

10 Years of Digital Photography: 2005 - 2014



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2nd Edition

Dedicated to Elsie and Tiff - 2021

Preface

I had been using a camera and taking photos since I was about 7~8 years old in Hong Kong. I remember my dad's Contax RTS II very well. He had the f1,7/50mm and f/2,8/28mm Carl Zeiss prime lenses along with a 35-70mm Yashica zoom lense. I received that camera setup as a gift for my 17th birthday. I was thrilled to get my hands on it. I would blow through countless rolls of 35mm film during my senior year of high school. That camera and lense meant a lot to me as it was my dad's camera that he had when I was born. I've literally known that camera all my life. It won't be until the 2009 Boxing Day Sale that I acquire a Digital SLR where Futureshop had the outgoing model: Olympus E-420 DSLR on sale for \$350.

Between 2005 and 2010 I had experimented with primitive compact digital cameras, mostly with less than satisfactory results. I didn't shoot nearly as much as I did when I first got my Contax RTS II. Something was missing, something had gone wrong, something wasn't quite right. I was in a dark place and didn't have much desire to remember these times. Not much was of interest or worth capturing to me. My then girlfriend Elsie noticed this and wanted to get me to take up photography again, so she bought me a Sony W-7 compact digital camera. It had a PASM mode dial allowing me a bit of manual control and it ran on 2x AA batteries. I did like it quite a lot and took it on our honeymoon trip to Hawaii. It also helped that it's got Carl Zeiss written on the lense. It was her meeting her friend Peggy at Glenmore Inn that got me picking up photography again. I would hear about this person who'd take a sizable camera bag with her wherever she went. Whether it was to work or just out and about, it didn't matter, the camera bag went with her. I was inspired, and began taking my camera with me more and more. I still don't take my camera everyday, but if I set out to do something, I'll take it along with me. I have my phone camera for the everyday things.

2005



Celeste



Cascade Mountain



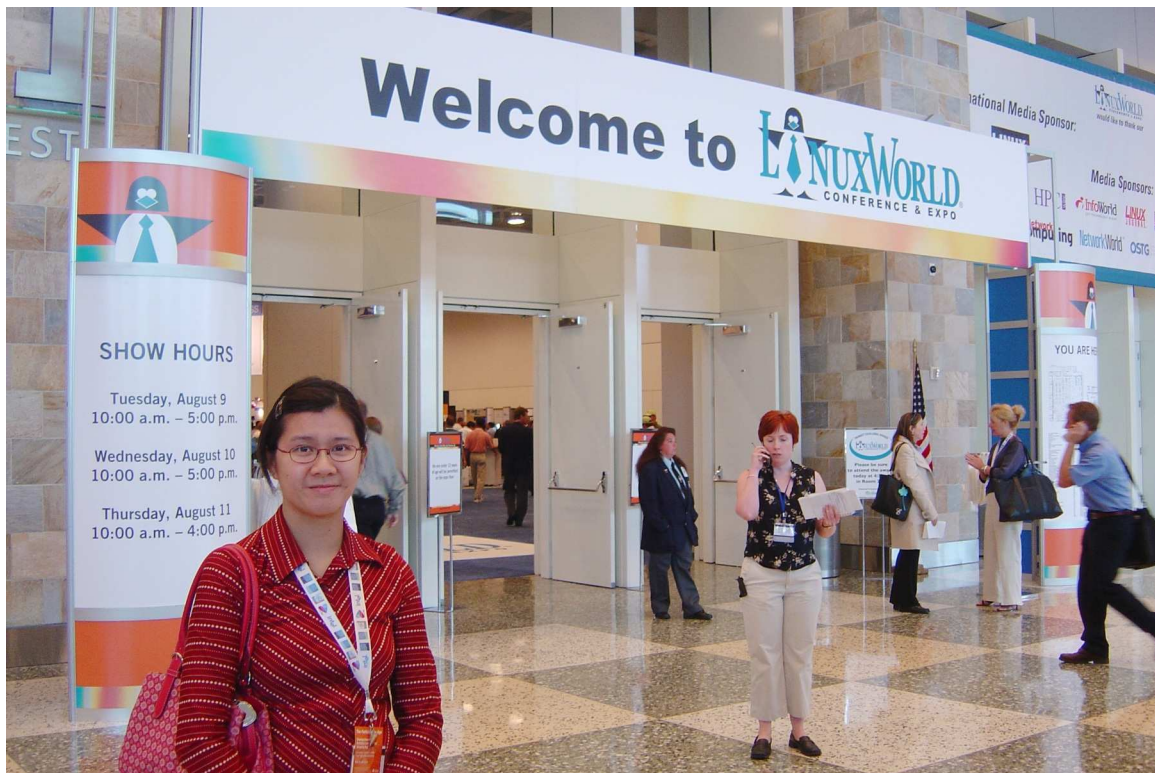
Chateau Lake Louise



Trail Blazer



Lake Louise



Nerds



Haight and Ashbury



Long Walks on the Beach

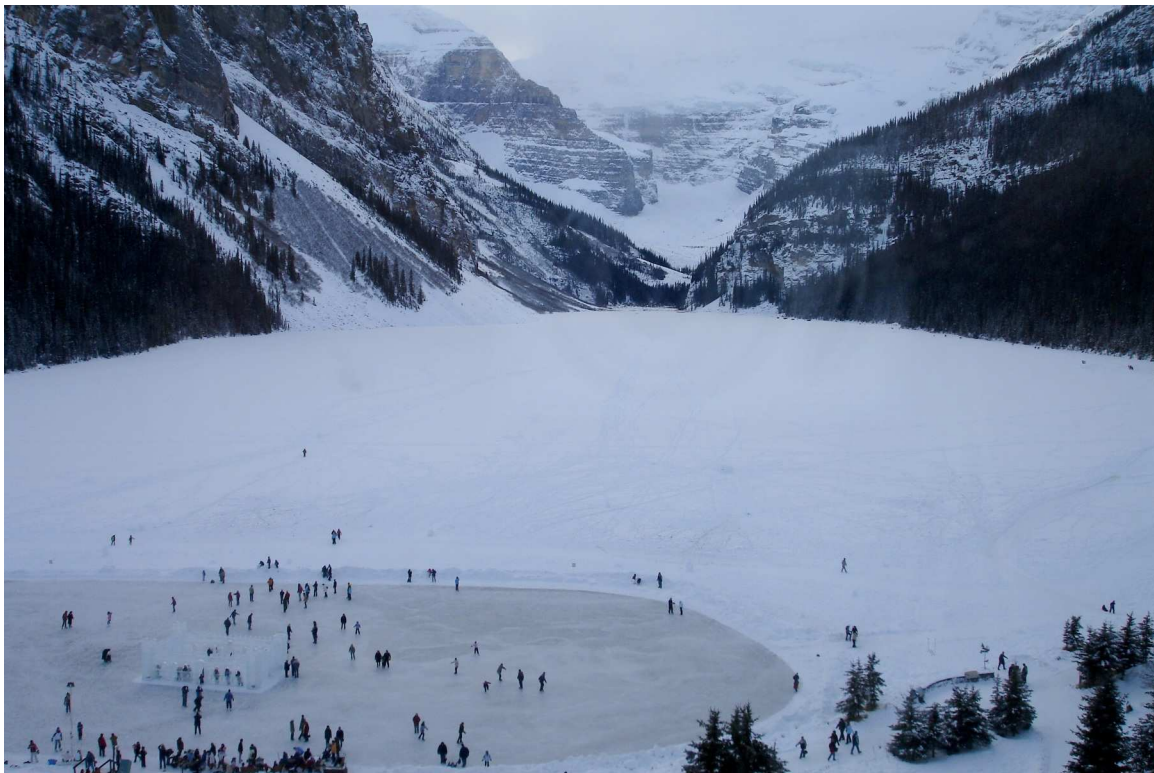


Tucker's Ice Cream



Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

2006



Ice Skaters



Pengrowth Saddledome



Ocean Beachfront



Waikiki Sunset



Taken



Palm Trees



Aoki



Safety First



Donuts

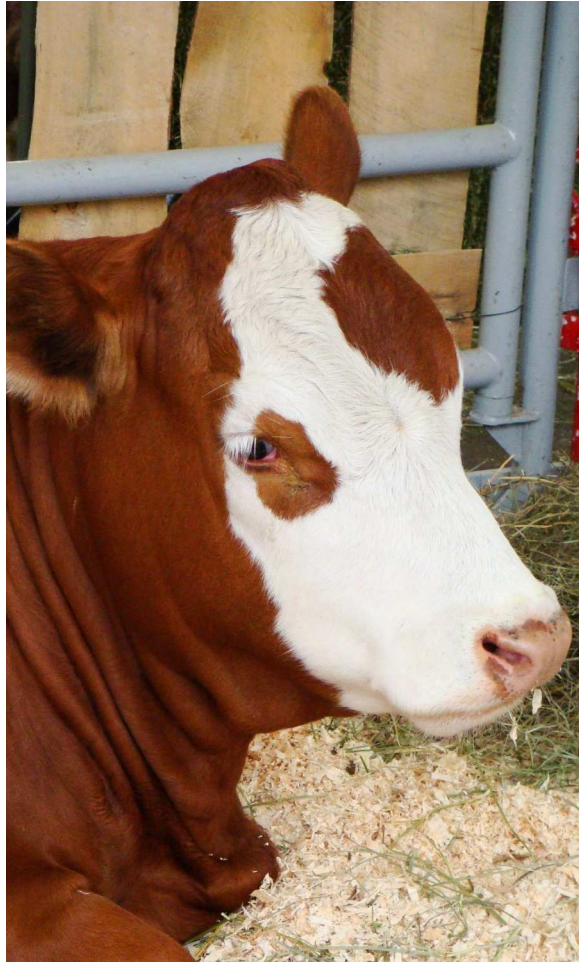


Winnie and Danny Wedding

2007



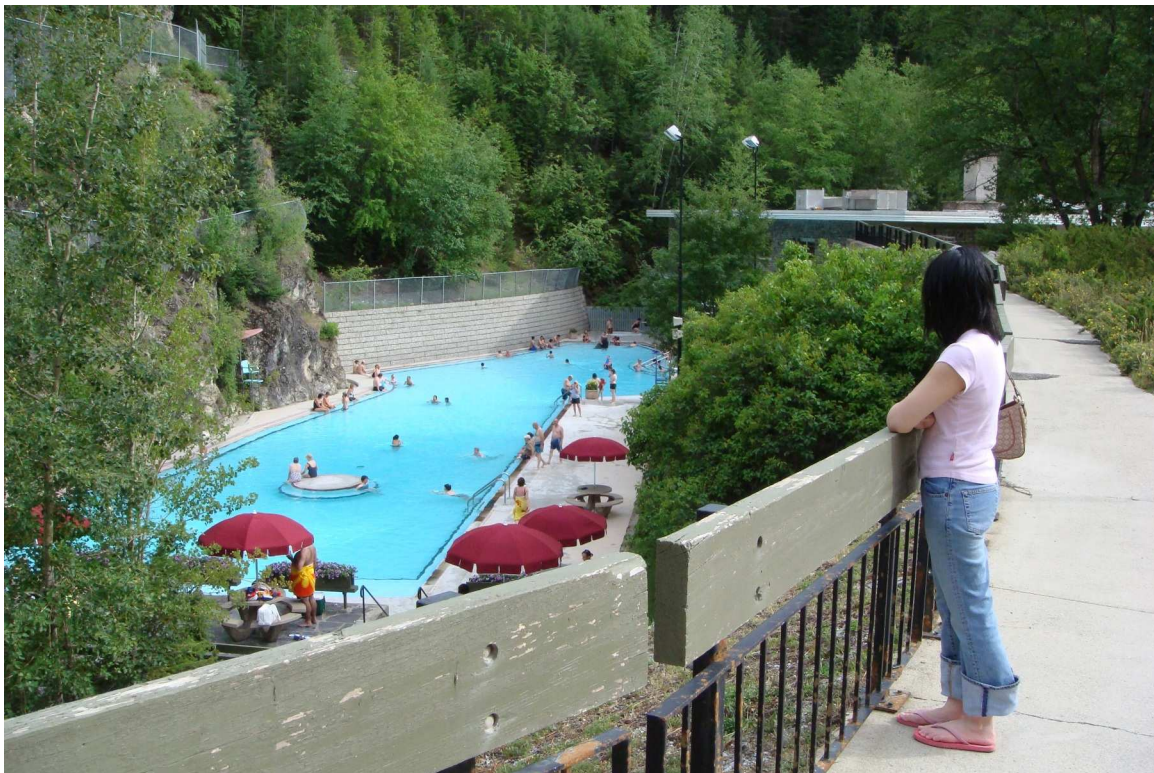
Chicks



Cow



Radium



Radium Hot Springs



No Gut No Glory



San Francisco



Half Dome



Yosemite



Towards the Sunset

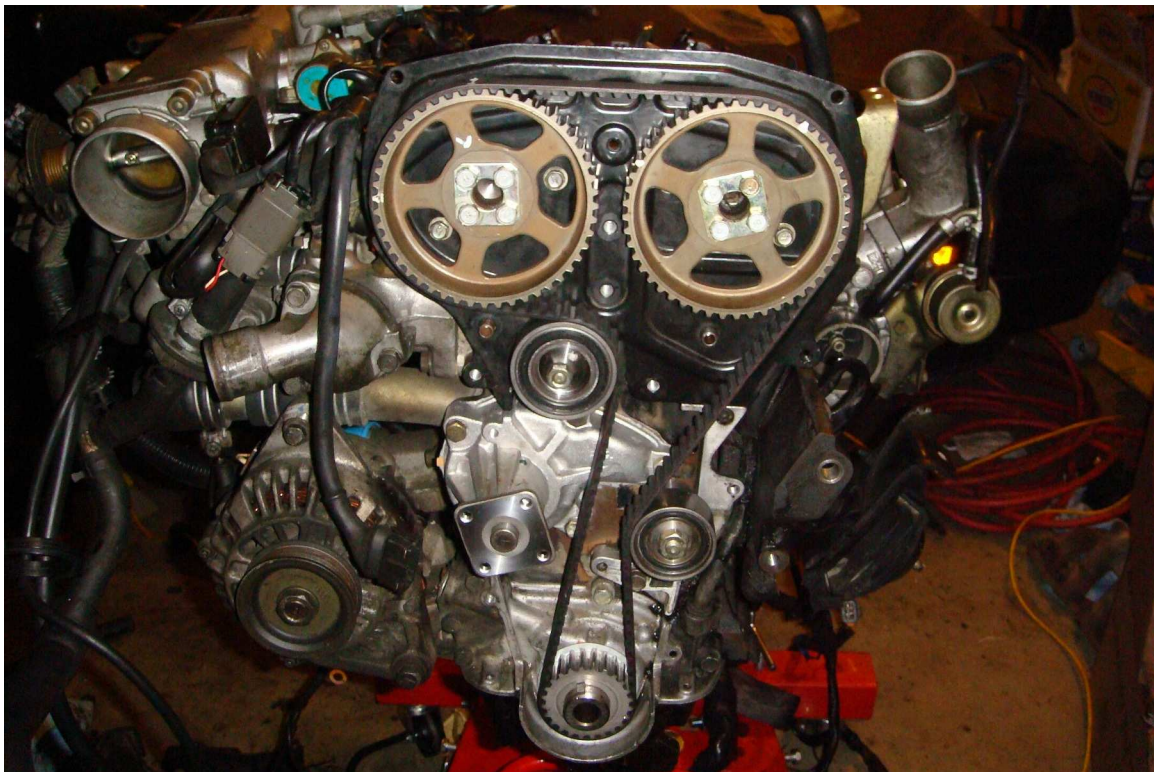


Boeing 747

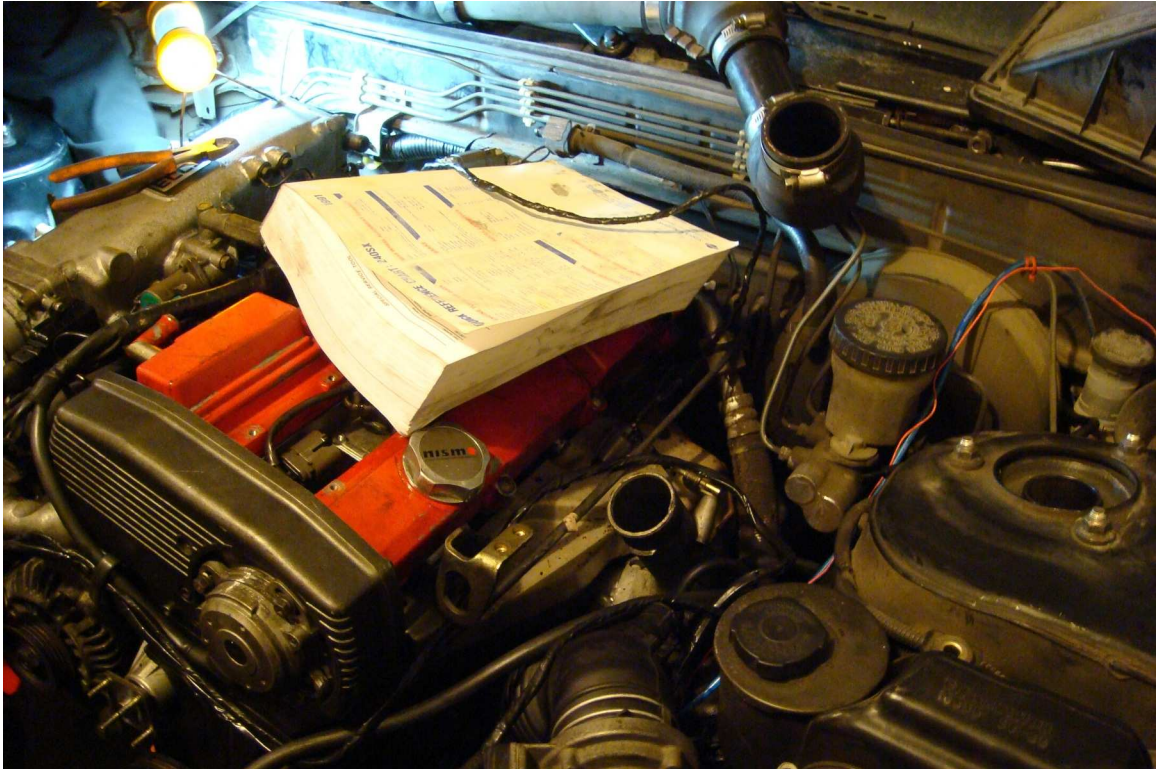
2008



Down and Out



CA18DET



Factory Service Manual



4AGZE



New and Improved



Corn Field



Corn Maze



Lightened Fuel Load



Race City



RPS13

2009



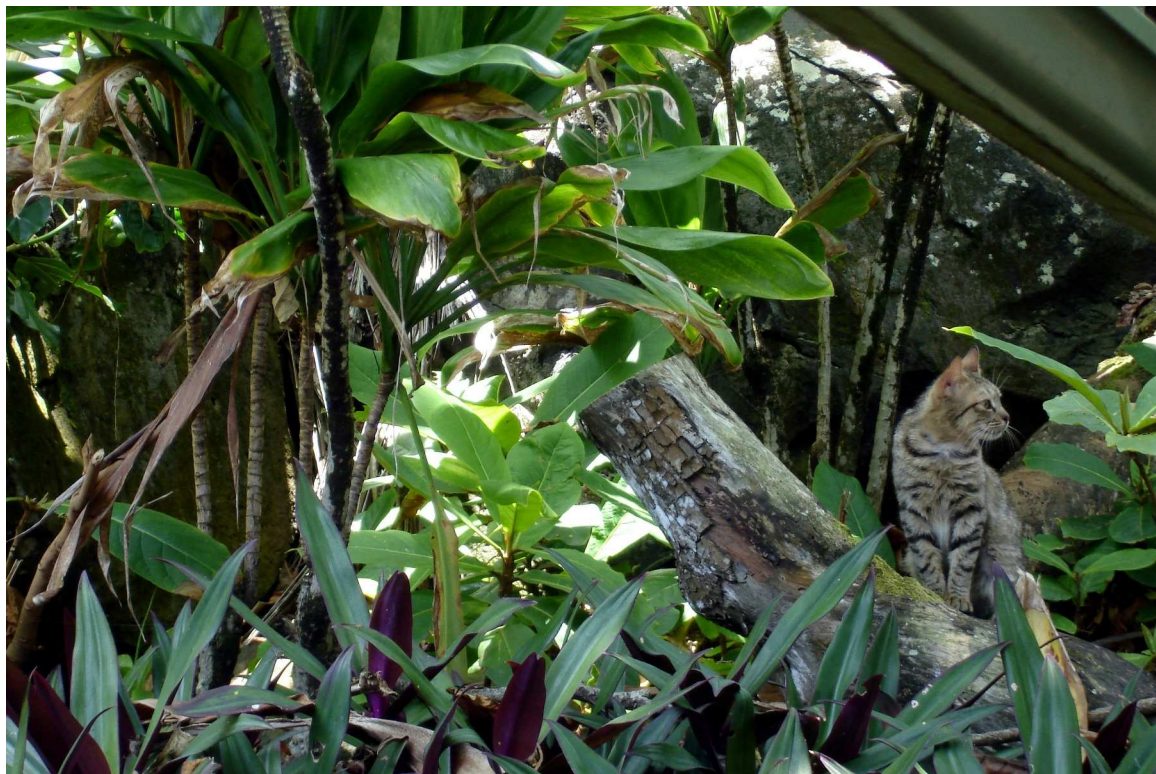
Kekai



Roy's



Maui Built



Meow



Snorkeling



Geico Car Insurance



Kauai



Luau



Nawiliwili Lighthouse



USS Arizona

2010



My First DSLR



Alexis



His



Hers



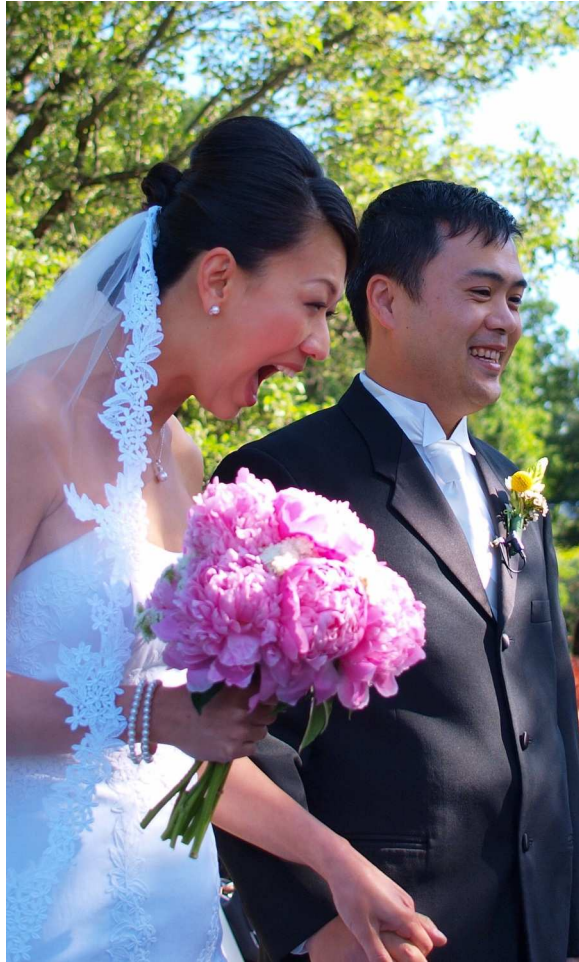
My First Rodeo



Niagara Falls



S13 Drift Car



Joyce and Matthew Wedding



Hokkigai



Best Eggs Ever

2011



Fountains of Bellagio



Ramandeep and Joty Wedding



Girl with Fascinator



Quarter Mile Drag Race



Boeing 737



Denise and Vasilios Wedding



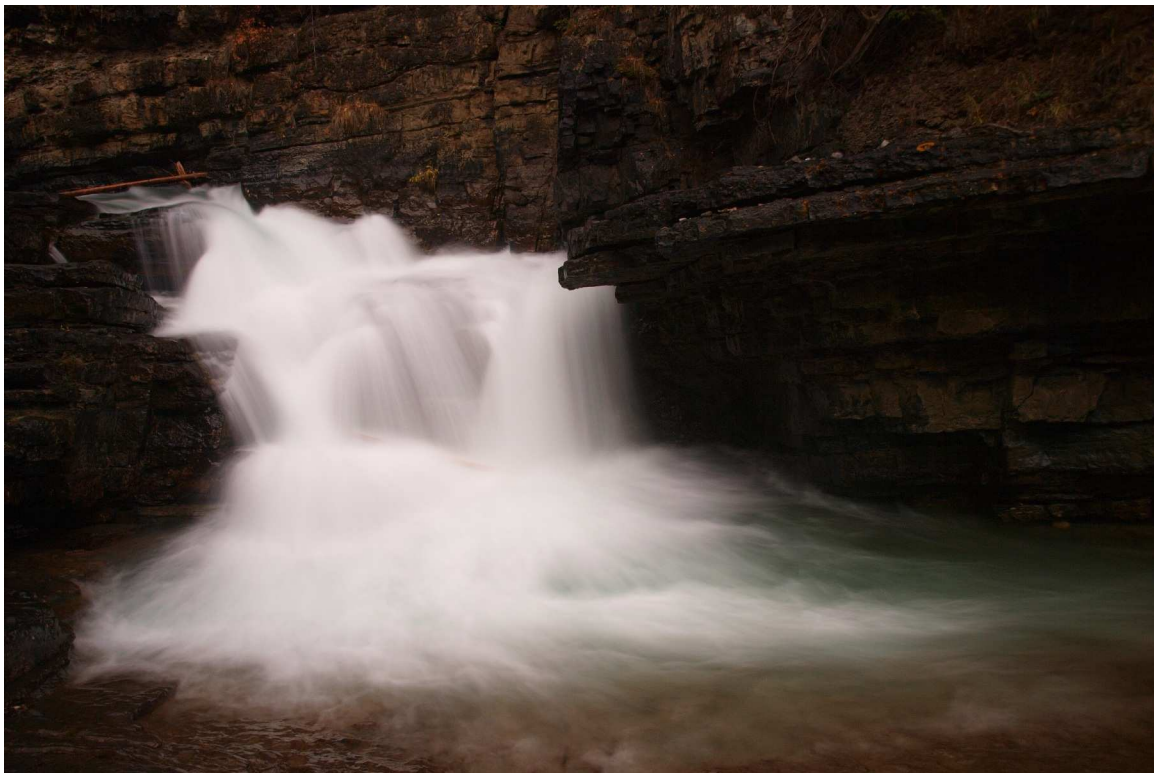
London Taxi Cab



Spruce Meadows



Castle in the Rockies



Johnston Canyon

2012



Cable Car



Sophia and Albert Wedding



Rocky Mountain Rally



El Chupacabra



Calgary Stampede Centennial



Dong Feng ST5 Movement



Zita and Henry Wedding



BC Place



The Mirage



King Penguin

2013



Downtown Calgary



My Old Man



McLaren Honda



Jasper



2013 Calgary Flood



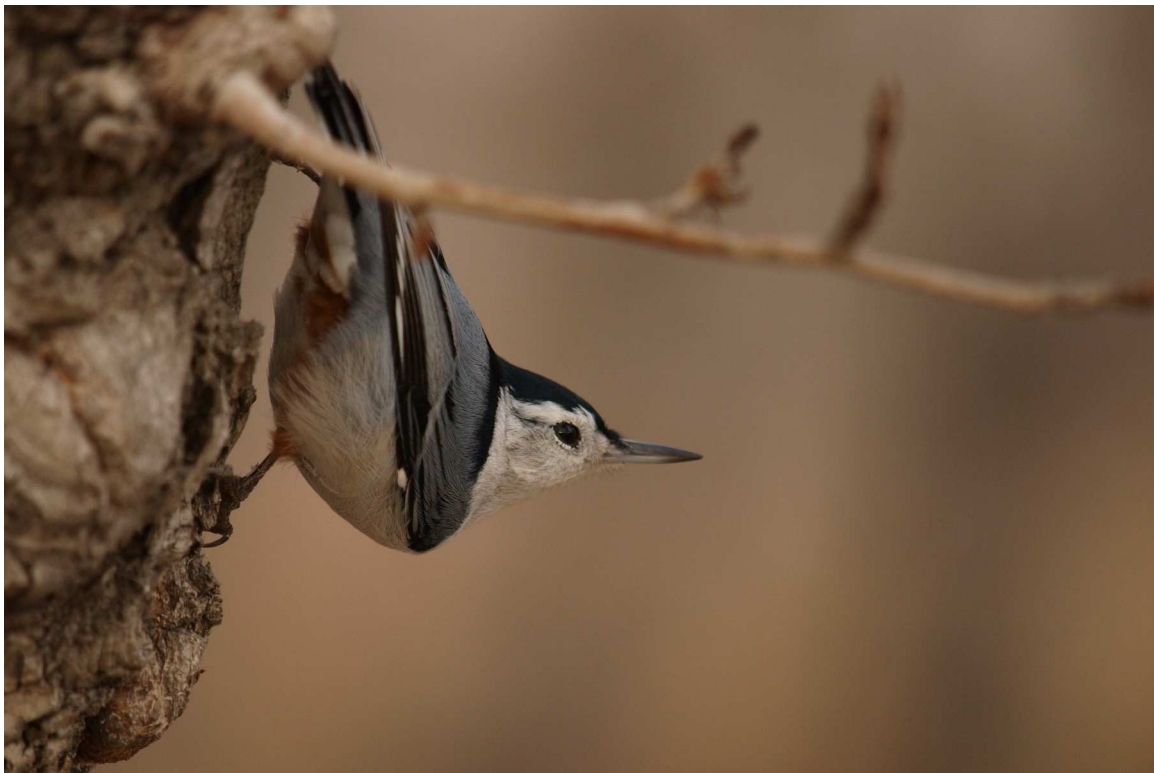
Stampede Fireworks



Propeller Plane



Esther Grain Elevator



White Breasted Nuthatch



Maho Beach

2014



Heidi and King Wedding



Shanghai China



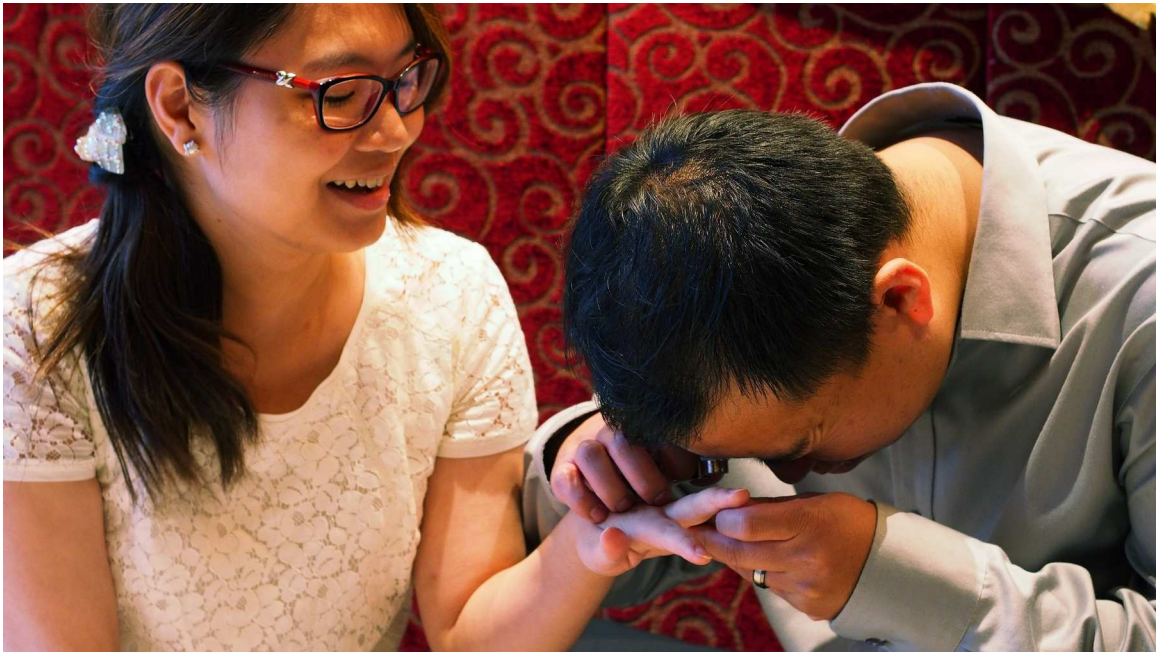
Zhu Jia Jiao



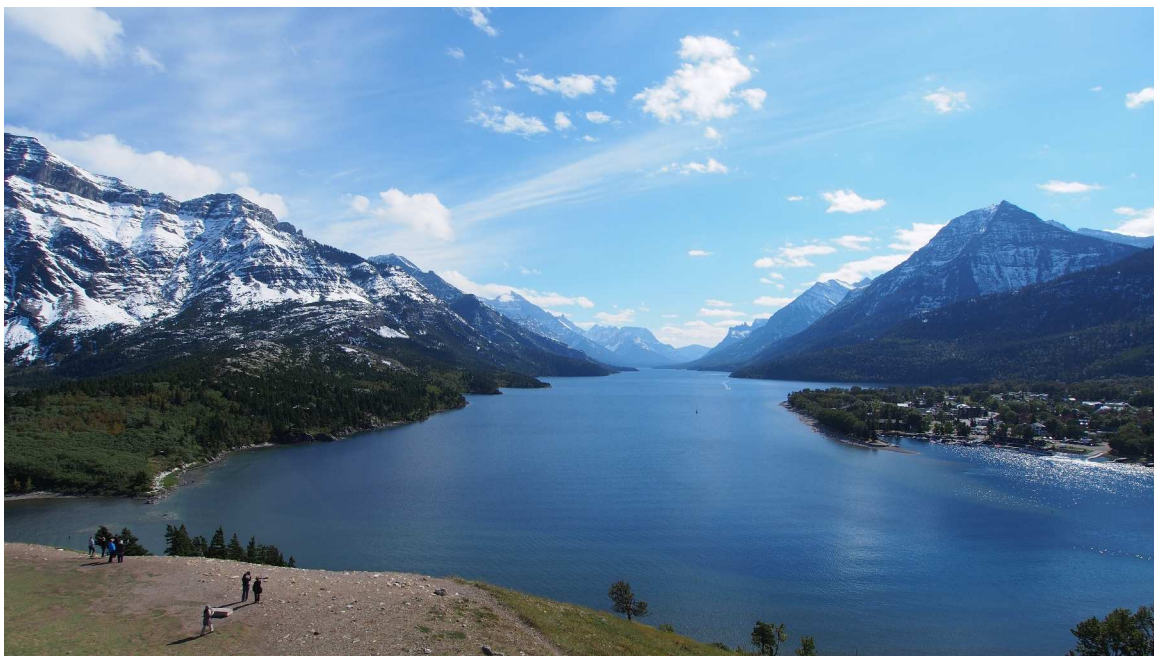
Caterpillar 797



Chinaman Peak



Mandy and Will Wedding



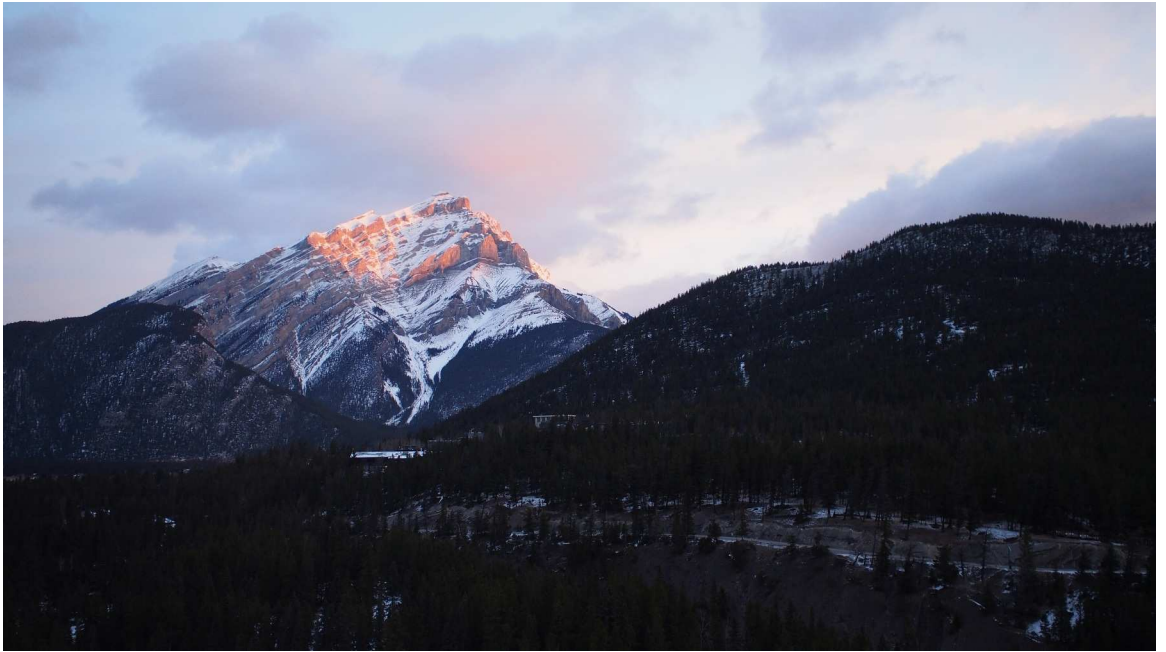
Waterton Lakes



Waterton Sunrise



Salmon Run

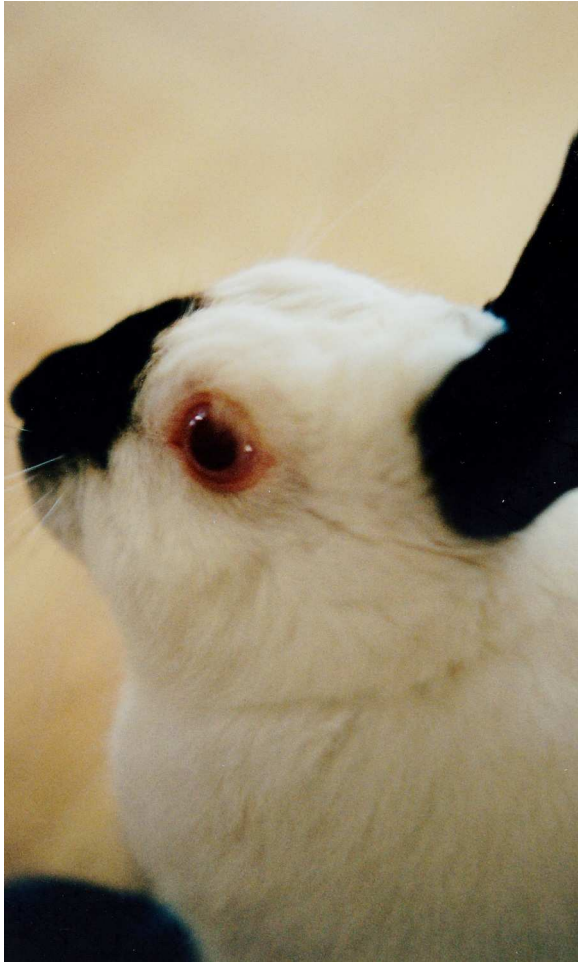


Sun Kissed Mountain

35mm Film



Cow Pie



Dumbass



High School Sweetheart



Toilet Planter



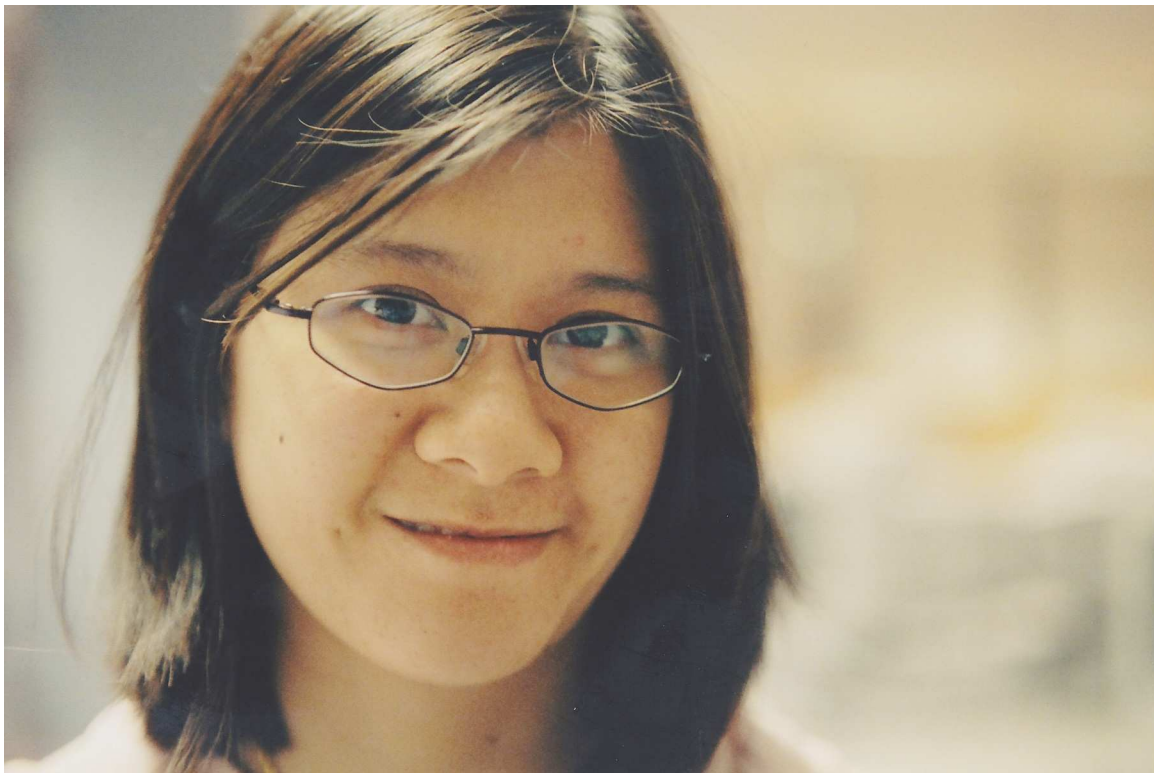
Tiff



Hercules Ring



Iron Regime



University Sweetheart



UofC MS CompSci Lab



Celeste



Michelle and Derril Wedding

Introspection

In the 20 years that I've lived in Calgary, Alberta I've never once seen a bear in real life outside of the Calgary Zoo. Just this Summer alone I saw 4 in total, 3 black bears from a safe distance and 1 grizzly at far too close a distance while hiking. Looking up bear encounters online, introspection came up as a reoccurring theme. Funny how things work out. After 10 years of digital photography, I've come to learn what's truly important to me and what it is I want out of photography. Go to every family wedding that you're invited to. It's the best place to find all your relatives and loved ones gathered. Everyone will be in a joyous mood and it's a great way to remember them. I've certainly taken a lot more than 10 photos per year, but the ones that really stand out are few and far between and trigger a large dose of nostalgia. I don't have the best memory, but what I do have I'd like to fill with those really special moments.

It's really interesting looking back at old photos just seeing what caught my eye back then and what catches my eye now. Some of my own reoccurring themes include: my wife Elsie, Banff, nature, technology, and human landscapes. Henri Cartier-Bresson had the whole world, Fred Herzog had Western Canada, Thomas Gushul had the Crowsnest Pass and I have my own little world somewhere inbetween.

As much as I like the instant feedback and automation of digital cameras, there's also something magical and tangible about film. You can hold it in your hands and it is immediately obvious that you are holding a picture. There is a lot more forethought that goes into getting "the shot" when it comes to film. There is simply no time when you're trying to capture a moment to be messing around with dials and settings. So, you use the force and feel what settings will be right or at least close enough prior to when the time comes. If you don't get a good shot with a mechanic camera without a light meter, there is no one to blame but yourself. The auto-white balance wasn't off, the autofocus isn't mis-calibrated, you done messed up!

W.



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