

5 Minutes with a ViewPoint Member

An Interview with Lynn Ellis

by Madison Bragg, August 2016

Madison: You were a business owner and a dentist in the past. Can you describe how being a self-starter influences your lifestyle as a photographer?

Lynn: *Actually, my interest in photography preceded my career in dentistry. I think my camera has been my way of expressing myself on a deep emotional level. It has been a vital outlet throughout my career and motherhood.*

Madison: Being a business owner, you were a leader for the employees who worked beneath you. How do you think your leadership qualities affect the way you approach getting out there and photographing?



Lynn: *I think leadership and independence go hand in hand. In my photographic practice is to go out to very isolated places ... an unusual activity for anyone... and work. I have always been curious and independent and I think these both have contributed to my leadership skills.*

Madison: Do you ever wonder what your life would have been like if you had always been a photographer?

Lynn: *Yes, I do wonder that. I get so much enjoyment out of photography. It would have been a very different path for me. I'd have surrounded myself with other creatives and it would have brought out different parts of my personality.*

Madison: Your recent work is reflective of the Maritimes?

Lynn: *My photographic practice is to approach landscape (or any other subject matter) without expectation and to shoot from a subconscious place. Images present themselves*



to me that reflect my deep subconscious, feels and emotions that lie deep within. I allow the landscape to have a conversation with me, a conversation that continues when I download, print and view images. Landscape is only one way to do this practice. It works for me presently, the ever-changing fogs, mists, water, reflections etc. are an abundant source of raw material that I use in satisfying my subconscious emotionally.

Madison: Would you say that your immediate surroundings is your favorite thing to photograph?

Lynn: I found the whole world interesting. However, landscapes change constantly and yet don't move. It seems to challenge me as nothing else right now and I am able to draw from it elements that reflect my deep inner self.

Madison: When you began photographing, did you have someone you looked up to in the arts? What kind of influence did you have for your work?

Lynn: I have had many influences, mentors, favorites. Eddies Soloway's landscape work is magical, Cig Harvey's personal photographic work is very inspirational, Howard Greenburg, not a photographer but a painter, pushed me to discover the narrative behind my work, Scott Fuller, my present mentor, pushing me to excellence. There are many more.



Madison: How has being a member of ViewPoint Gallery helped you in producing work?

Lynn: Seeing so much excellent work at ViewPoint has inspired me greatly. I love Roxanne Smith's work and the mystery in it. Eric Boutilier-Brown's commitment to excellence has also had a positive effect. I am extremely happy to be part of the gallery.

Madison: Do you ever photograph in the city?



Lynn: No. You know it's an hour away, and I haven't really done that. I haven't done a lot of street photography – it's just not that accessible to me.

Madison: How did you discover your love for photography?

Lynn: My father loved photography. He was supposed to have a job with the national film board but my mother refused to move to Ottawa. But he always

had a camera on him. He died when I was twenty-two, but I just fell in love with it. I liked that practice of going out and shooting in the middle of nowhere.

Madison: What was your first camera?

Lynn: *It was an SLR. The first very good camera was the Minolta. But I had this cheaper camera and I always had an SLR. I used to have my own dark room and would process my own stuff. I tried to process my own colour but processing colour is very hard so I mostly did colour slides. And I used to photograph at university because we had to document our own cases.*

Madison: 5 quick questions...

Favorite movie?

Lost in Translation

Vacation destination of choice?

Venice, Italy

Coffee or water?

Coffee!!

Favorite artist?

Casper David Friedrich

Favorite decade?

Right now