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[Test] Much to be thankful for

1 message

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"To photograph is to hold one's breath, when all faculties converge to capture fleeting reality. It's at that precise moment that mastering an image becomes a great physical and intellectual joy."
— Henri Cartier-Bresson



The joy of photography

There is so much said online and in books about how photography should be done. Surprisingly there's little about WHY it is done. That is a journey that I've found myself on for nearly 60 years, a journey that has only intensified in the very busy year that we are wrapping up now. Photography is literally "writing with light" in Greek. We circle a star every 365 days, a star that is the source of all usable light on earth. Every now and then that light is filtered in ways that astound us (well, at least me) even though we've seen sunlight our entire lives. The afternoon that the scene pictured above happened was not expected, it just appeared, and I was in the right place with a camera. Why did I take this photograph? The best answer I have is that it was an amazing scene that I wanted to share, and even though it's not the same as being there (as anyone who has been to the Grand Canyon will attest) a camera and a light-absorbing sensor gave me the opportunity to share it with you. It was a moment that felt like light was falling like rain and I was afraid I'd mess up this opportunity. Fortunately my camera was better than me and didn't let the moment get away. I've taken thousands of photos this year, a few of them will stand out in my memory and this is definitely one of them. I hope it brings you as much joy and awe as it brings to me..

The state of blue marble photography





All of these images are featured on my website if you'd like to see them in larger form, and of course all can be purchased there. Click on the website image for information, and please contact me with any questions.

Blue Marble Images

In my world, Blue Marble photography has taken a back seat to action work over much of this year, I will be the first to admit that. However travelling 24,000 kilometers around western Canada, and taking an additional 3,500 kilometer drive from Calgary to Toronto has provided opportunities beyond the race tracks to deliver a number of blue marble photos that I am very pleased with. I've chosen to highlight in this newsletter the four scenes above that I've included on the website and social media this year, and there are some things that are worth noting about these photos.

I am finding that as my photography has evolved I no longer have to depend on sunny days and pure golden hour moments. The above four shots include darkness, and fog, and even the Okanagan Valley shot (the one with vineyards) was right after a rain shower had passed and I believe the remaining low clouds are what really makes that shot work. These may not be the best photos of my year but I like that they represent what I've learned about taking the opportunity that is in front of you and finding ways to make the results work.

The fog we experienced in Vancouver over the last month created some interesting challenges and opportunities. I'm especially happy with the Lions Gate bridge shot, a 30-second exposure that worked out well - I wanted to use the lowest ISO possible to reduce noise and the resultant smoothing of the moving fog really accents the bridge. The photo of downtown Vancouver buildings in the morning fog wasn't difficult to shoot but it required some significant post-processing to keep contrast in the fog and clouds, something I wouldn't have recognized a few years ago. I recently read an article that Ansel Adams wrote about post-processing where he said a photo wasn't done until the edges were darkened, and I understood what he was talking about, especially for this image. That was an interesting confidence booster.

The image of the full moon is the photo that would be the answer to the question about which one doesn't belong. It is in this group because of the combined power of software and digital imaging. The original photo is not from this year. It is not even from this century. In fact, this shot has been around since 1983. I

shot it on film (Kodachrome 64) in a Pentax 35mm camera, on a tripod. It's a double exposure, two overlaid shots on one piece of film. The first shot used a 50mm lens on a long exposure, picking up the light from the moon rising behind the forest of Mt. Rainier National Park. The second exposure about 25 minutes later was a telephoto lens that I bought second hand, held together with a big elastic band, shot at 1/125th (because it's always daylight on our side of the full moon) and zoomed in on the moon. Then I took the film to a store, and a week later found out that the plan worked! After that the slide got shown a few times, and then basically went into a drawer for 40 years but I always felt that it was worth pulling out, and completing and publishing. The great lesson of this story is the value of a lifetime's work, and how it is part of a building process. I'm so enjoying that journey and the learning that is part of it. This image was post-processed and re-posted in 2024, and it feels great as an example of finding ways to continue to grow.



Rodeo action from 2024

The last few weeks of being at home, and working probably too much in front of computer screens has been like Christmas almost every day as wonderfully shareable shots turn up that were lost in the shuffle. These are just two of the action images I found and posted on social media and fortunately they turned up in time to be included in the rodeo calendar that has great feedback from those who ordered it. I enjoyed my first visit to the Calgary Stampede and I'm looking forward to making sure that's in my plans for the future, as well as the local highly-respected Cloverdale Rodeo. Great action, good people, lots of drama - it's hard to top that as an action-sports photographer.

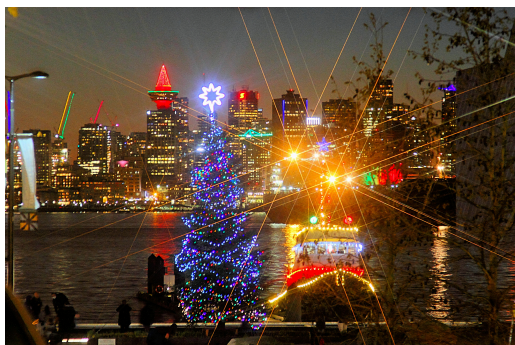
[Action Photography Gallery with Details](#)

Simplifying the purchase process

When you see something you'd like to order for your home or office it should be easy and I continue to look for ways to make that true with my business. When I first built my website I connected the site to Pictorem.com, a high-quality printing company that has delivered great results for my customers. The result is printing information for my customers that is first rate. That has been a fantastic relationship and I'm pleased that I will continue with that into 2025.

One thing I have not previously done was to provide, on my website, simple and clear pricing for my wall art images. People want to know what something will cost without an email or a phone call to ask for assistance - that's certainly something I look for as well. The latest website update takes another step in that direction with clear pricing, based on image size and media type. There is now a standard price list that covers all the pieces featured on my website. A link to that website page follows.

[Link to pricing for prints](#)



Enjoy the season!

I will be travelling with family over the holidays, and will be mostly off social media. 2025 is going to be a busy year, and it will be nice to have this break.

From my home to yours I hope you all have safe travels, great times with family, and wonderful celebrations. All the best for 2025 for one, and all, and I hope we get the opportunity to spend some time enjoying photography somewhere.

Final note - Calendars available until mid-January

The calendars have done extremely well this year, but it's not too late to get yours!

The price is \$25 each, with a discount for orders of 3 or more (contact me about that).

[Purchase on my website](#) [Click here](#)

For questions contact me at davecavan@davecavan.com



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