

About Peter Stranks...

Peter Stranks is a Toronto based photographer living with his wife and two children in Orillia. A Ryerson University graduate, his assignments have taken him throughout North America and as far away as Morocco. Stranks has worked on national advertising campaigns, magazine covers and editorial features for over two decades, working most recently on advertising for the film industry with celebrities like Steve Martin, Drew Barrymore, Katie Holmes, Eugene Levy and Harvey Keitel. In recent years he completed a highly successful one man show at OMAH, where one of his pieces was acquired for the permanent collection. He has taught in recent years at the Canadian Photographic Centre in Toronto where the Globe & Mail has referred to him as an “inspiring instructor.” For Dove and the Campaign for Real Beauty, he co-taught a week-end workshop that led thirty girls ages 8 to 15 to shoot over 5000 images that ultimately became the 2007 Dove Calendar for Real Beauty. He has been giving highly interactive presentations to students within the North York and Simcoe County School Boards on the topics of career development, media literacy and understanding advertising. This culminated in his leading a workshop at the 2007 Ontario Librarians Conference at the Toronto Metro Convention Centre. He was part time faculty with Seneca College in Toronto and Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario, teaching History of Imaging, Aesthetics & Criticism and Writing for the Business of Photography. He currently holds a full time position as a Professor in the Digital Photography Program in the School of Design & Visual Arts at the Barrie campus of Georgian College. He taught two workshops in the spring of 2011 to the Suzhou Institute of Art & Design and in consequence has been invited to China in the spring of 2012 to teach further. It is no accident that he has pursued teaching so enthusiastically in recent years; it has always been his life long goal to teach photography at the post secondary level. What could be a more exciting evolution to a career than to share substantial industry experience with the challenges of educating the next generation of image makers in this rapidly evolving digital world we find ourselves in?

Syllabus for the presentation to The Orillia Camera Club, September 14, 2011

“Self Portraiture and the Bag We Drag Behind Us.”

Objective

By the end of the presentation you will have explored different techniques for drawing out your creativity and in consequence start “making” photographs instead of “taking” photographs.

Outline

Our creativity is nurtured through continuous and critical self expression.

Therefore, exercises that ask you to express how you see the world tend to promote higher levels of creative art.

Ultimately, when you make art, it should be your personal vision of what you see before you, interpreted or filtered through you.

By creating images involving other disciplines you will need to draw on more than just technique to create art.

You will have to express what you see from within yourself and your life experiences.

In fact, you will have to draw from the long bag that you drag behind you.

We will explore one highly successful examples of project based work involving other artistic disciplines by combining Poetry & Photography.

We will explore through group work:

- What other self assignment could we design that involves photography and another discipline as discussed above.
- Upon reflection, what emotions might the assignment elicit that takes the work beyond simple technique.