

Bucks County Herald Arts & Galleries section.
Written by Laura Pedrick. Published Dec. 8 2016

If ever there was an artist who tests the limits of the camera and what it can capture, it's New Hope resident Christopher Kennedy.

What began as a childhood impulse to simply photograph visual oddities grew into what has become "Photo Luminism," a personally coined term describing the use of electric light as a sort of paintbrush on the camera's sensor.



Kennedy shows off some of the Photo Luminism images to be displayed at 26 Bridge Studio and Gallery, Lambertville, NJ Photo: Laura Pedrick

Stretching and bending artificial light over long exposures and intentional camera movement creates his abstract images.

The strongest, most compelling pieces will be on display at 26 Bridge Studio and Gallery, 26 Bridge St., Lambertville, NJ., from Dec.9 to 18. An open artist reception and party is set for 7 pm Dec.9.

The collection, two years in the making, consists of two print mediums. Most striking are the large aluminum canvases. Their reflective property "pushes" the light beyond the surface, giving it a 3D effect. Other works are printed on archival paper, which absorbs and pulls the colors inward, creating a deep, saturated look.

His latest experiment is using and controlling natural light rather than artificial. Much of Bucks County has inspired his captures, but of late his muse has been the treescapes outside his rural New Hope cottage.

Kennedy's profession for many years dealt with music and sound editing in Hollywood, on projects including "A Chorus Line," "The Little Shop of Horrors" and the Academy Award-winning score for "Finding Neverland."

Many of his light abstractions are strikingly reminiscent of sound and the waves they create.

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His latest experiment is taking photo luminism to a new level by using and controlling natural light rather than artificial. "I am constantly amazed by the camera's ability to capture things we cannot see with our own eyes" says Kennedy who's creative curiosity keeps his work fresh and always evolving.

Much of Bucks County has inspired his captures, but of late his muse has been the trees-capes just outside his rural cottage in New Hope.