


## Local photographer to be featured in solo show in New York City



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**SYDNEY — A Cape Breton-based photographer will have his work in the spotlight at a solo exhibition in New York City this month.**

Topics : [Agora Gallery](#) , [New York City](#) , [Sydney](#) , [Canada](#)

It's a big-time opportunity for Stephen Tobin, a native of St. John's, N.L., who moved with his wife to Sydney about two years ago.

"It's huge," he said. "As an artist, in many ways, it helps me feel a bit validated. You work really hard and it's difficult on the local scene to really make a go of it. The biggest challenge, in all honesty, for artists in Canada, is trying to make a living."

The exhibit of Tobin's work will open Saturday in the Agora Gallery, which is located in Chelsea, New York's artistic hub. His show will run until May 31 and the official opening reception is set to take place Thursday.

"As an artist to have your own solo show is absolutely exciting and makes you bounce off the walls. To be in a New York show makes you bounce off walls. To have your own solo New York show, I'm still trying to cope. My head still spins every now and again," he said.

Agora Gallery is a contemporary fine art gallery dedicated to the promotion of national and international artists and last year Tobin was added to the roster of artists they represent. Tobin said the gallery has helped him with marketing and promotion, and in getting his work seen by people in the industry as well as the wider public.

Tobin first got interested in photography as a young child and has been working professionally as a photographer for 17 years. Known as the wandering photographer, Tobin said his unique style has developed over years of trial-and-error and refining his technique.

"I'm not a formally trained artist. I've never been formally trained in any of the mediums," he said, noting he enjoys the freedom that allows him. "I just do what I like and that's usually why I find the photographs come out so well is because I'm having so much fun doing it. If I'm not having fun, they're not going to look that good."

Tobin shoots a wide range of subjects including animals, birds, landscapes, buildings, people, machines, plants, sports, music, and urban centres.

His exhibit in New York, titled Stephen Tobin: The Natural Instincts of Nature, is described by the gallery as featuring the "acutely observed and aesthetically impressive images of 'the Wandering Photographer' whose

love of travel spills over into the passion with which he composes and creates his art.”

Tobin said he firmly believes “all people everywhere are pretty much the exact same” and one of the underlying themes of work is to demonstrate that through the images he captures and the reactions people have to them.

“It helps break down barriers which usually is just a result of language and culture,” he said.

Since moving to Cape Breton, Tobin has participated in a couple of local shows and currently has a few of his photographs featured in the Pierscape art exhibit being showcased this week at Whitney Pier Memorial Junior High School.

For more on Tobin and his photographs, visit his website at [wanderingphotographer.ca](http://wanderingphotographer.ca).

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