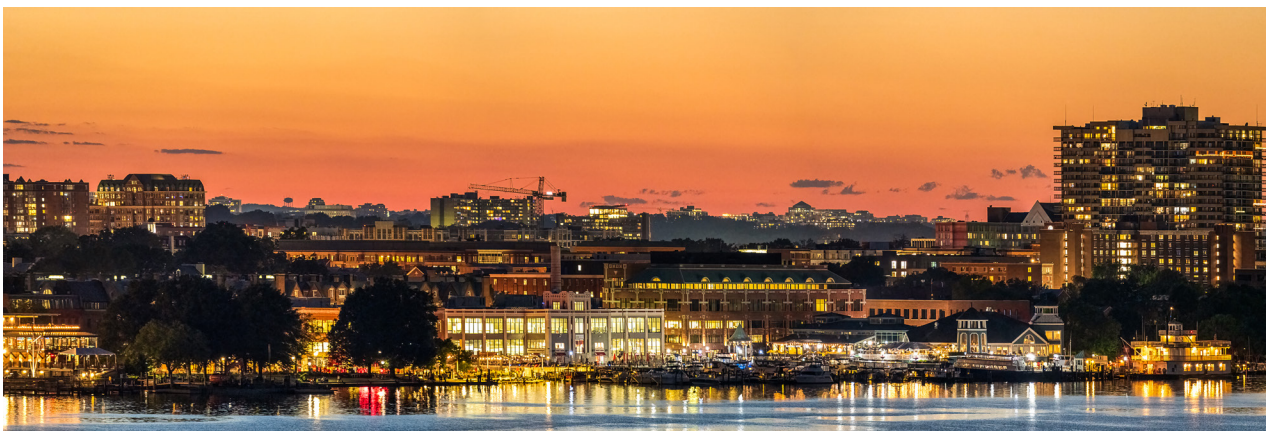


Photography: Alexandria in Focus

Alexandria photographer
Daniel Horowitz enjoys taking
nighttime photos of scenes around Alexandria.

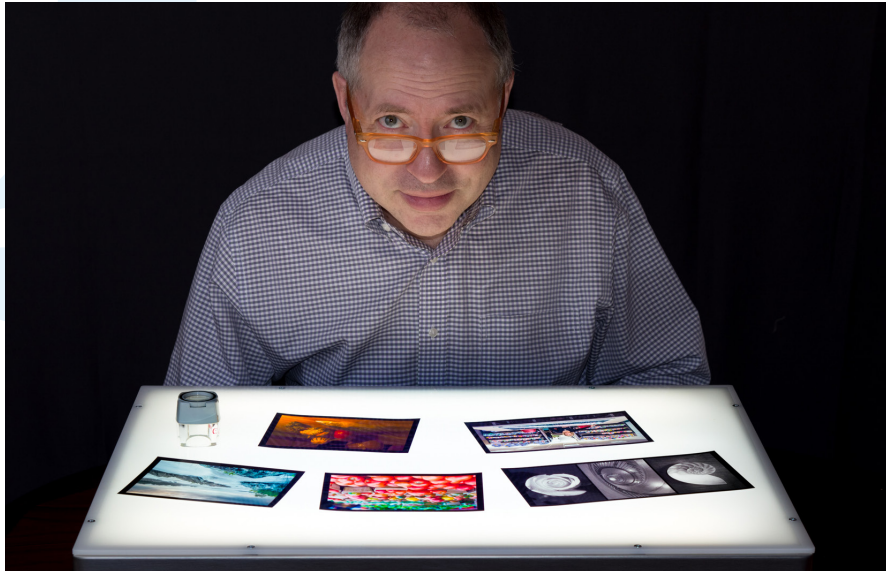
PHOTOS BY DANIEL HOROWITZ



"I FIND I'M BETTER OFF WORKING WITH WHAT'S FAMILIAR TO ME, BUT STILL ALWAYS LOOKING OUR FOR SOMETHING UNUSUAL OCCURRING." READ MORE ABOUT HOROWITZ ON PAGE 38.

Daniel Horowitz

Photographs Alexandria



Local photographer Daniel Horowitz grew up in Pasadena, Calif. and moved to Alexandria 23 years ago to work for the government.

"I've been taking pictures since I was a kid," he said. "At a young age, my parents bought me a pinhole camera kit made out of cardboard. I could never find any film for it, but I would still go around pointing it at things."

As a graduate student in England, Horowitz traveled around Europe a lot, which got him interested in urban and landscape photography, and images of historic or abandoned places.

"People liked the pictures and that encouraged me to keep clicking away," he said.

Horowitz worked for a federal agency for "a couple of decades" and now he's a lobbyist for a labor union.

"In my federal job, I developed a program of safety videos, which improbably developed a large following of fans," he said. "I think this has helped me later on in still photography."

Whether it's video or still photography, "you have to keep the viewer focused on what's important in a scene and create a shared understanding of the subject," he said. "Which then means thinking constantly about the composition, about what to include or exclude and how to keep people engaged."

Horowitz especially enjoys making mostly nighttime and long-exposure images of scenes around Alexandria. "I find I'm better off working with what's familiar to me, but still always looking out for something unusual occurring," he said.

His more successful images are mostly within walking distance of his house. "People enjoy seeing their hometown, especially if it's a vantage point or situation they didn't really imagine," he said. "People marvel over pictures of the Woodrow Wilson drawbridge on the rare occasions when it's raised."

Horowitz said he noticed that many people who live here have never seen it open. "Some people argue vehemently that it's not a drawbridge at all," he said. "More broadly, people like the monuments, King Street, the waterfront. The important thing is just to keep surprising them."

FAVORITE MOVIE:

"Dr. Strangelove"

YOUR LAST MEAL:

"No strong preference but I'd go to a restaurant known for extremely slow service."

THREE PEOPLE YOU WOULD INVITE TO A DINNER PARTY:

Ansel Adams, Rachel Carson, and Herman Melville

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:

Tuscany

LAST BOOK READ:

Susan Sontag, *On Photography*

FAVORITE RESTAURANT IN ALEXANDRIA:

Stracci

FAVORITE ICE CREAM FLAVOR:

Dulce de leche

One of his favorite photographers is Baltimore photographer Aubrey Bodine, whose historic industrial photos hang on his walls.

Other favorite photographers? "It's hard to pick a favorite, but maybe André Kertész, the great Hungarian-American photographer of the early and mid 20th century. Kertész could take a fork and a plate and turn out a compositional and tonal masterpiece. The most mundane scenes seem to be invested with great meaning."

"In his 80s, he created an extraordinary set of works with nothing more than a Polaroid instant camera and some small objects and figurines set in the window of his New York apartment. To me, that's the epitome of photography."

His tips for budding photographers? "Shoot often — every day. Keep going back to the same place until you figure out why you went there at all. Then find some way to communicate that."

Read more about Horowitz on his website, danielhorowitz.art or visit Made in ALX to peruse his photographs for purchase.