

Shutterbugs to go retro for photo competition

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Photographers used to have to think harder before shooting.

Before digital photography, images were captured on film, and that film cost money.

Unless you had deep pockets, you couldn't just rattle off 20 shots and pick your favourite. And you certainly couldn't fix it up in Photoshop when you were done.

Vancouver graphic designer Morten Rand-Hendriksen wants to take photographers back to those days during a photo competition he's organizing for Dec. 12.

It's called the 12 x 12 Vancouver Photo Marathon.

Entrants will receive enough 35-millimetre film to take 12 exposures, and will be required to capture 12 themed images over the course of 12 hours.

"It kind of levels the playing field, because you only have one shot per theme," said Rand-Hendriksen. "There's no guarantee that the professionals will come up with the best photos."

Rand-Hendriksen participated in similar competitions while attending university in Oslo.

After he moved to Vancouver in 2002, he was struck by how much photographic talent there was in town.

He wanted to find a way to bring photographers together, and the inau-

gural 12 x 12 Vancouver Photo Marathon is the result.

Starting at 8 a.m. at Blenz Coffee in Yaletown, organizers will draw one theme per hour out of a hat containing about 50 of them. They will be deliberately ambiguous and vague, to allow for a variety of interpretations.

Photographers will then go out to shoot a single frame illustrating that theme — and return to headquarters within an hour for their next assignment.

At 8 p.m., entrants hand in their rolls of film containing the 12 exposures in sequence, and the judging begins.

Rand-Hendriksen looks forward to the social interaction between participants at headquarters throughout the day. Entrants so far have ranged widely in both age and experience.

"We're just trying to make it as interesting for both amateurs and professionals as possible, and making it kind of fun," Rand-Hendriksen said.

Registration is \$12 before midnight tonight, and \$15 after that.

The winning photos will be featured at an exhibition in January and *The Province* will publish a selection of them at the same time.

Province readers can use promo code "theprovince" to get early-bird pricing for the event.

■ For more information, go to: vancouverphotomathon.com.

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Graphic designer Morten Rand-Hendriksen, who also collects cameras, is taking photography back to its roots with the first 12 x 12 Vancouver Photo Marathon. ARLEN REDEKOP — THE PROVINCE