



LENSWORK

Alumni News

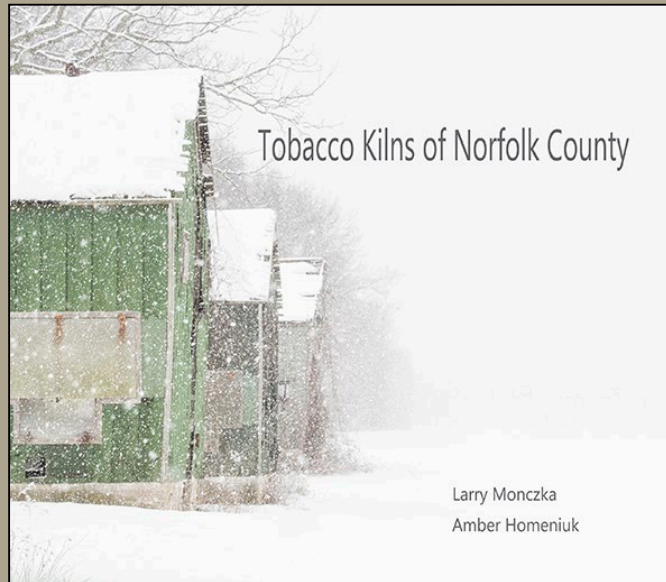
Larry Monczka — Simcoe, Ontario, Canada



Photo credit: Kathleen Pickard

www.raraavisphotos.com

New Book



TOBACCO KILNS OF NORFOLK COUNTY

The local culture of tobacco growing in Norfolk County in Southern Ontario along the north shore of Lake Erie has been fading into memory for a generation. This can be attributed to a decades long decline in the industry due to health concerns and economic shifts away from the sector.

Because the kilns are no longer valued locally and thus not maintained, the sagging roofs, torn tarpaper, exposed wood and gaping widows suggest the Japanese concept of “wabi-sabi” to me. This refers to the sense of serene melancholy associated with imperfection and impermanence.

Over the years, many of the kilns photographed for this project have been torn down. What began as a visual investigation into the ephemeral beauty of decay has become a record of loss.

This self-published Blurb book is a collaboration with the regional poet Amber Homeniuk. The humanity of that bygone tobacco culture is recorded in her lively and historically informed poetry which graces and enriches this book.

www.blurb.com/b/9157715-tobacco-kilns-of-norfolk-county



Monczka in *LensWork Extended* #125 *Playtime*

“Approximately 6x3 feet in size, the surface of the table was a mess of paint. This was Vicki’s version of a ‘painter’s palette’ and was quite large. It was the place where she laid out her pots and cans of paint and checked color density, brush sizes, and paint textures before they went onto her canvases.”

Back issues of *LensWork Extended* perpetually [available here](#).

