

Musician As Photographer

Peter Leitch, the highly respected New York-based jazz guitarist with more than 25 recordings to his credit and with others, has also in recent years built a solid reputation as a black-and-white photographer, capturing street scenes, landscapes, architecture, and fellow musicians from New York to Mississippi. Although he has had a life-long interest in photography, the native Montrealer remembers one seminal moment when a love for the medium took hold: "Many years ago I went to an Andre Kertesz exhibit and it was like hearing Bird for the first time!" he said. Since then, he has come to love and appreciate the work of "all the great photographers," in particular Henri Cartier-Bresson, Walker Evans and Robert Frank, and has been fortunate to have the personal guidance and mentorship of Robert Walker and the late Paul Hoeffler. Of the parallels between jazz music and photography, Peter says: "Both are arts of the moment. Taking a photograph is akin to playing music in real time, and the darkroom process is in a way similar to the recording, mixing and mastering processes."

Peter has had solo shows in New York, Newark and St. Louis, and shared shows in Cincinnati, Montreal and Newark. In addition, his collaborations with video artist Pamela Timmins have been screened at New York area festivals and can be seen on YouTube and JazzVision.

Exhibitions:

- 1999: Kavehaz Gallery, New York
Maison de Culture Frontenac, Montreal (group show)
- 2000: Kavehaz Gallery, New York
Roho Photo Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- 2001: Kavehaz Gallery, New York
Sweet Basil, New York
- 2002: WBGO Gallery, Newark, NJ
- 2003: Kavehaz Gallery, New York
- 2005: Living Room Gallery, St. Peter's Church, New York
- 2007: WBGO Gallery, Newark, NJ
- 2009: May Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Hudson Guild Gallery, New York (group show)
Soho Photo Gallery, New York

Upcoming Exhibitions:

- 2010: Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

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