



Seeing Seattle

Group *f/5.6*, a Seattle area photographers' salon, is pleased to announce *Seeing Seattle*, an exhibition of work by fourteen photographers. *Seeing Seattle* celebrates the complexity, vitality, beauty, and diversity of our metropolitan area on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the naming of the city that dominates it.

Our metropolitan area is a vast jigsaw puzzle. Isolated pieces of the puzzle are famous or infamous; Skid Road, Rosietheriveter, the Space Needle, "Will the last person out of Seattle turn out the lights?", Boeing airplanes, grunge music, the "Most Livable City" award, "Wedon'ttan, werust.", the WTO demonstrations, EMP, Starbucks Coffee. Each of these puzzle pieces represents a tiny fragment of information about Seattle. So do each of the countless pieces that aren't well known.

No single person can even see all the pieces, let alone know how they fit together. Each of us knows well the handful of pieces that make up our own neighborhood, place of employment, school, commuting route, favorite restaurants and soon. We get occasional glimpses of more of the pieces but there are a lot more that we have never seen. We don't even know that they exist.

Moreover, how often do we look very carefully at even our own pieces of the puzzle? How often in our busy lives do we notice details; the curve of a handrail, sunlight on a ship's side, the sweep of a bridge we cross every day?

Seeing Seattle – nor any other exhibition – is not going to show all of the pieces of the puzzle or even all of the pieces missing from any one person's view of the puzzle. However, it does fill in some of the gaps; show you places you haven't seen in our city, show you things that you could have seen but didn't notice.

Seeing Seattle is a large project, around 150 photographs, comprising 14 projects each from the perspective of an individual artist – showing one piece of their personal puzzle. Interested members of Group *f/5.6* each submitted an idea for a short photo essay to show one aspect of our area's visual presence.

The pages that follow contain preliminary artist's statements and an image from each project.

Group *f/5.6*

Group *f/5.6* is an informal organization open to anyone with a serious interest in taking and printing photographs as an art form. Founded in March 1996, it meets twice a month at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue. Smaller groups meet every other week specifically to discuss work-in-progress.

The name is a light-hearted reference to Group *f/64*, the group of photographers (including Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham and Edward Weston) that pioneered the style of photography emphasizing ultra-sharp images and dramatic tonal range. While we certainly do not share Group *f/64*'s dedication to a particular style or subject matter, we do share the need for a supportive peer group with which to discuss our work, to exchange advice both on technical and aesthetic aspects of photography, and to encourage us to work actively.

Group *f/5.6*'s members are experienced artists with wide-ranging interests in medium and subject matter. Our members have published and shown their work widely in local and national galleries and competitions.

Group *f/5.6* members contributing to "*Seeing Seattle*" are:

Jan Bogle, Bellevue
Alex Brikoff, Bothell
Joe Budne, Bellevue
Jim Cecil, Issaquah
David Clarridge, Seattle
Ron Hammond, Bellevue
Craig Huber, Woodinville

Katrina Kruse, Duvall
Richard McGehee, Bellevue
Trish Oates, Seattle
Bill Saltzstein, Woodinville
S. L. Soos, Mt. Vernon
Diane Stefanich, Issaquah
Bryan Willman, Kirkland



Jan Bogle
“Inner Views”

Seattle is famous for the medical research done at “The Hutch”, the University of Washington, and the burgeoning biotech industry. Less visible but equally important is Seattle’s leadership in rehabilitative medicine/patient care.

“Inner Views” provides an insider’s view into contemporary technology and personnel at Virginia Mason hospital and Medical Center. “Inner Views” will also include quotations by healthcare professionals to provide vision of future advances in medicine.



Alex Brikoff
“All in the details”

A city is defined by the parts that make it up; people, streets, parks, urban culture -- its architecture. Monuments such as the Space Needle, EMP, and the Smith Tower are the most obvious visual aspect of the city but it is the details close to the viewer’s eye, often lost in the noise, that make strolling down city streets a pleasure.

Explore texture, light, and scale as seen in architectural details in this project.



Jim Cecil
“Kayak’s Eye View”

The once meandering Duwamish River is today home to one of the busiest container shipping facilities along the Pacific Rim. The tranquil view from water level contrasts with the bustling industry at street level. Patterns of industry are reflected in the glowing light of daybreak and sunset. Towering cranes yield to towering skyscrapers and finally, towering Mt. Rainier.

This project shows the water level view of the Duwamish as seen from my kayak.



David Clarridge
“Quiet Places”

Seattle has become a city where traffic congestion and the ever-increasing pace of daily life and work leave many of us crying out for some balance to help us maintain the quality of life which has helped define this city for so long.

Fortunately, Seattle is also a city filled with quiet places in which we can slow down, reflect, and just be. Even in the midst of the downtown concrete jungle it’s just a matter of seeking them out, and putting yourself in the proper state of mind.

In this project I compile a series of images showing where, and how, the city helps us find our center.



Joe Budne
“Art appreciation”

Culture in and around Seattle is alive and well, with innovative programs and exhibits drawing crowds to new museums, galleries and concert halls.

My project looks at the way we perceive art; observing people in unguarded moments and capturing their reactions and behavior. I like the unexpected, often mysterious, results enhanced by the spice of chance and happy accident.

The Seattle Art Museum and nearby Benaroya Hall are great places for people-watching as is the new Bellevue Art Museum.



Ron Hammond
“Thomas Street Garden”

The Thomas Street Garden is one of Seattle’s many community gardens – so-called P-patches. It is tucked into a very urban area just east of Broadway on Thomas. Barely a city lot, it is divided into tiny plots each of which is lovingly cultivated, mostly with flowers but also with tomato and pepper plants and even potatoes. It is a place of quiet and contemplation in one of the city’s busiest and most eclectic neighborhoods.

This project shows the contrast between the busy city and the garden, the friendship among the people who garden there, and the quiet pleasure they take from the simple act of cultivating the soil.



Craig Huber
“Aviation Scene Seen”

Living in the Seattle area, we are fortunate to benefit from the positive impact that private and commercial aviation has had on our region. Like most elements of industrial design, aircraft are forced to balance form and function. While function must come first to ensure the safety of pilots and passengers, the designs themselves are still fascinating to behold.

In this project I capture the creative design elements of aircraft with design roots in the Seattle area.



Katrina Kruse
“Puget Sound Looking Back”

For this project I photographed the eyes of all the creatures that stare down when I venture into their territory - Puget Sound. Fish, octopus and skates all take interest in Seattle as we slip below the surface -- my images show Puget Sound Looking Back.



Bill Saltzstein
“A Pig’s Eye View”

Throughout the summer of 2001 downtown Seattle hosted a spectacle of pigs. Hundreds of decorated fiberglass pigs were distributed on downtown sidewalks and businesses, each in the likeness of Rachel, the Pike Place Market’s beloved piggy bank. These pieces of art suggested an opportunity for seeing Seattle from the viewpoint of the pigs: a pig’s eye view of Seattle.

This porkfolio explores the the pig’s eye view as well as the use of textures, reflections, and titles to add humor, irony, and food for thought to the images.



Richard McGehee
“On Reading”

The greater Seattle area is a prominent example of a well-read populace engaged in pursuit of knowledge, learning, and entertainment. Seattle is a reading metropolis with busy bookstores, libraries, and newsstands, suggesting that education is a continuing process, that reading is more than a learning experience or mere entertainment. It is a responsibility. It is a passion. It is a joy.

This project shows how reading and the love of books are part of Seattle’s daily life.



Diane Stefanich
“Spiritual Places”

With the hectic pace of life in general, we all need spiritual places to renew ourselves and to reconnect with the earth. My aim for this project is to show that these spaces still exist, even in the middle of Seattle’s most urban areas.

This project shows that it isn’t necessary to travel more than a few miles in any direction to find these little oases which are so important in bringing balance to our daily lives.



Trish Oates
“Two or four legs”

Are parks play an important role in the lives of Seattle area residents. Whether promoting our values of conservation and the respect for all life, making our area safer, or just a place to go and enjoy spending time with family and friends, the wide variety of our city parks enriches our lives.

This project shows how important our parks are to the city’s inhabitants — with two or four legs.



S.L. Soos
“Live Performance”

The images in this portfolio were made during live performances at local Seattle venues. Aural and visual energies combine in intricate ways to open pathways of communication between the artists and the audience. Even the casual observer is struck by the energy, life, and soul given to the lyrics and music by the performers.

These images capture some small portion of the spirit with which these performances were delivered.



Bryan Willman
“Getting there is half the fun.”

The transportation system of Seattle and the metro area is defined by bridges. It’s hard to live in Seattle (and especially the East Side) without seeing them, crossing them, cursing them, sometimes parking on them....

These images are about aspects of bridges that we see every day but seldom look at and about aspects we easily could see — but choose not to. All of these photos were taken from ordinary places, with ordinary access (driving over the bridge, traveling under it in a boat, walking under it over public walkways).

