

Paul Gravett, photographer

Photography was my earliest entry into the creative arts and that was soon followed by music. My piano studies took over and, after earning a performance degree, I worked as a professional musician for several years in Toronto. Over the years, my career has taken several paths, from an agent for musicians to a manager of performing arts centres and a programmer of multi-disciplinary performances. In the midst of this was a foray into floor loom and tapestry weaving, during which time I developed a method of incorporating both styles of weaving. Several shops across Canada carried my weaving, which I called in situ.

A rekindled passion for photography has recently re-entered my life. After years of observations, I am exploring the intersections of photography and contemporary art, in particular the unseen elements of light and the layering of colour and shape.

I explore techniques of capturing abstract effects in the camera, finding ways to extract ethereal qualities that are not visible at casual observation. In 'developing' the image, I tease out elements of light, colour and form to further explore the abstractions.

Exhibitions includes Arts Vancouver, IDS Vancouver, Ferry Building Gallery (West Vancouver, BC), Plasket Gallery (New Westminster, BC), Glasgow Gallery of Photography, LA Artcore's 4th Annual Photographic Competition and Exhibit, Tall Sequoia Gallery (USA), Cultural Center of Cape Cod, and Arts Benicia.

Recent awards include Honourable Mention in the abstract photography category from the International Photography Awards and a Bronze Medal from ThePhotograph. Colour Study #6 was awarded the 2020 Gracie Award, "Best in Show" from the International Society of Experimental Artists.

Statement

In my photography, I explore intersections of photography and contemporary art where light and colour become the subject matter to reveal rich palettes and patterns, as well as layered rhythms and textures. Using well-known photography techniques (depth of field and multiple exposure), all the images start in the camera as I look beyond the object to explore unseen elements and abstractions of the visceral world. Reality recedes and light, colour and pattern create fragments of mysterious 'otherness' in these painterly images.