

# WITNESSES WITNESSES

Gallery 44 Members Exhibition

**Gallery 1313**

**1313 Queen St. West, Toronto**

**April 29 - May 24, 2015**

# WITNESSES

## Gallery 1313

1313 Queen St. West, Toronto

open: Wednesday - Sunday 1 - 6pm

t: 416-536 6778

[www.witnessescontactphotography.com](http://www.witnessescontactphotography.com)

[www.facebook.com/G44membercontactshow](https://www.facebook.com/G44membercontactshow)

**April 29 - May 10** - Opening Thursday, April 30, 7 - 10pm - Artist's Talk: Saturday, May 2, 2pm

Nelly Akerman Singer | Tobi Asmoucha | Sirus Azadi | Robert Caspary | Nicole Croiset | Deborah Kanfer | Tom Legrady | Liam Maloney | Christine McLean | Luis Antonio Monroy | Eliza Moore | Timothy Neesam | Robert Teteruck

**May 13 - May 24** - Opening Thursday, May 14, 7 - 10pm - Artist's Talk: Saturday, May 16, 2pm

Misbah Ali | Chris Blanchenot | Linda Briskin | Katherine Childs | Keith Davidson | Dennis Duncan | Carlos M. Gárate | Margarita Macdonald | Kye Marshall | Jack Martin | Sandy Middleton | Jihee Min | James Sutherland | Drew Williamson

# WITNESSES

Members of Toronto's Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography are pleased to announce their presentation of two group shows at Gallery 1313 in conjunction with the Scotiabank CONTACT 2015 Photography Festival. "Witnesses" is a two-part exhibition by the artist-run Gallery 44 Centre of Contemporary Photography. The exhibit will present visual testimony through a variety of styles: keen observation, visual poetry, conscious and subconscious observations of external and internal worlds in a dialogue involving both artist and viewer. Exhibitions by Gallery 44 members at Gallery 1313 are a CONTACT tradition. Please join us at 7 pm on Thursday, April 30th and at 7 pm on Thursday, May 14th for opening receptions for each respective group show. Selected works from the show may be viewed at [www.witnessescontactphotography.com](http://www.witnessescontactphotography.com).

## **About the participants:**

Gallery 44 members have been active participants in CONTACT since its inception. A changing collective of Gallery 44 members has presented shows, primarily at Gallery 1313, since 1998.

## **About the venue:**

Gallery 1313, 1313 Queen Street West, Toronto  
Wednesday to Sunday, 1 – 6 pm  
416-536-6778 (Gallery Director: Phil Anderson)  
[www.g1313.org](http://www.g1313.org)

## **For further information contact:**

Drew Williamson: [drew.williamson@sympatico.ca](mailto:drew.williamson@sympatico.ca)

# Misbah Ali

Misbah Ali is mostly a self taught photographer who uses both digital and analog media. Her passion is street photography; however she has delved in areas of event and wedding photography as well as studio. Through her street photography she aims to capture a moment, a message, an emotion, drawing the viewer into it. She finds public spaces an inexhaustible source of inspiration. She takes her camera everywhere, unobtrusively trying to capture the beauty of humanity without judging, only presenting what it is. Misbah's background is South Asian but growing up in West Africa. Traveling Europe and Middle East had her fascinated with diversity. She is constantly thrilled by the variety of cultures in Canada especially the GTA. For Contact 2015 she is planning to showcase a series of airport photographs depicting travelers caught between places.



# Nelly Akerman Singer

Nelly Akerman Singer graduated from the Universidad Central de Venezuela with a Licenciado en Biología. She did Post Graduate Studies at York University where she obtained a Master of Science. After graduation Nelly worked in Research at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto, and did volunteer work at the Hospital for Sick Children and at the Royal Ontario Museum. Following her calling Nelly decided to “explore the other side of her brain” and registered in the Ontario College of Art and Design University where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Art—Photography Major. Nelly has participated in the Gallery 44 –Members Gallery Show– several times. She has also exhibited in the Contact Festival group Show and with the Latin Canadian Cultural Association. Nelly’s photography’s interests are most varied: Children Portraiture, Archeology and the Holocaust.



# Tobi Asmoucha

Tobi Asmoucha is a photographer based out of Toronto. Her images explore themes of community and the rituals that bind them. She has been working as a freelance commercial photographer since 1992, with images appearing in publications such as Canadian Geographic. Tobi's documentary work has received a Gold National Magazine Award and many nominations, as well as Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Jewish Arts Council grants. Along with her photographic practice Asmoucha teaches photography at Centennial, Haliburton School of the Arts, Toronto School of Art, and Gallery 44. Currently Asmoucha is a core member of PhotoSensitive, with work in collections at MOCCA and the Canadian War Museum.

For Contact 2015, Tobi has photographed residents of the Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care, which was started by the Legion. This series has evolved from her documentary on Legion Halls in Canada that is currently a travelling exhibition of the CMW.



# Sirus Azadi

Sirus Azadi has a degree in Visual Arts from University of Toronto and a Graphic Design diploma from Humber College. His love for travel photography started in his twenties during his travels to remote places in Europe and Middle East when he found himself compelled to capture the inspiring landscapes and architecture that he was discovering. His quest is to capture scenes, that tell a visual story. Often that means waiting patiently for the right elements to align which only lasts seconds, and enough for him to record on film.



# Chris Blanchenot

9 to 5 office monkey by day, camera wielding superhero by night, Chris has dedicated his life (or at least his evenings and weekends) to the tireless pursuit of capturing image on film and writing about himself in the third person. From his secret fortress in Toronto's Queen West gallery District armed only with his cameras, sharp wit and keen intellect he takes to the mean streets of Parkdale.

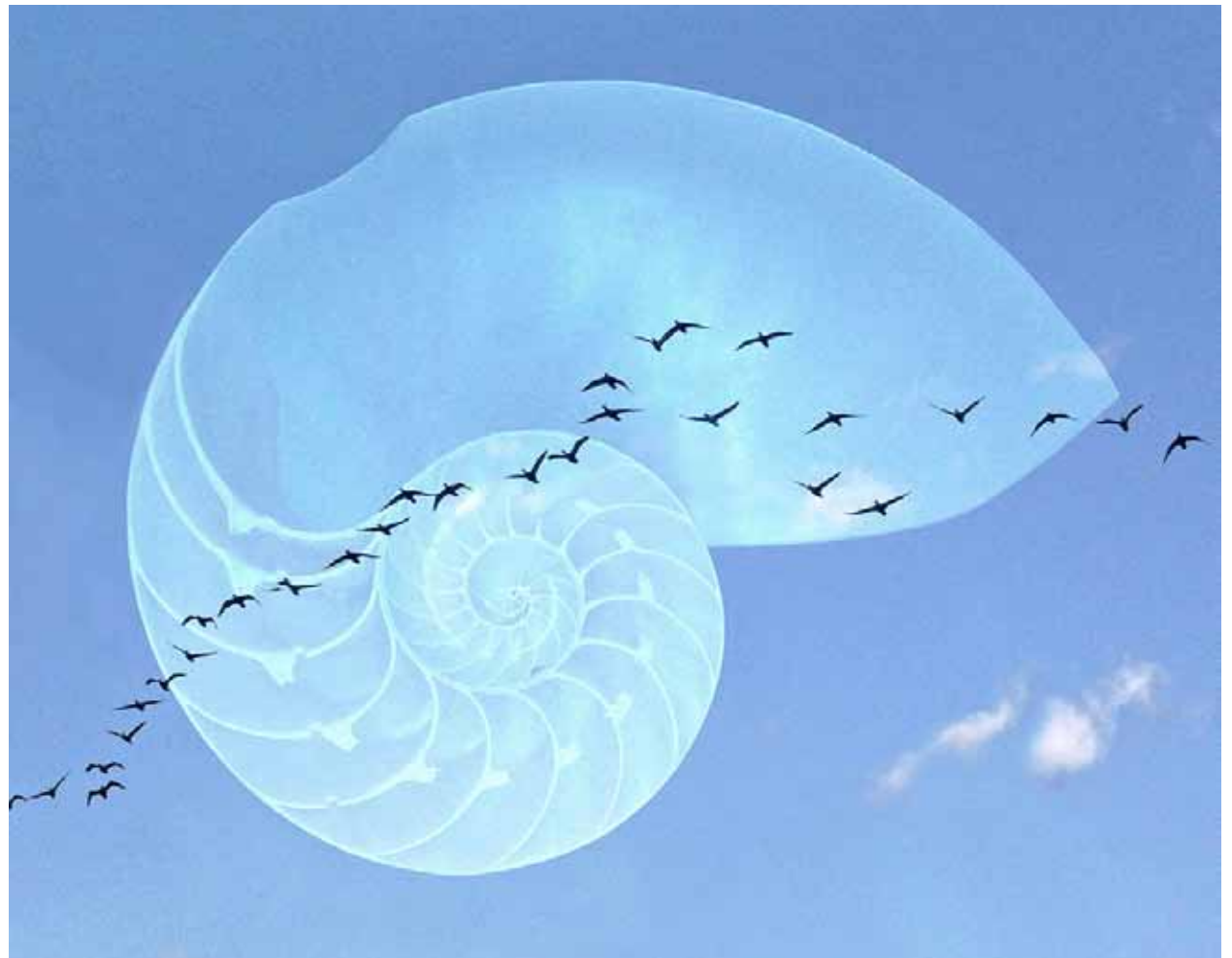




# Linda Briskin

Linda Briskin has ever-shifting photographic enthusiasms, what she calls 'photoglossia'. Light, lines, shadows, and the play of figure-ground; the juxtaposition of objects and reflections; the ambiguities in what we choose to see; the permeability between the remembered and the imagined; and alternative digital colourscapes which remind us that landscape is invented through our gaze. She is intrigued by the capacity of photography to capture movement, and to create alternative realities. In many of her photographs, photo-collage is used to construct unique and painterly images.

For Contact 2015, she presents SkyOceanBirds, a series in the tradition of surrealism which challenges the boundaries between the normal and the fantastical, promotes the unexpected combining of found objects, and embraces dreamscapes and imagery emerging from the subconscious. Linda Briskin lives in Toronto and has been taking photographs for years. Layered Narratives at Gallery 44 (Member's Gallery) is her most recent solo show (2014).



# Robert Caspary

Robert Caspary is a photographer based out of Toronto. His images explore the interconnections of intent and chance, conscious selection and serendipity; light as moving target. Thematically photographing the loves of his life, Caspary uses a variety of techniques such as extended exposures and multiple exposures to allow the figure of light and field of view to play. First president of his Grade 8 Darkroom Club, nominally trained at OCA and Ryerson in the end-70's, inhabiting, wandering and photographing Ontario from the epicenter, Toronto, for over 40 years, Gallery 44 has been the greatest thing for his professional practice, ever.



# Katherine Childs

Katherine Childs is an urban landscape photographer living in Toronto since 2002. She has documented such subjects as schoolyards, public phone booths and public washrooms. She is currently working on two projects. One examines the diverse places of worship found in Toronto's suburban employment areas. The other explores the semiotic codes used to communicate ethnic, class and social identity found in the front yards of downtown Toronto's neighborhoods. Recent professional work includes photo-surveys of walking conditions in Toronto's suburban high-rise apartment neighbourhoods and along proposed transit corridors. She has a diploma from the undergraduate fine art program at the SMFA school in Boston, and a MFA from the University of Washington in Seattle



# Nicole Croiset

Nicole Croiset lives and works in Toronto. She is a media artist, and her current research is directed towards the interactive and immersive arts. She uses a lot of photography in her artwork and started to print large format composite images on a giclée printer for the last years. She exhibited a 3D photo installation in the members' gallery at G44 in January 2011. Her works have been shown in Canada, Europe, and the United States. Some of her works are in public collections such as Fond National d'Art Contemporain (France), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Getty Museum – Long Beach Museum of Art collection.



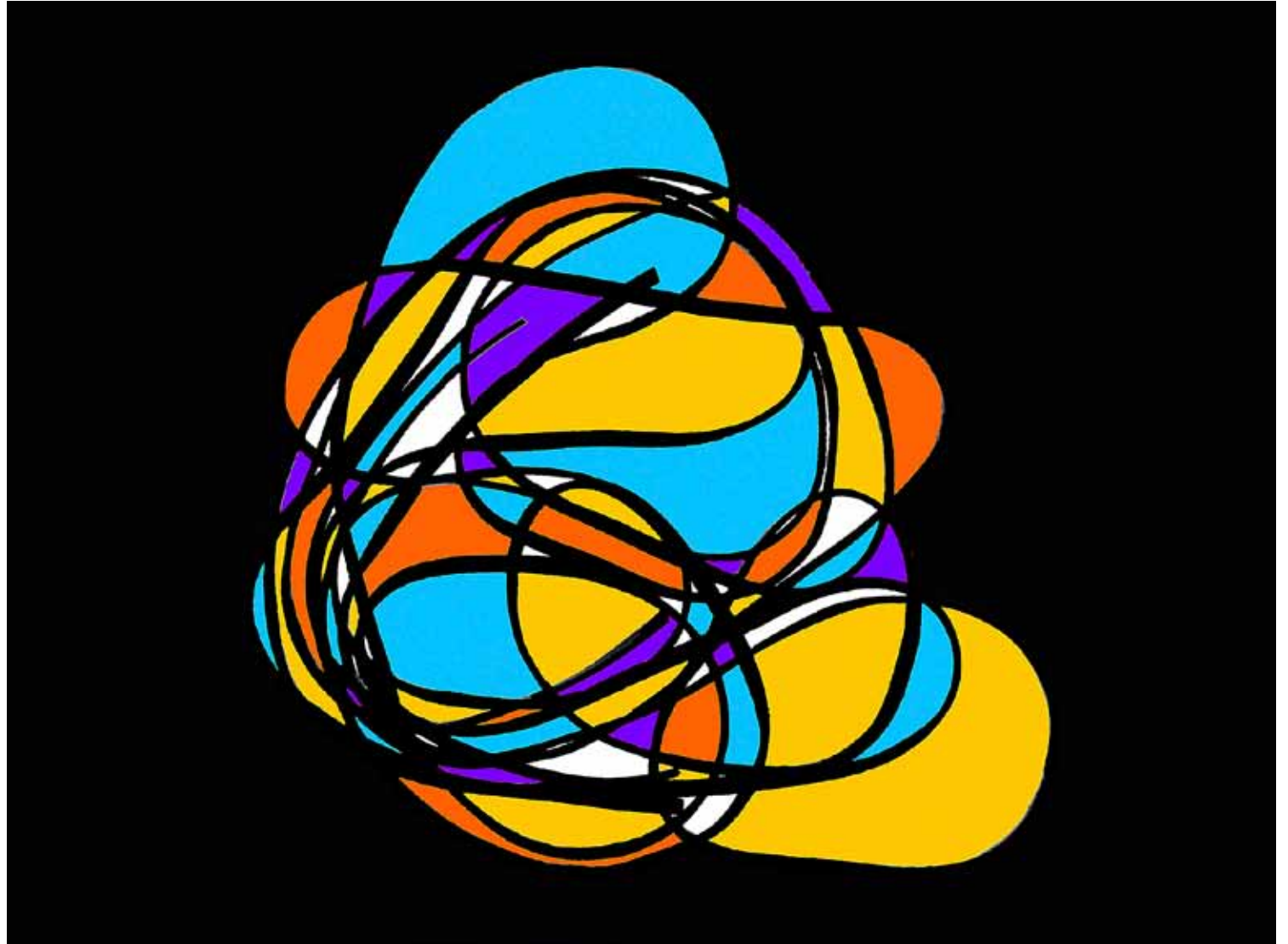
# Keith Davidson

Keith Davidson studied at the University of Regina, Alberta College of Art and graduated with honours in painting and in photography at the Emily Carr College of Art. His works have been exhibited throughout Canada and are in private collections in Canada, the United States, Britain and France. "The work that I am creating embraces not only the historical aspect of street photography but the digital technologies of the present. It is through this documentation of the world in its 'natural state' that exposes those subjects contained within the images."



# Dennis Duncan

Dennis Duncan is a photo-based conceptual artist that is currently based in Toronto. As a retired professional dancer and choreographer, his creative works as a photographer are an extension from one art form into another.



## Carlos M. Gárate

Carlos M. Gárate is a Toronto based software developer and self-taught photographer who was born in Mexico City and lived there for three decades before relocating to Toronto in 2006. His initiation into photography happened in his early days, exactly when his dad gave him his first Kodak Instamatic. The film for this camera came in a cartridge-like form, the flash was a cube with four shots and the settings were pretty basic, Holga basic. Toronto is now his home while Mexico is the place where he goes for jaunts while visiting friends and family. He codes applications during the day and sleeps when he can as he is trying to find more moments to shoot cameras. His work explores people and moments. He likes reportage and aims to capture non-rehearsed moments. A member of Gallery 44 in Toronto, he has attended several workshops and has participated in various member's exhibitions.



# Deborah Kanfer

Originally from South Africa, Deborah Kanfer lives and works in Toronto, where she is pursuing her career in photography. Her latest photographic endeavours include images surrounding a theme of 'Cityscapes and Living Spaces'. Here, she captures eclectic neighbourhoods, tourist attractions and city quirks from various angles and perspectives of places and spaces she has visited and lived. Her focus is currently on capturing Toronto, as this is her current residing. Among the latter, she also extends her work into themes of 'Momento Mori', 'Interiors' and 'The Humans' Need for Consumption'.





# Tom Legrady

Tom Legrady explores visual aspects of the Hidden City; things we ignore — alleys, graffiti and garages, construction and demolition sites, abandoned buildings, interactions of the everyday with the industrial.

Legrady once designed and operated theatre lighting for VideoCabaret International, Passe Murraile and Factory Theatre Lab. Returning to art from a career in software, he has photographed for Vera Frenkel, Nuit Blanche and Gallery 345. His first solo exhibit, “Transformations: Trona & Toronto”, at Gallery 44’s Members’ Gallery in September, 2012, contrasted unoccupied Toronto residences with abandoned homes in California’s Mojave Desert. January 2014 saw “Tagged & Sliced” at the Redline Café: narrow panoramic slices of graffiti alter the viewer relationship with the image, while “Anonymous Collaborations” was shown at the Insomnia Cafe during May and June, 2014. He has participated in the group shows at Gallery1313, including 2014’s “Do Not Assume”, as well as at Elora Centre for the Arts, ArToronto and AWOL’s Square Foot show.



# Margarita Macdonald

Margarita Macdonald is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, art consultant and founding member of W5 Art Collective. For the last nine years her work has been investigating the relationship between landscape, migration, memory and social political issues. Margarita has lived in Canada for fifteen years and is originally from El Paso, Texas. Being so far from her family influenced her to reflect on being absent and present at the same time. Whether in photography or any other medium there is stillness in her work. She brings attention to complex social issues such as displacement, identity, human vulnerability and invisibility that touch every person at one time or another.



# Liam Maloney

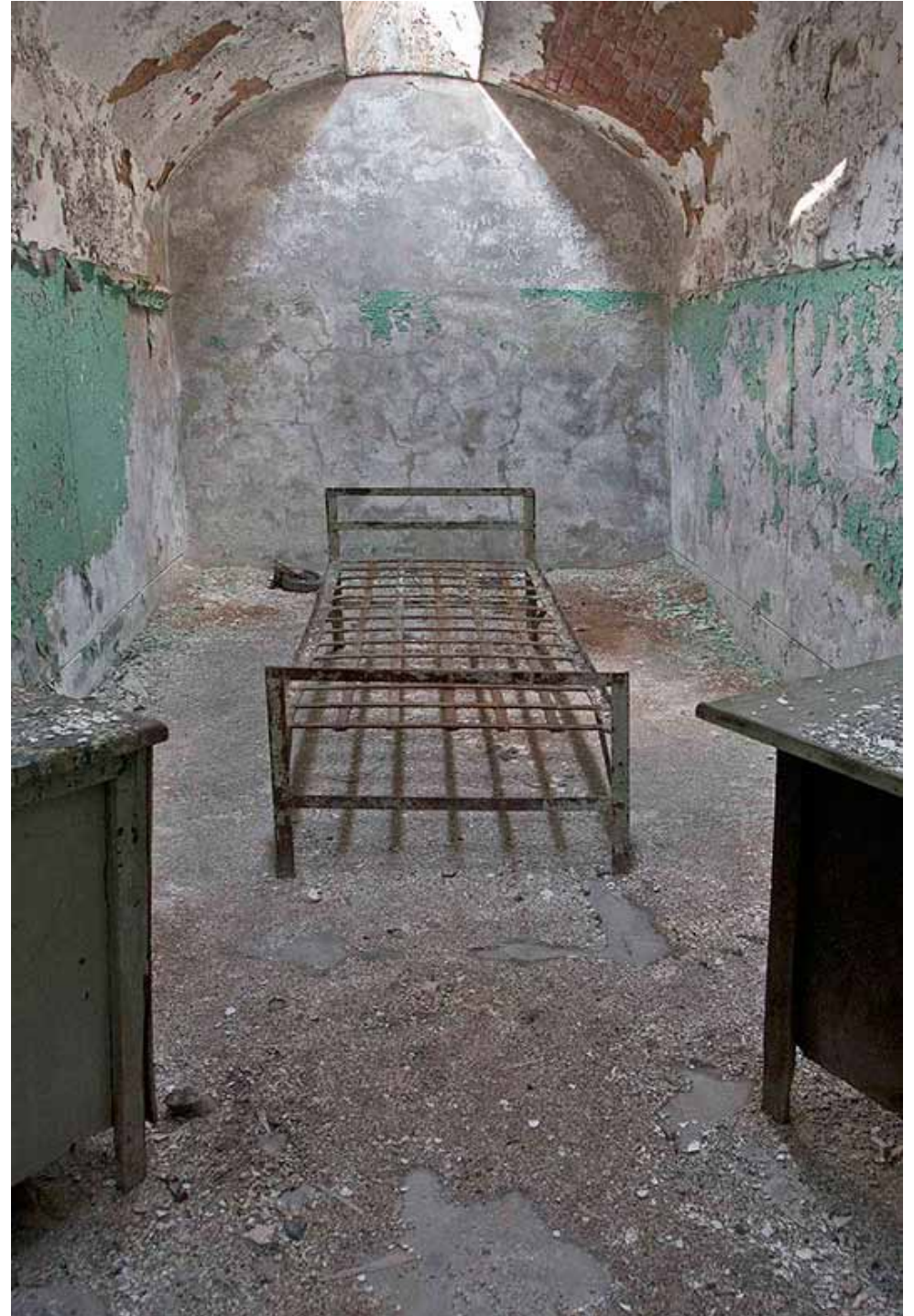
Liam Maloney is a Canadian documentary photographer working on stories in the Middle East and East Africa. A central theme emerging in his work is the idea of home and what it means to those who have been displaced. He is RISC-certified in Battlefield Medical Response and equipped for work in hostile environments, and is a member of the Frontline Freelance Network. He was recently named a finalist for the 2014 Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize. His immersive installation Texting Syria was part of the 2014 Vevey Festival Images, Photoville and the 2014 Scotiabank Nuit Blanche. His clients include The Guardian, Foreign Policy, Mother Jones, Maclean's, National Post, CBC, Global News, The National and UNHCR. He lives in Toronto with his partner and son.

In Witnesses, he will be showing work from his series, Four Years and Counting: Syrian Refugees. Below: Mar 3, 2015-Zahle, LEBANON: Syrian refugees line up outside the office of an Islamic Association. They had heard about \$50 fuel vouchers being distributed and word had spread quickly via WhatsApp and SMS messages. Fuel is expensive and desperately needed to keep cold tented shelters and unheated buildings warm enough to live in safely. Liam Maloney/Polaris Images



# Kye Marshall

Kye Marshall is a composer and experimental cellist who brings to her photography her experience, vision and discipline as a professional musician. Her compositional skills using colour, rhythm, line and form influence her photographs. She plays with elements such as visual figure/ground as they relate to the musical soloist/accompaniment. Her photographs are displayed on the cover of five of her CDs. They have been chosen for the Yes ArtGala and Show Your Ontario contest. She has photographs in a Magnum Blurb book (2010) and has had solo shows at Axis Gallery and Grill, Fairview Library, Richview Library, The Window Box, Yorkville Library. She has exhibited at the Praxis Gallery, Gallery 44, the G+ Galleries, the Tay River Gallery, Gallery1313, the Heliconian Club, Gallery and Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts.



# Jack Martin

Jack Martin is a rock 'n' roll and documentary photographer based in Toronto. A long-time member of Gallery 44, he has been exhibiting in its annual members' Contact shows since 1998. Two series, "Mexican Photographs" and "jesus rides the bus: Pictures from El Salvador" were shown at Toronto's 52 Inc. His music photography was the subject of a profile in Taddle Creek Magazine in 2007. Past photographic projects have taken him to Haiti, Bolivia, Argentina, and India, but his current interests have him documenting the streets of Toronto, and music in Toronto, Austin, and Memphis. In addition to his printed work, he maintains an online presence as [sevres-babylone](#), exhibiting his music photography on his [Twang & Distortion](#) and [Couldn't Hit it Sideways](#) blogs.



# Christine McLean

Christine McLean is a visual artist based in Toronto, Ontario. She holds a BFA from OCAD University and a BA in Fine Arts from Bishop's University. Her work explores social relationships, often with a psychological charge. Through a hybrid of digital and historical photographic processes, along with installations, she constructs conversations within her work, finding inspiration from personal experiences. McLean was the recipient of the Dr. Sydney Medine Scholarship, Bishop's Foundation Second and Third Year Scholarship, Bishop's University Prize of Fine Arts, and OCAD Photography Faculty and Friends Scholarship. She was a selected artist for projects including Scotiabank Exposure Initiative, ROM Centennial publication, and Artscape Youngplace Career Launcher program. Her work has been exhibited at Bishop's University, Artscape Youngplace, the OCAD University Figure Exhibition, OCAD University's Graduating Exhibition, Spark Photography Festival, and Contact Photography Festival.



# Sandy Middleton

Sandy Middleton has worked as both a commercial and art photographer for over 20 years. She graduated from Ryerson University with a BAA in still photography in 1991 and continued her education and work in the design field. Sandy's photographic work is about, color, light, movement, the moment, the day-to-day minutes that occur quietly without much notice. It is about the silent and the still, the frozen in time, yet fleeting instances in our lives. She is currently focusing on her series called 'Family Album' of mixed media photographic works and installations on memory, family and aging. She relocated from Toronto after seventeen years to St. Catharines in 2001 where she currently resides. Her work can be found in public and private collections within Canada.



# Jihee Min

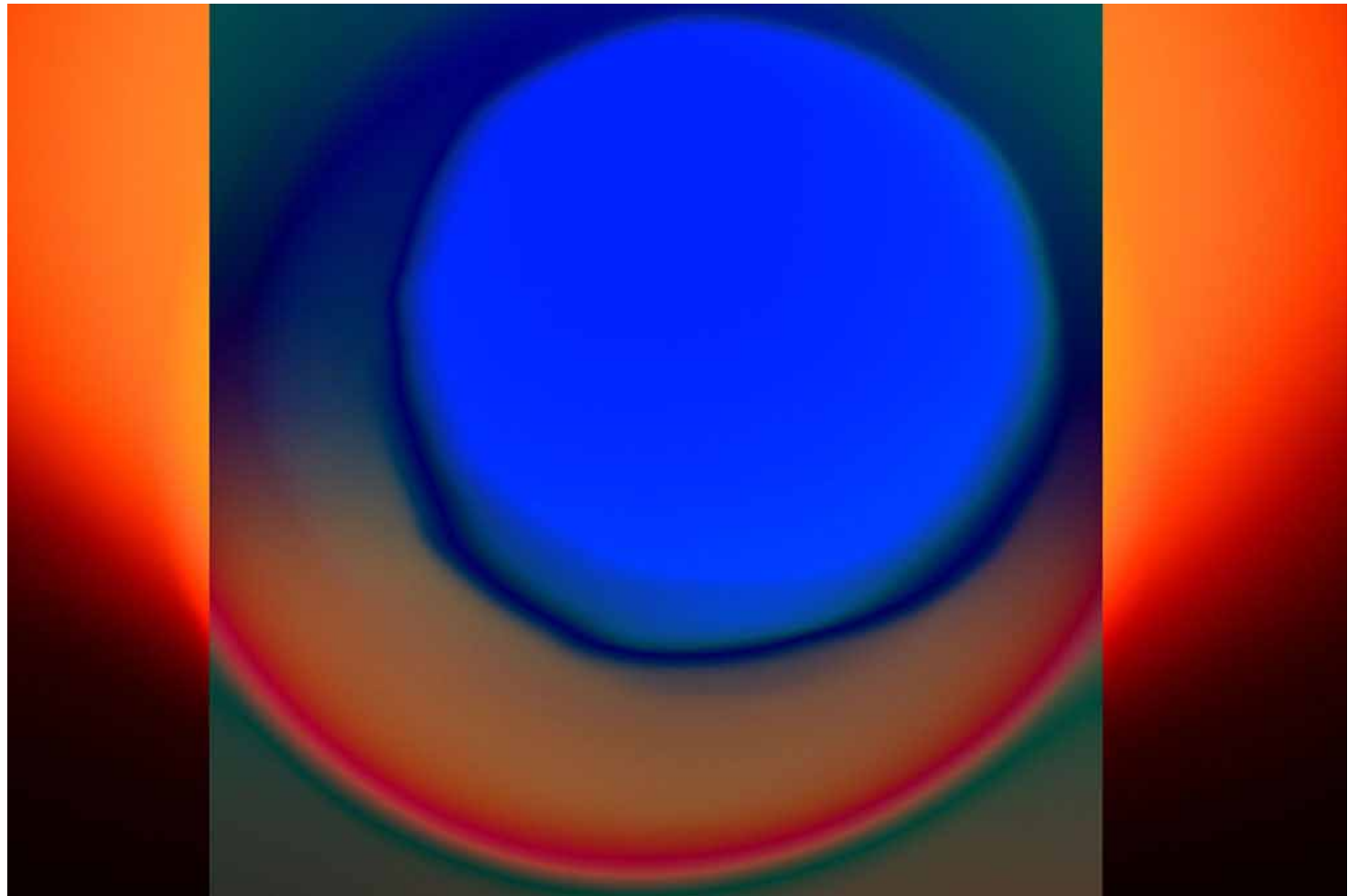
Korea-born Canadian, Jihee Min explores art as means to engage issues of displaced culture, multiculturalism and contemporary identities of race and ethnicity in Western society. Min attempts to communicate with her surroundings through interdisciplinary and self-referential works, often blending boundaries between audience and artist. Her work takes various forms through a wide range of media, such as sculpture, installation, performance, video, photography and drawing. Min obtained MFA in Studio Arts at Concordia University and BFA with Honours in Sculpture & Installation at Ontario College of Art & Design. Min has presented several solo exhibitions in galleries across Canada, and her work has been featured internationally in group exhibitions and festivals. She has received various grants from Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council, as well as numerous awards and scholarships including Concordia University's MFA Studio Arts Award and the Sir Edmund Walker Scholarship from Ontario College of Art & Design





# Luis Antonio Monroy

Luis Antonio Monroy is a Canadian photographer born in Mexico. He started making photographs consistently after learning the basics of how to operate a camera in manual mode, and from then, experimentation and self-expression have guided his practice. His abstract work reflects on the idea that the inherent power and beauty of the basic components of our visual world, namely, light, line, shape and color can lead us to make deep and meaningful connections with ourselves and our surroundings if we pause for a moment our habit of rationalize everything that we see. His work has been shown in different galleries such as Gallery 44, Gallery 1313, Neilson Creative Park, Bavia Arts, and has also found a place in private collections in Canada.



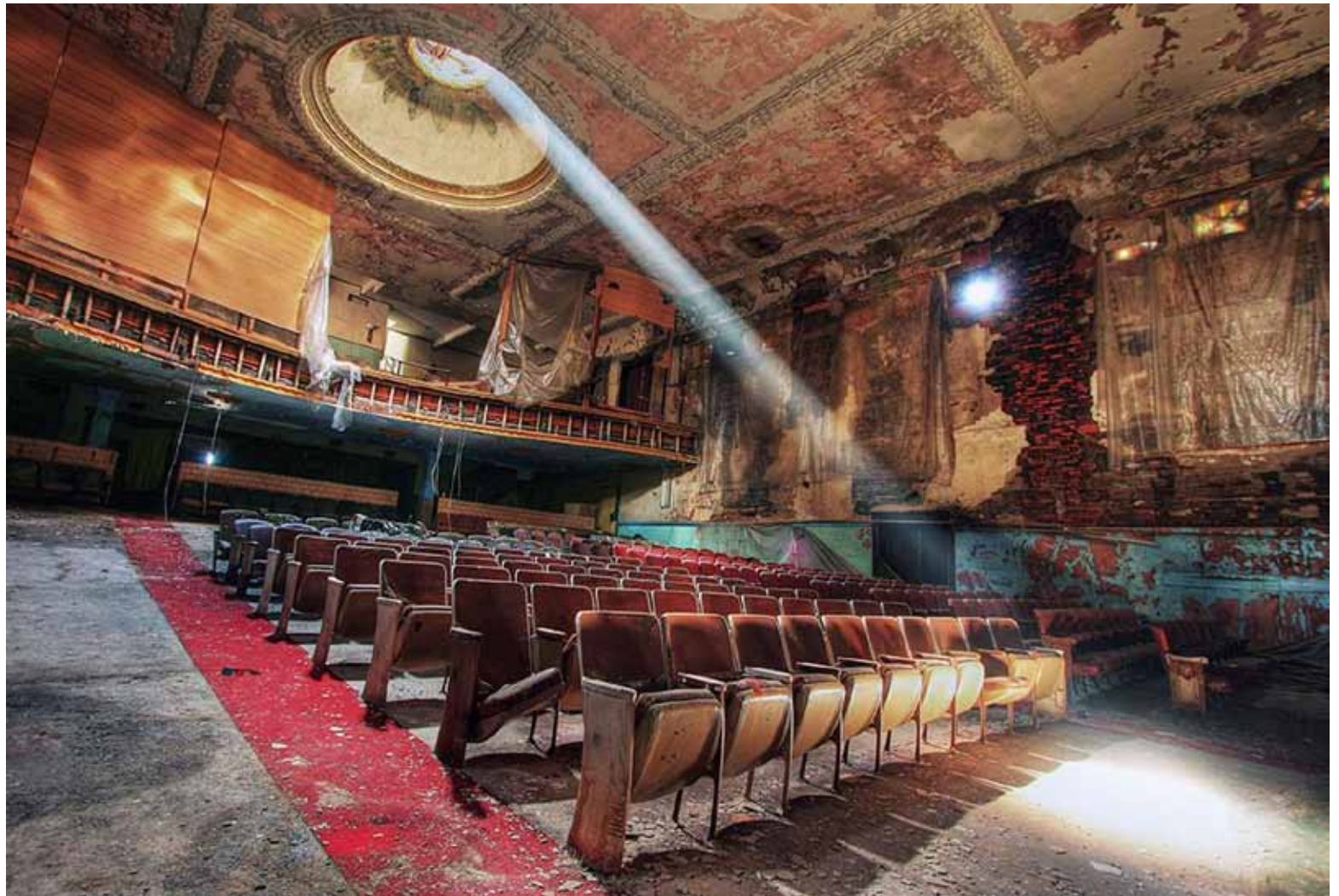
## Eliza Moore

Eliza Moore is a life-long art photographer, mostly self-taught. Many subjects have caught her eye over the years, including action photography, architecture, interiors, and landscapes. Recently, she has made a study of light and pattern in the natural and built landscapes that surround us. Her work has been shown in numerous group shows and at Gallery 44 and the Rectory Gallery on Toronto Island. In Contact 2014, she will be showing recent work from her ongoing visual explorations of Toronto.



# Timothy Neesam

Timothy Neesam's photography has enjoyed a wide audience through a variety of leading publications ranging from the Toronto Star and Spacing to The Indian Express and Germany's Geo Magazine. He is a contributor of the the UK-published coffee-table book The Beauty of Decay. Timothy has also exhibited in the U.K, U.S. and Canada, including the Toronto photography festival Contact since 2003. His art is currently being used by the Norwegian NationalOpera to promote their performance of Lohengrin in the 2014/2015 season. Timothy has worked as a producer and director on a wide range of arts and entertainment projects and is currently photo editor for CBC News.ca.



# James Sutherland

James Sutherland studied architecture after a BA in Art History and English Lit at UBC in the sixties. After working in several architects' offices, he formed his own studio to design architectural-scale graphics, banners and murals for many public buildings, for example, the DuPont Subway Station and, with the native artists of Mnjikaning, the Circle of Clans Mural on Casino Rama. His photography evolved from recording his artwork to an independent artistic practice after studying with Peter Sramek at OCA. James primarily practices three streams of photography: Landscape in search of a more efficacious understanding of our cultural and historical relationship with the natural environment; Portrait photography to celebrate the marvelous varieties of human individuality we encounter; and Photo collage to develop the artistic potential of new digital tools as photographic media approach the flexibility and freedom of painting.



# Robert Teteruck

Robert Teteruck has been involved in a number of exhibitions in Canada and abroad over the past 25 years including Capitol Hill in Washington, the Power Plant, Toronto City Hall, Ryerson Gallery, Gallery 44, and the Market Gallery in Toronto. His work is included in a number of collections including the Archives of Ontario, the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA), the City of Toronto Archives, and the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) study collection. His work has been published in Time, Maclean's, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star Photolife and Descant among others. He has won numerous awards for his work including the University and College Design Association's Gold Award and Award of Excellence. He is the senior photographer at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and his photographic book, A History of Healing, was published in 2010.



# Drew Williamson

Drew Williamson is a Toronto-based commercial photographer. He has lived in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. At an early age, while living in Alberta, he developed a strong interest in photography. He chose to study Marine Biology at the University of Victoria but after completing first year he decided to pursue the study of his first passion – photography – and returned to Ontario to attend Ryerson.

After graduating from Ryerson most of his career has been spent in the commercial photography world. He has returned to what originally attracted him to photography – his passion for expressing a story in a medium that transcends the barriers of the written or spoken word. He is constantly examining his vision of the world through his photography while also exploring our collective humanity. Since pursuing this passion, his personal work has been selected for juried exhibitions in both Canada and the U.S.





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