



# Snapshots

---



‘The Last Cowboy’ – Tom Zsolt

---

## In This Issue

- Welcoming new member Gerald Pisarzowski
- Toronto Focal Forum to participate in Contact 2026
- So, did anyone want to try pinhole photography?
- Images from the January 7 meeting

## Upcoming Moderators

- February 4 – Leif Petersen
- March 4 - Dass

---

*We are a group of photographers who view and practice photography as art; our chosen means of creative expression is the printed photograph. We gather every 2 weeks for dinner at a Toronto restaurant, followed by a lively discussion, providing honest evaluation and feedback on each other's photograph(s). In this supportive environment, we see and understand how our work is perceived by others. We are always happy to welcome other photographers who would like to share their work with us. <http://www.focalforum.ca/>*

## **New member Gerald Pisarzowski**

Please welcome our latest Forum member. Gerald joined us as a guest late last year, bringing along a number of his finely-crafted platinum/palladium landscape and still-life prints for the group to enjoy. Wasting no time after officially becoming a Forum member, he was at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting with another great print, 'Surf & Stones'. Recently, Gerald was also one of three artists presenting the Photo x 3 show January 16-30 at Foy House in Toronto. Welcome to the Toronto Focal Forum, Gerald!

## **Toronto Focal Forum to Participate in CONTACT 2026**

It has been several years since the Forum last participated in CONTACT as a group, but fortunately, we will have an opportunity to do so again this year, this time at Bordered Image Gallery and Custom Framing on Denison St. in Markham. Peter Moon, a friend of the Forum and owner of Bordered Image, joined us at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for a discussion about members' interest in participating in CONTACT. Interest was strong, so Dass, Leif, Steve G and Steve R began organizing the registration process (which has since been completed.)

Once the number of members who are interested in participating is determined, we can get an idea of the average number of images from each person that we should be able to accommodate in Peter's Gallery. Prints should be framed to a high standard, and are presumed to be for sale. The gallery charges a pretty typical 40% commission on each print sold. So if you'd normally charge \$240, for example, for a print in a direct sale, then pricing it at \$400 for CONTACT would yield you the \$240 after commission (if the print sells.)

More information about the submission & selection process for candidate images for our show, dates & deadlines, etc., will be forthcoming.

## **So, *Did* Anyone Want To Try Pinhole Photography?**

In last month's issue of Snapshots, I offered use of a pinhole camera to an interested party or parties. The offer included film + developing + scanning, and the only catch was that they had to do a short writeup for Snapshots about their experience.

Well, I'm happy to say that I had a few interested parties, and the film from the first participant should shortly be in the tank for processing. Stay tuned for the results!

- Steve Rees

## January 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Images

Members attending 16  
 Number of Prints 15  
 Moderator Allan Flagel

<b>Dass</b> A Long Walk Home	<b>John Madill</b> 2026 What's Ahead	<b>Laurence Sitwell</b> The Long Driveway
<b>Doris Woudenberg</b> Support	<b>Nick Janushewski</b> Subway Walls 2	<b>Fred Leibl</b> Sunday
<b>Steve Rees</b> Suckers Wanted	<b>Kevin Ford</b> Lurking Behind the Snow	<b>Stephen Gilligan</b> Untitled
<b>Gerald Pisarzowski</b> Surf & Stones	<b>David Kempton</b> Yorkville	<b>Leif Petersen</b> Great Grey Owl
<b>Rhonda Starr</b> A Flicker of Light	<b>Allan Flagel</b> Chrome Reflections	<b>Tom Zsolt</b> The Last Cowboy

The January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was by far the best-attended in a very long time, with 15 active members, one associate member and two guests in attendance. The large crowd also provided a large number of excellent prints to view.

Fortunately, Seoul House was able to make the large meeting room available for us, so there was plenty of space for socializing before dinner, as well as for our former practice of separate seating arrangements for the meal and for print viewing. Many members commented on how it was 'just like old times', and a great way to start the second half of our season.

Peter Moon of Bordered Image Gallery and Custom Framing, who many members have dealt with for framing and matting supplies, attended the meeting as a guest, and his son Lucas joined him. Despite Lucas being far below the average age of Focal Forum members, he made a number of perceptive comments during the print viewing, and brought a youthful perspective we don't usually hear.



‘Long Walk Home’ – Dass



‘The Long Driveway’ – Laurence Sitwell



'Support' – Doris Woudenberg



‘2026 What’s Ahead’ – John Madill

The image is taken in Brussels, the seat of the European Union Headquarters.

An incoming storm, from the east, looks threatening.

Looks ominous. The black and white treatment and the title add to that feeling.



'Sunday' – Fred Leibl

Firstly I would like to thank Dass for putting my image alongside one by Eggleston what fantastic company. My image titled Sunday was meant to evoke calmness and emotion. Probably why there were few comments, even negative ones. The image consisted of mainly two segments, a hazy blue grey sky and a calm blue green ocean which gives the image the calm cool effect. There were two sets of people in the image one on a blue rubber floatation raft absolutely doing nothing and a small group of family enjoying the water and each other (no conflict) There is a small question of whether the two are related to add some interest, and they are on a diagonal for a bit of movement. All movement in the image has been relegated to the far background, the little white boat and the paddleboarders which are hard to see unless you are up close. That is how I read the image.



Untitled – Stephen Gilligan

The image was presented without a title in order to avoid influencing members' responses. The print, as shown, is an inverted version of the original capture. During processing, it became clear that the image was not simply the beautiful, sunlit vase I had initially envisioned. In the context of today's political climate and the senseless events unfolding around us, the narrative revealed itself to be much larger. The phrase "I'm afraid" was repeated by several members. That response has become my statement on the times we are living in.



'Surf & Stones' – Gerald Pisarzowski



‘Yorkville’ – David Kempton

I wish I could remember more clearly the moment I tripped the shutter - it was about 50 years ago! I wish I could say for sure that I noticed consciously in the moment all the things that TFF members pointed out about it at the meeting! I know I did the basic framing in the viewfinder, with the 28mm lens, and probably felt the diagonal arrangement forming, but did I notice that none of the skaters overlapped? Did I shift a few inches to the side to make that happen? Dunno! Possibly, but I'm pretty intuitive, getting what I want without knowing it.



'Great Grey Owl' – Leif Petersen



‘Chrome Reflection’ – Allan Flagel

Bright colours, reflections and shadows usually catch my eye and start the idea/planning/composition process.

Quite often I don't see stories in my pictures when I shoot them, but after post-processing when I choose a title (which I feel is a very valuable and important step, both for me as well as the viewer) a story occasionally reveals itself.



'Lurking Behind the Snow' – Kevin Ford



'Subway Walls 2' – Nick Janushewski



‘A Flicker of Light’ – Rhonda Starr

This person, dressed in Goth attire caught my attention during an afternoon picnic with a group of like individuals. The moment he lit his cigarette I saw the juxtaposition of a bright flame against his black outfit.

Not only that, I was intrigued by the symbolism on his face and clothing. Goth individuals are noted for finding beauty in the macabre and for embracing darkness, morbidity and sadness. Some are very antiestablishmentary which is one definition of the upside down cross on his cheek. The line from his mouth was used to help create a dramatic effect about his persona. Lines on a face tend to define features, in this case his mouth, in an exaggerated way. Wearing a hoodie with multiple pentacle symbols was also intriguing.

I chose to leave the flicker of light/flame in colour, in contrast to the black and white image because to me, it represented a “flicker of hope” for a person who may regard himself with more dark thoughts.



### 'Suckers Wanted' – Steve Rees

A hustler crouches on a Paris street, with his 'shell game' setup ready for the next gullible tourist. Some people pass by, but many stand and watch, wanting to see who will be the next to step up. After all, some people *seem* to win! But more than likely, they're working with the hustler...

Selective layering of three pinhole exposures taken over a few minutes, brought together to show movement of some people and relative steadiness of others (including the main character at the 'centre of the web'.) November 2024.

---

#### **REMINDERS**

- Send a digital copy of your image (and some description or other commentary about it) to Snapshots Editor [tffsnapshots@gmail.com](mailto:tffsnapshots@gmail.com)  
Landscape image size = 1920 on the horizontal edge; portrait image size = 1080 on the vertical edge.  
**Please follow the file name format: Your Name-Image Title-Meeting Date.jpg**
- Please let Leif Petersen know by the Sunday before each meeting whether you'll be attending.