



POLARIZING PHOTOGRAPHY



I'M THINKING OF OPENING A PORTRAIT STUDIO The 2018 Comedy Wildlife Photography Award gave an honourable mention to this opportune image taken in Svalbard, Norway by Roie Galitz. Svalbard is a collection of islands in the Arctic Ocean, halfway between Norway and the North Pole, designated a sustainable tourist destination by the Norwegian government. Two-thirds of its land mass is maintained as a nature reserve with parks and bird sanctuaries; a veritable paradise for the professional or amateur wildlife photographer. At the same time, Svalbard boasts festivals and fairs, the northernmost sushi restaurant and a local craft brewery, cultural amenities that any would find comforting while shooting far away from home.

The Comedy Wildlife Photography Award is sponsored by www.bornfree.org.uk, an international conservation and animal rights organization. Born Free Foundation Limited is a charitable umbrella organization which encompasses a number of donation campaigns for the preservation of shrinking habitats and the rescue of endangered and abused animals: elephants, dolphins, wolves, primates, big cats and, of course, bears.

Sources

www.comedywildlifephoto.com

www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-46302730

www.bornfree.org.uk

www.visitnorway.com/places-to-go/svalbard-islands/

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PHSC NEWS

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Facebook

Pictured above: We don't know what lens the bear is using but the Sigma 200-500mm ultra-telephoto lens is a safe bet for keeping your distance from any wild subject. It has an impressive f/2.8 throughout its entire zoom range. Included is a dedicated high-quality 2x teleconverter, making it a 400-1000mm f/5.6 lens. Lens weighs in at 34.6 pounds. Not cheap at \$25,999 US.



A Show and Tell AND SILENT AUCTION

*The Show and Tell opportunity for forgotten and curious
photography items you've already bored your friends with.
Casual presenters welcome.*

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 7:30pm

The Burgundy Room of Memorial Hall in the basement of
5120 Yonge St, North York, Ontario

Free Admission

Yvette Bessel - Programme Coordinator - yjbessels@hotmail.com
More info at www.phsc.ca

The Photographer's Cookbook



Tired of stuffing turkeys? Take a cue from Neal Slavin's Frankfurters in Full Dress, 1978.

Benjamin Franklin became a vegetarian at 16 and introduced tofu to unreceptive Americans in 1770. Charles Darwin loved eating, perhaps even to the point of gluttony, but claimed delicate health in order to withdraw to his office to pass wind to his heart's content. Julia Child was known for her hearty appetite, affirming that "the only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook." We are fascinated by the celebrated and nothing seems to be more revealing, even, at times, eyebrow-raising, than what they choose to eat.

Deborah Barsel was also fascinated. Employed as assistant registrar at Eastman House in Rochester, New York, she attempted to enliven dusty office duties with a curiosity about what feeds photographers. With a 1977 ad in the Eastman House publication and a letter-writing campaign, she was pleasantly surprised to find that photographers actually sent recipes. Enrolling in grad school and leaving the project research behind, photog aficionado-slash-foodie Lisa Hostetler stumbled upon it decades later and kneaded it into a book.

You needn't appreciate *The Photographer's Cookbook* (2016) just as a photography who's-who time capsule for the 70s and stop there. Let your food personality be your guide. Gastronomically advanced? Get indignantly righteous with Imogen Cunningham's recipe for borscht. After cooing about simmering fresh beets with juicy cuts of beef, she confesses she mixes in commercial borscht before serving. Love to party but strapped for cash? There's Neal Slavin's Frankfurters in Full Dress (see above). Think that alcohol before noon is the formula for a tolerable work week? Try Ansel Adam's Eggs Poached in Beer. And for those with an Eastern European upbringing like myself, there's Arthur Taussig's croutons boiled in a dumpling, the bread-in-bread mainstay of many a midlife coronary bypass.

The Photographer's Cookbook will impress you with how it achieves a level of intimacy, not only with well-known, kinda-known and once-known photographers, but with ways of cooking and eating condemned to the fog of history. I'll be waiting for my copy via Canada Post because I'll buy any cookbook with Les Krims in it

Sources

The Photographer's Cookbook, edited by Lisa Hostetler (2016).



Kodak Canada: The Early Years (1898-1938)

A Masters Exhibit at the Student Gallery,
Ryerson Image Centre

33 Gould St. Toronto, Ontario

January 23 – February 24, 2019

Opening reception 6 - 8pm, January 23

In collaboration with the Kodak Canada Corporate Archives and Heritage Collection, the Ryerson University Library and the generous support of the Photographic Historical Society of Canada.



A Fascination with Folders, Perhaps Forever



Zeiss Ikon Nettar 515/2 working somewhere in Europe, 1940s, and later in Blenheim, Ontario, 2005.

A recent PHSC auction revealed a surfeit of folding cameras, a bonanza for those who collect this sort of equipment, which in its time was almost as ubiquitous as today's smartphone. This stirred an aged member of the PHSC labs to reminisce about the family folder, a rather worn but capable Zeiss Nettar. The sturdy machine thoughtfully runs on still-available 120 film, and so is ready to go out and shoot the hipsters of today. First manufactured in 1934, it made its way out of Germany in the hands of a Canadian soldier, seeing duty first overseas, then at home in Toronto. Although thoroughly Canadianized with its tours through southern Ontario, it still retains its European metric-calibrated focus dial which now seems entirely appropriate.

In the realm of folding cameras, the Nettar is somewhat of an economy brand compared to its fancier big brother, the Zeiss Ikonta. Where many Ikontas had coupled rangefinders and fancier lenses, this Nettar has dial focussing and a somewhat prosaic f 6.3 lens. Both these cameras were

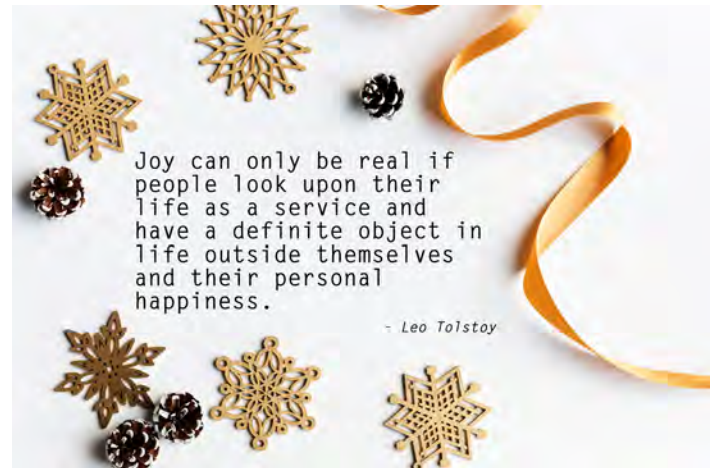
made in a zillion different combinations of formats, shutters and lenses, and represent a dangerous gateway drug for those prone to collecting one of each model. Then there are the "Moskva" folders, Soviet Ikonta look-alikes which remain plentiful and cheap.

The 6x9 cm exposures from this camera give ideal aspect ratio negatives to die for, compared to the clumsy square format of lesser cameras like Rolleis or Hasselblads, and retro-film users will delight in the ultimate scanability of such a large format. The fly in the ointment here is finding a negative or flatbed scanner that will handle bigger than 35mm.

To those accustomed to lugging around heavy metal film cameras [or big lumpy DSLRs], the beauty of these cameras is their light weight, small size, and modest tripod requirements, all related to their miraculous foldability. And many seem to go on forever.

FESTIVE FRUGALITY

Pexels.com and Cheaping out Creatively



Comedian/bartender/preacher Jerry Herships used to moonlight as a mall Santa. He remembers awkward moments with kids throwing up, crying or freaking out. But the biggest problem on the job, as far as he was concerned, was the parents. Short fuses were common, with fights constantly breaking out. It was never a pretty sight.

I haven't been an ass in the Santa line but I can tell you what drives that behaviour: fulfilling holiday expectations. This is the time of year for having oh-my-god-a-million-things-to-do-in-the-next-hour-alone. Is there anything one can do to ease the tightness in one's chest? Yes! Be strong and assume that the adults on your list have already had a lifetime of raking in loot. Introduce them to the sublime beauty of the paperless/giftless/green celebration: email them a decorative card face that you whipped up for free from pexels.com. Stepping away from the buying of stuff that will surely be returned after Christmas, festooned in paper, bows and cards that will definitely be thrown away, can only benefit you, oh elected serf-of-the-season.

Whipping up perhaps over-describes what you'll actually be doing. Pexels.com is an open source photography website with hundreds of categorically-sorted photographs.

These images are greeting-card quality, often with carefully arranged scenes to accommodate thoughtful messages. You simply search, download one you like, and superimpose something witty or sagacious. No good with words? Search out someone who's better at saying things than you (brainyquote.com is great for this). And if you feel that isn't enough, attach a chatty letter. Sound like you're having the best time ever. And you are. Because you're not grimly hunting for stuff in a sweaty parka or watching your hard-earned dollars evaporate online.

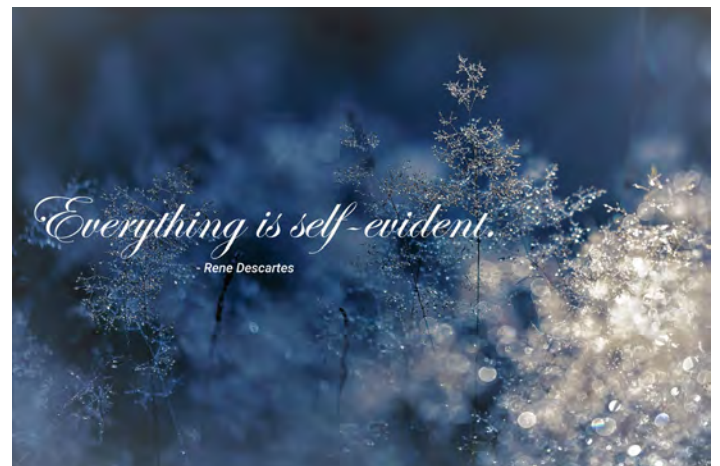
All photos on pexels.com are licensed under the Pexels license, which means they are free for personal use. Search pexels.com frequently asked questions (FAQ) for more details. Pictured here are a few I knocked together. Like them? They're yours; don't even credit me. Happy happy, people.

Sources

"We Talked to a Former Mall Santa About What it Takes to be a Mall Santa" by Tiffy Thompson, *Vice Magazine*, Dec 9, 2016.

[Pexels.com](https://www.pexels.com)

[brainyquote.com](https://www.brainyquote.com)



THE X(MAS) FILES

The Loneliness of the Long Distance Santa



In 2011, Mr. Pakkanen met with children evacuated from Fukushima.

Finnish photographer Touko Hujanen came upon Timo Alarik Pakkanen by chance in a park one summer. Pakkanen, dressed in a red suit and sporting a lush white beard, stood out from all the other people enjoying the warm weather. Handing Hujanen a business card reading '50 Years as Santa Claus,' Pakkanen yelled, "147 days until Christmas!" as the photographer walked away. Thus began Hujanen's multiple-year photo project with Pakkanen as subject.

Hujanen's series not only illustrates the events which make up a professional Santa's season, but the complicated psychology of a man who subsumes his own identity in the act of impersonating a larger-than-life figure. Hujanen has noted how seriously Pakkanen takes his persona, and how representing an ideal of charitable conduct actually informs his daily activities. Mr. Pakkanen, working for tourist promotions in Helsinki but also travelling to Japan to visit the prefecture affected by the Fukushima nuclear disaster, exuded good cheer and generosity with all the children



In Tokyo waiting for his driver to get a Nikuman: a kind of Japanese steamed meat cake, for dinner.

he encountered. Yet Hujanen observed that there was a personal toll. After a long day of jollity in new locations every day, Pakkanen often appeared emotionally wrung and retreated to his hotel room.

Hujanen's revelations in photo-documentary go beyond a superficial examination of the role of the Santa surrogate. They relate how crucial the performance of tradition becomes in the course of displaced or precarious lives. They also bring to light the incalculable value of persons who do their jobs not out of gain, but out of care for others.

Sources

"Photographing by Santa's Rules" by Matt McCann *New York Times* Oct. 8, 2013

Touko Hujanen - www.toukohujanen.com/#/105379/

Santa and Timo Pakkanen can be found year-round at santaclausforever.com



Mr. Pakkanen spends five weeks each year in Japan as the official Santa Claus of Finnair Airlines.



For the last 13 years, Mr. Pakkanen has spent Christmas Eve in Japan alone in his hotel room.

WEB LINKS

COMPILED BY LOUISE FREYBURGER

8 Rare And Beautiful Pictures From A Pioneer Victorian Photographer by Joshua Chuang, Senior Curator of Photography, New York Public Library; Gabriel H. Sanchez, BuzzFeed News Photo Essay Editor - Posted on September 19, 2018, at 5:31 p.m. ET

www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gabrielsanchez/beautiful-rare-photos-pioneer-victorian-woman-photographer?utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=bfsharefacebook&utm_term=.aagrAkqqK&ref=mobile_share&fbclid=IwAR2RHAfhX2V2BKnl10uC2b2iVnde_ZdU-oUmPhCVDau9VoftQfJEap7uIQDc

In Victorian England, the expectations of young women often aligned with maintaining a clean and happy residence. But for Anna Atkins (1799–1871), the invention of photography had revealed an entire world of exciting, new possibilities for both science and art.



Left: *Papaver rhoeas*. Right: Peacock. Both by Anna Atkins, 1861, cyanotypes from a presentation album to Henry Dixon. Courtesy of Hans P. Kraus Jr.



Adiantum capillus-veneris (fern) sporangium, magnified 10 times, Ou Zhilei, Guagndong, China.

“Photographing the Microscopic: Winners of Nikon Small World 2018,” By Alan Taylor, The Atlantic - Oct 11, 2018 24 Photos In Focus

www.theatlantic.com/photo/2018/10/photographing-the-microscopic-winners-nikon-small-world-2018/572737/?utm_campaign=the-atlantic&utm_content=edit-promo&utm_term=2018-10-12T01%3A37%3A00&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social

Nikon just announced the winners of the 2018 Small World Photomicrography Competition, and it's shared some of the winning and honored images with us. The contest invites photographers and scientists to submit images of all things visible under a microscope. Nearly 2,500 entries were received from 89 countries in 2018, the 44th year of the competition.

When Artists Painted with Real Mummies, by Allison Meier JSTOR Daily, October 15, 2018

daily.jstor.org/when-artists-painted-with-real-mummies/?utm_source=socialshare&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=PublicDomainReview&cid=soc.j.jstordaily.PublicDomainReview&fbclid=IwAR2edQOSWb1OZyzPoJE0wLF6RLp2hG-3WQxrpBir75YZSeM-ZsSM4j2-6qQ

In the Victorian age, artists could purchase a pigment called “mummy brown,” made from ground-up Egyptian mummies. Yes that's right; the rich, tawny tones of some nineteenth-century paintings come from actual bodies.

Painting: *Interior of a Kitchen* by Martin Drolling, 1815, via Wikimedia Commons



Talks are free and open to the public on the third Wednesday of every month, from September to June, in the Burgundy Room of the Memorial Hall, in the basement of 5120 Yonge St, North York, Ontario. Talks start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise specified. Please note: some of the presentations are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.

THE HISTORIC BICYCLE

October 17, 2018

Lorne Shields brings in some of his most striking finds in historical bicycle technology and photography.

DIGITIZATION AND PRESERVATION IN BRITISH MUSEUMS

November 21, 2018

Ryerson FPPCM Masters thesis prize winner Daphne Yuen speaks on her research on current digitization approaches.

SHOW AND TELL & SILENT AUCTION

December 19, 2018

The Xmas party for members and guests, along with the Show and Tell and Silent Auction. Everyone welcome.

SPECIAL EVENT:

KODAK CANADA: THE EARLY YEARS (1898-1938)

SPECIAL DATE & TIME - January 23, 2019, 6 to 8pm

SPECIAL LOCATION - RYERSON IMAGE CENTRE, 33 Gould St, Toronto, ON

Join us for the opening of the Masters Exhibition at the Ryerson Student Gallery, sponsored by the PHSC.

SNAKE CHARMER WITH A CAMERA

February 20, 2019

Erin Levitsky, winner of the 2018 Thesis Prize Award, will present selections from her research on twentieth-century fashion and advertising photographer Nina Leen.

VIDEO EDITING: FROM BLAH TO BRILLIANT & JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

March 20, 2019

There's a lot to putting together a tight instructional video that will get people interested. Mark Holtze will be in to demonstrate the basics and some of the tricks involved in making a marginal subject entertaining on film.

Japan has had a deep, dedicated and complex relationship with photography and its technology. Celio Barreto will reveal some its intriguing history and contributions in rarely seen images.

PHOTOGRAPH PRESERVATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS

April 17, 2019

Chloe Lucas answers your questions.

PHSC EVENTS

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION ALL BUYERS WELCOME !



SELLERS! RESERVE YOUR SPOTS DUE TO HIGH DEMAND - Email auction@phsc.ca

Sunday, March 17, 2019

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION #101

3850 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto

Items accepted 8:30 to 10:00

Auction starts at 11:00am

Free admission & parking

Clint Hryhorijiw - Chairman

Details at www.phsc.ca

SPRING FAIR

Sunday, May 26, 2019

TRIDENT HALL

THE BIG ONE!

145 Evans Avenue, Toronto

(south of the Gardiner,
east of Islington Avenue)

10:00am to 3:00pm

Admission \$7 / Students free / Free parking

Mark Singer - Chairman - fair@phsc.ca



DOT ASKS VI

About how we see, why we buy and the sea of seasonal buys.

Dot: I adore this time of year. What could be better than picking out gifts for family and friends? I love shopping, the decorations, the carols, the cheer, pumpkin-flavoured drinks without pumpkin in them...

Vi: I know you love the season, Dotty, but my opinion is somewhat different.

Dot: Goodness, am I going to be lectured about who commercialized Christmas?

Vi: Well, it isn't who you might think.

Dot: Hurry up and tell me. I've got shopping to do.

Vi: Cultural commentators such as Walter Benjamin, Michel Foucault and others created various theories to explain how we got to be a consumerist society. But many of their theories actually shrank down to a single idea: a culture-wide conspiracy. Many people believe there is a conspiracy of powerful, united forces outside ourselves making us buy things. Conspiracy theories are always popular because they are simple explanations for circumstances that externalize our anger and render self-examination unnecessary.

Dot: But you're saying there's no conspiracy?

Vi: Everybody wants or needs something. We've survived for millennia by evolving hunter-gatherer minds and skills,

as many species have. We're also extremely social animals, always comparing ourselves to others. If you understand this, then Ellen Gruber Garvey comes closest to explaining why we have a consumer society today. She suggests that while technologies of manufacture improved and proliferated, advertising moved from being mostly words on posters in public spaces (where people rushed past) to mostly photographs in publications seen in private spaces like the home, where people could spend a lot of time with them.

Dot: So is it photography's fault or advertising's fault that we have a consumer society?

Vi: Neither. It's what people choose to see in a photograph or ad. Many see these photographed products as the raw materials with which to construct their "unique individuality."

Dot: Isn't that a contradiction, expressing individuality through mass-produced items?

Vi: Yes. We want to set ourselves apart from the crowd. And we do it by buying things that millions of others will also buy. It's not a conspiracy. It's us and the choices we make.

Dot: I get the picture. Do I have to stop shopping?

Vi: No. You just have to make better choices.

Sources

The Adman in the Parlour by Ellen Gruber Garvey (1996)



Christmas Gifts by Paul Outerbridge, carbro-colour process, 1936.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

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For Sale



LIGHT TABLE

Henning Graphics professional light table (model 1420FT) still for sale. Portable, with a tilting top. The light surface is 20" x 14". Total dimensions: 24" wide x 18" deep x 11" high. In good working condition.

Contact the Arts & Letters Club, admin@artsandlettersclub.ca, or 416-597-0223 ext. 3.

Wanted

Looking for help. My favourite old **Nikkor lens (300mm f2.8 AF)** needs two parts which are not now readily available. Without it (the lens), I'm lost.

Product # JAA32201

Part # 1K475-354 - diaphragm base (lens mount diaphragm base)

Part # 1K485-133 - index ring

Suggestions for possible sources (Nikon wasn't one) and any help really appreciated.

lesjones.covershots@gmail.com

Publications

GRAFLEX Journal

The latest Graflex Journal is available for download at graflex.org/journal. Plus ongoing calls for articles and for contemporary photography utilizing Graflex cameras. Contact Ken Metcalf at metcalf537@aol.com

Exhibitions



VIVIAN MAIER

"Vivian Maier: Street Photographer"

June 16, 2018 - January 6, 2019

AGH - Art Gallery of Hamilton

123 King Street West

Hamilton, ON, L8P 4S8

www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/plan-your-visit/

Dubbed the "secret nanny-photographer," Vivian Maier (1926-2009) always had a Rolleiflex camera around her neck, yet zealously hoarded the photographs. AGH presents her troubled, talented photo-diary.



WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

December 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

Royal Ontario Museum

100 Queens Park

Toronto, ON

www.rom.on.ca/en/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-2018

A selection of the best wildlife photographs from across the globe in the Natural History Museum at the ROM. An entertaining and educational winter-break experience for the whole family.

Exhibitions



EDWARD BURTYNSKY JENNIFER BAICHWAL NICHOLAS DE PENCIER

"Anthropocene"

Sept 28, 2018 - January 6, 2019

Art Gallery of Ontario

317 Dundas St West

Toronto, ON M5T 1G4

ago.ca/

World-renowned photographer Edward Burtnysky and filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier have created a powerful series of new photographs, including large-scale murals enhanced by film extensions, film installations and augmented reality (AR) installations. An exhibit that takes us to places we are deeply connected to but normally never see.



DAWOUD BEY

"Places in History"

November 24 - December 22, 2018

Stephen Bulger Gallery

1365 Dundas Street, Toronto, ON

Bulger presents the prolific works of photographer and educator Bey, documentarian for marginalized subjects and survivors of contested urban spaces of the twentieth century.