

It's Back- The Inspiration Challenge (2024-25 Edition!)

- Check out the following 6 themes/locations for photography.
- Between now and Feb. 16, 2025, capture images that fit the themes (your interpretation of the themes); visit the given location and photograph what you see there. It's always interesting to see how everyone interprets the same things differently. You may do all or some of the themes.
- Have fun! Try something you've never done before.
- Resist the urge to dig into your archives for images; the point is to get everyone out shooting! Photos must be taken between now and Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025.
- Cell phone photos are welcome.
- Once you have covered all 6 topics, pick your best one from each topic and resize them to 1920 pixels (wide) x 1080 pixels (tall).
- Save your images as JPGs, sRGB colour space.
- Name your images with the theme # (1-6) and your name. Example: 1_Jane Smith (*In the case of Theme #2 (Emotion) include the emotion you have portrayed. Example: 2_Jane Smith_Fear*)
- Email your 6 images to dbauer@niagaraphoto.org no later than midnight, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025.
- All the submissions will then be compiled into a slideshow and will be published on YouTube mid-March and showcased at our March Member's Night meeting.
- There is no cost to participate.
- Submissions are open to everyone, not only camera club members.
- Submissions will not be scored- no competition pressure.
- Happy Shooting Everyone!

1. GARDENS AT PILLAR AND POST, 48 JOHN ST., NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Inspired by artist Claude Monet's lush gardens in Giverny, France, the Gardens at the Pillar and Post were designed as a unique wedding and event venue. The centerpiece is the lily pond with a replica of Monet's famous Japanese bridge. Other features include a man-made waterfall, lush gardens, a barn built from wood harvested from a 100-year old structure, and many other unique finishing touches. Situated in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake, it's directly across the street from the Pillar and Post, 48 John St., NOTL. Parking is in the lot one block away at the end of Regent St. (NOTE: the Gardens may occasionally be closed for private events on weekends so plan your visit with that in mind).

2. EMOTION

Joy, Fear, Anger, Love, Tranquility, and Melancholy are some of the basic human emotions. Choose one of these and aim for an image that conveys or evokes that particular emotion. However, the image must not contain human faces. (Optional: if you really want to challenge yourself, don't include humans in the image at all!)

3. TRASH TO TREASURES ("WABI-SABI")

They say one man's trash is another man's treasure. Prove it by finding your subjects in items that others would consider castoffs, garbage or rusty old junk. Photograph your subjects (or a certain aspect of a subject) in such a way that they become interesting, perhaps even beautiful. The Japanese have a word for it- "Wabi-Sabi". It means "finding beauty in imperfection."

4. TOY STORY

It's time to play- raid your kids' or grandkids' toy box to find your subjects- dolls, Barbies, action figures, toy cars, Legos, etc. (Due to their size, action figures are easy to arrange and shoot from multiple angles. Bring the scene to life by having the figures interact with each other). Toys of any kind make a perfect still life/tabletop theme.

5. ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS/ MINIMALISM

With close attention to composition, capture images of architectural details, taking a minimalist approach. Think simple, clean lines, patterns, and shapes, while exploring unique viewpoints. Your choice of colour or monochrome; interiors or exteriors.

6. IN THE STYLE OF: VIVIAN MAIER

Vivian Maier was an American street photographer whose body of work was discovered after her death. She took over 150,000 photos in her lifetime, mainly black and white candid shots of people she saw on the streets of Chicago and New York in the 1950s and 60s. Take a photo in the style of Vivian Maier <https://www.vivianmaier.com/>

But unlike Vivian, don't hide your images from the rest of the world- share them with us on Member's Night in March!