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MUST-SEES OF SCOTIABANK CONTACT PHOTOGRAPHY FEST

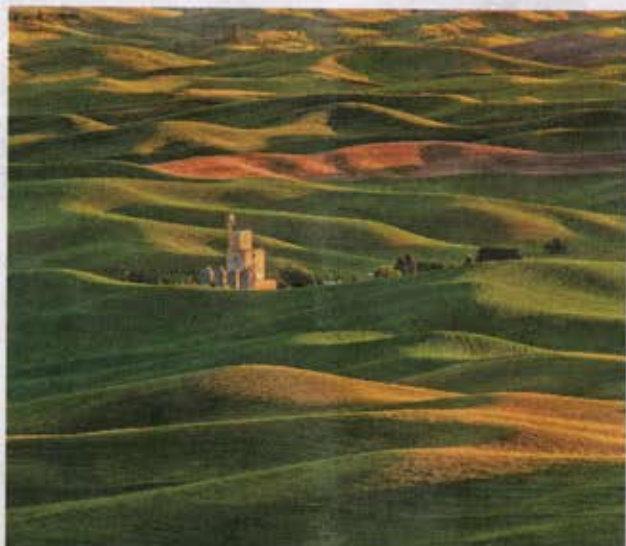
The Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival debuts tomorrow with an explosion of visual exhibits colouring more than 175 venues throughout Toronto and the GTA. With so many events to choose from this May, Metro Toronto's photographer Liz Beddall narrows down her five must-attend exhibits, curated with her love of storytelling, unique processing and 'the out of the ordinary' in mind.



1 The Beth Project

Photographer and digital artist Blake Morrow's series of pop culture-inspired portraits of his friend Beth, celebrates, in a playful way, her significant weight loss of 150 pounds. Morrow photographed Beth posing as two characters, her 'before' and 'after' selves two years apart, and seamlessly integrated them so they appear to interact with each other within each scene.

Blake Morrow
Vistek Downtown



2 The Mind's Eye: Photographers Living with Vision Loss

This exhibition showcases a passion for photography, which does not fade even when sight does. Examining the question of what your process might be as a photographer if you couldn't rely on your sight, the gallery showcases the amazing vision of artists with vision loss at CNIB's first exhibit for the Contact Photography Festival.

Various photographers
CNIB Centre



3 Broken Steps and Haunted Screens

Although none of the photos displayed in this two-part exhibition were taken with the intention of creating fine art, contemporary artists have long been influenced by the concept of vernacular photography. The first part of the exhibition offers several coherent groupings of pictures, such as mugshots, insurance evidence, amateur self-portraits, psychic research and UFO sightings. The second presents the work of Penelope Umbrico, who uses photographic imagery downloaded from the internet and employs traditional photographic techniques and methods of appropriation and intervention to explore how people, as a culture, make and use images.

Penelope Umbrico and various unknown photographers
University of Toronto Art Centre



4 Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan

High tech meets low tech in the battlefields of Afghanistan and in the printing process as photographer Rita Leistner's iPhone Hipstamatic photographs from her time embedded with the U.S. Marines are recreated in the most permanent colour photographic process known: palladium with applied pigments. Bob Carnie of Bob Carnie Printmaking, assisted by Paulette Michayluk, employed the time honoured techniques invented in the 19th century to develop the exhibit's finished works.

Rita Leistner
Dylan Ellis Gallery



5 Edouard

A two-part exhibition, featuring a selection of Polaroids taken by Canadian photographer Edouard LeBouthillier, whose photographs of 1970s and 80s Toronto were acquired by the Archive of Modern Conflict Toronto after being found discarded curbside in The Annex. A selection of his Polaroids documenting some of the city's most recognizable landmarks will be presented as large-scale images on the vitrine windows within Union Station's VIA Rail concourse, and original images depicting Edouard's domestic life will be exhibited at Art Metropole.

Edouard LeBouthillier
Union Station Vitrines / Art Metropole