

**MICHAEL CHRISTIDIS PHOTOGRAPHY**

# **MACHINA - TRAMEN**



## Machina - Tramen Project

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Trains are fascinating huge machines that power our economy. As a child, I would ride my bicycle down to the local train station (old, boarded up, and off limits to me) and I would, inevitably, place pennies on the tracks, wait for a train to pass and then go searching for my flattened pennies. My mother would know whenever I went there because of the grease marks on my jeans from sitting on the tracks...always a price to pay for being bad but I had my flattened pennies!

I recently lost a friend to cancer; Doug was a former work colleague and we quickly became good friends. During times of excessive work stress, we would go have pie and coffee...no walks or meditative breaks for us. After I left the organization, Doug and I would get together for breakfast and the occasional pie and coffee. Doug's passion in life since he was a young man was trains and transportation.

One day, I took Doug to several places east of Toronto, Ontario that I thought he might be interested in seeing: two train lines that criss-crossed via a train bridge, a curved train bridge, a 100+ year old rail line overpass timber bridge, two low (single lane) cement train bridges along a country road and the town of Port Hope which is home to two high elevated train bridges that span the downtown area near the lakeshore. It was a fun day and, yes, there was pie.

I recently visited a railway heritage display in Lindsay, Ontario and made some photographs to show Doug. We reviewed my photos over breakfast one day and had a good chat about them. After Doug's passing, I decided to work on these photographs and make finished images in his memory.

The final images were made by combining multiple photos; a similar approach to what Leonardo DaVinci employed when selectively overlaying multiple renditions of horse anatomy to illustrate motion and the power/strength of these animals.



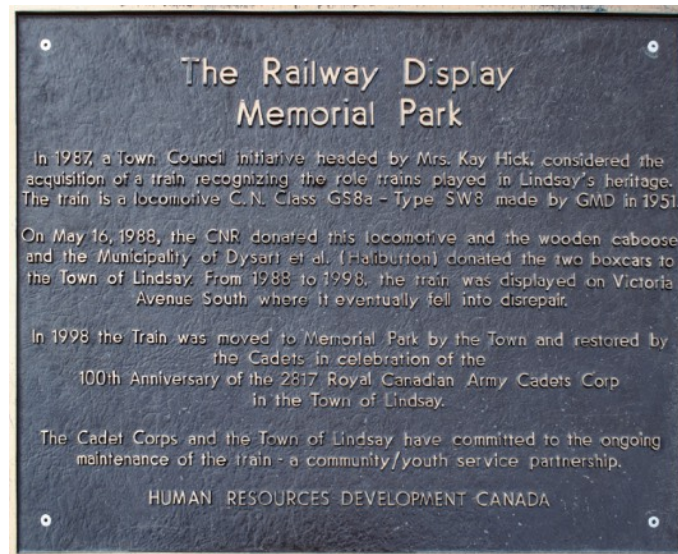
Read about Leonardo DaVinci's approach to life and creativity [here](#).



I wanted these photographs to reflect the majesty of these machines where you can both hear and feel their rumble in your chest and the ground trembling at your feet as they pass by. Some of these photo montages convey the physical presence, power and movement of trains, some focus on machinery and structural details whilst others incorporate elements of a train's journey through nature.

For me, this approach to making photographs creates a plethora of visual intrigue in every image with multiple overlapping of colours, shapes, textures and lighting. In making these, I wanted the viewer to be able to imagine witnessing these trains in action and consider their history and import.

Lindsay's outdoor heritage train display where I took my photos:



This series is entitled "Machina - Tramen" (Latin for "Machine - Train").

All photographs in this open edition series are available as 13 x 20 inch archival pigment prints.

Michael Christidis

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Machina - Tramen No. 1





Machina - Tramen No. 2





Machina - Tramen No. 3



Machina - Tramen No. 4





Machina - Tramen No. 5



Machina - Tramen No. 6





Machina - Tramen No. 7





Machina - Tramen No. 8





Machina - Tramen No. 9

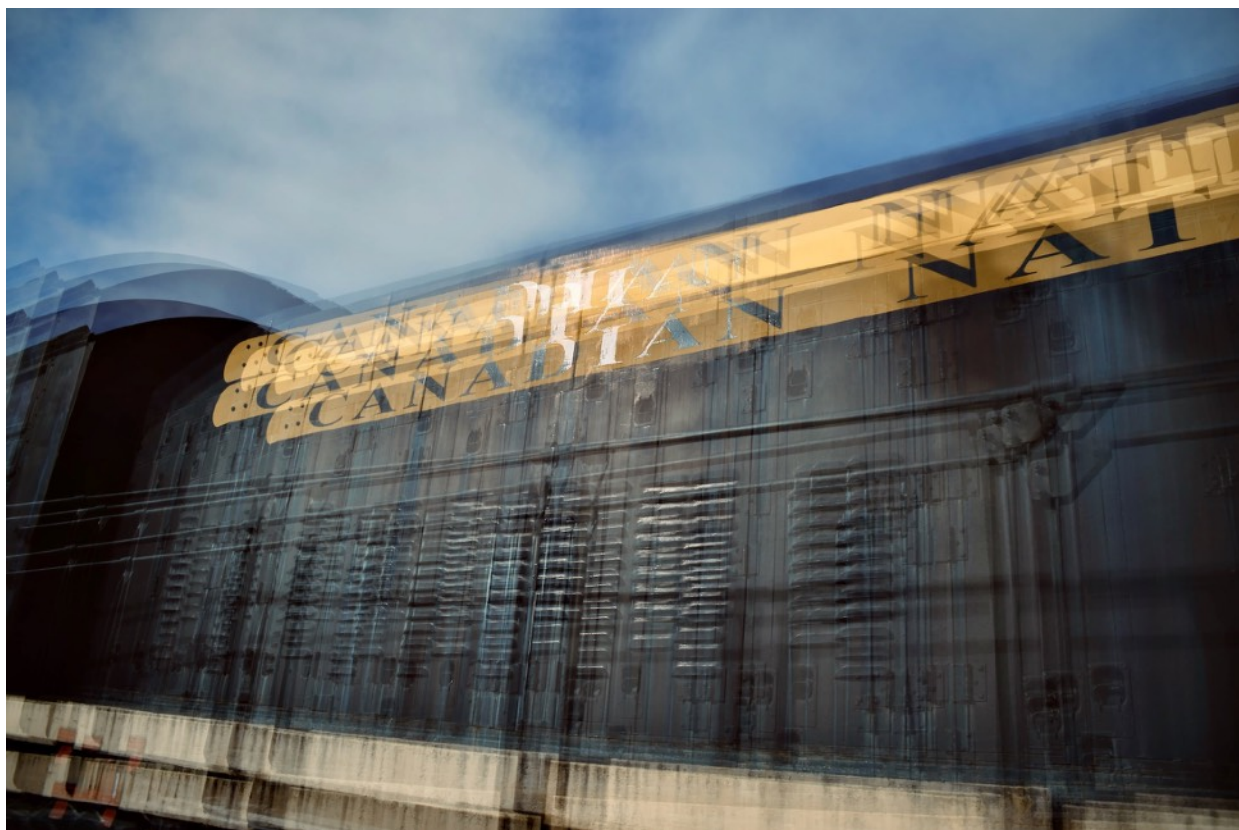


Machina - Tramen No. 10





Machina - Tramen No. 11



Machina - Tramen No. 12





Machina - Tramen No. 13



Machina - Tramen No. 14





Machina - Tramen No. 15



Machina - Tramen No. 16





Machina - Tramen No. 17



Machina - Tramen No. 18





Machina - Tramen No. 19



Machina - Tramen No. 20



## **About**

Michael Christidis is a Canadian artist who is best known for his luminous multi-layered paintings depicting wilderness landscapes and shorelines. Like many Canadians, Christidis grew up with romantic notions of the Canadian landscape and a respect for the great painters who wove the fabric of Canadian national identity. He became fascinated with nature, and this encouraged him to explore the world around him through drawing, painting and photography from an early age.

Living in a country like Canada, with its vast untamed wilderness, dramatic scenery, diverse geology and four seasons, allowed the artist to develop a profound connection with, and appreciation of, the forces of raw nature. His landscape work directly conveys his deep respect for nature and its subtle, yet powerful, beauty and offers unusual and personal glimpses of breathtaking scenery.

Christidis' body of work is the product of a lifetime of refining his creative approach which is documented and illustrated in a sixty-page ebook available on [MichaelCArtist.com](http://MichaelCArtist.com). From his formal studies of design, art history, still photography and film, to years of experimentation with mediums, techniques and aesthetics and professional work experience, to his writings about artistic intent and creativity, Christidis has left no stone unturned in his quest for a cultivated methodology that he can truly call his own.

Christidis has exhibited in Canada and the United States.



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