

MISSA 2010

LIGHT, COLOUR and EXPRESSION

Sharron Milstein, Instructor

Welcome to MISSA and the photography workshop. I look forward to working, learning, shooting and having a great time with you all. MISSA provides a very rich environment for photographic artists who, in the main, work alone. At MISSA, you will be working alongside and getting to know imaginative and skilled people involved in an exciting variety of artistic pursuits. Your learning will be influenced by their work and thoughts and by the spirit of creative endeavour that characterizes this annual gathering of artists. The natural beauty of Lester B. Pearson College's sea-side location offers an ideal setting for creative photographic work. No matter what role photography plays in your life, the sense of accomplishment in picture-making, the delight in visual exploration and the satisfaction of learning are common to all of us. It is my goal to see that the workshop serves to enhance your sense of accomplishment, your delight and your satisfaction in the art of photography.

- Our first scheduled session is Monday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m. I will meet briefly with students after dinner at the college on Sunday, July 11. It would be great if everyone could be there but, if you can't, I'll review things when we meet on Monday morning.
- On Monday morning, please bring 6 to 10 images (slides, prints or disc) to share with the group. This is an excellent way to introduce yourself to the others and to acquaint us with your skills, interests and photographic style. Bring your gear. If time permits, we will get out for a shoot before lunch. Because weather and light are significant influences for the outdoor photographer, it's not beneficial to establish a daily itinerary in advance of the workshop. If conditions are agreeable, we will have daily morning and late afternoon and/or evening shoots.
- A photo workshop is an intensive learning experience. Be prepared for a fully packed schedule. The itinerary will include shooting, in-the-field teaching sessions, studio instruction, field and studio demonstrations, discussion periods, evaluation sessions and image sharing. The campus at Pearson College offers a wealth of natural and man-made subject matter to photograph and field trips to nearby off-campus locales may be included in the schedule. I have tentatively arranged a field trip to the gardens at Royal Rhodes campus. There is a charge of \$9.50 per adult and \$8.50 per senior.
- The act of photography requires knowledge and understanding of the photographic procedure. To some extent we will, necessarily, deal with technical concerns but I am assuming you are experienced and comfortable with basic photographic skills. If you do not feel confident about your technical understanding, please let me know as soon as possible and I will help you gain the knowledge you need prior to the workshop.
- The art of photography requires knowledge and understanding of light. Light is the essential raw material of all photographic expression. It defines the subject matter, creates the mood and graces the moment. Colour and other properties of light are the underlying themes as we probe the elements that go into expressive image-making – e.g., learning to *really* see, technical proficiency, and creative and appropriate composition. Field sessions will provide opportunities for shooting with these considerations in mind. Evaluation sessions will offer constructive analysis, suggestions for improvement and will give us all a chance to learn from each other.

ABOUT GEAR

To enjoy and benefit from all aspects of the workshop, please take time to prepare.

- Check over your photo equipment. Make sure everything is functioning. It's a good idea to shoot a number of frames using all your lenses, f-stops and shutter speeds. Keep notes, examine results and, if anything is amiss, get your gear checked out professionally.

- Read your camera's instruction booklet. It's important to know how to use manual exposure. If your camera doesn't have a manual exposure option, understand what metering options are available. Make sure you know what all the various blinks, symbols, buttons, levers or beeps are telling you.
- **A sturdy tripod is absolutely essential for serious photography.**
- Please bring your own laptop computer and software. Our studio is equipped with both analog and digital projectors.
- Since I am a new-comer when it comes to things digital, I will have a very-digital-savvy assistant working with me during this workshop. Alan Thurston is an accomplished, creative photographer and is super-qualified to help digital shooters with all things technical. Alan is also teaching a MISSA weekend workshop July 10-11 on Photoshop. Check it out in the brochure at www.missa.ca.

WHAT TO BRING

In addition to enthusiasm, energy, an open mind and an open heart, please bring the following.

- All your camera gear, lens cleaning tissue or cloth, tripod, cable release, extra camera batteries, camera's instruction booklet and a gear bag, backpack or protective case.
- Good walking shoes or boots, sun hat, bug repellent, sun screen, rain gear and plastic bags to cover your camera equipment in case of rain.
- Notebook, watch, flashlight, water bottle or juice and some snack food for field trips.

It is not too soon to start getting ready. Work on your "seeing" skills by being more aware and mindful of the beauty around you. Go through all the pictures you made in the last year and analyze what is good or not so good about them. Spend some time in the library looking at photography books and magazines. Go to the art galleries. And, always, keep your eye on the light!

Above all, get out and shoot.

I look forward to sharing a productive and creative photo adventure with you.

Sharron

- If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me.

Sharron Milstein

tel: 250-335-1894

7 -7 Arthurs Farm

Hornby Island, BC V0R1Z0

sharronm@telus.net