

# VIEWFINDER



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Photo credit: John Fraser

## What The Duck



*Continued on final page*

## Meet the Editor – John Fraser

Viewfinder is the Etobicoke Camera Club newsletter. Its goal is to share our members' success's and the events at the club that help us on that journey. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please consider submitting it. Our members will appreciate it.



The Etobicoke Camera Club introduced me to the Art in photography. No longer satisfied with just memory photographs, the club helps me strive for photographs that others will also enjoy.

Contact:  
[contactetobicokecamerclub@gmail.com](mailto:contactetobicokecamerclub@gmail.com)

## End of Year Banquet - LeTreport, May 12, 2025 (photos by Michel Gagnon)

It's a SOCIAL event!



**End of Year Banquet - LeTreport, May 12, 2025**





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## End of Year Banquet - LeTreport, May 12, 2025

Exceptional photographers and images were recognized

### END OF YEAR AWARDS 2024-2025

**WJ McDonald trophy - highest overall score INTERMEDIATE**

CARMINA MARUSKA 403.5

**Presidents trophy - highest overall score ADVANCED**

PENNY RINTOUL 419

**Ian Billington Trophy - highest overall score SUPERSET**

MANDY SAMARZIJA 442.5

#### AWARD OF MERIT CERTIFICATES: highest score each competition

MANDY SAMARZIJA	76.0	pc1
SAM ELOGIO	80.5	Nature
ALAN MORROW	75.0	Themed (Windows)
MANDY SAMARZIJA	74.0	People in Motion
RALPH KROMAN	73.0	Architecture
SAM ELOGIO	76.0	pc2 Monochrome

## End of Year Banquet - LeTreport, May 12, 2025

### **Ted Maginn Certificate - highest total score - all divisions - all competitions**

MANDY SAMARZIJA	513.0
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### **Don Dawson Memorial Award - Highest scoring PRINT - all divisions**

SAM ELOGIO	25.5	A Fishermans Solitude
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### **Bob Campbell Award - Highest Scoring NATURE image**

SAM ELOGIO	30!!!!	Common Blue Damselfly
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### **Foster Trophy - Highest Scoring CANADIAN LANDSCAPE image**

No Competition

### **Art & Rita Tracey - A/V Trophy - Highest Scoring A/V presentation**

RALPH KROMAN	26.1	Anonymous & Alone
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### **3M Award Trophy - Highest scoring image - Image of the Year**

Mandy Samarzija	27.5	Romance
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### **Image of the year - silver**

RALPH KROMAN	27.0	Twist
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**End of Year Banquet - LeTreport, May 12, 2025**

***BEST 6 OUT OF 7 COMPETITIONS INCLUDING PRINTS***

**MOVING FROM INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED**

CARMINA MARUSKA	403.5
LUCY SU	383.5

**MOVING FROM ADVANCED TO SUPERSET**

PENNY RINTOUL	419.0
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**TOP WINNERS IN SUPERSET**

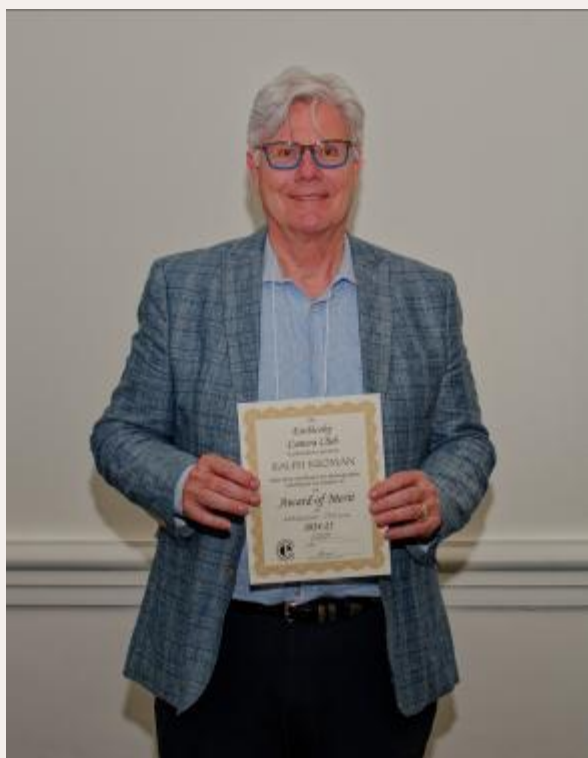
MANDY SAMARZIJA	442.5
SAM ELOGIO	437.0
THERESA BRYSON	432.0
GINA JIANG	431.5
BARB MARSZALEK	431.0



**End of Year Banquet - LeTreport, May 12, 2025**



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## **End of Year Banquet - LeTreport, May 12, 2025**



### **And a Special Word about the Griffins**

Carm Griffin won a 50 Years of Membership Award !

Carm and Judy donated fine quality photographic papers to the club for a silent action



## **Another Award - Its Never too Late**

On May 3 2025, while out to see the cherry blossoms at Centennial Park, Greg had the opportunity to present Brian Quan with his Certificate of Appreciation for being part of the ECC Technical Team in the 2023-2024 season. A belated congratulations Brian!



# Theme - Photographer's Choice - Mono

## Competition Results and Highlights

All competition images may be viewed on our [Website Photo Gallery](http://Website Photo Gallery) or [www.etobicokecameraclub.smugmug.com](http://www.etobicokecameraclub.smugmug.com)



GOLD & GOM Superset John Fraser Getting Ready



GOLD Superset Mandy Samarzija Snake Skin



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GOLD Superset Sam Elogio Redefining Random



GOLD Advanced Janusz Szufnara Gigantic Banyan tree with multiple stem trunks

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GOLD Advanced Penny Rintoul Happy and Proud

GOLD  
Intermediate  
Gary Signarowski  
Ferris Wheel





## RESULTS of PC2 Monochrome COMPETITION held March 2025

Level	Author's Name	Image Title	total score	Awards
Intermediate	Gary Signarowski	Ferris Wheel	24.5	GOLD
Intermediate	Julie Millan	Toronto Skyline	24	SILVER
Intermediate	Lucy Su	Out of the Dunes	23.5	HM
Intermediate	Tammy Couture	Eiffel Tower	23.5	HM
Intermediate	Mary Chamberlain	Glass Flower	23.5	HM
Intermediate	Tammy Couture	Marseille	23.5	HM
Advanced	Janusz Szufnara	Gigant Banyan tree with multiple stem trunks	25.5	GOLD
Advanced	Penny Rintoul	Happy and Proud	25.5	GOLD
Advanced	Angie Bellanza	Lead me into the Room	24.5	SILVER
Advanced	Tom Driedger	Shipshaped Condo - Starboard View	24	HM
Advanced	Alan Morrow	Converging Lines RC Harris	24	HM
Advanced	Janusz Szufnara	View from Westminster Bridge	24	HM
Advanced	Alan Morrow	Into the Storm	24	HM
Advanced	Angie Bellanza	Stacked Up	24	HM
Advanced	Janusz Szufnara	Museum staircases	24	HM
Advanced	John Markle	Exertion	24	HM
Advanced	Penny Rintoul	Performing at Pride	24	HM
Superset	Mandy Samartzija	Snake Skin	26.5	GOLD
Superset	John Fraser	Getting Ready	26.5	GOLD
Superset	Sam Elogio	Redefining Random	26.5	GOLD
Superset	Barb Marszalek	Portrait of a Loyal Friend	26	SILVER
Superset	Sam Elogio	The Crossing	26	SILVER
Superset	Celia Fernandes	Simplicity	26	SILVER
Superset	Gina Jiang	Out of Service	26	SILVER
Superset	Sandra Hawkins	Rainy Day in Dubrovnik	25.5	HM
Superset	June West	Sharon's Orchid	25.5	HM
Superset	Michel Gagnon	The Commuter	25.5	HM
Superset	Theresa Bryson	Absolutely	25.5	HM
Superset	Mandy Samartzija	Fashionista	25.5	HM
Superset	Barb Marszalek	Zebra Trio at the Watering Hole	25.5	HM
Superset	Theresa Bryson	Ribbon and Threads	25.5	HM
<b>GOLD OF THE MONTH</b>	John Fraser	Getting Ready	26.5	GOM

Level	Submitted	Accepted
Intermediate	28	28
Advanced	24	24
Superset	66	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Judges</b> Robert Zakrisson - TDPC & London Camera Club Vin Singh - Toronto Digital Photography Club Ron Goodlin - Richmond Hill Camera Club		

# Theme - Image of the Year

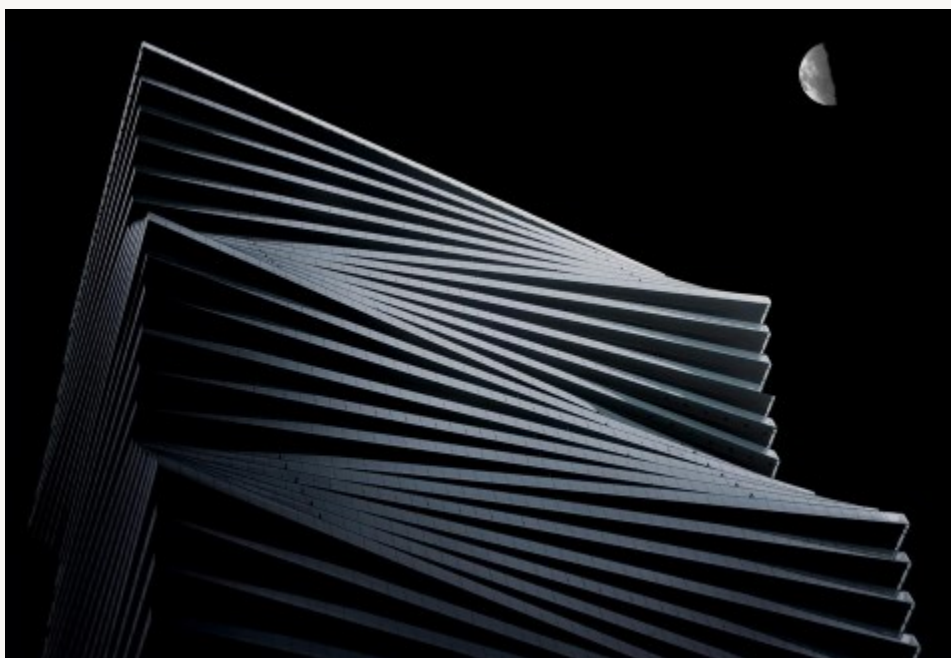
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GOLD Mandy Samarziga Romance

SILVER  
Ralph Kroman  
Twist



## FINAL RESULTS for IOTY held April 2025

Author's Name	Image Title	Score	ribbon
Mandy Samarzija	Romance	27.5	IOTY
Ralph Kroman	Twist	27	SILVER
Sam Elogio	Common Blue Damselfly	26.5	HM
Mandy Samarzija	Jump	26.5	HM
Sam Elogio	A Fisherman's Solitude	26.5	HM
Sam Elogio	Redefining Random	26	HM
Gina Jiang	Out of Service	25.5	HM
Barb Marszalek	Portrait of a Loyal Friend	25.5	HM
Gina Jiang	Backhand	25.5	HM
Mandy Samarzija	Harris's Hawk	25	HM
Sandra Hawkins	Luna Moth	25	HM
Gina Jiang	Bookshop in China	25	HM
Sam Elogio	A Delicate Landing Spot	25	HM
Carmina Maruska	Symphony of Pinks Floral Collage	25	HM
Gina Jiang	Brave	25	HM
Mandy Samarzija	Snake Skin	25	HM
Mandy Samarzija	Fashionista	24.5	HM
Ralph Kroman	Formula 1 World Champion	24.5	HM
Leanne Hay	Greater Flamingo Takes a Dip	24.5	HM
John Fraser	Getting Ready 1	24.5	HM
Carmina Maruska	Peaceful Cottage Window	24.5	HM
Alex Konyukhov	Ostrich head portrait	24.5	HM
Sam Elogio	Monarch Butterfly	24.5	HM
Linda Smith	Flower Bouquet	24.5	HM
Angie Bellanza	Winding Staircase	24.5	HM

Submitted		Accepted
161		152
Judges	Affiliation	
	Andrzej Pradzynski - Latow Photographers Guild	
	Christopher Siou - Toronto Camera Club	
	Louie Luo - Richmond Hill Camera Club	

# Speakers

**Matt Huras** Presented

## **“Capturing Compelling Wildlife Images! ”**

on Monday, March 31, 2025



Matt is on a mission to showcase the beauty he sees in wildlife. He is constantly looking for new ways to capture what he observes in compelling and distinct ways. From interesting interactions, to frenetic action, to intimate portraits.

This presentation educated the audience on the strategies and techniques Matt uses in his photography. It employed several example images and the stories behind them to help illustrate this content, and covered a variety of topics including methods for respectfully approaching wildlife; observing and anticipating action; selecting perspectives, framing, and backgrounds; using light; techniques for eye-level portraits; settings strategies, and more.

Matt is a wildlife photographer based out of Ontario Canada. Through photography he hopes to capture and share unique perspectives of our world that may help others feel the wonder he feels when out in the wild.





## Shoot at the Subject's Eye Level : Summary

- ☐ Creates a more *intimate*, more *engaging* look at your subject
  - As if you are entering into their world as one of them
  - Often allows more meaningful eye contact
- ☐ Techniques
  - Getting lower
    - lay down on the ground, or at the shore (don't be afraid to get dirty/wet)
    - hold your cam at the ground/water and use the flip-out LCD to focus & frame the scene
  - Getting higher
    - bring a stool
    - climb a hill
    - a very high tripod can help (mine extends to 7 ft - I reach up and use the flip-out LCD to focus & frame the scene)
    - move back and use a longer lens
- ☐ Can result in other important benefits
  - E.g. laying down can result in
    - a more pleasing background (more distant and/or less distracting highlights)
    - a more relaxed subject (you are smaller, less intimidating)

***Not always easy; but usually rewarding !***

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## Lighting sets the Mood : Choose Thoughtfully

- ☐ Use light *direction* and *quality* to help ...
  - Set the mood
  - Tell a story
- ☐ Thoughtfully consider available options, e.g.
  - Direction : Front, Side, Back, ...
  - Quality : Golden hour, Blue hour, Diffuse, ...

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## *Epic* Subject Content + *Mediocre* Background = *Ordinary* Image

- ❑ Positioning for background is critical - be strategic !
- ❑ Look for distant backgrounds
  - Helps create a creamy bokeh to help isolate/highlight subject
    - Look for interesting bokeh possibilities, pleasing colours
  - But beware : a too distant background can be flat, boring
    - An image with a 100% homogeneous background can look like it was taken in a studio, rather than the wild
    - Stopping down can help add interest by providing a stronger hint of the context and/or habitat of the image
- ❑ Avoid distractions
  - Clutter, e.g. branches intersecting with the subject
  - Very bright/harsh highlights or contrasty areas
- ❑ Use secondary elements to add interest
  - E.g. branches that frame the subject
  - E.g. slightly out-of-focus elements that help tell your story



*Try different backgrounds*  
*Sometimes even tiny movements can make a huge difference !*

## Be Generous with Framing

- ❑ Spare canvas can be critical
  - For action photography when significant movement can happen unpredictably
  - To retain artistic flexibility in post composition/cropping
    - Today's camera sensors typically have more than enough pixels to crop in post processing
- ❑ Remember to consider the wider scenic possibilities
  - 'Small-in-the-frame' images often represent the most compelling photo opportunities
  - Tell a story that includes the subject's habitat
  - Show off the beauty of the overall scene



## Embrace the Weather & Conditions

- ❑ Snow, rain, fog usually add interest !
  - Can make the difference between a *good* image and a *great* image
- ❑ Techniques, Hints & Tips
  - Look for darker backgrounds to highlight snow & rain
    - Snow/rain can be invisible against lighter backgrounds
  - Be ready to focus manually
    - Heavy rain/snow may confuse AF
  - Try different shutter speeds
    - Snow/rain streaks vs spots
    - Freeze or blur branches
  - Consider wind direction when positioning yourself
    - Birds typically take off and land facing into the wind
    - Some birds hover facing wind (eg. Harriers, Kestrels)
    - Water fowl usually flap wings facing wind



## Quietly Observe & Learn to Anticipate Behavior

- ❑ Time spent in thoughtful observation is usually well rewarded
  - Helps you learn what may *trigger* or *precipitate* certain actions or behaviors, e.g.
    - When a bird is about to fly (takeoff shots are often more dramatic than mid-flight shots)
    - When males may use an aggressive/territorial display or fight
    - When courtship displays are used
    - When males & females may mate
  - Helps you learn other overall characteristics of a species, e.g.
    - Nesting site selection and building
    - How they feed young
  - Helps you learn patterns of specific individuals or groups
    - Daily routines - e.g. when do they feed ? when do they rest ?
    - Incidental patterns - e.g. patterns or direction of foraging on a particular day
- ❑ Helps you *'get in the head'* of your target and *predict action*
  - Requires keen focus, vigilance and observation of patterns & habits
  - Sometimes you need to start shooting in anticipation - i.e. *before* the action starts
    - e.g. bird taking off
    - Waiting for viewfinder confirmation of action likely means you've missed the peak of the action

*And besides – it is just darn fun !*



## Default Settings : Aperture

- ❑ Start wide open when out exploring opportunities
- ❑ Be ready to stop down quickly when warranted, e.g.
  - Multiple subjects present
    - They are rarely on the same focus plane
    - An otherwise killer interaction shot may end up as mediocre, if one of the subjects is out of focus
  - Very distant background
    - If the background is homogenous/boring, consider stopping down to add definition & interest
    - If stopping down would still give you the background quality you want (eg. creamy bokeh) consider doing so to add room for focus error (can be important for action shooting)
  - To increase definition in supporting elements
    - E.g. interesting texture in a bird's perch
  - Subject(s) are very close
    - Depth of field can be razor thin when the subject is close

*Prioritize the correct aperture over ISO*

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## Default Settings : Prioritize for Action

- ❑ Action often strikes with little or no warning
  - With little time to thoughtfully adjust settings
  - OTOH, when the subject is resting you'll have more time to optimize settings (e.g. for portraits)
- ❑ Prioritize shutter speed over ISO
  - Target enough shutter speed to reach your goal (e.g. freeze wings, freeze water splashing,...)
    - I often start at 1/3200 when out exploring
  - Do not be shy of very high ISOs
    - Modern sensors have improved significantly when shooting ISO 6400, 12800 and even 25600
    - Noise can often be reasonably addressed with *Adobe AI Denoise*, *DXO pureRAW*
    - OTOH, motion blur cannot be removed
  - Consider a custom button for static portraits to optimize for lower noise/ISO
    - E.g. 1/250 or 1/400 with auto ISO with highlight or spot metering (leave aperture unchanged)
- ❑ Shoot with continuous AF at camera's max frame rate
  - With fast action, this increases chances of obtaining a compelling pose/position
  - Be aware of the camera's buffer limit and try to avoid filling it
  - Post processing : use SSD storage and a fast software when pruning images
    - I use *FastRawViewer*

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## Default Settings : Full Manual Exposure (SS, Ap, ISO)

- ☐ When any of shutter, aperture or ISO is set to auto, the camera measures light to set exposure
  - Even small changes in the background can affect exposure
  - This can require frequent changes in exposure compensation to get the right exposure on your subject
  - Easier to dial in the right exposure manually, especially when light on the subject is not changing rapidly
- ☐ E.g. consider a loon flying in constant light from a forest background to sky background
  - If any of shutter, aperture or ISO is auto, the camera will likely over-expose the loon's whites against the forest and under-expose the loon's blacks against the sky
  - Not possible to adjust exposure compensation at 20 or 30 fps !
- ☐ Possible exception : light on the subject is highly variable (e.g. variable clouds) :
  - **Preferred:** Choose appropriate manual shutter and aperture values, and manually adjust ISO on the fly
  - **Optional:** Use Auto ISO and exposure compensation
  - Often, such conditions are not ideal for photography, so I may choose to call it a day

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## Approach with Respect. Earn Trust.

- ☐ Approach slowly and from a healthy distance
- ☐ Avoid drawing attention to yourself
  - Be small - e.g. crawl if appropriate
  - Avoid sudden movements (e.g. resist temptation to stop suddenly when spotting an interesting subject; slow down gradually)
  - For otters, mink, diving ducks : approach when they are submerged (e.g. crawl on the shore)
- ☐ Don't act like a predator
  - Don't stare - instead look away most of the time
  - Don't circle your subject
- ☐ Carefully observe subject's body language. Back off at the **first** signs of stress, e.g.
  - Stops what it was doing - e.g. stops foraging, stops preening
  - Looks more alert - e.g. neck stretched, eyes wide-open
  - Each species and even individual may have unique signs of stress - e.g. loon tremulo call
- ☐ It may take hours/days/weeks to gain trust to approach within long lens range
  - In many cases, trust will never occur.
    - Recognize this and move on. Do not force it - will just result in a stressed subject and a 'butt shot'.
    - Blinds can sometimes work in these cases
- ☐ Patience is critical. Trust established over days can evaporate in seconds.
  - If the subject starts its distress calls, flees, flies or dives in evasion, trust is very likely gone

*A relaxed subject makes a far more compelling photo than a stressed subject*

# *Speakers*

Matt Huras



# *Speakers*

Matt Huras





# *Speakers*

Matt Huras





## Closing Thoughts : *Lessons I Keep Learning*

- ❑ Action often occurs when you least expect it - be ready
  - The lull in action may just be the calm before the storm
  - Murphy's 1<sup>st</sup> Law of Action Photography : *the most compelling activity occurs while 'chimping' (or changing cards, batteries), chatting with a buddy, ...*
- ❑ Frame wide - prepare for movement/action
  - Murphy's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Action Photography : *the moment you zoom in for a tight portrait a killer action sequence will soon begin that expands beyond your frame*
- ❑ Don't shun high ISOs - embrace them
  - Don't skip on the shutter speed & aperture needed for a compelling image
  - E.g. splashing water will be far more dynamic at 1/5000 & ISO 12800 than 1/640 & ISO 1600
- ❑ Make your own luck
  - Some of my favourite images were taken after forcing myself to get out shooting in uncomfortable conditions

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# Speakers

**Monique Campbell** Presented

**“Faces in the Street,  
Candid and Camera Aware People”**

on Monday, April 28, 2025



Monique encourages photographers to get past their fear of making images of people they encounter on the streets. Through her images and stories about her experiences photographing random strangers she shared her passion with others. Monique showed over 75 images in her 60 minute presentation including some of her in action as she demonstrated her process as well as sharing both candid and camera aware portraits side-by-side of her subjects. She discussed three key concepts including...Approach, Storytelling and having a Third Element to keep in mind when making images of people. We learned tips and tricks to reach out to people and gain confidence to make genuine street portraits while building trust in the moment.

Monique Campbell has been a photographer for 30 plus years after graduating from the Western Pacific Academy of Photography in Victoria, British Columbia in 1992. Her career as a photo-journalist and wedding photographer has given her a foundation in capturing candid and camera aware images. Most of her images capture ordinary moments of everyday life. She thrills at photographing a wide spectrum of people that she encounters on the streets especially women.



**3 Concepts  
to Photographing  
People...**

- Approach**
- Storytelling**
- The Third Element**



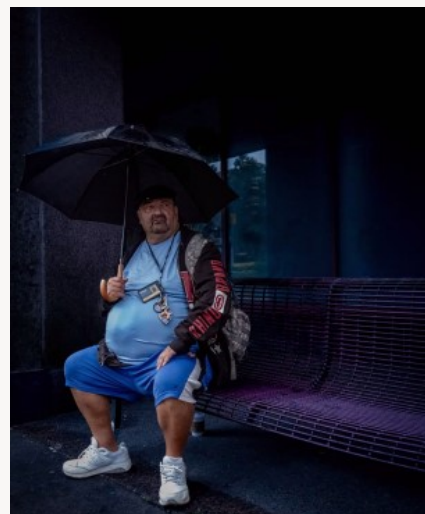
# *Speakers*

Monique Campbell



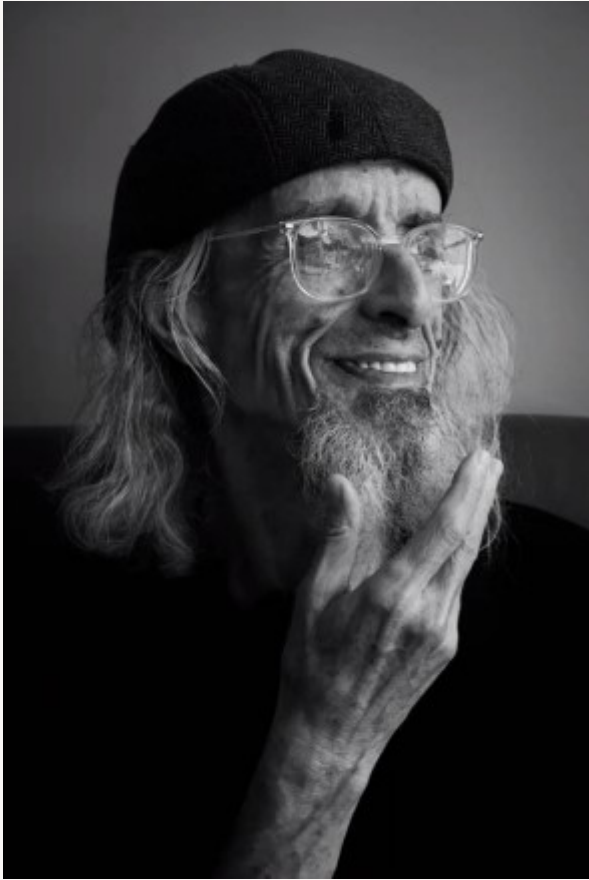
# *Speakers*

Monique Campbell



# *Speakers*

Monique Campbell





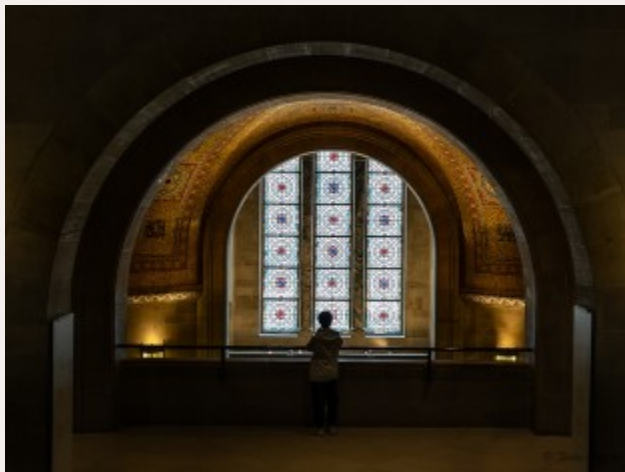
# *Speakers*

Monique Campbell



# *Outings*

**February 28 2025  
Royal Ontario Museum**





Past Issues of the Viewfinder can be found at

<https://www.etobicokecameraclub.org/>



Have a Great Summer!