

Why I became a photographer

Geoffrey James – Clip 2

I'm not sure how I became a photographer to the extent that it chose me in a funny way. I mean I didn't really do this full-time until I was forty. I was a journalist and then I was an arts administrator at the Canada Council all the while taking pictures. But I think, by age forty, I decided I was so taken with the medium and excited about doing it, I just said to myself, well this is what I'm going to do and that's what I've done for the last twenty-six years, nothing else. I think when I decided to do it, it was extremely naïve in that I had one Leica camera and a very old primitive device from the 1920's that looks like a shoebox, no darkroom. I just set out to do it and I think I was extraordinarily lucky. I seemed to be walking in the sunlight for a few years, very nice things happened to me. Looking back it was an irrational decision to do that but I'm glad I did it.

