

# ARTS & Galleries

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## Pete Croatto: Artist Profile — Photographer finds a niche with points of light

Christopher Kennedy attributes his new, rising career to a series of fortuitous events. "I never imagined I would end up doing this for a living," the photographer said.

Starting with his childhood days in England, Kennedy always took photos – landscapes, portraits, multiple exposures. He never considered it as a profession, however, and worked in the film industry, helping create the soundtracks for more than 70 films and TV specials, including "A Chorus Line" and "Finding Neverland."

When Kennedy's longtime collaborators moved on – Jan A.P. Kaczmarek accepted a job in Poland and Stephen Endelman suffered an almost-fatal brain tumor – the timing was perfect. "I really was ready for a change," the 59-year-old Doylestown Township resident said.

It took two nighttime strolls for Kennedy's lifetime passion to go in a new direction. He took photos in December 2010 – one of lights reflecting on Toronto Harbour,

another of Christmas lights in Longwood Gardens – that initially looked like "some kind of mistake." But Kennedy knew he had something special and sought to replicate and improve upon what he had done.

With a process he named Photo Luminism, Kennedy captures points of light – which are doing things the naked eye cannot discern – entirely in-camera in about a second. A shot, which is not manipulated, is then printed onto large sheets of brushed aluminum, a medium that when combined with the lights, gives the final work a pulsating, ethereal glow.

"A lot of it is in my imagination, but I'll be drawn to a sequence of colors, sometimes in different places, next to each other, and I'll use both of them in the setup," Kennedy explained. "It's what I see initially and then what I can imagine I can do in my head with those varying types of light." Kennedy relishes the work's lack of uniformity and the way each shot is open to inter-

pretation.

Getting the art world to recognize his eureka moment was an arduous, learn-as-you-go process. Living in Bucks County helped. He found allies like Gallery Piquel's Tamara Cannon, who took an interest in Kennedy's work and urged the newcomer to go big (Kennedy says the average size of his works runs 6 feet by 4 feet).

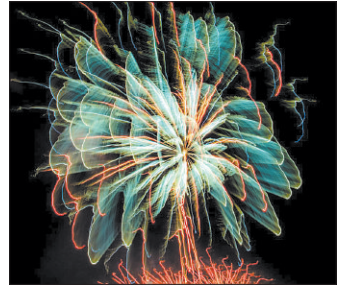
And then he connected with the hospitality industry. Eight of his pieces are featured today in Chicago's Hyatt Regency, while the Conrad Hilton in Dubai will soon display 24 more.

Going away from galleries and into hotels was initially hard for Kennedy to embrace until he realized that thousands of people would see the work, a "mind-boggling" prospect.

"I feel lucky that I've stumbled upon something that other people

seem to enjoy," he added.

Building a reputation means that Kennedy's days consist of administrative tasks – phone calls and e-mails to drum up interest. Night is when Kennedy's artistic side emerges, when the tedium subsides.



A photograph copyrighted by Christopher Kennedy shows one of the results of his Photo Luminism technique.

He hunts for the thrill of capturing an image that will play big and bright on a clean stretch of wall.

"You never quite know when it's going to happen," he said.

Kennedy's work can be found on the Photo Luminism web site.

## Sweet Edge Sculpture Tour visits four studios

The Sweet Edge Sculpture Tour 2013 takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 28 and 29, rain or shine.

Participating artists are Constance Bassett and David Cann of Moorland Studios, Raymond Mathis of Tutto Metal Design, John McDevitt of McDevitt Sculpture, and Steven Snyder of Cedar Maze Sculpture Garden and Studio.

Bassett's most recent body of work is an exploration of materials, and the use of facial expression and gesture, to evoke a contemporary and alternatively an iconic feeling in portraiture.



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19 W Mechanic Street,  
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"The Senators" is a work by Constance Bassett of Moorland Studios. "The Senators" has the presence of a crowd," she says. "Their individual expressions are overshadowed by the many surrounding them. One tends to interpret the mood of the whole, and not the individual in a large grouping. When presented as individual sculptures, they become familiar, and singular characteristics become more evident."

Cann says of his latest creations, "This group of work is a nonrepresentational exploration of a series of 'Sketches' in metal. ... My goal is to turn the random shapes into something that has an aesthetic presence and a life force of its own."

Mathis creates one-of-a-kind sculptural and utilitarian art by combining his technical skills and his passion for transforming raw material into a multitude of shapes, colors and textures. He will demonstrate his metal-working techniques throughout the day. He will host visiting artists RoseLouise Heim whose works are in clay and Ed Wright who works in bronze and mixed media.

McDevitt's work revolves around the constancy of change and the challenge of self-transformation. "If I had one word to describe my latest work, it would be – opening. I used to think I had to close up the form to make it complete. I was not ready to expose the inside even though I could see something beautiful within." McDevitt's latest series of work is "Holding Smoke."

Snyder, who works in stone, is inspired by the natural world around him. Recent works involve the detail of polish on select segments of a piece, often baring the surprise of unexpected color or fossil-like detail hidden beneath the stone's raw surface. Snyder has also been constructing fountains akin to a long turning, tumbling, spilling watercourse.

Artwork will be available for purchase at all of the studios. Admission is free. Studios are five to fifteen minutes apart.

To get a map visit the Sweet Edge Sculpture web site or call 267-337-1818.

**Shery Tinsman** metalsmith  
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**James A. Michener Art Museum**  
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Friday Oct. 4th  
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[www.sherytinsman.com](http://www.sherytinsman.com)    [www.michenermuseum.com](http://www.michenermuseum.com)

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