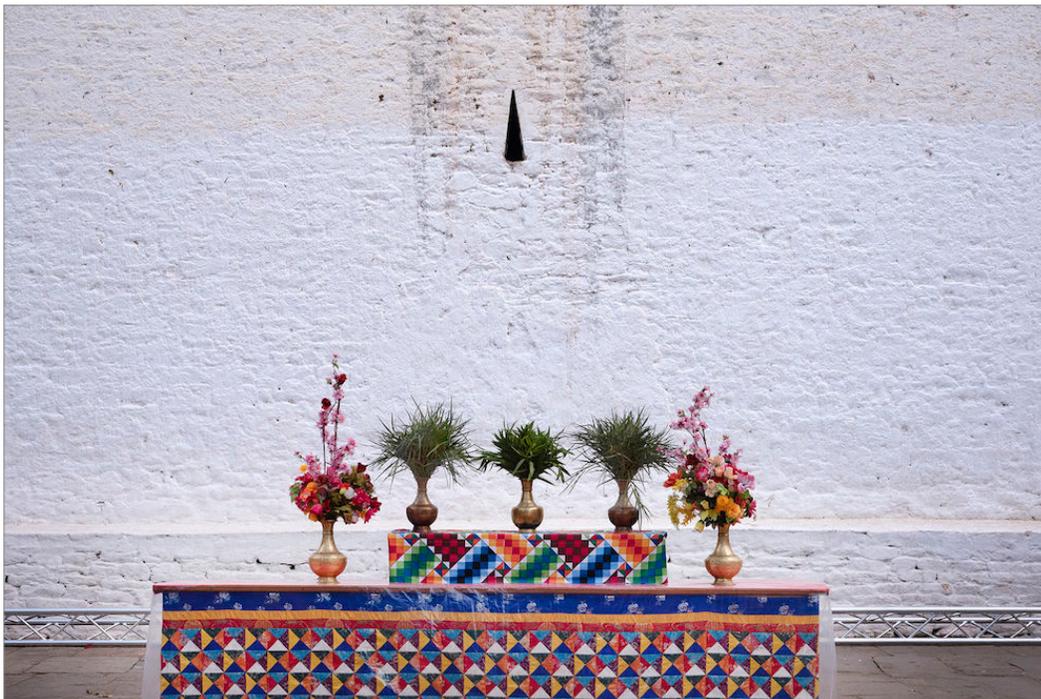
– *Roya DelSol*

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*Above: Generation Gap,
by Mandeep Bal*



*Left: Monastery Wall,
by Michael Anderson*

Never forget how swiftly this life will be over, like a flash of summer lightning or the wave of a hand.
– Dilgo Khyentse

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Curbside Pickup, by Matthew Robertson

Sometimes I have this fantasy about giving up photography in favour of just taking photos.

I was at the Ikea – Swedish for 'tax avoidance' – that's most convenient for me to reach by public transit. I'd placed an order for curbside pickup, which meant paying them a \$5 surcharge to not go into their store. Expensive, but worth it.

Of course there's no concession for pedestrians, no concept that their customers might include people who don't drive to their stores. So I have to find the only vacant 'pick up' parking space that has a bench near it, and block the seemingly-available spot with a discarded shopping cart to prevent any awkward conversations with confused motorists.

I sent the store a text to tell them my order and 'parking spot' number – 23 – and sat there for about that many minutes.

At some point during that time I took this photo. The camera was sitting on the bench beside me.

If they had given standardized tests in assassin school, he would not have lasted a day.
– *Charlie Jane Anders*

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*Above: A Perfect Day,
by Allan Flagel*

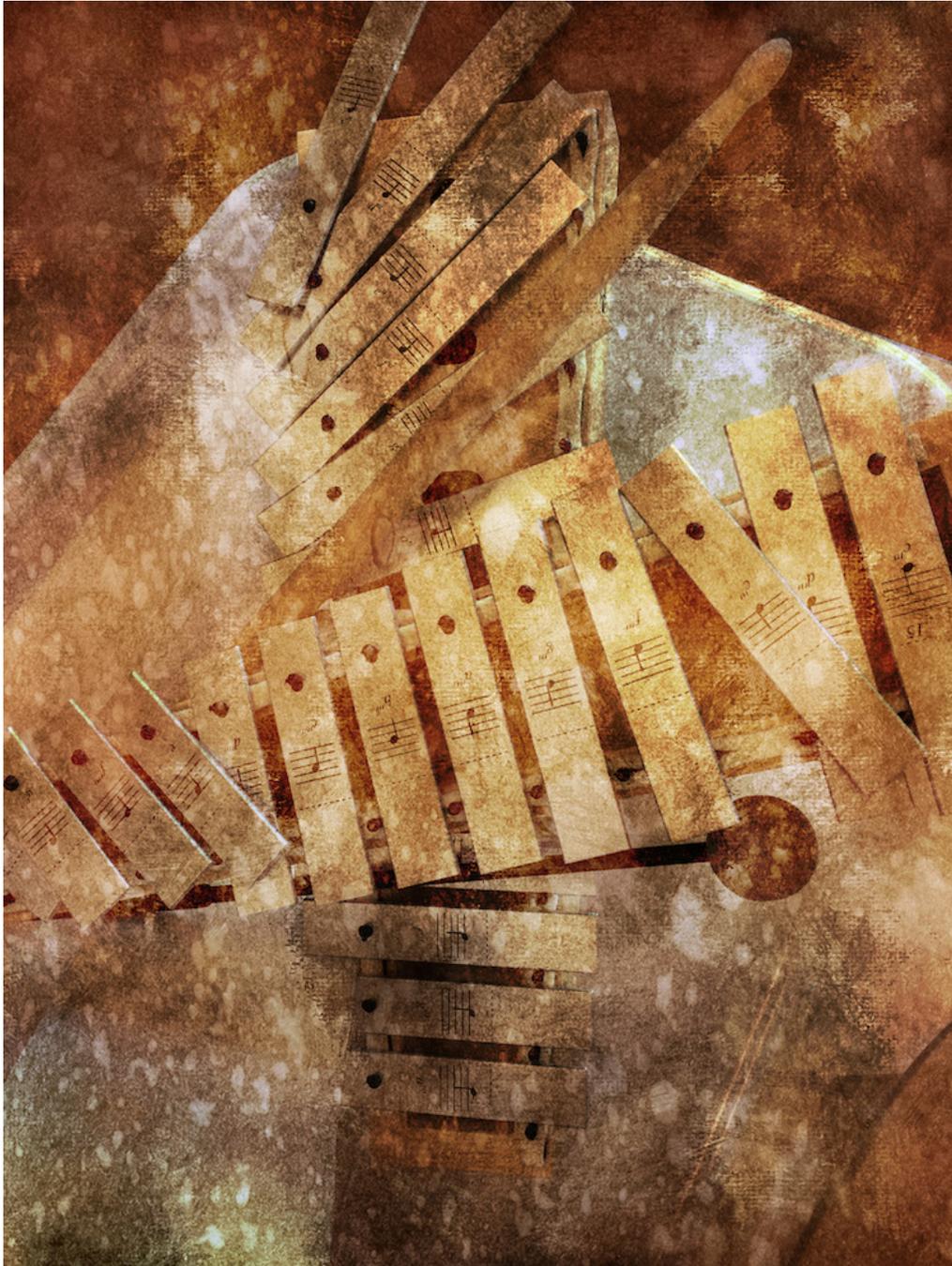
*Right: My Covid Relief Program,
by Dass*



But I knew I could do this.
(I hoped I could do this. I'd been wondering a lot about my judgement lately.)
– Martha Wells

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Musical Dispersion, by Rhonda Starr

I wanted to hear music that had not yet happened,
by putting together things that suggested a new thing which did not yet exist.
— Brian Eno

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*Above: Nature's Curves and Lines,
by Judy Griffin*

*Right: Courtyard Seating for Three,
by Leif Petersen*

A shot from a courtyard Marciano della Chiana, a small village in Tuscany, one of our favourite places on earth. I feel that this image really suits printing on canvas, which I've done with an expanded version of the courtyard at 30" x 45".



Mountains, according to the angle of view, the season, the time of day, the beholder's frame of mind, or any one thing, can effectively change their appearance. Thus, it is essential to recognize that we can never know more than one side, one small aspect of a mountain.

– Haruki Murakami

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Although this is an image of my daughter, it is also very much an image of me. As a parent, I strove to provide my children with a safe, enriched, and nurturing environment in order to foster independence, creativity, and exploration.

Little did I know that it would lead to them leaving the nest to find their own way across the country and the globe. Do I have any regrets? Absolutely not.

I took this photo of my daughter, a few days before she left Ontario. She had recently cut her long hair very short. I knew this was a symbolic and essential change for her. It signified her way of getting a fresh start, leaving behind her childhood, studies, and entering the work world.

The trees and birds were photographed a year later, while she took me on a hike. The freedom and joy she felt were palpable.

Let Your Imagination Take Flight, by Marie Algieri-Goldgrub

The degree to which you resist is the degree to which you are free.
– Utah Phillips