

# Hudson features favourite work in Lines

## EXPOSURE

Calgary Banff Canmore Photography Festival

ROB ALEXANDER CANMORE

Dan Hudson likes certain moments, whether it is on the street or on the peaks.

But the moment itself, on its own, is not enough.

For a photograph to work, Hudson needs other elements to be present, such as lighting, composition and all the other elements photographers consider when they trip the shutter.

"That's what photography is in its essence. It's about a moment in time, a micro-moment. For the most part, photography is in 1/1000th of a second," the Canmore-based photographer said, Thursday, Jan. 21.

"You can see it, but it's only with the technology of photography that you can stop that moment. Unlike film or video, you are capturing a moment for a photo to be interesting, it has to be an interesting moment. And the other stuff has to come into play; lighting and what ever else."

And keep in mind, many of the moments Hudson photographs involve high-calibre skiers and snowboarders often moving at great speed

over steep, technical terrain.

But whether he is photographing skiers and snowboarders or people on a Tokyo street, his focus is much the same – people in the landscape.

"A lot of what I do is figures in landscape, the tradition dates back thousands of years if you look at other forms of art such as painting," Hudson said.

"People in the landscape being either ordinary or extraordinary, extraordinary perhaps being the ski and snowboard stuff because they are certainly doing some crazy stuff."

Hudson will share a selection of his ski and snowboard work at The Edge Gallery as part of *Lines* during the Exposure 2010 Calgary-Banff-Canmore Photography Festival.

*Lines* opens on Saturday (Feb. 6) with a reception from 2-5 p.m. Hudson will be in attendance and he said he is happy to answer questions about photography and his work.

He added everyone is welcome to attend.

In many of the photographs featured in *Lines*, the subject, while still the primary focus, practically disappears into the landscape, blurring the lines between action photography and landscape.

"It's not about the visibility of the snowboarder, it's about the landscape,



Eric Hjørleifson, Veretbrae Glacier, Chatter Creek, B.C.

DAN HUDSON PHOTO

light and shadows," he said.

Too often photographers draw a firm line in the sand between landscape photography and portrait or action photography. The landscape must be free of human intrusion or it is simply the unimportant backdrop to what people are doing.

Hudson, however, sees no reason to separate the two.

It is a remarkable effect that works only because all of the elements have fallen into place, but not because of good luck.

Instead, Hudson is able to pull off these photographs time and time again – resulting in over 60 international magazine covers – through

planning, timing and collaboration with the athletes he works with.

"They're an artist in their own right. Athletes such as Andrew Hardingham, you think of them as crazy dudes hucking themselves, but a lot of them are really creative guys," he said.

They plan the images together, taking into account the environment, weather, avalanche conditions and light, and seeing as all of those factors are never predictable in the mountains, Hudson has often waited for years to take a specific photograph.

And his approach likely accounts for his commercial success as a photographer with magazine covers to his

credit and thousands of photographs published on the inside pages.

Given that he also paints, sculpts and creates video installations, he said the ideas of background and settings and where these moments occur is important to him as he composes his images; whether it is a snowboard, a ski shot or a street scene.

But Hudson said he doesn't necessarily see his action photography as art, even though he approaches it with an artistic, creative mind.

He said he sees it more as photo-journalism.

It's a point a few of his friends and fellow artists would disagree with, as he said they see this work as much a part of his art practice as his paintings.

"I think their point is really an individual person's outlook on the world, so whatever medium you use, video camera, camera, paint brush, whatever you are using, it is how you are using that to portray your ideas or how you see the world, how you think about the world," he said.

Hudson will also be one of eight presenters at the Exposure 2010 Banff-Canmore photography festival launch at the Juniper Hotel & Bistro Friday evening (Feb. 5) beginning at 7 p.m.

Each presenter has 10 minutes to share their work and their process, and Hudson said he plans to show a range of images to give festival attendees a sense of what he does as a photographer.

*Lines* runs until Feb. 27.