

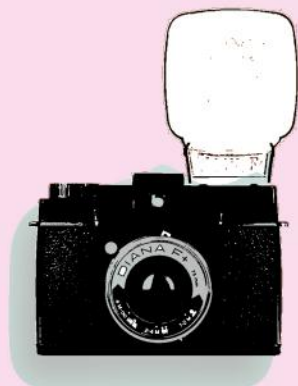


# BETA

developments in  
photography

ISSUE 58 JANUARY 2026





Cover image from the series 'The Bogong diaries' © Laurence McDonald



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# BETA ALUMNI

ADLER Monika #44  
AFSHAR Hoda #2  
AKIMOV Andrey #38  
AL DAGHARI Saleh #36  
AL RAWI Basil #4  
ALTMAN Ben #19  
ANDERSON Lewis #28  
ANDERSON Ri #22 & #50  
ASHTON Robert #46  
AZHAR Che' Ahmad #18  
BACON KIDWELL Angela #5 & #16  
BAKER Ben #41  
BARKER Mandy #13  
BATEMAN Edward #22  
BECKER Craig #19  
BELL Marcus #53  
BENSON Steven #46  
BIDEGAIN Ray #47  
BINI Alfredo #24  
BIRD Leon #11 & #16  
BLACKWOOD Christa #10  
BLAKE Jason #26  
BLANCH Alice #5  
BLINKINSOP Philip #38  
BODIN John #10  
BOGACZEWICZ Peter #41  
BOGARTTE J Karl #37  
BOGUE Terence Stewart #6  
BONANNO Simona #7  
BOSCAINI Gloria #50  
BRADLEY Todd #22  
BURNSTINE Susan #9  
CAGA Jan #15  
CARLILE Brad #12  
CARTIER F & D #10  
CASH Neil #1 & #23  
CATO John #6  
CHAMBERS Tom #39  
CHANG He #15  
CHASKIELBERG Alejandro #16  
CHEN Calvin #22  
COBURN Daniel #26  
COCKBURN Gary #18  
CONE Cathy #50  
CONROY Juliette #10  
COOPER Dean #36

CRAVER Neil #8  
CRESPO Carlos #11  
CRISPIN Judith #1 & #30  
DANIEL Sandy #31  
DAOUST Nathalie #24  
DARE PARKER David #49  
DATTO Arko #18  
DAVIES Owen #54  
DAWSON Alec #10  
DAY Lee #57  
DE MAAR Marrigje #6  
DECYK Slavo #1  
DE LUCA Gianmaria #55  
DENEVAN Monica #35  
DEPERLINGHI Jerome #37  
DHERVILLERS Nicolas #16  
DOUGLAS Mieke #55  
DUNPHY Peter #4  
DUPONT Stephen #16  
DYACHYSHYN Yurko #4 & #16  
ELMS Greg #5  
ELY Allyson #53  
ERB Carol #22  
ESTABROOK Argus Paul #28  
EVANS SMITH Heather #54  
EVERTON Samantha #28  
FAHRENKEMPER Claudia #6  
FORMAN Fran #34  
FOURNET Annette #14  
FREDERICKS Scott #24  
GEORGE Daniel #25  
GILLET Francois #52  
GLATTAUER Silvi #17  
GOLDFINCH Karena #1 & #46  
GOLLINGS John #1  
GRIES Patrick #3  
GRIFFIN Brian #39  
GRIFFITH Tim #1  
HABERL Judy #35  
HARDING PITTMAN Robert #9  
HARMAN Amanda #19  
HARRIS Sam #16  
HARSENT Simon #15 & #55  
HASI #30  
HASUMI Hiroaki #57  
HAY John #12

HEITCHUE Jackie #48  
HENDERSON Darren #35  
HENSHAW JK #40  
HEWITT Tony #6  
HIRSCH Robert #56  
HOLLOWAY Craig #7  
HOOPER Mark #29  
HOPE Tim #3  
HORAN Keith #9  
HORIUCHI Ryotaro #37  
HOVSEPIAN Aram #22  
HULDEN Jodie #48  
ISAAK Carol #30  
JACKSON Tony #8  
JANTZEN Ellen #25  
JANTZEN Michael #23  
JEON Diana Nicholette #37  
JIE Pan #35  
JOERGENSEN Ole Marius #21  
JONES David #50  
JOREN Gerhard #1  
JOSLIN Russell #6  
KAIN Sharon #29  
KANASHKEVIC Mitchell #16  
KARLINSKI Wojciech #43  
KATSAROVA Boryana #16  
KAZANJIAN Jim #27  
KEARNEY Tony #2  
KEEVER Kim #18  
KELLNER Thomas #16  
KEMP Ian #38  
KERN RJ #33  
KIM Sungmin #23  
KIRKPATRICK Bear #12  
KISTNER Horst #31  
KLEIN Sandra #26  
KOURAKOU Antigone #45  
KOZHANOVA Mariya #11  
KOZKA Bronek #49  
KRIVIC Matjaz #20  
KRUGH Kent #12  
KURLAT Galina #4  
LABOILE Alain #47  
LANGFORD Mike #56  
LECHNER Jurgen #13  
LEUNIG Helga #23



LEVENTIS Chris #54	RASMANIS Kara #1 & #16	SURRATT Dawn #38
LEVY Moises #54	REED Mike #44	SUTTON Jonny #49
LIPSKY Clay #3	REINHART Johannes #21	TACON Dave #16
LONG Jane #16	REZA #47	TADROS Ingetje #14
MACAK Sonia #6	RIBART Guilhem #52	TERLIZZI JP #32
MACRAE Sheena #6	RIDER Paul #45	THOMSON Matt #17
MALEK Nasser #57	RODICK Frank #40	VANDERHILST Robert #49
MALEONN #1 & #6	ROGERS PRITZL Michelle #13	VANNIER Michele #16
MARCIN Ben #3	ROPP William #14	VANWELLEGHEM Frederick #3
MARSHALL Steve #8	ROSS Doc #6	VEZKY Martin #32
MARTINEZ Rebecca #43	ROTHER Frank #9	VERSTEEG Greer #11
MARTINO Andrea #53	RUOTED Robert #5	VICTOR Eric #46
MASON Belinda #16	SAGUY Dotan #33	VINCIGUERRA Guy #6
MASTERS Michael #8	SALGO Roberto #57	VLASENKO Vsevolod #15
MATHIESON Malcolm #44	SARINANA Joshua #28	VUKOBRATOVIC Rina #4
MATTHEWS Janet #52	SASAKI Kazuhiro #32	WADDINGTON Rod #5
MC CAIG Amber #16	SCALONE Steve #41	WAGENSTEIN Oded #31
MC GRATH Mick #27	SCHAFER Rod #2	WALLS Rob #20
MC KEAN Charles #56	SCHEURWATER Hester #6	WALTON HEALEY Nicholas #36
MC KIECH Murray #43	SCHILL Allen #30	WASHBURN Peggy #41
MEEHAN Niall #39	SCHMIDT Kyra #26	WERTHEIM Andres #13
MELDER Keith #17	SCHNEIDER Wendi #40	WESTON Grace #44
MILLER Nathan #7	SCHNELL Jean #27	WEYLAND Ingrid #48
MILLOTT Richard #16	SCIBELLI Anthony #9	WILKES Becky #32
MIRACOLO Debbie #45	SCRIBA J #16	WILLIAMS David A #16
MOORFOOT Jeff #55	SEYBOLD Silke #36	WILLIAMS Michelle #17
MORAN Robert #14	SEXTON-LARSON Rebecca #42	WITHAM Kimberly #53
NINOMIYA Naohiro #23	SHANEWAZ KHAN Mohammed #42	WITMAN Deanna #3 & #33
NORTON Michael #1	SHAYEN Vikk #2 & #6	WRIGHT Rick #33
O' SHEA Meredith #6	SHEN Chao Liang #20	WRIGLEY Ben #16
PAGE Colin #6	SHEPPARD Gary #7	YU Ningtai #34
PAINE Jeff #17	SHERROD Judy F #5	ZAHORNACKY Michal #56
PALIOS Christos J #45	SHIM Jai Yon #2	ZAMMIT LUPI Darrin #16
PANEBIANCO Catherine #48	SIKORA Tomek #25	ZEILON Elisabeth #6
PANG XianLiang #16 & #27	SIMONUTTI Lauren #1	ZEISS Rebecca #34
PAPAS VERGARA Vicky #24	SMALLMAN John #17	ZHAO Zengyi #21
PARASCANDOLA Mark #34	SPENCER Jack #43	ZUPCO Ion #47
PAYNE Christopher #19	STALLER Jan #20	
PENG Abbey #25	STAPLES Tamara #39	
PENG Xiangjie #21	STERNBACH Joni #18	
PERETTI Viviana #2	STEVENS S Gayle #5	
PESTEREV Sergey #29	STEWART Rodney #42	
PETRUCCELLI Louis #52	STILLINGS Jamey #40	
POND Lori #29	STONE Elizabeth #42	
RANKEN Jackie #6	STONEMAN Emma #7	
RANSOM & MITCHELL #19	SUNDET Dida #17	







Laurence McDONALD  
AUSTRALIA

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*The  
Bogong  
diaries*

Barbara PEACOCK  
USA

[www.barbarapeacockphotography.com](http://www.barbarapeacockphotography.com)

*SEARCHING for the  
SAME LIGHT*

John CUSTODIO  
USA

[www.johncustodiostudio.com](http://www.johncustodiostudio.com)

*ON THE ROAD:  
STRUCTURES*

Nicoletta CERASOMMA  
ITALY

[www.nicolettacerasomma.it](http://www.nicolettacerasomma.it)

**THE  
SECRET  
QUESTION**





# *The Bogong diaries*

LAURENCE McDONALD





“Mountains embody power, silence and the mind.” - *Source unknown*

This is an ongoing project documenting hikes and snowboarding trips to Mt. Bogong, Victoria.

My connection to the ever majestic and unforgiving Mt. Bogong starts with a little town called Tawonga which sits at the southern end of the Kiewa Valley north of the Bogong High Plains. My father's family lived in this cute little town until they moved to Frankston, Victoria when he was a teenager. During his youth, my father would hike the Bogong High Plains and the surrounding mountains. His grandmother continued to live in Tawonga for years and the whole family would visit her. From Tawonga you could see Mt. Bogong, always there, forever overlooking us.

With the help of my lens, my connection to this beautiful place has increased immensely. It is such a peaceful part of this country, so wild and free. We must continue the conservation of this unique Alpine ecosystem for our future generations.

S.

*Looking out to the summit of Mt. Bogong in spring*





*A singalong of 'Mad World'*









*Cleve Cole Hut window looking out onto the Home Run*



*Cleve Cole Hut in winter*









*An old ravaged tree covered in ice on the tree line*









*Tent city with the milky way above in*





*spring*





*Classic blue hues over the alpine region*









*A public journal entry and drawing from his daughter*



*The remains of Snow Gums from a previous bush fire*





*e in 2003 that was started by lighting*





*Wild grasses and flowers in spring*





*My oldest brother Ben*





*Trekking outbound*



*Snow Gum leaves encrusted with ice*









*Hiking to a refuge hut on Mt. Bogong above the tree line*














*Cleve Cole Hut under the milky way in winter*





*Laurence McDonald is an artist and a visual storyteller with instinctive design and creativity sensibilities. Photography gives him the opportunity to embrace his love of nature, people, and the urban landscape. When alone in the wilderness, these moments of meditative stillness add an extra dimension to what he sees through his lens.*

*He comes from a film and tv background and currently works as a content producer. He does photography in his spare time.*

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*My oldest brother snowboarding*



# SEARCHING *for the* SAME LIGHT

*Through moments of labor, routine, weather, sacrifice, community, and family life, the images capture the rhythm of the seasons, honest hard work, and the enduring connection between people, the land, and the animals they cherish. Over time, my journey brings me to the kitchens, barns, fields, and gathering spaces of my families, where everyday gestures hold a quiet strength. These images embody the heart of rural Maine as well as the heart of humankind - authentic, timeless, and full of the poetry found in everyday life, suggesting that even the smallest routines carry a deeper search for meaning. I frame this search through the lens of Warsan Shire's poem "The Unbearable Weight of Staying", using the idea of light as both a literal and symbolic thread. It reflects the idea that, regardless of our ideologies, politics, or beliefs, we're all ultimately searching for the same things - love, family, health, and a good life - with a bit of light shining on us. Even the animals are closely connected to the natural world, and the 'light.' The metaphor perfectly captures the essence of what I'm trying to convey with this project." This series traces the resilience of people rooted in the land while questioning how place and belonging continue to shape our identities. Amidst the turmoil and unrest across our country, we continue to stand on the shoulders of farmers - those steadfast stewards of the land who teach us reverence, drawing strength from their toil, ever reminding us of the natural order. What emerges is a reflection on shared human needs - for stability, for connection, for hope.*







BARBARA PEACOCK





























































































[WWW.BARBARAPEACOCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM](http://WWW.BARBARAPEACOCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)





**Barbara Peacock** is an assignment photographer and director living in Portland, Maine. She studied fine arts at Boston University School of Fine Arts, and photography and filmmaking at The School for the Museum of Fine Arts / Tufts University. She began as a street photographer and gradually became an assignment lifestyle photographer and director. Her commercial clients include Disney, Nickelodeon, French's, Arm & Hammer, Stride Rite, Merck Pharmaceutical, Tylenol, Wells Fargo & Toyota.

Editorial clients include People, Newsweek, Family Circle, Oprah, Family Fun. In 2016 she published *Hometown –1982-2015*, a thirty-year photographic project of the small town where she grew up and continued to live as an adult. Published by BazanPhotos Publishing, Brooklyn NY. Printed in the USA by Puritan Capital.

In 2023 she published *American Bedroom*, reflections on the nature of life. It is a cultural and anthropological study of Americans in their private dwelling; the bedroom. It encompasses the entire United States and took seven years to complete. Published by Kehrer-Verlag & Printed in Heidelberg, Germany.

Barbara has won the Getty Editorial Grant, the Women Photograph/Getty Grant, four LensCulture Awards, four Top 50 Critical Mass Awards, and was named one of the Top 100 Photographers in America 2020. She was recently awarded the Arthur Gribin Legacy Award from The Gribin Museum. She founded 'The Nightingale Project', a non-profit organization that teaches art and photography to disadvantaged children and with learning disabilities. She teaches locally as well as having traveled to Haiti, Cambodia and New York.



I'm primarily a landscape photographer and for many years I've traveled to different parts of the United States to photograph landscapes, but with no particular project or unifying concept in mind. Among the resulting photographs would be an occasional landscape with an architectural or other man-made element. Many places where I've traveled to are in wide-open spaces and I seemed to be attracted to the lone structure, sometimes in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by the landscape. For want of a better term, I just call these "structures" — lone buildings, towers, monuments, statues, remains of dwellings, even natural objects. Some are merely functional, some are commemorative, and some are surviving remnants of what once was. Initially I discovered these structures by accident, but as the concept of this project started to form, I purposefully researched places to stop at during my trips. Even so, the results of the last few trips were actually a mixture of researched sites, as well as structures that were waiting quietly along the way to be serendipitously discovered. This is a selection of photographs from my book *On the Road: Structures* focusing on some of the statues I encountered in my cross-country travels.



# ON THE ROAD:

JOHN CUSTODIO





# STRUCTURES

*Tex Randall, Canyon, Texas*





*World's Largest Bobblehead, Bellville, Ohio*





*Our Lady of Peace Shrine, Pine Bluffs, Wyoming*





*World's Largest Holstein Cow, New Salem, North Dakota*





*Dragon, Caryville, Tennessee*





*Cowboy, Conlen, Texas*









*Dancing Hares, Dublin, Ohio*









*Alien Research Center, Crystal Springs, Nevada*









*Skeleton Man Walking Skeleton Dinosaur, I-90, South Dakota*









*Trojan Horse, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin*









*World's Largest Moose, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan*





*Two Dinosaurs, Drumheller, Alberta*





*Sunny the Banana, Melita, Manitoba*





*White Horse, Lincoln County, Nevada*






*Prairie Dog, Cactus Flat, South Dakota*





*Thelma and Louise, Hardeeville, South Carolina*





***John Custodio** is a New York City-based fine art photographer. His photographs have been exhibited at Soho Photo Gallery in New York City and are represented in the corporate collections of Pfizer Inc., Hahn and Hessen, Cleary Gottlieb, and State Street Bank. His images have been featured in a range of photography publications, including LensWork, Black & White, and Shadow & Light magazines. He enjoys traveling in search of landscapes that carry a sense of history, often drawn to places where natural beauty and human presence intersect. Before turning to photography full time, Custodio spent many years in the video industry as a documentary editor, also working in color correction and sound. His work in video and photography have reinforced each other, shaping his visual sensibility. Since retiring from video production, he has dedicated himself fully to the pursuit of fine art photography.*

[WWW.JOHNCASTODIOSTUDIO.COM](http://WWW.JOHNCASTODIOSTUDIO.COM)





*Lewis and Clark at the Confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, Kaw Point, Kansas*



# THE SECRET QUESTION



NICOLETTA CERASOMMA





*Within the space of a frame, I try to build a confluence of dream and reality, concealing a darker sense of mystery and unease. I want to create a world showing a dream and a nightmare where anxiety, melancholy, and boredom seem so beautiful that it is impossible to look away.*

*The observer asks himself intriguing questions, starting from the single image, to the point of wondering on the entire surrounding reality.*

*I am intrigued by the dream theory: I want to reach the unconscious, unleashing meaningful juxtapositions between apparently unconnected elements. My goal in photography is to bring to light what is usually hidden and to unlock the darkness in all of us.*

*My photographs are meant to be read and analyzed. Colour and symbolism are deeply related to empathize the image.*

*I want my concept of art to move beyond the photography. I love to represent stories in a painterly way. My series show a particular feeling reflecting the juxtaposition of real and surreal, fantasy and dream into reality.*





*The steps*





*Prohibition ends at last!*





*Alcohol is a good preservative for everything but secrets*





*Whispered secrets*





*A classy and fabulous woman*





*The Stranger*





*First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes you*





*Elegance is when the inside is as beautiful as the outside*





*It happened one night*





*If you are sad, add lipstick and attack*





*Contemporary times*





*He looked at her the way all girls like to be looked at*





*Tomorrow is another day*





*The Secret Question*





*True beauty is being yourself*





*Waiting for*

***Nicoletta Cerasomma** is an Italian artist who stands out in the contemporary art scene for her refined originality and for an approach that eludes any conventional definition. Her research unfolds in a realm of relentless experimentation, where photography becomes infused with painterly gestures, the materiality of elements, and the very unpredictability of nature.*

*Nothing is left to chance, and yet chance itself becomes an essential part of her process: the artist embraces uncertainty as a creative tool, layering images, superimposing visions, constructing an esoteric mosaic of signs and suggestions. Photography becomes a mental space, a territory to be explored where every shot can be rewritten, reimagined, made unique.*

*Since 2020, she has received important recognition: finalist at the Sony World Photography Awards in the Creative category, winner for five consecutive years of American Photography, and named Talent of the Year in 2021 by FreshEyes and GUP Magazine. Her works have been exhibited in international galleries in New York, London, Paris, Berlin, and Milan, consolidating her presence within the contemporary art scene.*

**WWW.NICOLETTACERASOMMA.IT**





BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON