

People

Photographer David Street holds exhibition at gallery

David Street, one of Canada's foremost photographers of dance,

uses his expertise to create a fresh and engaging look at dance in a community setting in his upcoming exhibition at The Latcham Gallery.

Motion and Emotion, which runs Aug. 10 to Sept. 9, encompasses a total of 30 black and white prints, broken down into a three-part series.

"The first 10 are dance-oriented images, but I

have tried to do things I haven't done before," explained the Stouffville resident, who has worked extensively with the National Ballet of Canada.

Because he produced all the photographs specifically for the exhibition, rather than showing works commissioned for other projects, he was able to give full rein to his creative instincts, a prospect he found exciting and, at times, daunting.

"In the first series, I have taken the dancers out of their normal environment," said Street.

"I've been photographing dancers for many years and it's always been in the rehearsal studio, in my studio and on stage, and it's had to be very controlled and choreographed."

Using unconventional settings and a much less formal approach was largely a reaction to the strict limits imposed by traditional dance photography, he noted. "It's developed into an idea and I've really enjoyed doing it this way."

He has photographed Dance Centre students of all ages "from the five-year-olds with their little butterfly wings in a cornfield to 12-year-olds skipping through a field with an oak tree in the background."

Among the unusual backdrops he selected for the dancers were the traffic lights at Mill and Main Streets and the refurbished rolling stock owned by the York-Durham Heritage Railway Association.

One dancer is captured as she performs a jump at a local baseball diamond.

Motion and Emotion also gave Street his first foray into photographing flowers and the results are distinctive and fascinating. In his third grouping, running horses are the subject matter but again, the treatment is unconventional.

Although Street is an experienced photographer of horses, "I used high speed infrared film which I've never used before."

The film creates dreamy, soft focus images, more reminiscent of impressionist paintings than photographs, and each print is sepia tinted. The opening reception for Motion and Emotion, which is sponsored by The Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Foundation, takes place Aug. 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.

- Kate Gilderdale

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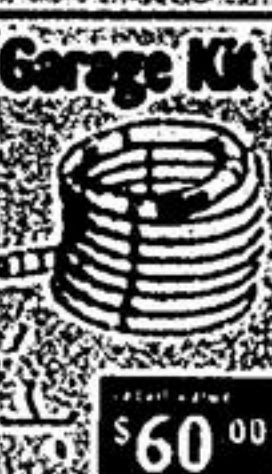
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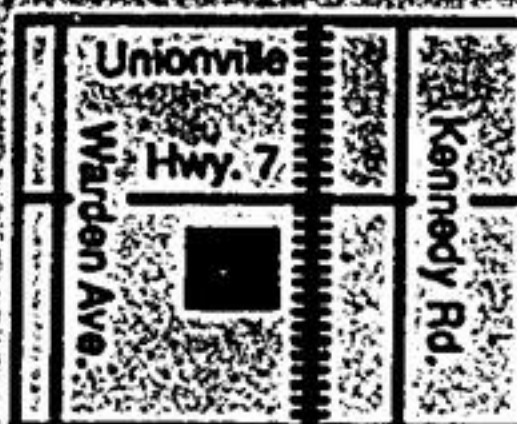
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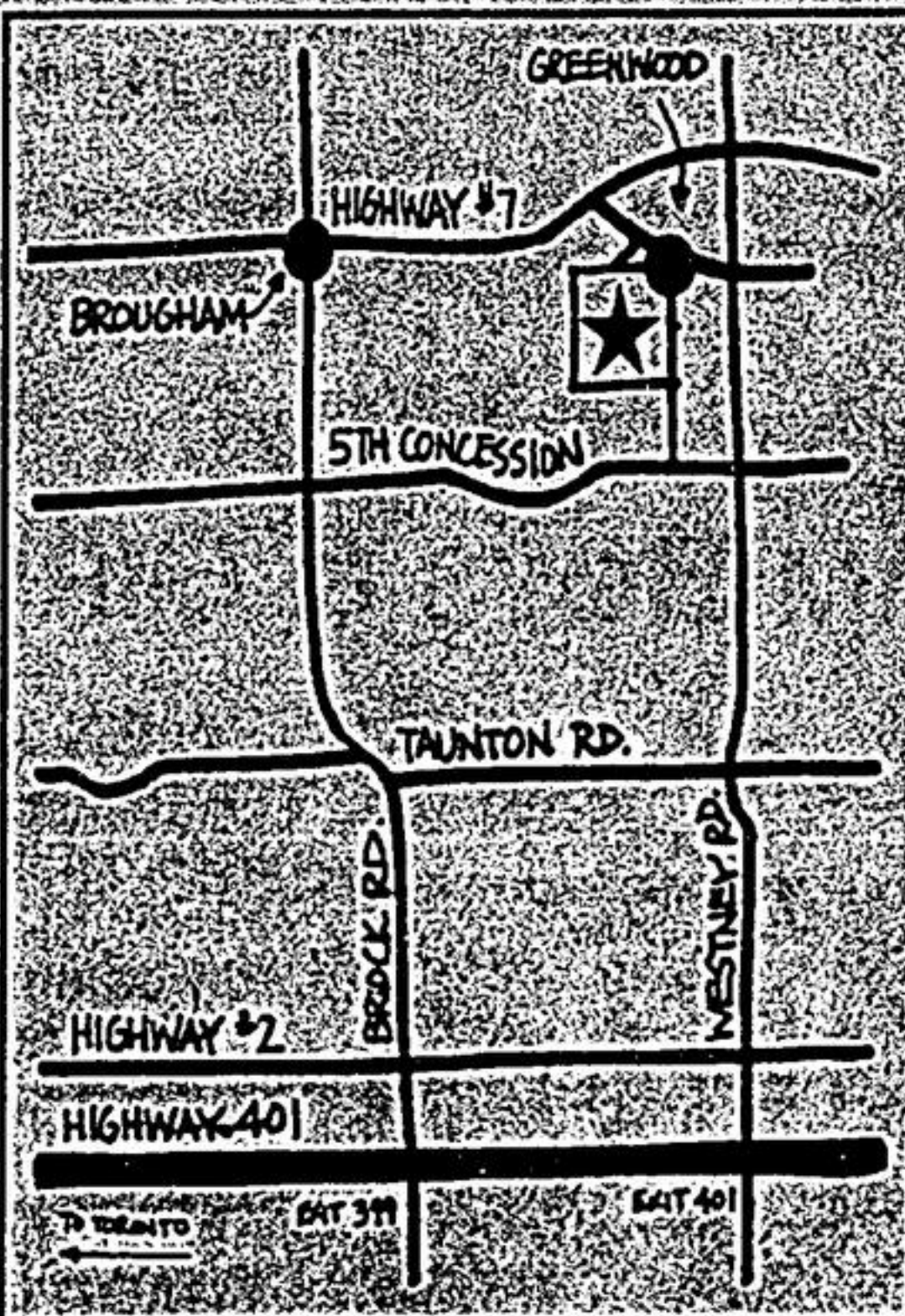
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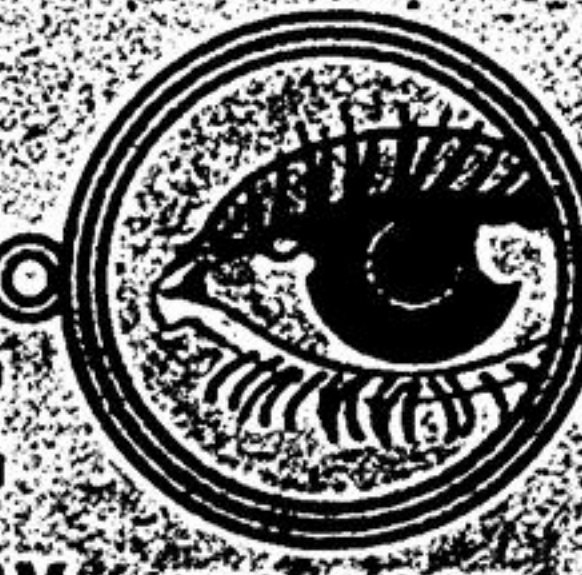
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