

Peter Dušek, OSA

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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 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 signature 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 (Toronto), Westland Gallery (London, ON) and the Paul Paletti Gallery/Naomi Stuecker (Louisville, Kentucky). His first solo exhibition, *Tranquility*, at Abbozzo Gallery in 2015, 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 and "*Best Work by an Emerging Artist*" by the Ontario Society of Artists. His work has been shown at the Affordable Art Fair in New York City, alongside art from 70 international galleries. Articles about Peter and his work have been published in magazines and newspapers, including a feature article in *Arabella Art and Design* magazine with North American distribution.

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. *Serenity* was the location for an exclusive gathering of Ontario's top architects and designers, held by Global Furniture Group, who hold ten of his pieces. He has exhibited in numerous galleries across Canada and the USA, including the Paul Paletti Gallery (Louisville, Kentucky), the John B. Aid Gallery (Toronto), Todmorden Mills (Toronto), the McMichael Canadian Art Collection (Kleinburg), the Robert McLaughlin Gallery (Oshawa) and the Westland Gallery (London, ON). Peter's work is held in private and corporate collections throughout North America as well as the Government of Ontario Art Collection.

Peter was elected to the Ontario Society of Artists in 2015 (where he serves on the board of directors) and the Society of Canadian Artists in 2016. He is also involved in the community as a proud member of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke.

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 his 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.

Gallery Representation

Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Westland Gallery, London, Ontario, Canada

Paul Paletti Gallery / Naomi Stuecker, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Corporate and Public Collections

Global Furniture Group

Saks Fifth Avenue

Smallrock

Multimatic

HLS Therapeutics

JRB Group

Government of Ontario Art Collection - Archives of Ontario

Awards

2019 *The President's Medal*, Ontario Society of Artists

2018 *Honorable Mention*, IPA International Photography Awards 2018

2017 *Best Landscape Award*, RMG Exposed, Art auction, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, ON

People's Choice, Ontario Greenbelt / McMichael Canadian Art Collection / Professional Photographers of Canada Photo Contest, ON

2016 Elected to the Society of Canadian Artists

Honorable Mention, IPA International Photography Awards 2016

Honorable 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

ASMP Best of 2015, American Society of Media Photographers, USA

Honorable Mention, IPOTY International Photographer of the Year

Best Work by an Emerging Artist, Ontario Society of Artists, Toronto, ON

Honorable Mention, Neutral Density Photography Awards, ND Magazine

- Juror's Choice Second Place*, Orangeville Art Group, Orangeville, ON
2014 *Juror's Choice*, Headwaters Arts, Headwaters Arts Gallery, Alton, ON

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 *Shibumi*, Westland Gallery, London, ON
2019 *Works from Dufferin*, Orangeville Visitor Information Centre, Orangeville, ON
2018 *Shibumi*, Paul Paletti Gallery, Louisville, KY, USA
2017 *Shibumi*, Louisville Photo Biennial, West Street Art Center (Paul Paletti Gallery), Madison, IN, USA
Shibumi, Waterloo Region Courthouse, Kitchener, ON
Serenity, Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
Works from Caledon, Belfountain Chamber Music Festival, Caledon, ON
Works from Headwaters, Theatre Orangeville, Orangeville, ON
2016 *Tranquility*, Headwaters Arts Gallery, Alton Mill Arts Centre, Caledon, ON
Works from Ontario, Millcroft Inn & Spa, Caledon, ON
2015 Works from *Tranquility*, Feature Gallery at Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
Caledon, Millcroft Inn & Spa, Caledon, ON
A Roundabout Way, The Gibson Centre, Alliston, ON
Tranquility, Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *Trees*, PhotoPlace Gallery, Middlebury, VT, USA
2019 *RMG Exposed*, Fine art photography auction, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, ON
The Print, John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, ON
Phenom, Invitational show, Headwaters Arts, Alton Mill, Caledon, ON
Master Works of the Ontario Society of Artists, Westland Gallery, London, ON
Society of Canadian Artists 51st Open International Juried Exhibition, Todmorden Mills, Toronto, ON
Members' Exhibition of Selected Works, Ontario Society of Artists, Withrow Common Gallery, Toronto Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON
Noir, Connections Gallery, Toronto, ON
2018 *25th Anniversary Exhibition*, Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
Members' Exhibition of Selected Works, Ontario Society of Artists, Todmorden Mills, Toronto, ON
2018 Annual Ojibway Art Show, Ojibway Club, Pointe Au Baril, ON
Towers to Trees, OCAD University, The Jam Factory T.O., Toronto, ON
Winter, Under the Sun, First Canadian Place Gallery, First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON

- 2017 *Collective Remix*, Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
Ontario Society of Artists New Members' Exhibition, Ontario Society of Artists, John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, ON
RMG Exposed, Fine art photography auction, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, ON
49th National Open Juried Exhibition, Society of Canadian Artists, Todmorden Mills, Toronto, ON
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"
- 2015 *Affordable Art Fair*, Abbozzo Gallery at The Metropolitan Pavilion, New York, USA
Kunterbunt, Durham Art Gallery, Durham, ON
Members' Exhibition of Selected Works, Ontario Society of Artists, Todmorden Mills, Toronto, ON. Award for *Best Work by an Emerging Artist*
Beaux-Arts Brampton Open Juried 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, Ridgetown, ON
Awakenings, Juried show, Headwaters Arts Gallery, Caledon, ON. Juror's Choice Award for "Morning Shadows"

Publications & Interviews

- 2019 [Photographer Peter Dušek is Finding Art's Way in Business](#), *Orangeville Citizen*
[Noir/Chroma Spotlight: Peter Dušek](#), *Connections Gallery*
- 2018 “Headwaters Inspired Profile: Peter Dušek”, *Headwaters Inspired*
- 2017 “Living in the Interval, Artist to Collect: Peter Dusek”, *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*

Affiliations/Memberships

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| 2016 – present | Ontario Society of Artists (director) |
| 2013 – present | Rotary Club of Etobicoke |
| 2018 – 2019 | News Photographers Association of Canada (NPAC) |
| 2017 – 2018 | Society of Canadian Artists |
| 2015 – 2018 | Town of Mono Heritage Advisory Committee |
| 2015 – 2016 | Orangeville Art Group (director) |
| 2014 – 2018 | American Society of Media Professionals (ASMP) |
| 2013 – 2017 | Headwaters Arts |
| 2013 – 2016 | Headwaters Camera Club (president in 2015) |

Education

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

Speaking, Teaching, and Leadership Experience

- 2016 - present Board Member and Webmaster, Ontario Society of Artists
- 2019 Lecture, Architectural Photography, Don Mills Camera Club, Toronto
- 2017 Artist talk, *Shibumi*, West Street Art Center, Madison, IN, USA
- 2017 Artist talk, Ontario Society of Artists, Aurora Cultural Center
- 2017 Artist talk, Abbozzo Gallery and the Art Dealers Association of Canada
- 2015 – 2016 Director and webmaster, Orangeville Art Group
- 2015 *Photography As a Visual Art*, Orangeville Art Group, Orangeville, Ontario
- 2015 - 2016 Co-president, Headwaters Camera Club
- 2014 Entrepreneurship Mentor, 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
- 2000 – 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.
- To 2016 Computer consultant. Software and large-scale database design and programming for numerous large corporations in Ontario.