



Sacramento Bridge © Christine Prickett

Christine Prickett

I was flattered to be asked to provide three images for the DPS news but I could not decide which to pick. I then settled on three photos representing subjects which, until recently, I was not aware I had been taking on a regular basis.

As keen amateurs we often ask ourselves what photographs are we best at shooting or which do we like taking most? Often the answer can be the same to both questions but it can also be completely different.

Elliott Erwit, one of my photographic heroes, has some helpful advice in this regard.

'I think when it comes to finding your style, the more you hunt for it the more it will run away from you. An organic way of finding your style is simply going out and taking strong photos (with good form and content) and then let your style find you. So if you aren't sure what your personal style or vision is— just go out and shoot.'

He goes on to add that looking back at your photographs you might be surprised by the image types that you take most often and the subjects you gravitate to most.

I was!

The following photographs represent this 'surprise' because I had always thought that cities, architecture and street photography was 'my thing'.

Bridges are structures that I seem to be drawn to. I found this out a couple of years ago when searching for an image for a club competition. There are, of course, an infinite variety and I find them totally captivating. Not only their shapes, building material and their construction type but the locations they are to be found in.

My first image shows a road bridge in Sacramento, America. It is one of very many pictures of bridges that I have. I particularly liked this bridge because it is so very Art Deco in style and truly reflects the time it was built in. It was completed in 1935.

Its design and colour is literally quite dazzling and it has a strong shape given by its cast iron material and heavy construction. To me it looks like a big colourful insect ready to devour anything that enters its portals.



Trains © Christine Prickett

This picture is a tiny part of a four-engine two-mile-long BSNF cargo train travelling across the desert in Arizona. I love these trains because they not only provide such strong visual images but because they provide a total sensory experience when they pass you by.

The first inkling that they are approaching is a low rumble, then this is accompanied by a rattling that sounds like hundreds of chains clanking together. As it gets nearer the ground starts to shake and you might be lucky enough to hear a deep-throated hoot. When it is level with you the rattling is deafening, the dust flies and the wind picks up and then it takes an age for all the containers, single or double-decked to go by you. This is how the West was really won!

Because these trains are so long and slow you can easily get some good shots, which is most helpful for someone like me.



Drunken Chairs © Christine Prickett

I take a lot of pictures of chairs. Mostly unsuccessfully! However, I do like the chairs in this photo. The chairs look drunk and disorderly and I don't think anyone would dare sit on them – perhaps that's the joke.

I know I will continue to take chair photos because I can't seem to resist them - hopefully I will get better at it. © Christine Prickett

DPS - WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- 4th - Sept - Members' Evening - Back to Basics - Software.
- 11th - Sept - Competition - Projected - People at Play.
- 18th - Sept - Members' Evening - Mounting Images.
- 25th - Sept - Hollis Trophy Feedback.



© Fred Herzog

Fred Herzog

The Vancouver photographs of Fred Herzog are awash with vibrant colour. They are complex, mysterious, exuberant, and full of life, much like the city he photographed. Fred Herzog was born in 1930 in Germany, and came to Vancouver in 1953. He was employed as a medical photographer by day, and on evenings and weekends he took his camera to the streets, documenting daily life as he observed it. Focusing his camera on storefronts, neon signs, billboards, cafes and crowds of people, he eloquently depicts the architecture of the street as a framework for human interaction, presenting a view of the city that is both critical and elegiac.

Though Fred Herzog has been making photographs for decades, his images of city life in Vancouver in the 1950's and 1960's have only recently been brought to a larger public. A major retrospective at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 2007 was a revelation to those who had known his work only through slides, as well as to a generation of art lovers who had not heard of him at all. Since he was never able to satisfactorily make prints from his slides, the recent possibilities of digital inkjet printing have enabled him to finally print and exhibit this important body of early colour street photography.



© Fred Herzog



[Fred Herzog 2014 - YouTube](#)

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