2020

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It is my great pleasure to extend sincere congratulations to the SPARK Photo Festival as we celebrate the opening of the 8th annual festival.

Every year in April, SPARK Photo Festival provides a forum for creativity and vision to take centre stage. The unique talents and perspectives of these talented photographers of all ages, from all walks of life, impress every single year. These works of art shared through SPARK adorn the walls of local galleries, studios, cafes and restaurants throughout our community in a celebration of the artists, dreamers, innovators, storytellers, professionals, and enthusiasts behind the camera lens.

This year’s Showcase Exhibit is “The First 20 Years of Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival: Photographs.” I can’t express enough how pleased I am to have SPARK shine a light on the generosity our community shows every year for the brave women battling breast cancer, the survivors, and all of the families who have been affected. Not only will the exhibit surely capture the excitement of the dragon boat races, but show the humanity and spirit that makes us all proud to call home Peterborough-Kawartha home.

Over the course of eight years, SPARK Photo Festival has etched out a position for itself at the heart of our vibrant arts community. Through the art of photography, it has always served as a truly powerful opportunity to explore the experiences of our people from a variety of viewpoints. I encourage everyone to take full advantage of this year’s festival—seek out these beautiful images, share them with your friends and loved ones, and take time to appreciate the stories that each one of them tell.

Truly,

Maryam Monsef, P.C., M.P.
Peterborough—Kawartha

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Maryam.Monsef@parl.gc.ca
Welcome to the 2020 SPARK Photo Festival!

I am excited to congratulate all of the volunteers, photographers and organizers of the SPARK Photo Festival on the successful opening of the 8th annual festival.

With more than 40 exhibits and a new outdoor digital exhibit, SPARK After Dark, this is sure to be one of the best festivals yet. Visitors will view creative photography from artists of all skill levels and the 2020 Showcase Exhibit, The First 20 Years of Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival. Photographs, is sure to bring back many happy memories and a feeling of nostalgia for Peterborough residents. Attendees will also have the opportunity to view the Juried Exhibit photo competition open to all Ontario photographers with the theme for 2020 being, Motion.

The SPARK Photo Festival is a great representation of the vibrant arts scene in the City of Peterborough. I encourage all residents and visitors to Peterborough to attend and take in all that the festival has to offer.

Best,

Diane Therrien
Mayor

PROCLAMATION
Photography Month
April 2020

WHEREAS The Spark Photo Festival is a celebration of photography and the artists, innovators, storytellers, professionals and enthusiasts behind the camera lens; and

WHEREAS April will mark the arrival of numerous photographic exhibits, artists, workshops, lectures and other related events and activities in locations throughout the Peterborough Region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Diane Therrien, Mayor of the City of Peterborough, do hereby proclaim April 2020 to be Photography Month in the City of Peterborough. I encourage all citizens to participate in the various events and exhibits throughout the community that celebrate photographic art.

MAYOR
CITY OF PETERBOROUGH
Festival Director’s Message 2020

Welcome to SPARK Photo Festival 2020. We’re delighted you’re joining us. In this new decade we’ve got wonderful new exhibits for you to explore, indoors and out. Now in our 8th year, SPARK has grown to be a true community event as art pops up decorating the walls of the region for the month of April in businesses and public spaces throughout the Peterborough area, Northumberland and the City of Kawartha Lakes. Locals and visitors alike seek out exhibits and sometimes just happen upon them as a pleasant surprise. Whether it’s in a traditional gallery setting or somewhere more unexpected (the library, a pub, a thrift store!), SPARK photographic exhibits touch audiences with enjoyable, thought-provoking, meaningful and engaging displays of the works of our talented photographers.

One of the unique aspects of SPARK (and something that I find most exciting) in contrast to other festivals is our Open Call Exhibits are truly open to photographers of all skill levels and ages. This year, we have elementary school-aged children through to octogenarians, first-time exhibitors who are taking their hobby to a new level (what a leap!) to seasoned pros and 8-time SPARK exhibitors and every thing in between. There are images captured across the world and right here at home of people, nature, architecture, digitally-painted images, mixed media creations and more. A little something for everyone, as they say. I hope you’re as excited as I am to explore the works of each of our exhibitors, and take in how they see the world around them through the lens and how they choose to share the images with us.

Our Showcase Exhibit, The First 20 Years of Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival: Photographs, is a perfect example of community. Over the twenty years of the Festival, thousands of people from our community have participated as paddlers, donors, sponsors and volunteers and this collection of photographs is a tribute to each one. Our cover image, photographed by Robert Boudreau, is our toast to this achievement.

The Juried Exhibit, with entries from photographers across Ontario, garnered a record number of entries – over 200 images from 75 photographers – and our judges certainly had their work cut out for them to select the top 25 for the exhibit. You will definitely be impressed with the collection of Motion images. We have perennial favourites, such as the Best of High School, community group, individual and group exhibits, and a brand-new, outdoor digital exhibit: SPARK After DARK. We’re going to spark up the wall at the corner of Water and Hunter Streets, shining the light on photography for all to see.

Since taking on the role of Festival Director in September, it’s been my sincere pleasure to work with our enthusiastic exhibitors and host venues, dedicated volunteer Board (please, join me in thanking each one of them!) and our roster of committee and event volunteers who make this Festival happen, as well as our Sponsors, Patrons and Donors, without whom SPARK wouldn’t be possible. I believe I can speak for all of us, we feel the arts are vital to a healthy community and on behalf of each SPARK contributor, thank you for supporting the arts and helping our community thrive.

Jennifer MacKenzie

New this year: Download the mobile-friendly PDF of the Pocket Guide so you can have SPARK with you where ever you go. Find it on the home page at www.sparkphotofestival.org along with each exhibit web page, and sign up for our newsletter on the Contact page while you’re there.

Join us on social for the latest in SPARK Happenings!
SPARK Patrons and Sponsors

Patrons
Tim Barrie  Merit Precision Moulding
Linda and Chris Cardona
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Package Plus Inc.

Showcase Exhibit Sponsors & Donors
SPARK and Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival are sincerely grateful to “Anonymous” for their generous donation toward exhibit expenses.

Downtown Digital Projection Project
SPARK After DARK

Helping Hand

Themed Juried Exhibit

Prizes Best of High School Photography Exhibit
Twenty years later . . . plunging paddles and raising funds!

“. . . And in lane four – the Skinny Dippers! Teams in Race 23, YOU are wanted in the marshalling area NOW . . .”

The sounds of another Dragon Boat Festival Peterborough – and for many over the past 20 years – an unofficial raucous start of another summer in the city. Each year since 2001, an average of 1,400 dragon boat paddlers decked out in every possible coloured team T-shirt, spandex, and many strange accessories race their hearts out for a common cause.

Dragon boating . . . it’s fun, intense, joyful, team building, and addictive. And one of the most successful community-based fundraising events in the area. The hundreds of teams that have thrashed to the finish line on Little Lake have helped raise more than $3.6 million to help purchase some of medical science’s best breast cancer diagnostic and screening equipment for the PRHC.

The total support from the entire community – volunteers, sponsors, donors, team captains and their paddlers, the City, and nearby residents – always amazes festival organizers.

Speaking of amazing support, Kawartha Credit Union has shown its deep commitment to the well-being of the community it serves by signing up as the festival’s platinum sponsor every year since 2002.

It started small – 32 teams. Then it got bigger. And bigger. What hasn’t changed: the cheering, the high-fives, the soakings from splashing paddles, the laughing, the groans from 60 or more paddle strokes a minute, the congratulatory yells (“Look at our race time!”) . . . and also the vows to do better next year. You’ll hear it all at the races. And the crowd-watching is great.

Overseeing everything and playing host is Survivors Abreast, the hometown breast cancer survivor dragon boat team. But running a festival “takes a village.” Together with Survivors Abreast, a full committee of volunteers from the community makes the festival happen every year.

And they take great care in presenting the traditional carnation ceremony. It’s the highlight of the one-day event, dedicated to those who we’ve lost and those who are still challenged by breast cancer. Tears are shed. The survivor teams and spectators resume hope and the races continue. Awards are handed out and there are more cheers.

Former PDBF Chairs
Meredith Cosburn Founder 2001 - 2003
John Gullick 2004 - 2011
Carol Mutton 2012 - 2014
Debbie Keay 2015 - 2016
Carol Mutton & Michelle Thornton Co-chairs 2017
Michelle Thornton 2018 - 2019
The First 20 Years

Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival: Photographs

2018

2006

2009

2019
The First 20 Years

Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival: Photographs
Curator’s Notes

I was blessed with having amazing individuals assist in the realization of this exhibit. Their energy and devotion to telling the story was nothing short of awe inspiring.

To begin with, I would like to thank Michelle Thornton who in a “what if...?” moment, somewhat exhausted after a long race day at PDBF in 2019 and perhaps not thinking clearly, came up with the idea for this exhibit.

A shout out to Wayne and Carol Mutton for their gargantuan assistance with sharpening my editing selection pencil to arrive at the exhibit you will see today. Even after the selection was whittled down to roughly 1200 images from the over 20,000 in the archives, the final exhibit had to tell this 20 year story in as concise a manner as budget and space would allow.

Heartfelt gratitude must also be extended to Gina Lee, a living angel, who against the odds, and a newbie in the cut-throat world of fundraising, pulled together all the sponsors, donors, GIK, without which this exhibit would have been a moon shot that never got off the ground. Gina was also juggling her new role as the new Chair of PDBF, so extra kudos for taking this on with such positive enthusiasm.

Jennifer MacKenzie from SPARK, and Karen Beamish from PDBF, are thanked in advance for planning the exhibit reception. It will be a reception to remember.

Jennifer and Gina, who are both new in their respective leadership roles in their organizations, will host the reception.

Finally, thank you to the SPARK Board for recognizing and supporting this exhibit as worthy of the Showcase Exhibit distinction. I hope the exhibit will live up to and honour the traditions of excellence that the Showcase represents.

As remembered through the images of multiple volunteer photographers, the 2020 SPARK Showcase Exhibit is a photographic journey back in time through the history of Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival.

The Photographers

Robert Boudreau          Kenneth Powell
Sharon Canzi             Valerie Prussack
Peter Curley             André Wardzinski
In photography, the term contrast describes the scale of difference between black and white. Without it, a photograph would be black, white, or a single shade of grey. An image is revealed from the differentiation between light and dark. Although compositions incorporating a broad range of tones reveal detail, depth and texture, low contrast images can be moody, subtle and equally interesting.

Contrast, however, can also be used to identify differences between two subjects and as a device to highlight or to emphasize that which is different, unexpected or unique. It is for these reasons that Contrast has been chosen as the theme for this year’s SPARK Student Exhibit.

Michael Whatman
Student Curator
Below: Awarded images from the 2019 SPARK Themed Juried Exhibit Family Life.

![Image of two children running down a set of stairs]

2019 Best in Show: Sarah Cummings - Unwavering Sisterhood

2019 Second Place: Lola Allin Reid - At Grandma’s Funeral

2019 Third Place: Kenneth Powell - Smiles

2020 JURIED EXHIBIT THEME

The theme of SPARK’s 2020 Juried Exhibit is Motion.

A photograph has the unique ability to record a fraction of a particular moment in time. It is ironic that the subject of numerous “still photographs” attempts to convey a sense of motion.

For the photographer, a sense of motion, whether frozen, perfectly sharp and in focus, or with the subject or background blurred, becomes a technical and artistic choice.

Motion is this year’s photographic challenge.

2020 Reception & Juried Awards
Friday April 3
6 to 9 pm
Peterborough Square
Lower Level
340 George Street N
Peterborough
705 742-0493

Hours
M to Th 9:30 am to 6 pm
F 9:30 am to 8 pm
Sat 9:30 am to 5 pm
Sun Noon to 5 pm

2020 Juried Exhibit Acknowledgements
Exhibit Committee:
Robert Boudreau
Margaret Hamilton
Randall Romano

Judges:
Wayne Eardley
Darcie Kennedy
Brian Tyson

Frame Assembly: Frameland Frame It For U
Photo Printing: Peterborough Clicks
Venue: Cheryl McQueen, Peterborough Square
Cash Prizes provided by SPARK
The SPARK Photo Festival is excited to announce its first interactive outdoor exhibit—SPARK after DARK—and we want YOU to be part of it!

As the sun sets over Peterborough, SPARK’s brand-new digital exhibit will begin lighting up the west facing wall of Ashburnham Realty’s office at the corner of Hunter and Water Streets, right in the heart of the city.

We will be projecting selected images from the 2020 Festival, perhaps some of your favourites from past festivals, and also, and this is the best part, photos submitted by anybody in the community. You will have the chance to see your own photos in lights! Throughout the festival the SPARK team will be collecting images from the public... yes, that includes everyone.

If you have a photograph that you would love to share, whether you’re a hobbyist, enthusiast, professional, or you just took a cool shot by chance, the SPARK team will want to hear from you. The only rule: the image must have been taken during the month of April! Check our social channels (see page 8) for the call out for image entries and follow the hashtag #SPARKAfterDarkPTBO.

Be sure to visit SPARK After DARK: the SPARK you know and love but bigger, brighter, outside, and yours to shape. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sponsored by

Helping Hand
Featured Exhibits

Featured exhibits are meant to bring attention to the important role that public, private, and commercial galleries, artist collectives and studios play in the professional development of photographers and photography as an art form.
Wikipedia provides the following definition of the term monochrome:

“Of an image, the term monochrome is usually taken to mean the same as black and white or, more likely, greyscale, but may also be used to refer to other combinations containing only tones of a single color, such as green-and-white or green-and-red. It may also refer to sepia displaying tones from light tan to dark brown or cyanotype (blueprint) images, and early photographic methods such as daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes, each of which may be used to produce a monochromatic image.”

Rather than relying on colour, black and white images use lines, shapes, patterns, the contrast between light and dark, and sometimes just the viewer’s own imagination to tell their story. The colour images in this collection lack bold colours and rely on the same types of features as the truly black and white images to tell their stories.
Laura Berman | Nigel Dickson

Cultivarte

Inuit Fine Art Gallery
37 Walton St
Port Hope
905 885-2555
info@inuitfineart.com
www.inuitfineart.com

Hours
W to Sat 11 am to 5 pm
Sun Noon to 4 pm

Nigel Dickson
nigel@nigeldickson.com
www.nigeldickson.com

Laura Berman
laura@laurabermanphotography.com
www.laurabermanphotography.com

Reception
Saturday April 4
3 to 5 pm

Laura Berman
My work is an exploration of the interior and emotional life of animals. By creating an atmosphere of classically dramatic light and space to illuminate my subjects' individuality and emotions, I offer the viewer the opportunity to recognize these animals as 'someone' not as 'some-thing'.

These emotive portraits bring together my love for both painting and photography, a natural outgrowth of my early training as painter and more than twenty years as a designer and photographer. Through innovative digital techniques I create images that reflect the way my mind and heart understand the scene more fully than with photography alone.

My work begins with the literal photograph. I then ‘digitally paint’ into it using a series of transparent overlays and digital brushwork to create an image with an emotional impact more real than the reality of a photographic recording.

Nigel Dickson: Apples & Pears 2020
I have always liked Victorian botanical illustrations and with this series I wanted to see if I could emulate that style photographically, using a mixture of lighting, ‘stacking’ in Photoshop and my secret ingredient: dulling spray.

After spending so much time with these apples & pears, I feel that they have their own personality.

Special thanks to Colin & Dianne Campbell (Campbell Orchards) for generously letting me raid their orchards in Prince Edward County last September & October.
When the question: “Why didn’t you say something before?” came to me, it inspired these visual statements. One image of twelve is represented here.

Within the context of Truth and Reconciliation, I maintain that attempts at Reconciliation will be inefficacious unless the Truth is known. These images may, in a small way, expose some of that Truth.

The ‘Circa’ reference swiftly moves us to include today. Many of the Truths represented occurred in our own lifetime. The last residential school was closed in 1996. The Pass System was used from the late 1800s to WWII. The Coerced or Forced Sterilization remains a prevalent practice. The relentless attacks on First Nations by all levels of Government and/or Corporations (mining/energy) delineate the existent acumen to reduce Indigenous presence. The theft of lands or assumption of rights over lands, persist. Perhaps the most alarming of all is the MMIW crisis. The removal/disposal of Indigenous Women is their key to appropriation of the land. Hence the shocking number of unsolved murdered and missing cases.

The exhibit content will address the question above, as to “Why not before?”

Chi Miigwetch
George Campana
Capturing the light is everything! As a photographic artist, it is always the light that I remember most about any location. It is my inspiration. Its elusive quality can transform a water or landscape in just a matter of seconds. I strive to convey that sense of place by capturing its fleeting magic.

Looking past the obvious, close observation and engagement of the subject is my process. The challenge is to see beyond the distraction of the conspicuous to capture its unique self. Some of my subjects are quite beautiful, others less so. My goal is to inspire those who see my work to look more carefully at the world around them, to discover beauty in unusual places.

My subject matter is nature, whether it is a traditional landscape or a silky waterfall and I strive to have the patience to wait for the little added extras that nature provides in time such as a bird in flight or waiting for the clouds to part and showing off magnificent God rays streaming down.
Dianne Lister has exhibited her work in solo and group shows since 1995. Her first major show was an exhibition of 20 silver gelatin prints as part of CONTACT Photo Festival (1999). A second CONTACT show was held in 2013 in collaboration with Janet Dey (“Montana, an Altered State”) at Balzac’s Gallery, Toronto. In 2018, Dianne was invited to exhibit “The Travelling Blue Dress Project” at the Kawartha Art Gallery as part of SPARK Photo Festival 2018 (March – April 2018). Dianne’s photographs have been selected as part of the Kawartha Art Gallery’s Community Members Juried Exhibition (2017, 2018, 2019). In September 2019, two of Dianne’s photographs were selected for the juried exhibit, “Trees,” held at the Colborne Street Gallery, Fenelon Falls. Her current project – “Mind the Great Divide” - is a mixed media/video/photographic installation collaboration with Janet Dey which will run May 9 – June 21, 2020 at the Art Gallery of Peterborough.


These photographs were selected from recent works of Dianne Lister and Michael Harris because they directly address, in different ways, the challenge of creating or flattening depth in landscape photos.

When successfully captured, that range of depth — those different visual planes — make the pictures, and the landscapes they portray, more alive and more engaging.
As an artist, I am drawn to forms in nature and natural environments. As a photographer, I am an observer. I believe it is our nature to keep a record of what we do, where we go and what we see. Cameras were invented to preserve such moments. Ralph Waldo Emerson claimed that, “Photography is distinguished by its immediacy, its authenticity, and the remarkable fact that its eye sees more than the human eye.”

The nature of these characteristics indicates that a photograph has an implied truth.

I am sensitive to the subtle and blatant changes around me. As one who observes nature, it is impossible to ignore the evidence of climate change and necessary to consider navigating how these evolutions and inevitable extinctions are to be documented and preserved.

In the mid-1900’s this implied truth began to change as ideas about the descriptive power of photography combined with those about emotional expressiveness. The photograph does not exist without the photographer and their intervention in a variety of ways, making pictorial choices and incorporating contextual elements to anchor some potential meanings and discourage others. Manipulation might be vital in order to represent the scene as accurately as possible. The viewer then has to rely on the integrity of the artist to engage with that implied truth.

Without light and time a photograph cannot exist. Using these traditional elements of photography, I combine them with other mediums in my mixed-media work. I aim to challenge the implied truth and to question our ability to truly preserve a record of the species that are disappearing.
**La Chute**

La Chute is a series of photographs that capture the gesture of falling in a variety of scenarios. Capturing a moment of collision wherein culminates the forces of gravity, balance, judgment and fate. Using this gesture, I aim to build a space in which the viewer experiences a sense of anxiety, by evoking the body's frailty and vulnerability, while simultaneously heightening its absurdity through serial repetition.

Cheryl Rondeau is a visual artist who works with both still and moving imagery to transform moments of transition and quotidian into the monumental, with the intent of exposing influences and mechanics that mediate representation, embodiment and subjectivity. Her practice can mimic investigative scientific methods, embrace the thievery of appropriation or inhabit the role of storyteller – in all cases, she collects, isolates and extracts specific gestures and moments constructing an intermix of the real and the fabricated. Her visual arrangements are rhythmic compilations of repetition and mimicry creating images of ambivalence and agency.

Born in St. Catharines (Canada), Cheryl Rondeau studied photography and video at the Ontario College of Art (Toronto), has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social/Cultural Anthropology from the University of Toronto and completed an MFA at York University (Toronto). Her work has been included in exhibitions and festivals internationally including 65th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (Germany), Festival international du film sur l’art (Montreal, Quebec), Mediawave International Festival of Visual Arts (Gyor, Hungary), Scope Art Fair (New York) and Museum of Modern Art (Bogota, Colombia).
Individual Exhibits
Photographer Freeman Patterson inspired me as a young photographer and continues to do so. His statement, “A camera always looks both ways,” from his book, Shadowlight has stayed with me all these years. And this show reflects that observation. A good portion of the work here is from the past 5 years photographing the Kawartha region, but I have also selected photographs from other places and times that tell a story – or – invite the viewer to create one.

Jim Babbage, Lens-Based Artist
I fell in love with photography nearly 4 decades ago, the summer before I started journalism school, when my father gave me my first 35mm camera as a graduation present. It was a simple camera; it didn’t even have a built-in light meter. I didn’t care; an entirely new world had just opened up in front of me.

After college, my passion to share knowledge and make photographs led me to long-lasting careers in those areas as both a college professor and creative professional. Several years into my professional photographic career, I opened Photoshop for the first time and once again, a new world opened up for me. I became immersed in the world of digital, and soon began designing for the web in addition to taking photographs, teaching and writing.

Photography is as much therapy for me as it is a creative outlet. Now, my personal work is centralized around landscape photography and writing.
“Through Endurance we Conquer” (Anonymous)

I’ve always been fascinated with extreme climates (north & south). Venturing to Antarctica, the planet’s frozen continent was definitely on the list. Antarctica is a photographer’s dream. The Austral summer offers nearly 24 hours of light with night a pink glow on the horizon. On entry into this fragile ecosystem you’re greeted by curious Humpback Whales, Weddell and Leopard Seals. Junior Elephant Seals, cantankerous as they moult, spar in colonies of blubber and bad breath. Gentoo, Chinstrap and Adelie Penguins parade from nesting colonies to the sea as Skua’s cruise overhead looking for unprotected eggs to steal.

Mountains tower over pristine inlets, their glaciers pushing down to the sea. Icebergs flank the channels, shifting ice dictating safe passage. The health of the Southern Ocean ultimately means our survival. This coldest, driest, windiest continent on earth is home to 70% of the planet’s fresh water and it’s warming at a rate 5 times faster than the rest of the world.

The feeling you have leaving Antarctica is hard to put into words. It’s a mix of wonder, regret, and a desire to return. You leave knowing that individually and collectively we can do more to stem the rate of change and protect our fragile planet.

Join me at Sustain Eco Store, 418 George St N, Peterborough for a window into Antarctica and to get advice from the Sustain team on how to start your conservation journey. A million small gestures will make a difference.
Artist Statement

What is vintage? Vintage is a feeling as much as a tangible object. It conjures up fond memories of the past.

Linda has always loved antiques, older houses and items that remind her of childhood. She has been taking pictures of vintage items and antiques for years – building interiors, exteriors and décor. She does not shy away from rust and abandoned houses – finding beauty in authenticity.

From wagon wheels to tea cups, from crooked fences to typewriters – the subjects all convey a charm, a warmth and a serenity of yesteryear. Therein lies a comfort that is both endearing and everlasting.

This year, Linda has ventured into still life photography. She has created stylized vintage scenes with a Victorian flair. Of course, her love of flowers is reflected in these scenes.

Linda hopes you will enjoy her exhibit.
Artist Statement

“The Swirl of Life” exhibition merges my love of photography with my love of the written word. To me each photograph tells a story, which compels me to combine the images with words as I have in this show. This exhibit combines photographed images with photographed poems that I produce on my Instagram account @s.r.d.poetry. It is an exploration of combining an external photographic image with the internal dialogue of poetry, connecting the mood of a poem with a photograph. The images are from a variety of locations including Jackson Park right here in Peterborough, Cobourg, the Kawarthas, Manitoba, Ireland and Italy.

Sylvia Davies

The Swirl of Life

Cork & Bean
382 George St N
Peterborough
705 742-0144
corkandbeanPTBO@gmail.com
www.corkandbean.ca

Hours
M to Tu 8 am to 6 pm
W to Sat 8 am to 11 pm
Sun 10 am to 6 pm

Sylvia Davies
Peterborough
decjan15@gmail.com
Instagram @s.r.d.poetry

Reception
Sunday April 5
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Bio
Sylvia is an artist based in Peterborough. For her all art emotes a story. Growing up in Saskatchewan gave Sylvia a love for the raw beauty of both the land and human interaction with geography. Her many years living in the beauty of the Kawarthas has also inspired her narratives.

It was her high school English teacher who first introduced her to the beauty of photography. Photography was his hobby. He took a group of students and taught them about f-stops, exposure time and how to develop their own black and white photos. Since then she has developed a passion for photography and feels that digital photography has opened a world of opportunity to all those who love the art of picture taking (and story-telling) by making it more accessible.
Photographer Heather Doughty partners with My Left Breast to create a thought-provoking commentary on one of the essences of femaleness. My Breast Story explores the complicated relationship between a woman and her breasts that extends past society’s expectations and pressures and delves deep into her identity through a visual and small written commentary. This progressive exhibit attempts to also raise awareness of Breast Cancer. The eclectic mix of models includes Breast Cancer survivors.

This exhibit contains nudity. Rated R or M.
INSPIRE founder and photographer Heather Doughty and female-identified survivors of gender-based violence collaborate on a personal journey and photographic exploration of resilience and healing. Through this SPARK Photo Festival Exhibition, in collaboration with Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre, Heather brings community awareness to the issue of gender-based violence, and the strength and courage of survivors.

For this exhibition, the definition of portrait is in collaboration with the participants who may offer a full body, partial body (e.g. hands, feet, back) portrait in complement to the biography story and three words synonymous with Inspire: The Women’s Portrait Project.
“Rebooting” is everywhere and artist Heather Doughty expounds on this current social phenomenon with a tongue in cheek exhibit honouring the work of past Master Artists.

Famous paintings are rebooted using a twenty-first century viewpoint that provides a unique perspective on society’s ever-changing appearance. More importantly, the exhibit touches on the stronger statement that “old” things can be repurposed and re-imagined and should not be destined for basements, attics and landfills when they fall out of fashion. This exhibit is proudly hosted by the ReStore and utilizes repurposed framing materials.
Peter Dušek's toned black and white nature photographs create a space of quiet reflection. Borrowing the principles of shibumi, a Japanese design aesthetic which refers to subtlety, simplicity, and balance coupled with continued interest and enriched meaning over time, the artist explores the Ontario landscape. ‘As little as possible, as much as necessary’ is Dušek’s creative philosophy. He photographs often overlooked locations seeking to capture the hidden beauty that constantly surrounds us. With a current emphasis on speed in today’s rapidly changing world, the artist takes a moment for something more, something insightful, something introspective, something meditative.

Dušek is represented by Abbozzo Gallery in Toronto and the Paul Paletti Gallery/Naomi Stuecker in Louisville, Kentucky. He has exhibited his work as a part of CONTACT Photography Festival with Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, and the Affordable Art Fair, New York. He has exhibited across Canada and the USA, including the Paul Paletti Gallery, John B. Aid Gallery, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and the Robert McLaughlin Gallery. Dušek’s work is held in private and corporate collections throughout North America.

Born in Bratislava, Slovakia, Peter moved to Canada when he was seven years old. He lives Hockley Valley, Ontario with his wife, dog and cat, exploring the countryside by motorcycle, bicycle, or on foot, often accompanied by his dog, Daisy. His frequent excursions give him a deep familiarity and affinity with some of Ontario’s most beautiful regions.
Exploring beauty and sacredness in the natural world is central to Corin Ford Forrester’s photographic art. Her work has evolved through several styles. Her early black & white work blended images of the human form with natural objects and landscapes. In vibrant colour she has created stained glass or mandala-like compositions. Currently she is presenting single photographs showing the exquisite patterns, colours, distortions and reflections that are often found in seemingly mundane places.

Corin studied traditional black and white photography at the Haliburton School of the Arts where she received the highest standing in the Sir Sanford Fleming College Photo Arts Program in 2007. She also has a degree in Microbiology from the University of Guelph. Since 2007 she has exhibited and sold her photographs in festivals and galleries in the Kawarthas, where she is based, and in Toronto, & Ottawa. Her time as Artist In Residence in 2014 among the wild lakes and forests of Quetico Provincial Park, near Thunder Bay Ontario, provided great inspiration.

A solo exhibition of Corin’s photographs was mounted at The Christensen Fine Art Gallery in Peterborough during the SPARK Photography Festival in 2018. She also participated in group shows at The Elaine Fleck Gallery in 2015 and again in 2018. This past fall she participated in the Art Gallery of Peterborough’s Kawartha Autumn Studio Tour.
The name of my exhibit Pneuma, is a Greek word for breath, but also has a religious context for “spirit” or “soul”. I chose this as the title because I wanted to sound intelligent and deep. In reality, it’s actually the title of a song and when I looked up the meaning, I thought hey, that’ll work.

A lot of my work is shot on Lake Ontario. I spend a lot of time in Cobourg, Port Hope and Presqu’ile Provincial Park. I love the wide-open feel that seeing nothing but water all the way to the horizon gives. Then the challenge of finding new points of interest to work into that.

I’ve heard people say that as you grow as a photographer, more of you will come out in your work. I do think that’s true; I have moved more towards a more minimalist style and do a lot of long exposure. It has resulted in simple images with few distractions, for a sense of calm, of peace and quiet. That really is fitting of my personality, so it turns out Pneuma actually is the perfect title.
Every once in a while you look back on your images to see if your interests have changed. Mine haven’t, they are still numerous and RANDOM. My images this year reflect a diversity of interests and seeing with no discernible thread or theme. Just images I like.
The intersection between analog and digital photography provides me with a detour from technique, composition, and post-production, into new avenues. Sometimes a detour is presented with an opportunity to explore the road ahead that leads into another pathway.

With the use of film and digital cameras, I explore landscapes, nature and human interaction. Both literal and abstract approaches are part of the creative process. In recent years, I have also focused on events and portraiture.

I am thrilled to display a solo show for this year’s festival. This is my sixth SPARK exhibit (two solo shows at Pappas Billiards in Peterborough, and three group shows with the Peterborough Photographic Society). Other solo exhibits have also occurred in Peterborough.

Based in Peterborough, Ontario, Erschen-Pappas Photography will be launching this year, that will provide clients with services in portraiture, events, and other photographic projects.

Hope you enjoy the exhibit at Chasing the Cheese on Charlotte Street, downtown Peterborough.
Casting about for a theme for my 2020 SPARK photo exhibition I reminded myself of the elements behind my photographic drive. They include:

• telling stories
• recording and reflecting on different cultures represented by the many countries I have been fortunate to visit
• reflecting my ongoing relationship with the rivers, lakes and oceans I have been on or under (my very first SPARK show in 2013 was on "Water: Above & Below"; it displayed many shots taken while scuba diving)

The act of catching fish whether commercially or recreationally consumes a lot of energy and is conducted all around the world by all demographics. That act, and all of the rituals, equipment and people that go with it, often make for creative images.
Photography represents much more than just exploring the world. It is the ability to capture a moment of time, to rip a unique page from the book of life that fascinates me. Photographs at their best tell a story or reveal a penetrating statement, not only through an individual picture but also through groups of photographs. The camera provides a realistic means to document and freeze a passing juncture, perhaps capturing an important instant, a blink of vision that without the camera would be gone forever. The simple act of making a photograph encourages the photographer to stop and carefully look at the complexity of life. This uncomplicated act opens up details of the world lost to others. At its true essence, the camera is a persistent companion documenting a unique view of the world and travelling along through our life journeys.

The techniques I use to capture these moments of life and narratives are not based on technological prowess, because to me the camera is only a tool to be harnessed. The photographs created reflect and document the real world and are a contemplation of things as they are. Technology is only a means to capture this reality. The ultimate success of the process is the strength and validity of the final product and the need it creates in the viewer to linger and explore.
“Wherever man has left his footprints in the long ascent from barbarism to civilization, we find the hoofprint of a horse beside it.” John Moore

I’ve always had a passion for photography; capturing beautiful landscapes and memories from travels. I also have an intense passion for animals and try to communicate their beauty through my photography. My subjects are predominately horses (it’s no secret that horses are the most magnificent animal on earth...at least to the horse lover) with cats and cows a very close second.

I prefer photographing animals in their natural environment; presenting their own poses although this can present as a challenge at times, I admit, especially with horses. The end result can be quite effective. With horses, as with most animals one needs to learn flexibility as well as patience and creativity. This can mean low angle shots and getting down on your knees.
Canada; it is a beautiful country that we all call home. I love the quietness and peacefulness of nature and the scenery that nature provides can be stunning. I've found in my travels be it day trips, train travel or driving to other provinces there are countless opportunities to capture landscape photos.

A scene, though, can change dramatically depending upon the weather so choosing the right time (if that is an option) is significant. Landscapes sometimes can be more impressive too with a bit of patience and leg work to achieve a viewpoint that isn't easily accessible.
World Pinhole Photography Day  2020 APRIL 26

www.pinholeday.org
SPARK PHOTO FESTIVAL 2020

2020

Group Exhibits
Garry Barker

I enjoy most kinds of photography but over the past few years, I have become interested in cityscapes. For this, my seventh SPARK exhibit, my theme will consist of a series of images that I have taken over the past few years in Kensington Market Toronto and downtown Ottawa. I am really looking forward to SPARK 2020.

Steve Brittain

I became interested in photography in the late 60’s and was hooked. I went on to study Photography at Humber College. I was employed in the photo industry working at City TV, and at the CBC on the National News service. This will be my 7th year with Spark and I would like to thank Bridgenorth Library for giving me another opportunity to display my work.

Ralph Colley

“When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford”, said the 18th century English literary critic Samuel Johnson. I had the opportunity to travel to the U.K. in the summer of 2019. My photos for this year’s SPARK exhibit capture my enthusiasm for the history and unique moments of everyday London, Oxford and Cornwall.

Jennie Versteeg

Mostly I will show images of trees this year, but this will be my eighth time participating in SPARK so it would be unrealistic of visitors to expect a coherent theme! As usual, I am just enjoying photography and having fun sharing images with the broader community.
Group Exhibit

Aleisha Boyd | Heather Doughty

Life Is Full of Experiences

Drawing on their personal galleries, photographers Aleisha Boyd and Heather Doughty select captured moments that fully explore all of life’s experiences. Whimsical moments of childhood joy intermingle with other life experiences ranging from thought-provoking to merely mundane to the comedic. Fully embracing life and being present is a mantra that both photographers hold close to their hearts and this exhibit celebrates all the experiences that have helped to form who they are and how they view life through the lens.

129 1/2 Studio
129 1/2 Hunter St W
Peterborough
705 957-0808

Hours
Tu | Th | F | Sat 11 am - 2 pm

Aleisha Boyd
Peterborough
705 760-5247
info@aleishaboydphotography.ca
www.aleishaboydphotography.ca

Heather Doughty
Peterborough
705 957-0808
heatherdoughtyphotography@gmail.com
www.heatherdoughtyphotography.com

Reception
Friday April 3
6 to 9 pm
The dictionary defines a photograph as a positive print, recorded by a camera and reproduced on a photosensitive surface. We tend to think of it as a recording of something we see that has the potential to be pleasing and make it better. Something we have not seen before and may never see again.

Our individual goals are to give ourselves that warm feeling that comes with doing something to the best of your abilities, while doing something we enjoy. We are not professionals, just five individuals who wish to share enjoyment with you and for you to see what you wish to see in each photograph on display. Think of the person who trudged through the deep snow to take a picture of a lone milkweed that has opened. Photographs are a way of returning your memories to you at a later date.

Photographers can tell you stories with each picture they display. Each participant here, although the subjects may vary, tend to have a passion for a special subject, it may be wildlife, flowers, landscapes, etc. We are pleased to present to you only some of the thousands of pictures we each have. In our view, they are some of our best (to our eyes), that we can offer you. We hope they are of interest and give you that warm feeling on a cold winter’s day, they gave to us taking them.

Thank You – The Group
This is the fifth time that we have participated in the SPARK Photo Festival. In the past we have exhibited our photos under a variety of themes:

- 2016: Nature’s Gems
- 2017: The Marvelous Meadow
- 2018: Faces From the Crowd
- 2019: It’s All In the Eye of the Beholder

However, this year we have decided to do Something Different!
The Lakefield College School Photography Club is comprised of a group of 23 students who meet weekly. Students take part in weekly themed photography challenges, workshops, and excursions and many take photos while travelling during school breaks.

Patricio Arnau Young
Moritz Asche
Douglas Brown
Dakota Burton
Tierney Carter
Carter Chartier
Constantin Clausen
Landon Follows
Jonty Harris
Vincent He
Fiona Hickie
Andre Kaim Kim
Miles Mei
Chloe Morton
Louise Prindiville-Porto
Sadie Rubin
Paul Runza
Emily Schnurr
Hayley Schwartzentruber
Liam Segura
Amy Shin
Paige Thompson
Krista Weinbrecht
Ms. Tayler Morencie (Faculty)
The Peterborough Photographic Society celebrates its 37th anniversary this year. The club was formed to encourage and develop the photographic skills of its members with an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship and support of people with similar interests. These objectives continue to guide the club today. This is an excellent club for both beginners and experienced photographers. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from September through June at the Lions centre on Burnham St. in Peterborough. The first part of each meeting is reserved for presentations on photographic subjects by either outside speakers or club members. Following a break for refreshments, the second part of the meeting is used to display member images within various categories and during this time members are free to ask questions and make suggestions regarding the images. Outings are organized each month to interesting photographic venues, giving members a chance to capture and compare images from different perspectives, as well as an opportunity to exchange artistic and technical information. A monthly newsletter “The Viewfinder” keeps us abreast of activities, and can be found on our Website. Detailed club information can be found on our Website at www.peterboroughphotographicsociety.com. Or email us at info@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com.
SPARK PHOTO FESTIVAL 2020

Community Exhibits
Brain Injury Association Peterborough Region (a registered business name of Four Counties Brain Injury Association) has been operating since 1988. BIAPR supports individuals in Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton, and Northumberland counties. The association has evolved into a dynamic organization that provides a range of supports to a clientele with diverse and complex needs. BIAPR services are designed to form the basis of a comprehensive model of community support service delivery.

The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Day Services offered in Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes (Lindsay) are geared to adults with acquired brain injuries, who have varied needs and capabilities. BIAPR is able to provide productive and meaningful activities for all participants. Photography provides our members a new and exciting way to communicate when finding words may be difficult.

2020 will be the seventh year that BIAPR has participated in the SPARK Photo Festival. Each year more and more of our members are embracing photography. Members look forward to showcasing their work in April during the Festival. Through the lens of a camera members are able to capture images that are meaningful to them. Our Community Exhibit exposes their creativity and abilities. This chance to engage in the community beyond BIAPR’s doors is an opportunity for all our members to interact with people in new ways. The BIAPR Open House allows for Members to interact with new people as they discuss their photography.

We continue to be involved in SPARK Photo Festival because photography and the images shared through our members’ eyes can transcend the challenges of living with an Acquired Brain Injury. BIAPR’s theme for 2020 is “Motion” which offers us an opportunity to delve deeper into motion and what it means to each member. By sharing our photographs we can show the diversity of the lives that we all live. Through the camera lens we are all equal in ability.

As BIAPR’s members, volunteers and staff – we look forward to sharing our images with our community again this year. Come and share our vision of what “Motion” means to us.
Camp Kawartha Environment Centre

WILD

WILD Students
leighsymonds@northernlandscapes.ca

Hours
Outdoor Exhibit: Daylight Hours During April

Reception(s)
Saturday April 4, Noon to 2:30 pm
Saturday April 18, 1 pm to 3:30 pm

We are a group of students (and a few mentors) working within the program WILD: Wildlife, Wild Places and Wild Issues at the Environment Centre at Camp Kawartha. We seek to explore how humans can benefit this wonderful planet on which we live. Part of this endeavour is to raise awareness of the many lives, small and large, animal and plant, which inhabit our landscape. We want to share that with you. We hope you’ll visit the Environment Centre, one of Canada’s leaders in environmental education, to walk through nature where our photos are exhibited. It is just off the Rail Trail at Trent University, and we encourage you to take your bike up to enjoy this beautiful place.

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes
The Newcomer Adult Photography Group expands on programming originally developed for the Newcomer Children and Youth Photo Projects.

Those programs were created and designed to inspire Newcomers to explore and connect with Canadian culture, language, the environment, and the people of our community through photographic instruction, practice and critique, storytelling, exhibit materials preparation, installation, and public presentation at a SPARK exhibit.

For the adults, the program instruction digs deep into the operation of the camera, allowing the photographer to take full control and advantage of their “light writing” tool.

Each week students are tasked with a photographic assignment from which they choose 3 images to be printed. Students discuss the “proof” prints with energy and enthusiasm as they master not just the technical language, but also the visual language of photography.

As voices switch between English, half a dozen other languages, and back to English again, along with much laughter and expressive gesturing, everyone manages to grasp the challenging photographic concepts being taught. In discussion, the students become the teachers. As the instructor, I have the unique pleasure of witnessing the exact instant a light bulb switches on.

The photos in this catalogue are illustrative of the weekly assignments. The exhibit will contain new images as the students continue to learn more about photography and continue to explore their new community and country.

Photographers Waiting for the Exhibit to show their work:
Virendrakumar Pandey (Viro)
Vicky Huong Bui
Student Exhibits Individual & Group
Still Life by David Bigg

There is a misconception that the camera freezes slices of time. This body of work, like many of my previous works, explores the concept of time in relation to the still image. I want to explore how a photograph can present not just a snapshot, but a series of events as played out in front of the camera.

David Bigg is a photographer, visual artist and musician. He graduated from the Peterborough Integrated Arts Program at Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School in 2017 and now studies fine art at the University of Ottawa. Learning about film photography through a course offered at his high school, and through his own experiments with his grandfather’s old OM-1 camera, David quickly became fascinated with the cameras and techniques of times past, combining them with digital editing and printing techniques in a way that is wholly new.
The film photography course at TAS provides students with an incredible learning opportunity. For most students, a roll of film itself is a discovery. Film has an inherent romantic quality to it. Film is tactile; it holds the promise of mystery and invention. Let’s face it, loading a roll of film into a camera is a lot more exciting for students than inserting a memory card!

Students gain hands-on practice with 35mm film cameras as well as traditional and experimental darkroom techniques, while learning about photography as a fine art medium. Students master basic camera operation and discover the magic of photographic seeing, including framing and composition, as well as the importance of how light and shadow reveals the subject. The darkroom provides students with opportunities to further explore the boundaries of possibility, as they learn techniques such as dodge and burn and experimenting with contrast.

The limited number of exposures with film means that it is important to make sure each shot counts! Developing your own film is its own kind of magic. In an age of widespread digital photography, the opportunity to make photographs in this more tactile way offers students something exciting and new.

The photographs on exhibit are the culmination of the knowledge students have gained coupled with the opportunities for experimentation that students have engaged with this semester.
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Jennifer MacKenzie Proof Reader
Vincent Press Printer

Volunteer Helping Hands
Thank you also to the many volunteers who help leading up to, and throughout, the Festival. It takes a Community.

Putting It All Together