

# SEXUAL ASSAULT & VIOLENCE INTERVENTION SERVICES (SAVIS) OF HALTON

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### ENTERTAINMENT



The photography of Acton District High School grad J R Bernstein will be featured at the Bezpala Brown Gallery in Toronto this month in his breakout solo exhibit titled the Carbon Manifest.

Submitted photo

# Local photographer showcased in Toronto gallery this month

Local native J R Bernstein's photography will be featured in a solo exhibition on display through the month of May at an art gallery in the Yorkville area of Toronto.

Carbon Manifest, Bernstein's break-out solo photography exhibition, runs from May 8 to June 1 at the Bezpala Brown Gallery at 21 Yorkville Ave. with a VIP & media reception this Saturday as part of the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.

The 37-year-old is known for his narrative images of high-fashion editorial stories, portraits and landscapes that have appeared in publications such as the Boston Globe, Flare Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, the National Post and the Toronto Star.

Carbon Manifest investigates the theme of perpetual metamorphosis, evolution, and the inevitable elusive change of our physical environment the nature of the in-between in an unending process of transformation. In spite of all evidence to the contrary, we cling to the belief that our environment is a constant. We tend to ignore the gradual, infinitesimal changes that surround us, be it fractures in ice, water lapping a shoreline, or the decay of the either once-living or shiny and new.

Bernstein, who attended Centennial Middle School in Georgetown and graduated from Acton District High School, challenges this inclination of the viewer by photographing evidences of the passage of time, which parallel an uncomfortable and existential reflection of the constant-changing self, and allude to the serious environmental challenges we all face.

Carbon Manifest consists of carbon-printed, black and white landscape photographs created while sailing the waters around the Svalbard archipelago in the high Arctic, during an international artist residency in 2014.

Svalbard's storied history from early oil production as a major European whaling port, through coal mining, to climate change research in the present day provides a fertile backdrop for the exhibit's themes. Carbon Manifest draws upon the archipelago's close ties to carbon pollution and the many ways it affects our entire planet.

The exhibit s title also references the uncommon and superior method of printing that Bernstein has employed, using pure carbon pigments on rag paper to create enduring archival prints that may well outlast the landscape itself.

Each print is framed in an artist-made flame-blackened hardwood frame, completing the piece and further emphasizing the carbon component and importance of the environmental foundation of the work.

