

Welcome Home

Five Photographers to Open Exhibit at Prendergast Library

Jamestown, New York

Five photographers will collaborate on an exhibit titled "I Call This Home" in the Prendergast Library Art Gallery Sept. 12 through Oct. 17.

Exhibitors include Jennifer Scott Schlick, Kathleen Tenpas, Lori Deemer, Riko Chandra and Mark Kirsch. They will greet guests during an opening reception from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, in the Fireplace Room.

Recalling the drive back to this area from Phoenix, Arizona, where she lived briefly in the late 1970s, Schlick said, "As miles and miles of yellow and brown finally gave way to lush, wet green, I knew I was home. My photographs for this exhibit celebrate that incredible green."

Although taking pictures has been her passion for many years, she began practicing photography seriously in 2006 when she purchased her first Digital SLR camera. She has recently shown her work at the 3rd on 3rd Gallery in Jamestown and at the Lakewood Memorial Library.

Schlick is program director and grant writer at Jamestown Audubon Society Inc. and previously taught math and computer classes at Jamestown Community College.

Western Chautauqua County is home to Tenpas, and almost all of her pictures have been taken here. "These are pictures of what I mean when I say, 'We live in such a beautiful place,'" she explained.

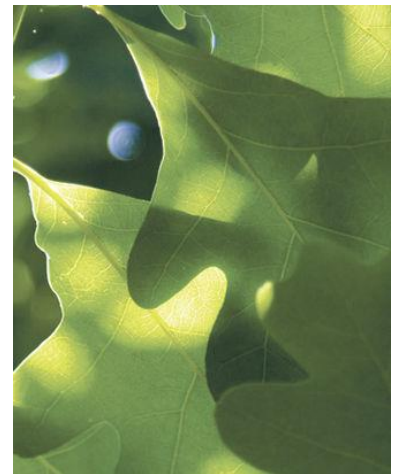
She received her first camera on her eighth birthday. A graduate of JCC, she studied dark room photography with John Heister and used two Olympus OM1 cameras before moving on to digital. She uses handmade paper for photo prints.

Tenpas was raised on a small dairy farm in southwestern New York state and has run another with her husband over the last 42 years. With a master's degree in creative writing from Antioch University, she has worked as an artist in residence in local schools; taught poetry at Chautauqua Institution and presented programs for the Jamestown Audubon Society and the Write Around the Block workshop in Bemus Point.

Deemer describes her pictures as "an exploration of texture, time and personality of place."

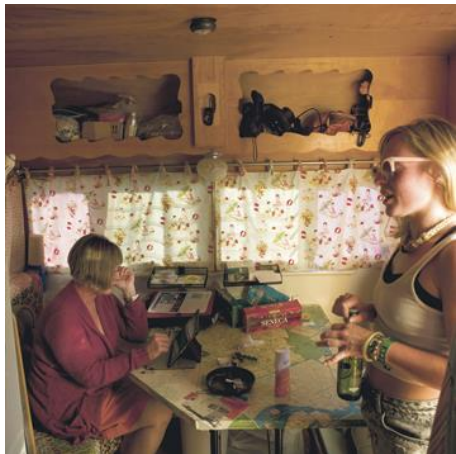
"My work often bridges the gap between a sort of portrait and abstraction, capturing literal details on one level and implied emotion on another," she said.

She studied traditional darkroom photography and started shooting digitally 10 years ago. Today her favorite cameras are a full-frame Canon 5D Mark III and a slightly smaller Fujifilm X-E1.



Originally from Austin, Texas, Deemer now lives in Western New York where she can often be found hiking, snowshoeing or cycling with her camera handy. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio art from the University of Texas at Austin and works at the State University of New York at Fredonia in marketing and communications.

In this exhibit, Chandra explores the concept of home as a temporary space occupied by individuals, families, traveling musicians, musical



festival goers, and even summer vacationers living or traveling in vehicles. He treasured "the exchange of personal stories and earning the trust of the people he photographed" and concluded, "Home is not merely a house. The space may be small and temporary, but the experience is rich and permanent."



As a teenager in the late 1980s, he was inspired to photograph urban street scenes in black and white. He later studied traditional darkroom black and white film development and printing at a community college in Dallas, where his photos won several awards. He belongs to the Chautauqua County Camera Club and Photographic Society of America and recently displayed a portrait series at the 3rd on 3rd Gallery in Jamestown.

Born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, Chandra lives in Sherman and works in Mayville as a cheesemaker and co-owner of Reverie Creamery. His background includes fashion merchandising and journalism, telecommunications, as well as the founding of a classical music organization,

Kirsch was born and raised in Buffalo and has lived for 25 years in Jamestown. He teaches photography at Southwestern High School and Jamestown Community College.

Introduced to black and white film photography in 1979, he focuses on developing modern replications of historical photographic processes. He belongs to the Professional Photographers of America and Buffalo Still Film Photographers and has shown his work in several galleries and museums.



In this exhibit at the library, Kirsch includes a series of pictures about Jamestown that he describes as

"anthropologic and poetic." It results from his fascination with local architecture as an archeological archive that stood "mutely as a city built and changed." He also has a series of pigment prints tying Buffalo's symbolic past to its physical present and following the historic tradition of an excursion along the Niagara Escarpment.

Hours to view "I Call This Home" at Prendergast Library will be 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday.

The next exhibitors will be members of the Chautauqua Region Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America Inc. The library is located at 509 Cherry St., Jamestown. For information, call 484-7135.

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