



David Leech, BTech, PL(Eng), Welltest Specialist & Photographer

What is that? Is that red real? What planet is this from? It looks like a painting... David loves his photographs to illicit comments of curiosity, and wonders what you see, which emotions you feel. Collectors hang David's art, and then decide they have to paint a wall, fire place, or door, to co-ordinate. Sweet! Loving to live with his pictures is David's most cherished reward.

David shot photojournalism and sports for three decades before turning his eye to contemporary art. Tapping expressionist movements like minimalism, cubism, abstraction, and colour field work for inspiration, David's vision is conceptual, experimental, improvisational, impressionistic; fundamental graphics, colours, patterns, shapes, textures, and reflections; without contextual expectations. Visual interpretations, lacking imposed reference points, allowing viewers to engage their own imaginations.



## 2015: *juxta*position

urban concept art  
An abstract eye on downtown architecture. Cityscapes that challenge perception. Locations that confuse and defy spatial relationships. Viewpoint, angle, level, and line [frame] our peripheral vision. Colour fields where less is more than enough.



## 2014: *dere*liction

An eye on things abandoned: obsolete, ignored, forgotten, forlorn, dismissed by our modern predilection for everything new. Vignettes of abstract beauty, hidden away in stuff left behind: crackling, peeling, perishing, disintegrating.



## 2013: *Co*<sub>rr</sub>*o*sion

An abstract eye on metal. Derelict cars, trucks, trains, planes, boats, and bunkers. Artefacts, scrap, detritus, junk. Protective paint layers perish, crackle, flake, and peel away, to slowly expose insidious ferric oxides to the weather.



## 2012: *ion*H<sub>2</sub>O

An abstract eye on water. Reflections, impressions, ripples, patterns, bubbles. Ice cold crystal clear, natural springs, turtles exhaling, rainbows, glaring chromatic aberrations. Orange sludge, black oil, lipstick red flowers, green grass confetti.

## A Family History

1854 – ggggreat Uncle and pioneer cameraman Joseph Lockwood opens Ottawa's very first photography studio in St. George Ward.

1859 – ggggreat Aunt Alvira Lockwood took over her late father's studio. At 16 years old she became the first female professional photographer in Ottawa, specializing in portraiture of the rich and famous, while also teaching art classes.

1874 – gggrandfather Charles W. Davis opened the first Athens studio, shot the first known images of the University of Georgia, and won many photographic art awards at the Georgia State Fair.

1912 – gggrandfather, Doc (Milward B.) Marcell, itinerant rodeo photographer, was the official photographer at the first Calgary Stampede.

1920 – Doc's first son Eddie (Edward F. Marcell) opened the first 'in-and-out' film processing shop in America, catering to sailors on leave, rigged cameras to WWI spy planes, and sold his flash synchronization invention to George Eastman (Kodak).

1954 – my father Peter Leech was a photographer in the US Navy.

1964 – Pop started handing down our family legacy when I was 10. My first pro gig was at a newspaper in 1978.



## 2010's

Published historical photos and articles in Swerve Magazine, Calgary Herald, and Calgary Stampede My Story, related to my great-grandfather's role at the very first Calgary Stampede in 1912. Scanned 1000+ family photos dating back to 1887. Set up the web site. Won Third Place & People's Choice awards at CPC Elevate. Started the Urban Concept Gallery focusing on contemporary fine art photography, opening for Exposure Festival. Vault Magazine, All About Jazz, Apex Corrosion, Art Matakana.



## 2000's

Launched Welltest Specialists Inc. Registered with APEGA. Volunteer photographer for Ghost River Rediscovery, shooting events like their Powwow and the Chief David Crowchild Awards. Switched from film to Nikon digital imaging technology and Adobe photoshop elements, eventually moving up to Lightroom, Photoshop, OnOne.



## 1990's

Graduated from SAIT with a Bachelor of Applied Petroleum Engineering Technology degree. Adventure travel documentaries included: backpacking the West Coast Trail; conga drum and dancing lessons in Matanzas City, Cuba; tall ship sailing on the Soren Larson in New Zealand; and oil and gas fields in the out-back, Australia.



## 1980's

Career transfer to Calgary. Freelanced for the daily Calgary Sun; landed a commercial gig for Travel Alberta; published mountain biking, cross-country skiing, & whitewater kayaking photos in various outdoor sports magazines. Freelanced for the Nelson Daily News and weekly Kootenay Go & Do one year. Shot a photo essay on handicapped accessibility for the National Enquirer. Highlight was shooting all the Calgary Winter Olympics nordic events.



## 1970's

Graduated from NAIT and started a petroleum reservoir engineering career in Drayton Valley, Alberta. I was the official photographer for the weekly Western Review, and became an NPPA member. We won several CCNA awards including:

- First—Best Sports Photo in Canada
- First—Best Sports Page in Canada
- Third—Best Front Page in Canada

Magazine credits include: Off Belay, the Mountain Magazine; and Photo Life.

## Experience

Photojournalism for weekly and daily newspapers focused on sports, events, recreation, and features, as well as the photo essay.

Magazine photography specializing in outdoor adventure and recreation like mountain biking, cross country skiing, whitewater kayaking, and nordic events.

Business and commercial photography specific to on-site reporting.

Food styling and photography, writing, graphic design, publishing.

Contemporary fine art photography. Fine art printing and colour management.

## Contact

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