

# CONTACT SHEET

What's New, Cool Events, Interesting People, **Great Ideas**, Etc.

# GAME ON

Ten photographers challenge themselves in a visual conversation | BY JEFF KENT

Successful studio owners know that over the course of years, the thrill of client work can evolve into the monotony of stagnation. Last year, 10 professional photographers made a pledge to themselves and each other to con-

tribute to a creative exercise called the Daily Photo Game. Now complete, the project yielded 365 original images—one a day for a year—made as part of a visual “conversation” that meandered from one idea to the

next, from one photographer to the next. For the project, each photographer committed to taking a “game day” every 10 days. On that day, the photographer created and posted an image on the project website, with



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each new one serving as both a response to the previous image as well as a challenge to the next day's photographer. The game tested participants' artistic and logistical mettle, with each photographer having a 24-hour window to conceptualize, source, shoot, enhance, and deliver an image.

“When I was first approached about the Daily Photo Game concept, I was so discouraged about the photography industry and my personal photography in general,” says commercial photographer Russ Widstrand of Portland, Ore. “I didn't pick up a camera anymore for personal work, just for jobs. Now, having spent a year on the game, I feel a new-

ness in my volition to create ... a kind of freedom of expression and dialogue with fellow artists that fuels me and calls me to do more.” Participant Martin Trailer concurs. “I feel more willing to explore and try new things,” says the San Diego-based photographer. “The game has loosened me up. I feel less constricted without someone looking over my shoulder. I think more like I did when I first started in the business, looking for unique opportunities, exploration, fun.”

Version 2.0 of the game is already in the works, and participants are weighing in on their ultimate goals for the project. “It would be nice to see this catch on and become a real show-

case for the 10 of us,” says founding member Eliot Crowley, who is based in Santa Barbara, Calif. “But if we could change the perception of modern-day photography from something that anyone with a camera can do to something that takes real skill, artistic talent, experience, and heart—now that would be something.” Participants in the Daily Photo Game, all pro photographers, include Eliot Crowley, Blue Fier, Bob Stevens, Martin Trailer, Charley Akers, Jay Ahrend, Robert Nease, Russ Widstrand, Joseph Pobereskin, and David Blattel.

See all 365 images from the Daily Photo Game at [dailyphotogame.com](http://dailyphotogame.com).