



LENSWORK

Alumni News

Peter Andrew Lusztyk — Toronto, Ontario, Canada



www.peterandrew.ca

New Work

"The Uncanny Valley," an idea coined by Masahiro Mori, suggests that human replicas which appear almost, but not exactly, like real human beings elicit feelings of eeriness and revulsion among observers. This exhibition of uncanny portraits invites the viewer to be an active participant in testing Mori's theory. The wax figures at Madame Tussauds museums in Las Vegas and Washington DC, depict some of the most famous celebrities and recognizable people in the world. As sculptures, they are renowned for

their likeness to the original subjects. As cultural artifacts, they represent a yearning to physically interact with even the verisimilitude of celebrity.

The act of photography makes the Trussauds wax sculptures appear more real than they do in the museum; tricking the viewer into an act of belief. This con of the image is achieved by removing the sculpture's failure of "liveness", expected by the viewer when interacting with the three-dimensional form, and by returning the copy to the more familiar mode of celebrity consumption used in popular culture and advertising. The intention of the resulting images is to force the viewers to confront issues of simulation and hyperreality.



This project was developed as a street experiment conducted in Toronto in February 2017: [Twitter](#) • [Toronto.com](#)

See more images from this series at my [website](#).



Lusztyk in *LensWork* and *LensWork Extended* #132 *Interchanges*

"With the fascination of an eight-year old boy, I remember staring down at the Ontario Highway 401 while we slowly descended for landing at Toronto Pearson International Airport. From the air, the intricate maze of roads and highways — massive structures alive with traffic — were not at all what I had experienced from the back seat of our 1986 Tercel Wagon. Many years later this decades-old visual impression would surface when a photographic opportunity unexpectedly stepped into my path."

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