

June's Featured Artist: Hank Hauptmann

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<http://www.colortekofboston.com/junes-featured-artist-hank-hauptmann/>



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Hank Hauptmann

I was first introduced to Hank Hauptmann's work as a client. He brought in files to Colortek of Boston to be printed for a group exhibition, [This Narrow Distance](#), at the Worcester Center for Crafts, Krikorian Gallery. Hauptmann was a cordial man, nervous about how his files would print, as many exhibiting artists get. But he had nothing to worry about. The vibrant colors and interesting compositions created spectacular photographs.

What really made his work memorable to me was how his street photographs went beyond capturing social interaction and activity. These modern scenes may have been captured impulsively, yet they produced results that seemed very decisive. Hauptmann's layering of objects, bold colors and light created gorgeous moments of absurdity amongst the local landscape in ways I hadn't seen before.

"If there's any proof that life is stranger than fiction, it's in the candid photograph."

- Hank Hauptmann, *Everybody Street* interview, April 2013



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Hauptmann grew up in Leominster, Massachusetts and currently resides in Cambridge. In the 8th grade he started shooting with his father's Polaroid camera. Upon entering high school he turned to his father's 35mm film camera and learned about darkroom processing. When school was over, and Hauptmann no longer had access to the darkrooms, he stopped taking pictures.

In 2004 Hauptmann gained access to a digital camera and decided it was time to revisit photography. He has since studied at NESOP and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. Currently he is mentoring under Stella Johnson, renowned documentary photographer and professor at the Art Institute of Boston.

In 2011 Hauptmann found himself without work and wandering the Greater Boston neighborhoods by day, photographing the world in front of him. He was very much interested in the people of these communities and their interactions. The current edit of his ongoing street series can be seen on his website [here](#).



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Hauptmann did not set out to build a series when shooting street pictures, yet as many series often do, it developed over time as repeated themes and imagery were noted. Hauptmann's series *Waiting For The 1* evolved out of attempts to capture a photo he had envisioned many times before. If you are a commuter, then you know that the Hynes Convention Center MBTA station on Mass Ave is almost always flooded with people coming and going. At the end of the day, the light of the setting sun spills over the front of those doors casting long shadows over and through the scratched plexiglas doors. Enamored with this light, Hauptmann returns repeatedly to capture it, waiting for the 1 bus back to Cambridge.



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Since becoming seriously engaged in photography, Hauptmann has taken to working nights at a local bar so that he may further photograph midday. Additionally, Hauptmann has just been notified he will be attending Massachusetts College of Art in the fall to study photography as an undergraduate. Hauptmann hopes to one day teach photography.

For more information on Hank Hauptmann, please visit his website at: <http://hankhauptmannphoto.com/>

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