

Snapshots

2022-2023
Issue 5
for meeting of
November 2
editor
Matthew
Robertson



My Breakfast, by Luba Citrin

For our next meeting Luba will be our moderator, and for this meeting the images are the photographer's choice. All we ask, as always, is that the photographer strives for technical and artistic excellence.

Some moderators will ask for a particular type of image or one with a theme, which invites us to go beyond our standard repertoire of what we usually show. The theme is meant to be fun, share a similar experience, and challenge us a bit. It is never meant to be exclusionary. If you do not have an image that suits the theme, or prefer not to participate in that way, then please always feel free to submit an image of your choice.

Upcoming Meetings

November 2

Luba

November 16

Stephen Starkman

November 30

Katherine

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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Images Shown, October 19:

Laurence Sitwell
Boiling the Sap

Judy Griffin
*Folded Paper
Surprise*

Tom Yates
GM6604

Dass
Twillingate Iceberg

Paul Yi
No Title

Craig Lauder
Beach Sunset

Luba Citrin
My Breakfast

Christine Kobielski
Peeling the Layers

Nick Janushewski
Scrub Jay and Sharon

Marie Algieri-
Goldgrub
Gazelle With Baby

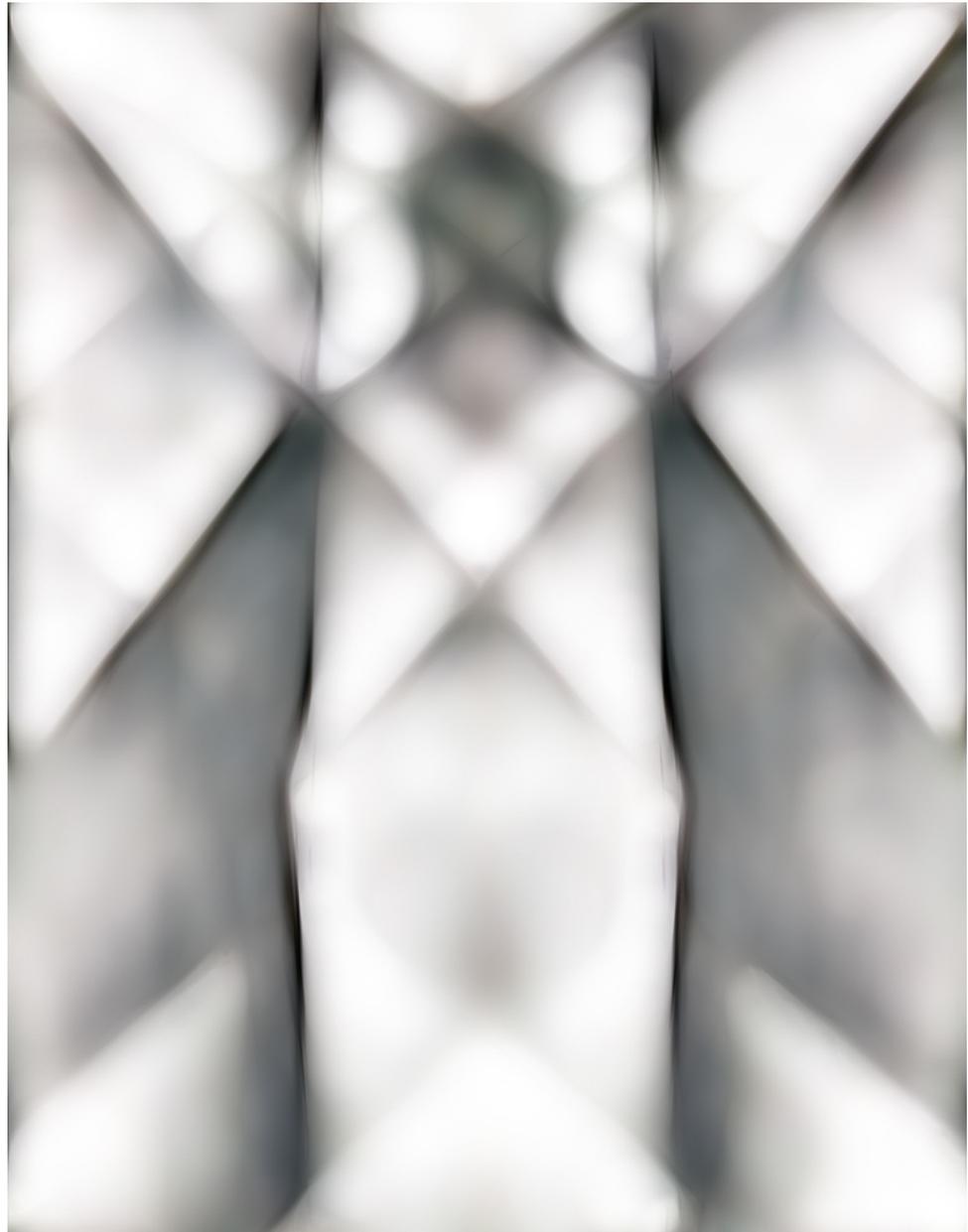
Leif Petersen
*Unexpected Dinner
Guest*

Mort Shapiro
*Squares - October
6-19*

Allan Flagel
Can I Get One Dad

Marvin Cooper
Surprise Quadruplets

Carm Griffin
*Old Woman Laden
With Wood*



Folded Paper Surprise, by Judy Griffin

Maybe our single-minded focus on the light makes us unable to see the dark that's all around, always.

—Alicia Elliott

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*Above:
Old Woman Laden
with Wood,
by Carm Griffin*

*Right:
Peeling the Layers,
by Christine Kobielski*



Characters aren't created, they pre-exist and must be found within you.
Imagine yourself as a sinner or a saint and you'll find their voices.

– Edward Zwick

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*Above:
Twillingate Iceberg,
by Dass*

*Left:
Can I get One Dad?
by Allan Flagel*



November 16
Stephen Starkman

Snapshots is on the web!
focalforum.ca/snapshots

For many years, I have been moved by the blue at the far edge of what can be seen, that colour of horizons, of remote mountain ranges, of anything far away. The colour of that distance is the colour of an emotion, the colour of solitude and of desire, the colour of there seen from here, the colour of where you are not. And the colour of where you can never go.

– Rebecca Solnit

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*Above:
Beach Sunset,
by Craig Lauder*

*Right:
Squares - October 6-19,
by Mort Shapiro*

A “grabshot” as I walked from one gallery to another in the Israel Museum. I must have seen the symmetry and repeating squares at a subconscious level. Interesting where I stopped to take the shot.



What would please me most is to make photographs as incomprehensible as life!
– William Klein

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While on a 'Sea Eagle Safari' recently, in northern Norway's Lofoten Islands, I was pleased to get this shot of an immature sea eagle feeding on a fish that the adult had dropped off for him. The 'Unexpected Dinner Guest', a Hooded Crow, appears to be standing by hoping for scraps. He is also unexpected, because I did not even notice him when I framed the shot.



*Above:
Unexpected
Dinner Guest,
by Leif Petersen*

*Right:
GM6604,
by Tom Yates*

The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for.
And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.

— Barbara Kingsolver

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Finding Myself

by Leif Petersen

This article doesn't have anything to do with photography, other than I've included a couple of photos, or with critiquing, although you're free to comment, but please be kind.

I spent most of my youth in a farming community town, Parkhill, about a 1/2 hour northwest of London. In the summer, I could be found in Grand Bend, a popular beach resort town on Lake Huron, about 15 minutes from Parkhill. If you're familiar with either of those towns, let me know.

Last summer, a friend from high school sent me this photograph from the 1960's. By zooming in on another photo of cars taken at the same time, a licence plate proved that it was taken in 1967.



I can identify my best friend, Ray, the blonde guy in the centre wearing white pants, the standing guy is Dennis, and I'm, the blonde guy sitting and checking out the cute girl; nobody knows who she is. Other than high school year books, I can't think of any photographs I've seen of myself from my teenage days, so I was very surprised to find myself in this one from so long ago.

Summer in Grand Bend was a blast! That year, Ray and I had a contest to see who could get the most dates. I won, but only because I got 2 dates in 1 day! Hey, maybe the cute girl was one of them.

While recently cleaning out my email, I came across the photograph again. It came with a screen shot of a Facebook posting explaining that the owners of 'The Dairy Dip and Pizza Place' were hoping to find the people in the photo so that they could re-create the scene. I searched out the woman (Linde) who had made the Facebook post and sent her a note. She responded almost immediately, very excited that I had contacted her, the only one in the photo who had. She titled it, "Where the Boys Are".

Lake Huron is renowned for its beaches, sand dunes, wetlands, forests, and extensive river systems. Its coves, channels, and bays are steeped in history, including the hundreds of shipwrecks that lie beneath its surface.

– *Great Lakes Guide*

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Linde explained that her daughter-in-law, Kendra, the 4th generation owner off the restaurant had a marketing idea, so she searched the London Free Press archives for photos from Grand Bend in the '60's and she was lucky to find one right in front of the family restaurant. She was able to get the file and had it enlarged. Last summer, they re-created the setting where we were sitting in front of the restaurant sign. Using the photo as a backdrop, they placed a picnic table in front of it, put up one of their signature red umbrellas, and offered customers and passers-by a 'Selfie Photo Op'.



End result: It was very popular! They plan to repeat the 'Selfie Photo Op' again next summer and have invited me back to the Dairy Dip and Pizza Place. I'm looking forward to coming 'face-to-face' with myself. Incidentally, that's where I had my first pizza...ham and cheese, which was about as adventurous as I got with food - not girls! - in those days.

Have you found yourself in an old photograph? How about sharing it?

Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own.

– Michelle Obama