

# Curriculum Vitae

## PAUL JOHNSTON

(Born 1962, Toronto, Canada)

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### INTRODUCTION

I am a self taught artist from Toronto, Canada, currently living in Stratford, Ontario

**Photography:** As a photographer I have over 30 years experience. In 1983 I opened 'Alternative Exposures' a gallery, studio and darkroom at King and Spadina in Toronto. During the next few years I had several small shows in restaurants and cafes along the Queen West strip and operated a commercial photography business cataloguing the custom work of wholesale jewellers. After closing Alternative Exposures, photography was relegated to a hobby until 2011 when I made the decision, once again to become more public with my work. Over the years I have developed a unique style; first in the darkroom and now adapted to digital images. My latest work "Deconstructing Comfort" attempts to deconstruct the emotional relationship we have with comfort foods.

**Assemblage Sculpture:** Since the 1980's I have been making found object assemblage sculpture as a hobby. Starting out as typical light hearted folk art it has transformed and matured over the decades into complex narrative art. In my latest series "Circular Reference" six sculptures take several generations of a Russian family through the concept of time and the emotions of loss, flight, and self reflection, leading them and the viewer on a never ending journey on the back of the Ouroboros.

### RECENT EXHIBITIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

2015 (July 19 to Oct 4) Photography – "Pear of Legs" – The Discovery Show – Gallery Stratford – Tobi Bruce, Senior Curator of Historical Art (Art Gallery of Hamilton)

2014 (July 13 to Oct 5) Photography– "Optitron" – Pushed to the Edge – Gallery Stratford – Iga Janik, Curator Cambridge Galleries

2013 (June 16 to Oct 6) Photography – "Kismet" Gallery Stratford – 2013 Perth Huron Exhibition – Juror – Heather Hughes, (Tom Thomson Art Gallery)

2012 (June) Solo Photography – Selected Portraits Goderich Co-op Gallery- 2012

### RECENT EXHIBITIONS ASSEMBLAGE SCULPTURE

2015 (July 19 to Oct 4) Assemblage Sculpture – "Sugar Baby's Curiosity Invaded the Room" – The Discovery Show – Gallery Stratford – Tobi Bruce, Senior Curator of Historical Art (Art Gallery of Hamilton)

2014 (July 13 to Oct 5) Assemblage Sculpture – "Besnik's Metalworks Factory Clandestinely Ran a Second Enterprise from its Basement" – Pushed to the Edge – Gallery Stratford – Iga Janik, Curator Cambridge Galleries

2012 (July 8 to Oct 7) Assemblage Sculpture – Gallery Stratford – 2012 Perth Huron Exhibition – Juror Doug Kirton

2011 (April 17 to June 5) Photography – "Slight Dissent" Gallery Stratford – 2011 Perth Huron Exhibition – Juror Robert Achtemichuk

**Memberships:** Proud member of Craft Ontario