

# Snapshots

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2020-2021  
Issue 17  
for meeting of  
May 5  
editor  
Matthew  
Robertson



*Life is All About Attitude, by Mandeep Bal*

Our fifteenth and final regular meeting of the year was a great success, with Marie, our incoming Print Director, taking us through twenty-two photographs with skill and ease. Her suggestion of a theme for the night was a great success, bringing out many exceptional images that we otherwise might not have seen.

In those photos we found many enduring lessons: revisit older images with fresh eyes, follow through on your creative ideas, take opportunities when you can, and don't put the camera away even when you think you've finished taking photos for the day. You never know what else you might still see.

Our penultimate meeting of the season included our Annual General Meeting; please see your email for the accompanying Executive Reports. We thank all of our Executive for keeping the mighty machine running during this unprecedented but remarkably successful year.

We were also privileged to honour our longest-serving members with Lifetime Memberships. Lawrence and Tom have provided exceptional contributions over their decades in the Forum, and we are tremendously fortunate that they've chosen to share their time and expertise with us.

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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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## ANNUAL YEAR-END BANQUET!



JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY  
MAY 5TH at 7PM

For a fun evening of AV shows  
and a special presentation by  
DAVID TRATTLES

Get a glass of wine and some snacks and sit back with your fellow Forum members at our virtual year-end party. Not our traditional banquet, but the best we can do this year. As always, Leif will open the zoom link at 6:30 and the program will begin at 7. See you all there.

### Images Shown, April 21

<b>Allan Flagel</b> <i>Ballerina</i>	<b>Matthew Robertson</b> <i>Convolution 119</i>	<b>Avi Cohen</b> <i>Abandoned &amp; Colourful</i>
<b>Dass</b> <i>The Passage of Time</i>	<b>Michael Anderson</b> <i>Mother and Daughter</i>	<b>Darcy Rector</b> <i>On Guard</i>
<b>Leif Petersen</b> <i>Passing On</i>	<b>Mort Shapiro</b> <i>Of Days Past</i>	<b>Kas Stone</b> <i>The Far Reaches</i>
<b>Tom Yates</b> <i>Sunshine</i>	<b>Paul Yi</b> <i>Sandbanks</i>	<b>Katherine Keates</b> <i>The Haircut</i>
<b>Lawrence Sitwell</b> <i>Open Field</i>	<b>Jocelyn Ubaldino</b> <i>Brookfield Place</i>	<b>Craig Lauder</b> <i>Tree</i>
<b>Marie Algieri-Goldgrub</b> <i>Ephemeral but Resilient</i>	<b>Judy Griffin</b> <i>Abandoned Mill</i>	<b>Vince Sheridan</b> <i>Swallowtail Larva Detail</i>
<b>Marvin Cooper</b> <i>Mushroom</i>	<b>Rhonda Starr</b> <i>A Room with a View</i>	<b>Luba Citrin</b> <i>Making Bread</i>
		<b>Mandeep Bal</b> <i>Life is All About Attitude</i>

Now I'm in that sweet spot where I know enough to know that I know nothing.  
I have a chance to relearn, but I also know enough to know what mistakes not to make again.

– Ellen Rogers

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## Guest Speaker: David Trattles

*by Dass*

We are pleased to announce a guest speaker for our annual banquet. Dave Trattles will share his life, through pictures and stories, as a social documentary photographer who has travelled through more than 100 countries, over 25 years, by bicycle. His presentation will be about why you should travel with a camera, and what happens when you do. His work has appeared in Canadian Geographic, National Archives of Canada, Macleans, Elle, Globe etc.

Along the way Dave will reveal the joy of human relations. By learning who the people are and how they live their lives, he will share stories about ordinary people who do extraordinary things (perhaps he'll tell us about women boxers of Calcutta, or German cowboys, cheese rollers of Sicily, Tomato throwers of Spain, kefir makers of Tajikistan, marathoners of Calcutta, or remote Canadian characters). Dave will inspire us to get in touch with our own life force – to go out into the world with a camera and express our own individuality, and engage deeply in the lives and experiences of others.

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Look at art for longer than feels necessary.  
– Sarah Urist Green

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*Left:  
Sandbanks,  
by Paul Yi*

*Below Left:  
A Room With a View,  
by Rhonda Starr*

*Below Right:  
Mushroom,  
by Marvin Cooper*



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The ability to make art is, in fact, inherent with all of us.  
— David Bowie

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*Ephemeral but Resilient, by Marie Algieri-Goldgrub*

This is the same rose that I showed at our last meeting. For the previous image, I basically tortured it. I shook it, twirled it, flipped it, left it out of water, and drowned it in a bowl of water. I have never mistreated a flower (or anything else for that matter) this way.

Once I was done photographing it, I put it back in the vase with the other flowers. I was surprised at how resilient it was. It opened up beautifully and lived as long as the other roses that I did not mishandle. I then allowed it to dry up and found that it retained its glorious beauty in a new form. I was fascinated by the way it shrivelled up and the shape it took. There was almost a defiance and strength in its new look. To me, it was beautifully antiqued so I placed it in a vintage bottle, since it too is aged and resilient enough to have lasted so many years.

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If you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for a moment.  
– Georgia O'Keefe

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*Right: Ballerina, by Allan Flagel*

*Below: Swallowtail Larva Detail,  
by Vince Sheridan*



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Nature is a picture waiting to be taken.  
– Katja Michael

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## Lawrence Sitwell, Honourary Lifetime Member

Born in 1939 in Toronto, Ontario, most of his career was in sales/marketing, being in the office or on the road. Started on a drawing board with a diversified manufacturing company, acquiring a strong technical background.

Laurence always said "he was a frustrated artist". He tried working with watercolour and oil paints, and found that a camera worked much better. He went from a boxed Brownie to his first decent camera, a 35mm, range finder Olympus. His first darkroom was built when he first started high school.

He joined the Forum in 1975, after 15 years with the North York Camera Club. Through the early years he had a few acceptances at various photographic salons. The best award was in a black & white division at the 1961 Royal Winter Fair, where he won first prize ahead of two other former members, John Lawson and Mike Chenew.

Professionally, Laurence was a wedding/portrait photographer on a part-time basis for approximately 30 years, plus working for other photographic studios. During 12 years living in Orangeville, he did advertise his photographic business and obtained a number of industrial clients.

Through all his younger years he spent his summers at his family cottage on Rice Lake. With his father being a Game Warden, the family would travel with him on weekends touring the back roads in various local counties. In recent years he has mostly lived in rural communities where the country is just blocks away. Today he still enjoys 2 to 3 hour drives in the Durham Region, and Northumberland counties.

His only interest in sports were in auto rallying and yacht racing. This sounds exotic, but it was through the 60's as a member in motor sport clubs, and sailing 'Renishaw' his sailboat for 3 years at the Pickering Yacht Club.

In his younger years Lawrence travelled 6 countries in Europe for 30 days. Also, has travelled by road coast to coast in Canada and the eastern section of the US with a 3 week trip to Los Angeles. Having always enjoyed art and photography, he has spent these long years in the two camera clubs due to the association of like-minded people. Knowing the artist adds more meaning than just looking at their work.

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When looking at an extraordinary landscape, there are no questions, no answers,  
no desires, no plans, no worries, no past, no present, no future; there is only a deep silence, only a glance!

– Mehmet Murat ildan

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## **Tom Yates, Honorary Lifetime Member**

I was born in 1931 in Deloro, ON. My father was the General Manager of the Deloro Smelting and Refining Co. Deloro was a 'company town'. After he died in 1948, the family moved to Hamilton and I attended McMaster University, graduating with a BA in 1953.

I started working in sales for Procter & Gamble in '53. That led to a career in Sales Management in various consumer goods and commercial operations of P&G until I retired at the end of '89. A career in sales meant relocation so, with my wife Peggy and daughter, Sheila, I lived in Moncton, Ancaster, Winnipeg and Toronto.

Living in Ancaster and being a new father, I took a course in photography at the Ancaster high school in '65. That started it all!

In 1971, after living in Winnipeg and then moving to Toronto, I joined CAPA and the Don Mills Camera Club and became involved in 'Organized Amateur Photography'. I was active as Print Director of CAPA and worked on the amalgamation to create NAPA. I became a member of the Toronto Focal Forum in 1977. Other activity included being a member of two photo-teaching groups, one being 'Visual Perspectives', in the early '90's, made up of mostly TFF members.

My wife, Peggy, died in 1991. In 1994, I married June Haylock, a photographer friend of many years, and we moved to Aurora. June and I travelled extensively throughout North America enjoying the countless photo opportunities!

In 2017, we moved to a retirement residence in Aurora. June died in 2018.

And I am still here!

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Since its formation in 1939, the Toronto Focal Forum has attracted many very talented photographers and print makers. Members have come and gone over the years, but a few have maintained continuous membership for several decades and have dedicated their time and talents to ensuring the Forum's success. As holders of the Galbraith Memorial Trophy for achievement and service to the Forum, Lawrence and Tom have generously shared their skills and dedication with our community. We're grateful now to honour their contributions as lifetime members.

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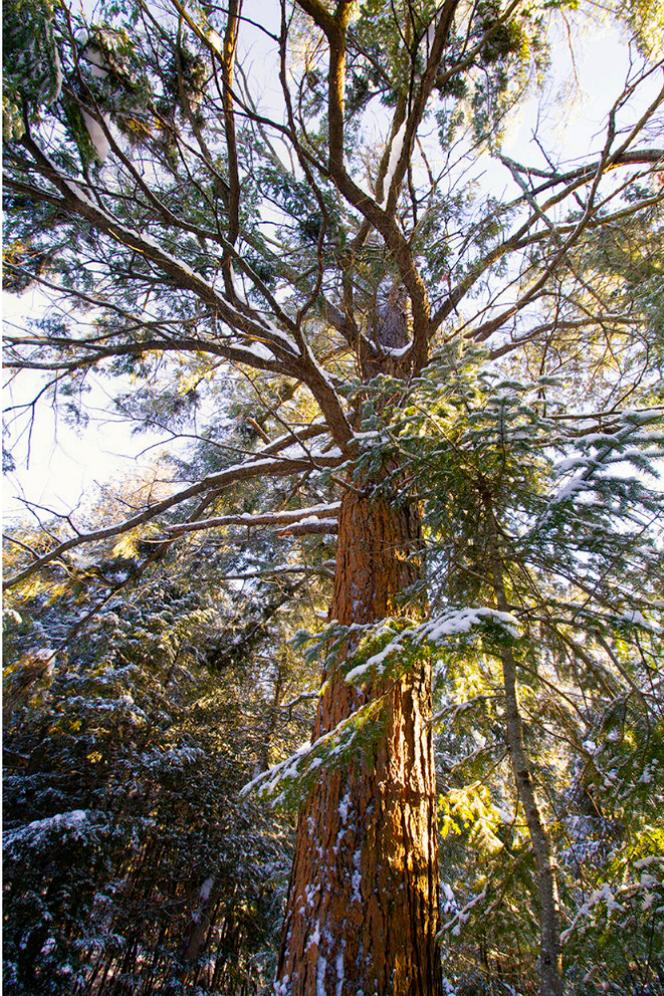
To invent your own life's meaning is not easy, but it's still allowed, and I think you'll be happier for the trouble.

– Bill Watterson

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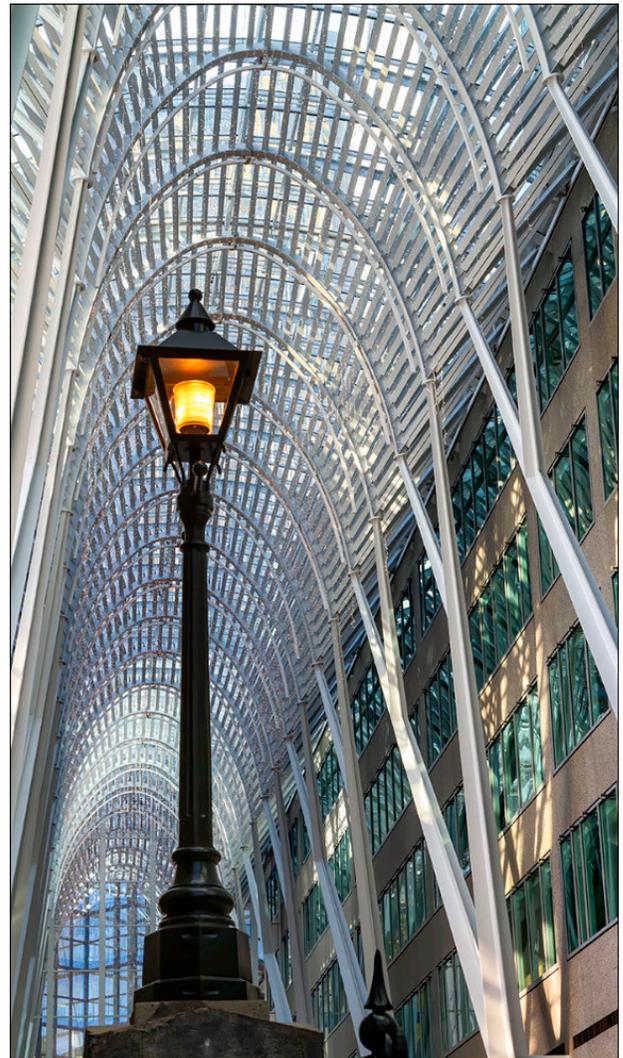
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*Above: Tree, by Craig Lauder*

*Right: Brookfield Place,  
by Jocelyn Ubaldino*



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Have you noticed how nobody ever looks up?  
Nobody looks at chimneys, or trees against the sky, or the tops of buildings. Everybody just looks down  
at the pavement or their shoes. The whole world could pass them by and most people wouldn't notice.

—Julie Andrews

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*Above: The Far Reaches,  
by Kas Stone*



*Left: Passing On,  
by Leif Petersen*

New life begins in the spring. Beautiful, colourful blooms arrive and eventually fade away giving us naturally artistic lines, shapes and shadows as they die off.

The title, 'Passing On' is a double entendre...the flower's life is over, it's passing on, and the outreached 'hand' is passing life on to the next emerging bloom.

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The most beautiful form of mastery is the art of letting go.  
– Claudia Gray

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*Left: The Haircut,  
by Katherine Keates*

*Below:  
Abandoned & Colourful  
by Avi Cohen*



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There was a huge difference between knowing something happened and seeing the reality of it.

– Martha Wells

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*Left: On Guard,  
by Darcy Rector*

*Below: The Passage of Time,  
by Dass*



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There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable.

There is another theory which states that this has already happened.

– Douglas Adams