
INSIDE STUDIO 280

Find the timeless aspects of the everyday.



The agenda of a typical summer includes active days and lazy days, and nobody seems to mind. In an environment that experiences seasons, it's summer that gets all the attention and holds wonderful plans. If you've been a constant reader of this quarterly e-zine then you know I'm a fan of celebrating each season fairly. Therefore, my summer has been just as active and lazy as fall, winter, and spring. The busy moments come with the warmer weather helping the growing season,

Weightless, 2018-19
Snapshot series from commuting
to work on the same day and
timeframe for one year.

which when paired with a curious and novice gardener, tends to demand a lot of work. The quiet moments happen during casual participations of outdoor hikes, evening walks, and experiencing new fairs and festivals. During this summer I noticed how constant and similar the days are, but I also noticed how much each day is different.

Mono no aware

This is a Japanese phrase expressing “the pathos of things” when you become aware of life, death and transience. I came across it in an excerpt of a statement from photographer Sally Mann. She was writing about her photographs and said, “Memory is the primary instrument, the inexhaustible nutrient source; these photographs open doors into the past but they also allow a look into the future.” Have you experienced something similar when looking at a photograph? When reading a photograph? How about when making a photograph?

One of my favorite things to do is to find the timeless aspects of the everyday. Innocent activities such as bending over in the garden to pluck out a weed or check the cucumber vine, to looking both ways before crossing the street and retrieving mail from the mailbox. As well as the thrill of riding a wooden roller coaster, and the wonderment of touring inside homes where our founding fathers once stood. Photography has this affect by trapping a moment with glimpses of what could lie ahead when paired with our personal histories and current emotions.



Spring Debris, 2019
Photogram series of
found organic matter at
the end of the spring
season.

Humble Blip

The mix of country roads and highways that I take to get to work are diverse in their monotony. Its the same route every time, but the weather changes and the foliage differs, the flock of geese are one day at the pond and gone the next day, and so on. It's one thing to turn up the radio and tune out the drive but another when you're engaged in your surroundings. The first time I crossed over a certain bridge on this commute I was interested in how much sky I could see from that vantage point. In all directions the sky is opened up and the trees seem to become smaller as they hug close to the low horizon line. With the help of an advancing sharp bend and required slower speed, this moment is almost suspended in time and

I find contained within the vertiginous deceit of time its vexing opportunities and sweet human persistence."

-SALLY MANN

offers a chance to look around a bit. It reminds me of that fraction of a second on top of the Dragster at Cedar Point, or how a child must feel when he's swiftly tossed up in the air high above his dad's head - the moment is exciting, beautiful and fleeting.

In the attempts to capture this piece of highway with constrictions of car window glass and a low-quality digital camera, I developed a year-long project of this moment. Seen best as a grid, these photographs physically connect to one another showing their varying moments of weather, which is the element that is never constant but always changing against the cold, hard surface of grey concrete and sturdy light poles. The weather is timeless. Traveling is timeless. That feeling of weightlessness has been felt before.



SIDEBAR

Reading Nook

Revival ⚡ Stephen King

This story was a little creepy, a little scary, and a little sci-fi. I thought the ending was along the same lines as the ending to *Under the Dome*. In both cases, I am left with a feeling of emptiness... yet I always like to read books by this author.

Sold on a Monday  Kristina McMorris

A fictional story based on a found photo from the Great Depression. Taking place in the 1930s, a photojournalist is faced with ethical decisions regarding a photograph he made of two children in front of a sign that read '2 Children For Sale.' The story intertwines that of a young unwed mother trying to make an impression as a journalist. Well written, easy read, and includes book club questions, which offer help while reflecting on the story.


Cucumber & Zucchini Extravaganza

These have been the star produce of the garden, and caused me to be late in writing this publication. We planted 10 cucumber plants that have produced about 20 cucumbers each. As for the zucchini - we sowed two plants, and they have produced a total of 75 zucchinis! It's been a good growing season for us!

"You can pickle that!"

We've picked many of the cucumbers, zucchinis, and Hungarian peppers in a variety of ways. My go-to canning recipes come from freshpreserving.com, of which we only do water bath canning. I also make "freezer pickles," which are vinegar based and do not require preserving but will keep in the refrigerator for up to a year.

My go-to zucchini baked goods recipes come from kingarthurfLOUR.com, my grandma's collection of recipes, and the occasional random online search.


Next up: The tomato extravaganza! 


Review


Composting: a beneficial practice. Let's break it down:


- Food scraps and coffee/tea grounds
- Yard debris
- Newspaper and cardboard
- Dryer lint
- Human hair and nails


All of this and more becomes food for our gardens. Aside from the science of it and the thousands of books about it, realizing that composting is easy and beneficial is the bottom line. Likewise, recycling all these materials is also helpful.


 Weed problem? Lay newspaper on the weeds and cover that with dead grass and/or cardboard.

 Bit into an apple only to realize it's a bit rotten? Now it's food for a butterfly or hummingbird.

 Got a hefty collection of dryer lint? Stuff it in a toilet paper tube and now you have a fire starter - one step closer to making s'mores.

 A quick summer haircut in the backyard? Let that hair fly! It will be useful in bedding or home construction amongst the critters outside.

 Practicing your poached egg technique? Use the egg shells to deter any slugs who may want to dine on garden plants and flowers.

 Anything can be used to make art. Get creative!

ARCHIVE

6 Mile Commute

from 2014

When we lived in the city, David worked just six miles from our house on the other side of town. Being such a short distance offered choices on how to commute: bike, bus, or car. He considered running once, but that never happened. When he left for work in the mornings I always waved from the window above the driveway and thought how picture-perfect and bittersweet those moments were.

This short series is from Monday through Friday, August 4 through 19 of 2014. The camera was set up at the window during this time so the entire series could result on one roll of film. Like a time

capsule, this part of our lives as newlyweds is held tight on one contact sheet to reminisce over. It's amazing how many memories surface from an otherwise boring routine captured 12 times.



OUTSIDE STUDIO 280

Find the blips on your radar where you experience a bit of wonderment, thrill, and curiosity during an actively scheduled day. Breathe in the sweet air of the season and feel that weightless moment as you take on a lazy summer day. However you are spending the summer of '19 let the season guide you to all the timeless sensations that help shape your present and your future.



About to enjoy dinner at Four Twelve Project in Moon Township, PA.
Photo by D.Dulick

Promotional Bits of News...

I currently have work up at Four Twelve Project / A Wine and Dinery restaurant. Yummy food, friendly staff and diverse artwork make a great atmosphere.

The Pittsburgh photo group Digital Imagers invited me to speak about my work on September 1. Please feel free to attend!

Find details at jessicakalmar.com/news

Thank you

A continuous artist statement, Inside Studio 280 is a quarterly report on creativity and constructive endeavors in and around the world I share with you. I hope you enjoy it and that you find evident beauty this season. Look for the fall edition around November 15, 2019.