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RICHARD AUSTIN

Richard Austin is a Canadian photographer and filmmaker currently living in Chelsea, Québec. Born of British and Canadian parents, Richard was brought up in England, South Africa and Canada and, over the last four decades, has lived on five continents. He displayed visual talents as a young man, sketching and drawing and then studying and practicing graphic art. He learned about photography and filmmaking while exploring the streets of Montréal, shooting shapes and objects, both human and artificial, under northern shadows and light.

"What is form? What inhabits a form? How do shapes define how we perceive reality? This is what I'm after." His images of objects and space contain strong graphic elements that feature well-defined lines, curves and moments set in contrasting intensities of dark and light. There is a fragmented quality to his style that he likens to the glimpses of reality that come to those who see art as a meditative

space. "In the moment of seeing, right now, if your attention is full on, shadows and light take on another form. The moment is charged with a surreal power that messes up what the seer believes or thinks he's seeing. And those moments can be fanciful, light, graceful and humorous."

Richard's images capture elusive moments and suggest a meaning that only the seer can identify. In his work, the use of natural light helps create moods that add a dramatic tension to the composition.

"Through the lens I glance at what's going on, and I'm drawn to quiet but strong spaces that create impact to my eyes and hopefully also to the viewer." Some of his images are startling or intriguing, even disquieting, betraying a sensual anticipation for what will come next. Richard is currently exhibiting at La Petite Mort Gallery in Ottawa (www.lapetitemortgallery.com). His web site is at www.richardaustin.ca and email address is richardaustin@sympatico.ca



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