

Snapshots

2019-2020
issue 17
for
Summer 2020
editor
Matthew
Robertson



Hanging Scarves, by Craig Lauder

What an interesting and unusual year.

We started way back in September with a new venue, chosen after it hosted our previous year-end banquet with great success. With only a short adjustment period we found our rhythm and settled in to enjoy an abundant autumn, culminating in a memorable revival of our winter banquets.

In the new year we returned with enthusiasm and got back to work. Great images were met with great critiques, and we established a stronger connection to the printed photograph. There was a slight glitch that cancelled one of our meetings as the renovations on our room ran longer than expected, but our return to a significantly better space made it worthwhile. Reinvigorated, we were ready to close out the season.

And then, well, things changed. As they continue to do.

What has not changed is our commitment to photography and to our community. We rallied quickly, continuing as best we could with what we had, creating a new experience we should all be proud of because it would have been impossible without all of our efforts.

While our next season might bring new challenges, we can already be sure that it will be remarkable.

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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Craig's Wetland, by David Kennedy

Featured Images

Marie Algieri-Goldgrub <i>What Time Is It?</i>	Lawrence Sitwell <i>Now, Listen Up</i>	Sue Curtis <i>The Surfer</i>
Matthew Robertson <i>Fence Line</i>	Leif Petersen <i>Water Woman</i>	Carm Griffin <i>Chinese Lanterns</i>
Tom Yates <i>Discovery</i>	Marvin Cooper <i>Abstract at Home</i>	Craig Lauder <i>Hanging Scarves</i>
Allan Flagel <i>Bright Spots</i>	Rhonda Starr <i>Too Tired</i>	David Kennedy <i>Craig's Wetland</i>
Bruce Macaulay <i>Route 66...</i>	Judy Griffin <i>LV Design Center</i>	Doris Woudenberg <i>Super Super Moon</i>
Dass <i>Happy Tourist</i>	Michael Anderson <i>Kittens 'n Skulls</i>	Steve Rees <i>Washing and Waiting</i>
Paul Yi <i>Spring is Around the Corner</i>	Mort Shapiro <i>Strength</i>	Darcy Rector <i>Yangtze Through...</i>

The earth is soaked and soggy with rain. Everything is drinking its fill and the surplus gluts the drains.
The sky is full of it and lies low over the earth, heavy and dense. Even the sea is wetter than usual!

– Emily Carr

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Taken in San Miguel before the pandemic, 'Kittens 'n skulls' is a typically Mexican juxtaposition of life and death.

'Lone buffalo', is a guest image from my brother, Rory Anderson. He lives in Spain, and cannot remember what snow is like. He says, "Pre-Covid-19, I was in Kenya on holiday. Now, in lockdown mode, I look at the photos I took there and dream of freedom."

Kittens 'n Skulls, by Michael Anderson

Lone Buffalo, by Rory Anderson



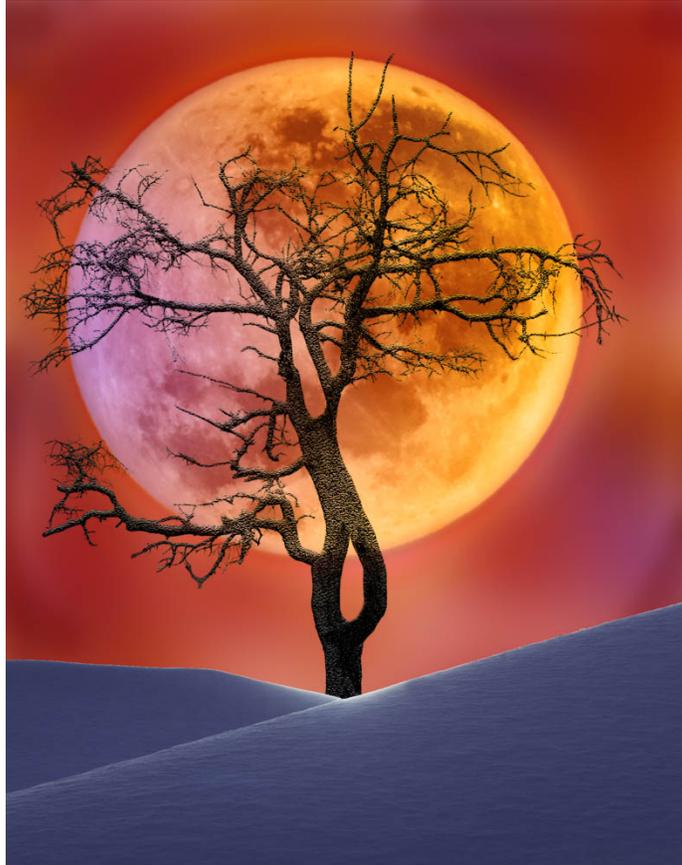
We all get where we're going by circuitous journeys, and some of the setbacks are warranted.

— Carol Burnett

Snapshots

2019-2020
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for
Summer 2020

*Super Super Moon,
by Doris Woudenberg*



*Yangtze Through
Rose Coloured Glasses,
by Darcy Rector*

You are the sky. Everything else – it's just the weather.
– Pema Chödrön

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Summer 2020



I created "What time is it?" in late February before I had any idea that Covid-19 would greatly affect our lives and specifically how we would spend our time. It now seems so much more meaningful to me. I have a lot of time yet it is swirling around me in a way that makes me unaware of what the actual time is. It no longer seems to matter. I don't have to be anywhere for a particular time. It doesn't matter what time I go to bed or wake up. Or does it?

What Time Is It?
by Marie Algieri-Goldgrub



An interesting building in Las Vegas to photograph. I enjoyed working with some of the graphic elements of the building.

LV Design Center, by Judy Griffin

Man, I really like Vegas.
– Elvis Presley

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This image was taken along the original 1926 Route 66 at the point where Kanas and Oklahoma meet. What was developing was a “supercell” that generally is a prelude to a tornado. Not familiar with these monsters, at first, I wasn’t quite sure why the other vehicles were speeding in the opposite direction, but it didn’t take long for me to conclude I was possibility heading into the storm.

*Route 66, last rays of light as a
thunderstorm is developing,
by Bruce Macaulay*

If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine. It is lethal.

– Paulo Coelho

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2019-2020
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Summer 2020



*Abstract at Home,
by Marvin Cooper*

The Surfer, by Sue Curtis



When did the future switch from being a promise to a threat?
– Chuck Palahniuk

Snapshots

2019-2020
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for
Summer 2020



*Washing and Waiting,
by Steve Rees*



Some days we just feel that way. When I spotted this car with the two tires, it actually made me laugh. So I hope that as you view this image, you smile, because we all need a little bit of humour in our day.

Too Tired, by Rhonda Starr

The story so far:
In the beginning the Universe was created.
This has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a bad move.
— Douglas Adams

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Summer 2020



Water Woman, by Leif Petersen

This shot is from the ancient, holy Galtaji Temple, about 10 km from Jaipur, India, where thousands of Hindu people come each year to bathe in the sacred waters. The Water Woman kept her copper urn filled with water and people would stop to pay a few rupees for a drink. She didn't move much, just poured the water and occasionally counted her earnings. The temple is also known as the 'Monkey Temple' because of the thousands of Macaque monkeys living here.

Simplicity and nonviolence are the basis of an economy of wellbeing, and such an economy must be localized.

– Vandana Shiva

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Summer 2020



This woman thought it very funny that I was taking her picture from my bus window into hers, in India.

Happy Tourist, by Dass



*Fence Line, by
Matthew Robertson*

What I'm proposing, to myself and other people, is what I often call the tourist attitude - that you act as though you've never been there before. So that you're not supposed to know anything about it.

If you really get down to brass tacks, we have never been anywhere before.

—John Cage

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It was middle of May, snow and hail was falling with chilly wind. Parks and Conservations were still yet to open. People were willing walking in the winter-like spring. And here was the proof, a single Daffodil flower was blooming on the side of boardwalk. I used a wild angle lens to let the flower stands out.



Spring is Around the Corner,
by Paul Yi



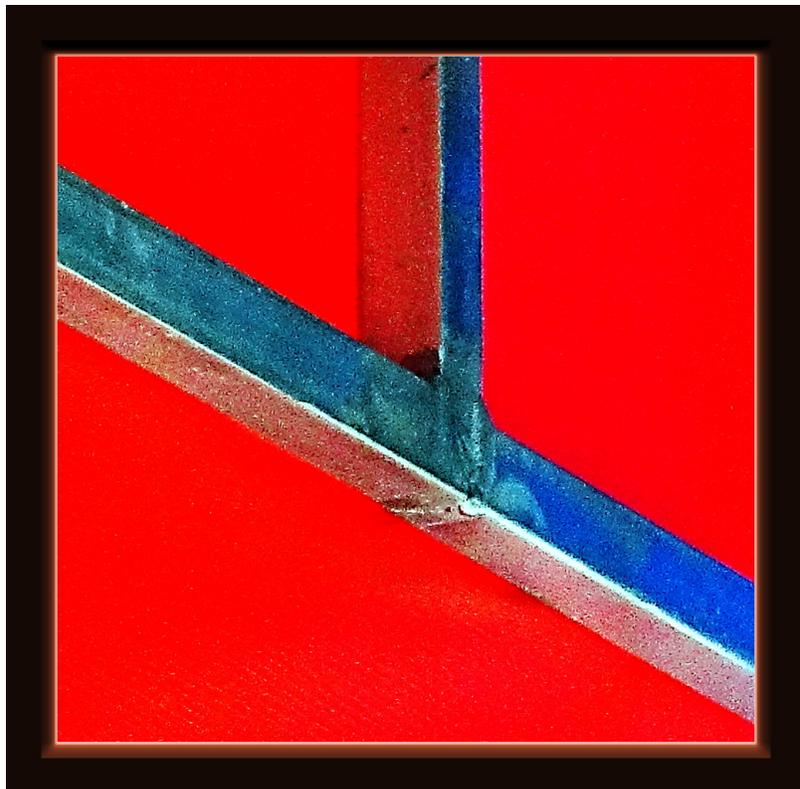
There was a goose that wasn't paying any attention, so I had to clone it out.

Now, Listen Up,
by Lawrence Sitwell

Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems.
— Rainer Maria Rilke

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This image is part of a series through which I am attempting to capture single feelings. For me this image is the personification of strength: simple; dynamic; with more than one dimension that conveys strength (at least to me) – structure and colour and orientation. This image makes me feel strong!

Strength, by Mort Shapiro

*Chinese Lanterns,
by Carm Griffin*



Carm's recently been dabbling with tabletop setups and learning to work with associated Photoshop plug-in features.

To be an artist you have to give up everything, including the desire to be a good artist.

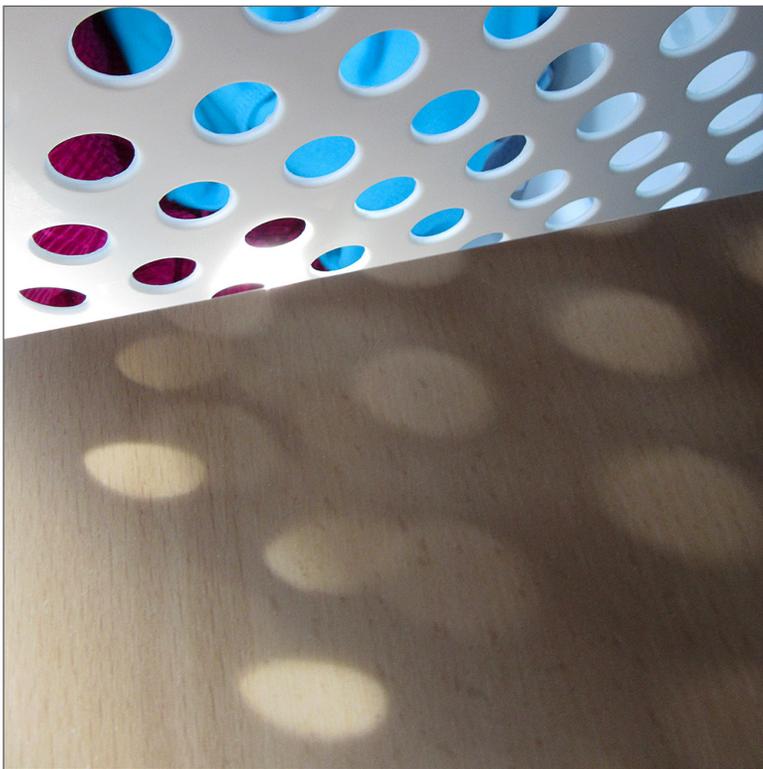
– Jasper Johns

Snapshots

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*Discovery TFF,
by Tom Yates*



*Bright Spots,
by Allan Flagel*

With lots of Covid-19 time available I did an extensive search of all my digital files (from 2003 forward). The search has resulted in two books so far and several AV shows. The folder for July 2, 2005 had 12 images from the Aurora Community Arboretum and 10 from our garden in Aurora, intervened by an obvious outlier. One single capture. I assume from the timing that it was in a parking lot. I have no recollection of the event. As I did not proceed with any of the other capture that day it was left undisturbed until I did my 2020 search. I did no cropping, adjusted only brightness. What a happy discovery to share!

Now, endings normally happen at the end. But as we all know, endings are just beginnings.
As we have all come this far, I think, under the circumstances the best solution is that we all just keep going.
Let's keep this going in sight, never an ending.

– Mike Oldfield