

## **Len Burnstein: Just Beneath the Surface – Photographs of the Human Condition**

Len Burnstein has been taking photographs for more than 40 years, originally during travels in the United States and Canada, and through eighteen countries in Western Europe during his university years. Len graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (sculpture), and continued to do graduate studies in Social Anthropology. Moving from three dimensional sculpture to two dimensional photography, Len's eye continued to be drawn to the human condition, the secret story just under the surface, but silent.

The aesthetic pull at that time conflicted with the need to return to the academic. Len received a Master of Social Work Degree and proceeded to work in Adult Mental Health for 33 years. This provided an opportunity to know a world of secret stories, but not to photograph them.

Over the years, Len continued to travel through developing countries including Mexico, Cuba, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, and Morocco. These travels provided the gift of being able to photograph a fraction of a second in the lives of countless people, a fraction of a second of their secret stories. This exhibition includes photographs from these countries.

Len has been invited to be the photographer for an aid delegation to El Salvador with Salvaide, an Ottawa based NGO in February, 2009. A portion of the proceeds from this exhibition will go towards covering the cost of this work.

With few exceptions, all the photographs are of people. All photographs are digital, presented matted and framed, printed on archival, museum quality papers with archival inks. The exhibition runs from May 18 to June 14, 2008 at The Green Door. The vernissage will be held on Monday, May 26 from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

