



In Focus

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From My Perspective

By Jacqueline Dingman

My passion is portrait photography. What I find exciting and fulfilling is that every portrait is a "record" for life. It's a discovery of unintended gestures, surprise expressions and emotional impact. Over time, many photographers and artists have influenced my portraiture. They include the painter Edgar Degas, photographers Annie Leibowitz, Cylla Von Tiedemann, Cecil Beaton, and Edward Steichen.

Degas, although famous for his paintings of ballerinas, had a feverish interest in portrait photography. He captured faces, expressions and attitudes without affectation. His photographic eye can be seen in his paintings. He shows movement, low-angle shots, off-center composition and close-ups -- all this anticipating the visual developments of photography.

Cecil Beaton, a prominent society and fashion photographer of the 40's, influenced my photography with his strict, spare, stripped-down composition. He favoured a front-on, close-up style and introduced the swirling of clothes.

Edward Steichen, whose work is presently exhibited in Toronto's AGO, was an American photographer and painter who profoundly shaped the look of celebrity and fashion photography in the 20's. His style concentrates the lens on the face alone, with subjects looking straight into the camera.

A favourite photographer who has influenced and inspired me, is Annie Leibowitz. I love her stylized

photos constructed around ideas chosen to fit the image of the sitter. I like her way with people. She communicates and establishes an immediate rapport; people trust her.

And lastly, Cylla von Tiedemann, former National Ballet Company photographer, has been an enormous influence. Her work is so set up, so fake, so full of fantasy with the use of fabrics, shadows and reflections. Cylla's work, for me, best communicates the intent of dance.

One can constantly draw inspiration from photographers of the past as well as of today. A comment made by the late Monte Zucker stuck in my mind, "I try to photograph people as I want to see them".

December's Program

December 7 - Join us for "An Evening With Mike DiBattista"

December 21 - Christmas Pot Luck Supper

Our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for December 21, just before our Print and Slide Competition. Dinner begins at 5:30. Sign up sheets for hot and cold dishes as well as dessert are available at the December 7 meeting.



Inspiration is Everywhere by Terry Babij, NFCC

Inspiration is everywhere! But for a short time there is more in Toronto. It is rare to have so many great photo-centric shows on at the two premier locations in Toronto at one time!

At the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) you will see the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, a beautiful addition to the face of this historic building. Inside there are two photographic specific exhibitions.

Vanity Fair Portraits: Photographs 1913-2008 until January 3, 2010 - Presented by the Bay Institute for Contemporary Culture

A star-studded array of almost 150 iconic photographs, Vanity Fair Portraits explores a glamorous photographic history of portraiture featuring such legends as Madonna, Tom Cruise, Bette Davis, Ernest Hemingway, Louis Armstrong and Cary Grant and works by master photographers including Edward Steichen and Annie Leibovitz.

Canadian Content: Portraits by Nigel Dickson until March 21, 2010

Discover Nigel Dickson, an international award-winning photographer with work published in numerous celebrated magazines. Presented by the Institute for Contemporary Culture, Canadian Content: Portraits by Nigel Dickson brings a remarkable selection of arresting, insightful and witty photographs of famous Canadians.

Best deal for admission is Fridays from 4:30 to 9:30. You may also want to see the Dead Sea Scrolls a separate admission and show going on until January 3, 2010.

The **Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)** has also recently received a facelift.

Beautiful Fictions: Photography at the AGO Featuring the David and Vivian Campbell Collection September 9, 2009 – January 17, 2010

Beautiful Fictions traces works from the late 1960s to the present through the lens of some 60 Canadian and international photographers including Candida Höfer, Thomas Struth, Michael Snow, Suzy Lake, and Cindy Sherman. The installation also features three works by internationally acclaimed Canadian filmmaker Mark Lewis.

Edward Steichen: In High Fashion, the Condé Nast Years 1923–1937 September 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

As chief photographer for Vogue and Vanity Fair, Edward Steichen profoundly shaped the look of celebrity and fashion photography in the 1920s and '30s. He immortalized leading writers, artists, actors, dancers and politicians in striking portraits. Fashion photography was revolutionized when he began depicting the creations of all the great designers of the age, including Poiret, Chanel, Lelong, Lanvin, Patou and Schiaparelli. This exhibition showcases more than 200 photographs by one of the most influential photographers of the twentieth century.

Edward Steichen: In High Fashion, the Condé Nast Years, 1923 –1937 is curated by William A. Ewing, director, Musée de l'Élysée; Todd Brandow, executive director, Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography; and Nathalie Herschdorfer, curator, Musée de l'Élysée.

The exhibition has been organized by the Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography, Minneapolis, and the Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne, in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.

Best deal here is Wednesday nights when admission is Free after 6:00 to close at 8:30.

NOTE: These descriptions are from both the ROM and AGO web sites.

Select Images by Edward Steichen



Ilka - © 1933 Condé Nast



© 1934 Condé Nast Publications



© 1935 Condé Nast Publications

Monthly Competition Scores September 2009

Colour Prints

Group	Name	Entries	Awards	Score
Bronze				
	Terry Rotella	6	6	88
	Silvia Greco	6	5	88
	Ed Sweeney	4	4	59
	Henry Wajnarowshi	4	4	56
	Frank Pascuzzi	2	1	23
Silver				
	Lorraine Pichette	6	5	88
	William Stokes	6	5	87
	Derek Bottomley	5	2	58
	Eric Baloga	2	2	31
Gold				
	Denis Audette	6	4	90
	Kirk Stokes	6	1	66
	Terry Babij	4	3	60
	Laura Nikishar	4	3	57
	Dorothy Seabourne	4	2	50
Diamond				
	George Beehler	6	1	75

Monochrome Prints

Group	Name	Entries	Awards	Score
Bronze				
	Silvia Greco	6	6	91
	Terry Rotella	6	5	86
	Ed Sweeney	4	3	57
Silver				
	Lorraine Pichette	6	6	93
	Eric Baloga	4	3	56
Gold				
	William Stokes	6	5	92
	Denis Audette	6	3	85
	Kirk Stokes	6	1	68
Diamond				
	George Beehler	6	3	87
	Terry Babij	4	4	68

Slides

Group	Name	Entries	Awards	Score
Bronze				
	Ed Sweeney	6	6	95
	Terry Rotella	6	6	89
	Doug Banas	6	6	86
	Henry Wojnarowski	4	4	59
Silver				
	Derek Bottomley	6	6	93
	Danny Dickenson	6	5	91
	Lorraine Pichette	6	2	72
	Eric Baloga	2	1	26
Gold				
	Lyne Audette	6	6	99
	Jacqueline Dingman	6	6	99
	Steven Simons	6	6	95
	Denis Audette	6	4	90
	Denis Grantham	6	4	84
	Miriam Gersho	6	3	83
	Cliff Empey	6	3	81
	Jacqueline Kennedy	6	2	74
	Terry Babij	6	1	73
Diamond				
	Scott Simons	6	6	106
	Chris Empey	6	5	102
	Sharon Murray	6	3	85
	Karen Fulham	6	2	81
	Paul Patterson	6	1	69
	Laura Cardwell	4	2	58

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