

SUN YAT SEN
CULTURAL GARDEN

PHOTOGRAPHS

BY JOE LIPKA

You make a first impression on everyone you meet. When you meet another person, or go to a place, a first impression is made upon you. You respond to the initial stimuli. You can respond on many levels; professionally, personally and artistically.

This first impression is the beginning of a conversation, the struggle to find common ground, the first awkward dance step. It's the challenge of getting started in a relationship between the Artist and Subject. How does one begin the relationship with subject matter? There's hanging on every word, giving the "once over" to make sure that this might be the real thing

Spend an afternoon and take in a first impression. Think some, feel some, enjoy the presence of something special. At the end of that first impression you can say, "Yes, I would like to come back and spend more time with you."

















AFTERWORD

As part of our annual and legendary (at least legendary to us) photo safaris, Brooks Jensen and I wound up spending an afternoon and evening in Vancouver, British Columbia. Brooks, being an aficionado of things Oriental, led the expedition into the depths of Vancouver's Chinatown. We spent a little bit of time walking through Chinatown (I made the adjacent photo). He noticed the walls surrounding the Sun Yat-Sen Cultural Garden (<http://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com/>). We followed the wall to the entrance. We paid our admission to this urban oasis and spent the next few hours making photographs in the gardens and buildings.

This type of photographic find was typical of our artistic ventures in the "cruisin' fer snaps" phase of our photo safaris. We would stumble upon a location and spend a few hours creating some nice photographs. (See the Elk Creek: Joy of Discovery project also on the web site.) We would then move on. It was the artistic equivalent of a pleasant conversation with a stranger. Pleasant, superficial and nothing more than a small set obvious photographs made at on one day at one time.

Time is needed to get by the obvious photographs to get to the really good ones. The ones you can make once you know your subject well.



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