

Snapshots

2018-2019
issue 18
for
Summer 2019
editor
Matthew
Robertson



Smile, Martha by Tom Yates

The spring rain couldn't dampen our spirits as we gathered for our annual year-end banquet. We were delighted to have many familiar faces join us as members brought their favourite people to share the festivities, and members from years past returned to reconnect. It was a rare pleasure to see so many of our friends together.

Michael reprised his role as moderator for a second time to end this season, handling our boisterous crowd with aplomb. Fifteen images were admired on this no-seal night, which included some truly exceptional prints, plus an enjoyable gallery of favourites from the past year.

Our venue's excellent food also met with unanimous praise, and the facilities were beyond reproach. While we will certainly reminisce about our Deli Years, we can only applaud those who put together such a superb evening under unexpected circumstances.

Upcoming Meetings

September 18 – Seal
Stephen Gilligan
Maker and Title Announced

October 2 – Seal
Your Name Here

October 16 – Seal
Your Name Here

Snapshots is on the web!
<http://www.focalforum.ca/snapshots.html>

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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Prints Shown
1 May

Matthew Robertson
Quench

Marie Algieri-Goldgrub
Another Side of Me

Dass
Buzzers

Rhonda Starr
Architectural Accordion

Craig Lauder
Samantha

Marvin Cooper
A Walk in the Park

Sue Curtis
Tall Trees, Glacier National Park

David Kennedy
The Bridge

Guy St. Louis
At the Farm

Michael Anderson
Admiring Burtynsky

Steve Rees
With Light Steps

Leif Petersen
Three Movements

Stephen Gilligan
Mrs. Eastman's Plumbing

Tom Yates
Smile, Martha

David Chun
Doorman



Galbraith Award – Matthew Robertson

by Stephen Gilligan

At our annual banquet on May 1st, Dass, our Vice President, had the honour of awarding the Galbraith Memorial Trophy to Matthew Robertson, our Print Director and Snapshots Editor.

Dass pointed out that the Galbraith is not an annual award, but is given to a deserving candidate who has, through their general achievements and /or service to the Forum, stood out from the crowd. Dass indicated that the Galbraith committee had unanimously tabled the same name for nomination.

In Dass' words, "This person's work is an inspiration to us all, and challenges us to push further and explore new ground. His service to the Forum is exemplary, above and beyond the call. He has revived Snapshots and made it into a polished and professional newsletter that we can all be proud of. He has revitalized the moderator's role and added several new ideas. He has also facilitated the showing of series of work by members."

Congratulations to Matthew and thank you for strengthening the heartbeat of the Toronto Focal Forum in the 2018/2019 season.

–Stephen Gilligan, President, Toronto Focal Forum

8 May 2019

It's not the honours and the prizes and the fancy outsides of life which ultimately nourish our souls.
It's the knowing that we can be trusted. That we never have to fear the truth.

– Fred "Mister" Rogers

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Member Photographs

May 1, 2019

A selection of images from the lightbox and our year-end gallery for our sixteenth meeting.

Have something to say? Send it in!
tffsnapshots@gmail.com



Above: With Light Steps, by Steve Rees

Left: Reflections, by David Kennedy

Art and life are subjective. Not everybody's gonna dig what I dig, but I reserve the right to dig it.

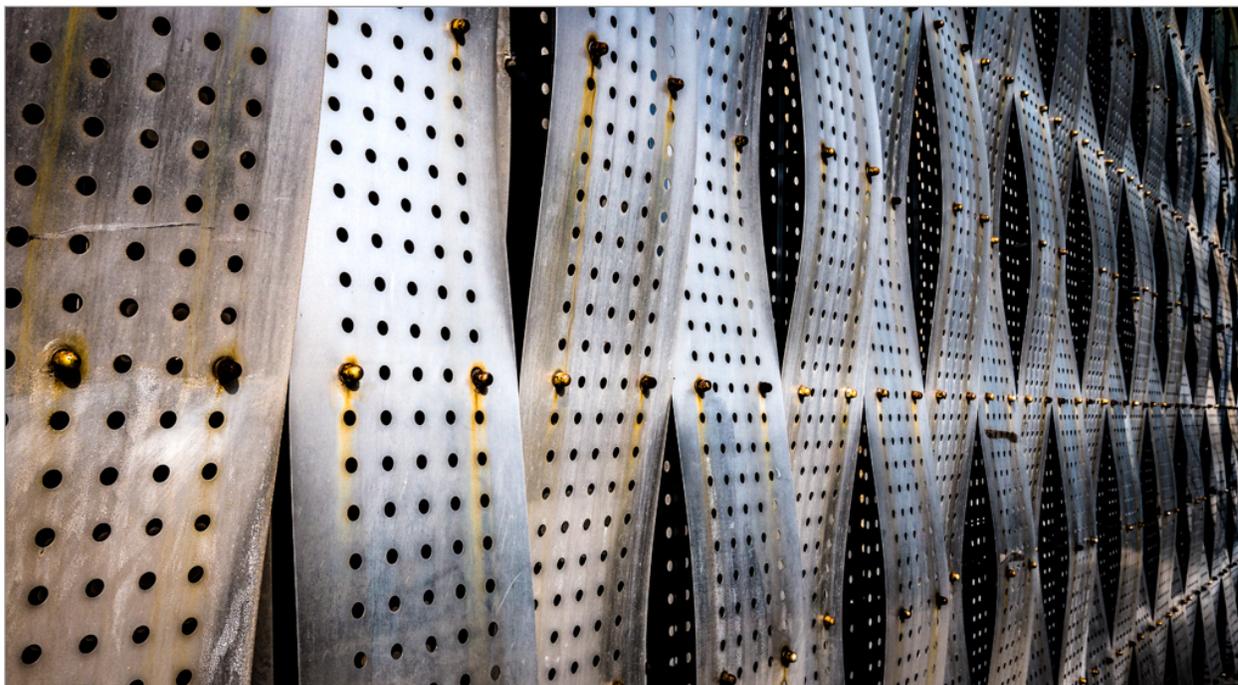
– Whoopi Goldberg

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Photographs by Leif Petersen: Remarkable Reine, above; Metal Weaving, below.



Do you see, over time, the ever-changing seasons – the warm hum of summer’s bees,
the fall of autumn’s leaves, the silence of winter’s snows, the sprouting life of spring?

– *Kate Moss Gamblin*

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CONVERGENCE

Sue Curtis
Steve Gilligan
D.A. Hill
John Jacquemain
David Kennedy
Christine Mack
Anton Pickard



Opening reception
Saturday June 15
12 - 4 pm



DOUBLE DOOR GALLERY
4004 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Anten Mills, Ontario 705.734.9856
www.ddsag.com
Gallery Hours
Friday to Monday 12-4pm

June 1 to June 30

Convergence - Photographic Exhibition - June 1 to June 30 2019

Three members of the Toronto Focal Forum are participating in a group show at the Double Door Gallery in June. The exhibition is part of the *Focus on Simcoe Photography Festival*.

Sue Curtis, David Kennedy, Steve Gilligan, and four other artists will be exhibiting diverse work on the theme of Convergence. If you make the trip to the Barrie area there is also other exhibitions to view. Details are at <https://focusonsimcoe.com>.

The opening reception is Saturday, June 15 12-4 pm.

Double Door Gallery, 4004 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Anten Mills, Ontario.

705-734-9856; www.ddsag.com

Regular gallery hours are Friday to Monday 12-4 pm.

Reminder: RSVP for Dassarora by May 25!

Dass and Jill are hosting a barbeque get-together on Saturday, June 22, starting around 2 pm.

Dass writes:

“We’ll do the BBQ and sides, you can bring whatever you’d like to drink and maybe a lawn chair. We are located 10 minutes north of Newmarket. If you feel so inclined bring your camera to shoot the local flora and fauna.”

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

Technique is important only insofar as you must master it in order to communicate what you see...
In any case, people think far too much about techniques and not enough about seeing.

— Henri Cartier-Bresson

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Harbour Traffic, by Matthew Robertson

What Happens?

by Matthew Robertson

What I enjoy most about long exposure photography is that it leaves room for the unexpected. I may establish the initial conditions – point the camera, set the dials, push the button – but after that it’s out of my control. Sure, maybe things will unfold the way they have before, the way that I expect, but surprises happen all the time. And those surprises, whether startling or serendipitous, are chances to learn and grow. I’m never creatively happier than when the question “what happens if” finds itself with a new answer.

What happens if skilled photographers get together to show prints that they want to have a conversation about?

Our Forum is a place where “what happens if” can have creative and excellent answers. What happens if it’s easier to revise and revisit an image that has already been through the lightbox? What happens if moderators are encouraged to choose their own emphasis and approach for their nights? What happens if there’s a member-centric way to communicate before and between meetings?

Together we’ve found some answers to these questions and more. Next season some of these answers will become an ongoing part of what we do, and will shape some of the new questions that we’ll ask.

My thanks to everyone for being a part of this ongoing conversation as the Toronto Focal Forum closes out its seventy-ninth year. And please, anyone who has found an important question, or an answer that resonates, get in touch with me over the next couple of months as plans for our eightieth year take form.

I don't believe John Cage is dead.
He's not the type to die.
– Mickey Hart