

Artist Statement

In today's world, the eyes and the soul are assaulted by a myriad of things, causing us to lose our focus, become scattered, and even blinded to the simple beauty hidden around us. Peter Dušek is an international award-winning Canadian photographer whose toned black and white photographs give us a glimpse of this beauty, hidden like a special shell amongst the pebbles on a beach. Inspired by the philosophies of Japanese Zen and Chinese Tao, Peter places a strong emphasis on balance and negative space and his artistic design goal is "as little as possible, as much as necessary", giving an almost abstract quality to his intimate landscapes. His style embodies the Japanese design aesthetic *shibumi*, which means "a quiet elegance". In this simplicity can be found the serenity and perhaps even the happiness that often eludes us.

Peter is represented by Abbozzo Gallery in Toronto, where he had his first solo exhibition, *Tranquility*, in 2015. The exhibition sold out almost two and a half times over, with Saks Fifth Avenue acquiring two complete sets to represent Canadian Art at their two stores in Toronto. He was awarded "Best of 2015" by the American Society of Media Photographers, "Best Work by an Emerging Artist" by the Ontario Society of Artists, and his work has been shown by Abbozzo Gallery at the Affordable Art Fair in New York City, alongside art from 70 international galleries. Peter had his second major exhibition, *Serenity*, at Abbozzo Gallery in 2017 as part of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, the largest photography event in the world. His work was featured in the Summer 2017 issue of *Arabella* art and design magazine. He has exhibited with the Ontario Society of Artists and the Society of Canadian Artists and in numerous galleries across Canada, including the John B. Aird Gallery in Toronto, the Papermill Gallery at Todmorden Mills in Toronto, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and Gallery 78 in New Brunswick. Peter's work is held in private and corporate collections throughout North America.

Peter was elected to the Ontario Society of Artists in 2015 and the Society of Canadian Artists in 2016, and is a proud member of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke, the American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP), and Headwaters Arts, and serves as the chair of the Town of Mono Heritage Advisory Committee.

Great photography is the rare marriage of the creativity of art with the technique of craft and the precision of science. If any one of these elements is missing, a photograph falls short of its full potential. Peter's photography benefits from over 25 years of experience as a computer consultant and programmer, building sophisticated database systems, which requires a similar blend of creativity, craft, and extreme attention to detail.

Born in Bratislava, Slovakia, Peter moved to Canada when he was seven years old. He lives in the beautiful Hockley Valley, Ontario with his wife, dog, and cat, exploring the countryside by motorcycle, bicycle, or on foot, often accompanied by his dog, Daisy. His frequent excursions give him a deep familiarity and affinity with some of Ontario's most beautiful lands.

Awards

- 2017 *People's Choice*, Ontario Greenbelt / McMichael Canadian Art Collection Gallery / Professional Photographers of Canada Photo Contest, ON
- 2016 Elected to the Society of Canadian Artists (SCA)
Honourable Mention, Ontario Society of Artists *Members' Exhibition of Selected Works*, Toronto, ON
Curry's Award, Ontario Society of Artists, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Elected to the Ontario Society of Artists (OSA)
ASMP Best of 2015, American Society of Media Photographers, USA
International Photographer of the Year, Honourable Mention, IPOTY photo contest
Best Work by an Emerging Artist, Ontario Society of Artists, Toronto, ON
Neutral Density Photography Awards 2015, Honorable Mention, ND Magazine
Juror's Choice Second Place, Orangeville Art Group, Orangeville, ON
- 2014 *Juror's Choice*, Headwaters Arts, Headwaters Arts Gallery, Alton, ON

Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 *Serenity*, Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
Works from Headwaters, Theatre Orangeville, Orangeville, ON
- 2016 *Tranquility*, Headwaters Arts Gallery, Alton Mill Arts Centre, Caledon, ON
Works from Central Ontario, Millcroft Inn & Spa, Caledon, ON
- 2015 Works from *Tranquility*, Feature Gallery at Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
Caledon, Millcroft Inn & Spa, Caledon, ON
Tranquility, Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *Oh Canada*, Society of Canadian Artists, Gallery 78, Fredericton, NB
Be Square II, Society of Canadian Artists, Art Square Gallery, Toronto, ON
Mosaic, Ontario Society of Artists 145th Anniversary Exhibition, Aurora Cultural Centre, Aurora, ON
Ontario Greenbelt Photo Exhibit, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, ON. People's Choice Award
2017 Open International Online Exhibition, Society of Canadian Artists, Canada
- 2016 *Members' Exhibition of Selected Works*, Ontario Society of Artists, Papermill Gallery at Todmorden Mills, Toronto, ON
Large Works Show, Society of Canadian Artists 48th National Open Juried Exhibition, Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery, Etobicoke, ON
Suspension & Motion, Ontario Society of Artists 143rd Open Juried Exhibition, John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, ON. Curry's Award for "Kung Fu Doodle"
Insights Juried Art Exhibition, Wellington County Museum & Archives, Elora, ON

- 2015 *Affordable Art Fair*, Abbozzo Gallery at The Metropolitan Pavilion, New York, USA
Kunterbunt, Durham Art Gallery, Durham, ON
A Roundabout Way, Two artist show at The Gibson Centre, Alliston, ON
Members' Exhibition of Selected Works, Ontario Society of Artists, Papermill Gallery, Todmorden Mills, Toronto, ON. Award for *Best Work by an Emerging Artist*
Insights Juried Art Exhibition, Wellington County Museum & Archives, Elora, ON
Beaux-Arts Brampton Open Juried Fine Art and Photography Exhibition, Beaux-Arts Brampton, Brampton, ON
Two Artist Exhibition, The French Press, Orangeville, ON
- 2014 *Headwaters Arts Festival Show & Sale*, Juried show, SGI Canada Centre, Caledon, ON
Insights Juried Art Exhibition, Wellington County Museum & Archives, Elora, ON
Desmond Juried Art Exhibition and Sale, University of Guelph, Ridgeway, ON
Awakenings, Juried show, Headwaters Arts Gallery, Caledon, ON. Juror's Choice Award for "Morning Shadows"

Publications

- 2017 "Living in the Interval", *Arabella Magazine*
"Peter Dusek: Poet Photographer", *Orangeville Citizen*
"Photo Contest Highlights Ontario's Greenbelt", *Toronto Star*
"Portrait of Orangeville Dog at Island Lake Wins Ontario Greenbelt Photo Contest", *The Orangeville Banner*
- 2016 "Finding Zen", Short film by Stephen Vacheff, YouTube.com
"Photographer has Zen-inspired Work in Gallery at Alton Mill", *Orangeville Citizen*
- 2015 "Peter Dusek", *ASMP Best of 2015 Magazine*, American Society of Media Photographers
"Artist in Residence: Peter Dusek", *In The Hills Magazine*
"Rotary Etobicoke Photographer Named 'Emerging Artist' by Ontario Society of Artists", *InsideToronto.com* and *The Etobicoke Guardian*
"Hockley Valley Artist Offers Unique Views", *The Orangeville Banner*
- 2014 "Headwaters Arts Festival Show & Sale: Autumn's Canvas", *In The Hills Magazine*

Corporate Collections

Global Furniture Group
HLS Therapeutics Inc.
Saks Fifth Avenue

Gallery Representation

Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Affiliations/Memberships

2017 – present	Society of Canadian Artists
2016 – present	Ontario Society of Artists (member of the executive 2016 - present)
2015 – present	Town of Mono Heritage Advisory Committee (chairman 2016 – present)
2015 – 2016	Orangeville Art Group (director in 2015/2016)
2014 – present	American Society of Media Professionals (ASMP)
2013 – present	Headwaters Arts
2013 – 2016	Headwaters Camera Club (co-president in 2015)
2013 – present	Rotary Club of Etobicoke

Education

2016	Inside the Canadian Art Market, OCAD University, Ontario
2014	Japanese Sumi-e painting under artist Roslyn Levin, Orangeville, Ontario
1985 - 1989	Bachelor of Mathematics, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario

Speaking, Teaching, and Leadership Experience

2017	Artist talk, Abbotto Gallery and the Art Dealers Association of Canada
2016 - present	Member of the executive and webmaster, Ontario Society of Artists
2015 – 2016	Director and webmaster, Orangeville Art Group
2015	<i>Why Photography Should be Included as a Visual Art in the OAG</i> , Orangeville Art Group, Orangeville, Ontario
2015 - 2016	Co-president, Headwaters Camera Club
2014	Entrepreneurship Mentor (via Rotary Club of Etobicoke), Scarlett Heights Secondary School, Etobicoke, Ontario
2013 – present	Various presentations and talks, Rotary Club of Etobicoke, Etobicoke, Ontario
2001 – 2002	Trail Leader, Jeep Jamboree Canada, Ontario
2001 – 2002	Trail Leader and Trail Guide, London & Area Jeep Owners Club, Ontario
1989 – 2016	Many business and project speaking presentations as part of computer consulting career

Career Outside of Fine Art

2013 - present	Architectural photographer. Numerous photo publications on corporate, commercial, charity, and government websites, magazines, and brochures.
1989 - 2016	Computer consultant. Software and large-scale database design and programming for numerous large corporations in Ontario.