

Featured artdc.org artist

Erin Antognoli

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Tell us about your art. I use a variety of approaches depending on the project. For my current personal art portfolio, I use Holga cameras with black and white film to create urban landscapes out of my surroundings. I create an overlap between images that turns several separate elements into an entirely new entity. Instead of a square image, I often end up with a rectangle or panoramic image. I try to juxtapose shapes or textures or subjects that I think will complement each other and will interact well with each other to say something different than they would as individual pieces.

Describe your materials and artistic workflow. I like making my Holga images in urban areas more so than rural areas. The man-made textures and grittiness of cities lends itself better to my thought process, so I start by visiting places where people frequent. For the street Holgas, it's just me and the camera. I recently began shooting events in this same style to combine my love of portraiture and people photography with the urban landscape feel. I don't use digital resources at all when creating this series; it's all done in camera, which means I need to really think about what I'm doing in the moment. All images are traditional silver prints which are selenium toned for color and longevity.

Tell us about your inspiration. My inspiration for my current work was Washington DC itself. This work means a lot to me because I see so much of my feeling about the city in each piece. The inspiration for the contact print presentation came from the [Kertesz exhibit at the National Gallery](#). That show really resonated with me. Even though my subject matter is nothing like his, it was the aesthetic that I found attractive and found a harmony with what I was experiencing here.

Where can we find your art? I have a solo show coming up in Georgetown at the [Dumbarton Concert Hall Gallery](#) the first Saturday in November. I'll be the first photographer ever to be exhibited there. My Web site is [halophoto.com](#).

Name a DC artist that everyone should know, and why. [Phil Nesmith's](#) ferrotypes are amazing. I really like [Sean Hennessey's](#) sculptures and casts. Process is a big part of the attraction to both of these artists - craft is very important - but I also love the feeling I get by looking at their work. It's pretty exciting to see the scope and variety of talent.



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