

# Diagnosis: Cancer

By Tom Lindsay

*"This is my story about getting cancer for the second time. What a bummer of a way to start the new millennium! Anyway, I wanted to document this go around with cancer in a unique way. And you know what that meant! Yeah, PINHOLE!"*

*Be mystified and intrigued and enjoy the show!"*

*Keep on Pinholin',*

*Tom Lindsay*



# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Part I: OMENS, COSMIC CLUES and DENIAL

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The millennium started out a big bust as far as I was concerned. Y2K was a joke, and the world didn't come to an end. Winter's snow covered the area, and I went out pinholin' and ended up with a bad case of the flu; so much for the flu shot protecting me from getting the flu! It was a good while before I went out pinholin' again, and I really didn't get many good images until it started to warm up. I was in a slump but knew that Spring would get me going again.

I noticed a small lump on my neck after the bout with the flu and really didn't bother with it until springtime just before going on vacation to the beach. So I went to the doctor and he wanted to cut the darn thing out right away, but I wanted to go on vacation first and put the surgery off until we got back. But in the back of my mind I was concerned that it might be cancer because I'd had it before.

I took a pinhole image of myself while sitting in my car waiting out a thundershower. And when I got the image back I was surprised to see that I wasn't in the image; just clothing with a person's shape sitting behind the steering wheel. Well that image really freaked me out. I thought it was an omen, and asked a few pinholers what they thought. Nobody saw what I did, and I just forgot about it for a while.

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## Part I: OMENS, COSMIC CLUES and DENIAL

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### *A Jon Boy Omen*

Cold and windy outside, thoughts of pinhole photography warmed my soul. Snow covered everything in sight and my creative juices were firing. I wanted to take a good pinhole photo today. Sometimes your mind's eye sees something that you'll never see or capture, at least that day, but you still have that inner spiritual drive to "Keep on Pinholin" and you load up the car with your gear and it's off to find the holy grail of photo opportunities that will seal your doubts about your own talent.

Winter 2000 had its grip on the area and only the daring or desperate were outside in the cold slicing winds. Realizing that my inner drive had more to do with me being outside photographing than common sense, the photo opp gods led me to the Jon Boy picture. The scene made me feel a story. And a good pinhole photo would tell that story. That's one of the cool things I like about pinhole photography in that it captures moments and time like no other device.

A few days later I came down with a flu-like cold where you feel lousy, your head aches and the glands on your neck are swollen. After nearly a week in bed I figured that I'd try to limit my outdoors pinholin until it began to warm-up. Little did I know then, but this was the beginning to a mixed year of heaven and hell, with spiritual highs and the darkest emotional lows.



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### *Surgery*

Billy and his son Gorden had invited me to their job-site to take some pinhole photos of what they do for a living. I knew that they used heavy equipment and tractors of all varieties. I was thrilled to be asked out because I just love doing pinhole of tractors and construction sites. When I pulled up to the job-site, the smell was akin to a new beginning bringing life to the old dormant ground. Billy stood there supervising the laying of a huge underground cement pipe, which had to be so exact that laser beams were used to line things up.



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### *Karma Police*

Gorden was checking the Don's Jon for slackers trying to get out of work. He would use the bucket on his tractor to slightly tip the Don's Jon to see if anyone was in there trying to get out of work. Photographing on construction sites is extremely challenging because of the vast area that is involved, it's hard to get a good image that passes on vastness and the collective efforts of men and machines.



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### *Where Am I?*

I had just left the job-site where Billy and Gorden were working, and stopped at a shopping center parking lot. All of a sudden the clouds opened up and the rain pelted my car. I was grateful to have gotten my pinholin' done of the job-site and that me and my gear were in the dry car. Noticing that I still had a couple frames left on the roll I had just started, I decided to get a "self" image of myself waiting out the storm.

When the film came back developed I noticed that I wasn't in the "self" shots. My jacket showed that a body had created the shape, and that body was mine. But for some reason I didn't and I became distraught due to past health problems and though it was an omen forecasting things to come. I even ran this idea by some people on the Internet and they didn't quite see what I did.



I guess that having been so sick in the 1980's made me start looking for signals to where my life was going. I began to assess my health during the last few months and could only remember a bad flu-like cold with swollen glands and the usual miserable symptoms. But one thing remained constant and it was that one gland in my neck never really got back to its normal size. I began to monitor the gland; which is really a lymph node, and thought that it was due to my always rubbing it to see if it was smaller or not. It remained swollen. I had the gland checked out at the doctors and with my past history of cancer, the doctors wanted to remove the gland and run some tests.

I was supposed to go on vacation to the beach the next week and put off the surgery until I returned. I was in denial, but needed the mental break, so it was off to Oak Island, N.C. and a wonderful time with my sweetheart, Janet, and Dave and Shelby.

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## Part I: OMENS, COSMIC CLUES and DENIAL

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### *Something's Askew at the Big K*

In the pinhole community the New Year started out with the Zero 2000 Pinhole camera being the "new toy" to definitely have. An exhibit was planned out and all that one needed to do was to submit a pinhole photo made using the Zero 2000.

I had taken a couple of rolls of film and still hadn't decided on what pinhole photo I was going to submit. I stopped in a local shopping center and was thrilled with the clouds over top of the buildings. The Big K looked like the "Church of the Immaculate Bargain"; yet another spiritual shot, but the drive to get a good image caused me to overlook the special message that was trying

to show itself through this image. Something was askew much like the parking stop block that was knocked loose in the handicapped parking spot.



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## Part I: OMENS, COSMIC CLUES and DENIAL

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### *Camouflage*

Everything about Oak Island was almost tropical. The air had the wonderful smell of gardenias and magnolias floating all around, and with the sea breeze I felt like I was back in Hawaii where I had lived back in the late sixties. Suddenly a large green and black moth flew into the carport and roosted itself on the screen door. Setting up the tripod and camera so not to disturb the moth was tricky as well as nerve racking. The moth was at least 3 inches from wing tip to wing tip. The army drab green camouflage pattern on the moth set off laughter between us all, because only a few hours earlier that day a local resident stopped by to chat as he saw us sipping suds in the carport. He asked us at one time during his conversation if we knew what "camouflage" was. And of course we did as my father was a colonel in the Marines and Dave's father was a Sargent Major in the Air Force; and all military brats know what camouflage is.



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## Part I: OMENS, COSMIC CLUES and DENIAL

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### *Ghost*

Oak Island was what I needed. I'm drawn to the sea like a lemming, and the smell of fresh ocean air excites my senses miles before I even see water and sandy beaches.

Not wanting to know if I had cancer again or not was weighing heavy on me at times, but I wasn't going to let it ruin a wonderful vacation with my honey and good friends. Sitting outside drinking beer and talking, Dave and I were thinking of things to pinhole. I asked Dave if he'd like to be in a "ghost" shot, and the idea sounded great, so we set up and got a good shot in one try!



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## Part II: CANCER

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I felt that I had to let you know what it's really like to go through cancer...

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## Part II: CANCER

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### *The Tube*

The next thing on the agenda was to ready myself for radiation treatments. A trip to the dentist's office to super clean my teeth was needed in order to save my teeth from the upcoming radiation. I also needed another surgery to install a feeding tube as the radiation was going to leave me unable to swallow food and liquids. Leaning up against my car to steady myself, I took a pinhole photo of my new tube. Later I noticed the body language that was displayed in the image: showing my discontent for the tube.



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## Part II: CANCER

### *Radiation Mask*

Things were really starting to cook now! And the thing that was cooking was me! I was scheduled for 40 sessions of radiation to specific areas of my neck and jaw: and that was to happen 5 days a week for 8 solid weeks!

The radiology technician made a mask for me. The mask was made from a mesh that was in a square wood frame. The technician asked if I was claustrophobic because the making of the mask was very intense! The mesh frame was soaked in warm water until it reached the desired softness, and then the meshed frame was jammed over my face and smoothed out until it was the exact shape of my face. The mask had to be exactly perfect for the radiation treatments. After about 10 minutes the mesh mask was removed from my face, and set to the side to harden. This would be what I would be under for the next 40 sessions



Maps of my face were generated weekly to instruct the radiologist as to where to zap me, and for how long. I remember hearing the buzzing of the X-ray machine; lasting for minutes at a time. Music was playing in the background to try and soothe the patient. But it didn't help much. I sometimes felt like I was a piece of bacon, and the buzzing from the X-ray machine made me think of the spattering and spitting of grease in an old cast iron skillet. I just wanted it to hurry up and stop! I was now taking large amounts of pain medicine in order to tolerate the radiation, the healing from my surgeries and my chronic painful M.S..

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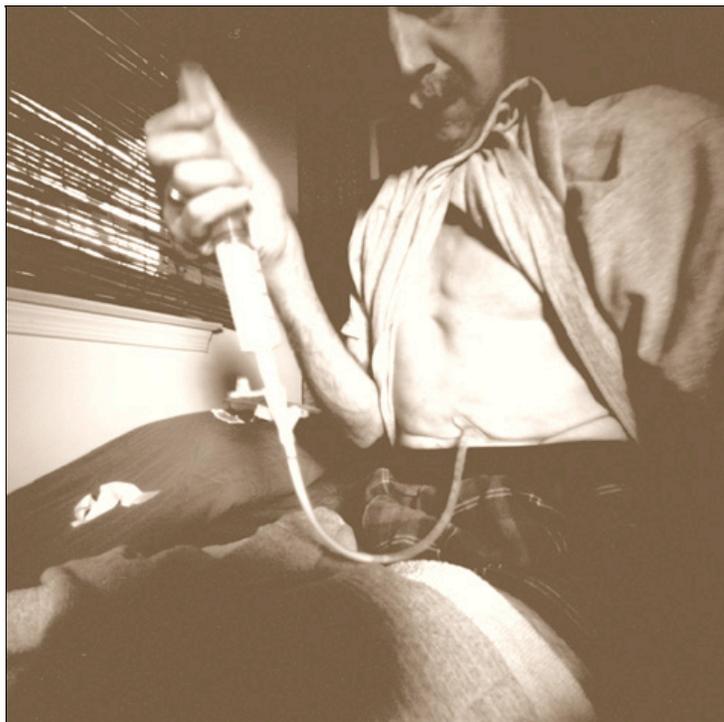
## Part II: CANCER

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### *Mealtime*

I dreaded even getting up most mornings, but I had to go to radiation. Most of the time my throat was now so swollen and ultra dry from the radiation that the only way to nourish myself was through the feeding tube. I would go through the ritual of flushing, feeding, and then re-flushing again several times a day.

It's funny that a friend that saw the "Mealtime" image said that it almost looked like I was performing the ritual of hara-kiri, and as the weeks went by that seemed to stick in my mind. It may as well have been hara-kiri because the tube felt so uncomfortable and painful.



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### *Badge of Courage*

After several months I was again able to swallow liquids and very soft foods. But the stomach feeding tube was going to remain in me due to doctor's orders. Something could go wrong and I might need the tube again to feed. A few people around me knew about the tube and were curious to see it, and for some reason it became like a badge of courage.

Being from the state of Texas I guess that I had to show it off. Remember President Lyndon B. Johnson showing off his gallbladder scar in the 1960's always flashing the news photographers.



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### *Medicine Mountain*

Unlike an amusement theme park, "Medicine Mountain" was no joy ride. I had to take so many pills I would use a magic marker to write letters on the caps of the bottles so I wouldn't take too much of any one medicine by accident. I now was taking very strong narcotics and was in a lot of pain. The constant juggling of ordering refills and maintaining a current inventory of medicine was mind boggling and tiring as well. But at least it kept me busy and that was a blessing whether I knew it or not as time went on, the need for this cocktail waned and that was a blessing too. I'm not all that big on having to take all these meds all the time. The schedule of taking my medicine locked my mind into the realization that something wasn't normal and my soul yearned for the return to better days.



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### *Googley Man*

I also would go on walks on days when I felt strong enough, and ran into yet another great tree that I called the "Googley Man". I would talk to him as if he was really a person and talk about my troubles and wishes to be well again. We of course became the best of friends.

A lot of cultures have thought that there were mystical spirits in trees and I feel that way too! Just go and ask the "Googley Man" and he'll tell you it's true.

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### *Radiation Man*

Nearing the end of the radiation treatment, I was literally "fried" from all the days of exposure to the radioactive materials they were using on me. I felt like I could glow in the dark in that I had been zapped so much. Even though I was scheduled for 40 sessions of radiation, I only could tolerate 38. The radiation was making me feel poisoned and sick, and I truly felt and knew I would die from that if I continued.

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*Got Beer?* (WPPD April 29, 2001)

The first Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day was scheduled for April 29, 2001. I loaded up my cameras and went down to my friend Dave's to go to the Potomac River to talk and drink beers. While looking for a good photo-op for the event, I ended up doing a double exposure of Dave and his favorite beer, Milwaukee's Best.



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### *Two Navels*

With plans to go to the beach, I wanted the feeding tube out of me. I hated just flushing the damn thing and then taping it to my stomach in a pretzel shape. I lucked out I guess and had an ENT doctor remove the tube on another type visit altogether. So being caught off guard really made the procedure less agonizing and believe me it hurt like !#K@\*\*\$&!. I almost passed out because they used no painkiller when they pulled the tube out. Now I had what looked like two navels and I wondered if I would look like that forever.



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## Part II: CANCER

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### *Waiting For Surgery*

Waiting for surgery, I had Janet help me take this image. I was getting too groggy and needed an assistant. Both Janet and my Mom were there waiting for the anesthesia to start taking effect before I was to be wheeled off to surgery.



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## Part III: A SLICE OF HEAVEN

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There's always something good in everything in life...

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## Part III: A SLICE OF HEAVEN

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### *Oak Island*

Back at Oak Island to celebrate Janet's birthday again and have yet another wonderful vacation, we would go to the beach to sunbathe and hardly see another person. This wasn't your ordinary tourist beach, mainly because nature and its beauty were the main attraction and not the boardwalks and flashy concession stands that I've seen at other beaches. I remember coming to this same spot one night to watch lightening flash over the ocean. The flashes of light here and there were nature's awesome fireworks display. On this one particular night, I saw lightening travel horizontally from start to finish

covering miles in an instant. In my whole life, I had never seen a horizontal lightening bolt, and on this magic night I saw it twice. Oak Island is truly a cosmic place whether it be day or night.



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## Part III: A SLICE OF HEAVEN

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### *A Walk on the Beach*

Janet and I loved walking on the beach in the afternoon when the sun's rays weren't as intense. Walking barefoot through the shallow tide pools you would sink in the sand almost like you were caught in quick sand but you never sank more than a few inches. The sand would grab at your toes making it look like you may be intoxicated to someone else and the whole incident became a real laugh. Now with Janet trapped in the sand I got her photo and tide pools reflected her image showing off her birthday astrology sign which is Gemini; the Twins.

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## Part III: A SLICE OF HEAVEN

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### *Indian Trail Tree*

While vacationing at Oak Island with Janet, Dave and Shelby, I went cruising by myself in the car to look for cool trees to photograph.

I found the "Indian Trail Tree" which is over 800 years old and was planted by the Indians to show where the fishing grounds were in the area. You can see 3 different animals in this tree, a buffalo, a sea turtle, and an elephant with its trunk pointing skywards.

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### *Beached*

A large clump of seaweed had beached itself due to the day's extreme low tide. Having walked the beach almost every day over the last eleven days looking for seaweed, this was my best find. It looked almost like an animal that was trying to crawl or pull itself back into the surf like it might have the ability to do that. It was like my struggle as well. I saw myself as being like that piece of seaweed. I just had to make it!



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## Part III: A SLICE OF HEAVEN

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### *Sugar Magnolia*

The magnolia trees on Oak Island are huge and the flowers are just as big too. The fragrance from the opening flowers emitted a sugary sweet smell, which filled the air with a heavenly scent making your sense of smell grasp a slice of heaven. The towering style laden with anther stood regally in the middle of the satiny white petals that glowed when they caught the sun's rays.



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## Part III: A SLICE OF HEAVEN

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### *The Eye Thing*

I was always trying to get Janet to laugh at the gesture I would do with my eye and I thought that I would like to capture that in pinhole. So I set up the tripod and camera and took two shots of myself doing the "eye thing". The first one I did, the gesture looked like I always do and the second shot I tried my best to do the gesture in reverse. The first shot was a total failure but the second came close and was also very interesting and intriguing. The image looks like a double exposure, but it's not!



# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Part IV: PNEUMONIA, UNFATHOMABLE FATIGUE, DEATH NOTICES

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### *Hell's Come a Calling*

Only a few months after being at Oak Island I started getting the flu or what seemed like it; for weeks on end. Finally in October it turned into full-blown pneumonia, which almost killed me. After leaving the hospital I remained weak and extremely fatigued for the whole next year.



# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Part IV: PNEUMONIA, UNFATHOMABLE FATIGUE, DEATH NOTICES

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### *All Shook Up*

Shortly after leaving the hospital in late October 2001 I started receiving the bills for my internment. But these bills were to the Estate of Thomas Lindsay; somehow I had died before being treated and released from the hospital. It took months and months to straighten out this error. A person in Hawaii had died and he had apparently assumed my Social Security number and my name as well. I never did find out all the details to my premature passing, and I guess I never will.



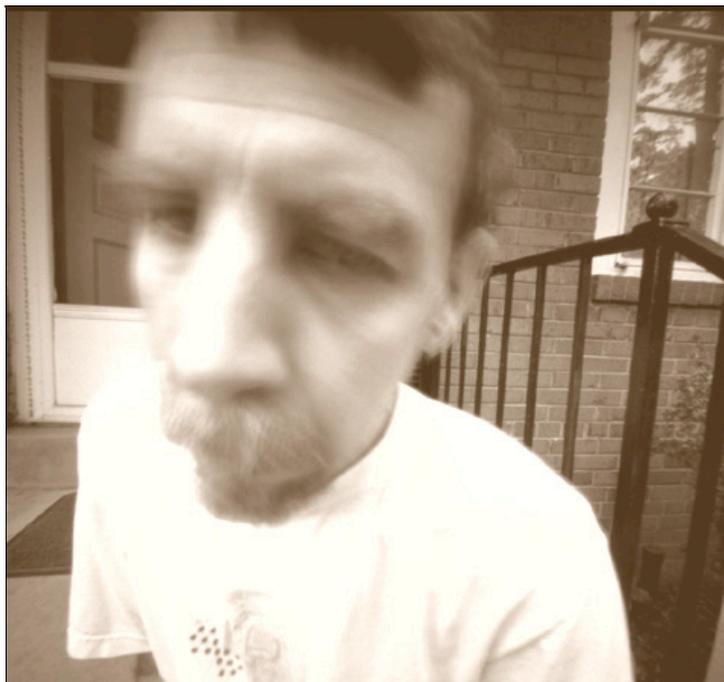
# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Part IV: PNEUMONIA, UNFATHOMABLE FATIGUE, DEATH NOTICES

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*Sad*

I felt like I was at death's door almost every day. Waves of black ether passed before me many a time as I lay in bed. While in bed I thought of everything and everyone, especially those closest to me. I cried many a times fearing my passing, as death is a scary thing to have to deal with.



# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Part IV:: PNEUMONIA, UNFATHOMABLE FATIGUE, DEATH NOTICES

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### *Janet and Me*

Day after day I wished to be well again, to finally escape the bed that had become my jail cell. And then finally in late November I began to regain a little strength. I think it was the excitement of finally seeing what I had worked on and struggled through for the last few years coming together; an exhibit on the Internet. I will only know after it's all finished.

And finally there is the image of Janet and I sitting on the porch. Janet is my rock and I couldn't have done this or a lot of other things without her loving help!



# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Artist's Statement

Pinhole photography for me is an experience; a spiritual happening that is indeed rare. For when you finally discover what this medium is truly all about, you enter into a mysterious realm unlike any other you have ever experienced before. You enter a place where a "moment" is recorded; a place where reality changes in unique ways; unlike the way a conventional camera captures only a split second of time; Sometimes I feel like it is a rare glimpse into another dimension and time. One that can only be captured by this unique but yet simple camera that utilizes only a pinhole for a lens.

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## Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank Gregg Kemp for helping me put this pinhole documentary together, and also thank my sweetheart Janet for all her help, my mother, my brother William, Guy Glorieux, Andy Schmitt, Bernice Halpern Cutler (leezy hightower), Jean Daubas, Tom Miller, Zernike Au and the multitude of pinholers who sent me get well pinhole images and messages. I'd also like to thank the kind folks at the American Cancer Society for their generous help during my illness, and the folks at the Fort Belvoir Chapel and Sunday School for their prayers.

I shot the majority of the work in this exhibition with the Zero 2000 pinhole camera and T-Max 100 film.

*Tom Lindsay*

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## Notes

I do want to tell you what the first seven "Omen-Clue" images represent to me.

1. A Jon Boy Omen - This image represented the "crap" I was going to be running into later that year.
2. Surgery - This image represents the surgery that was done to my neck. It seems almost like the image foresaw the devastation that was on its way. The concrete pipe that they were laying is like the main artery that is all that is left on that side of my neck. I'm so embarrassed by that artery always throbbing and the way people look at me.
3. Karma Police - This image represents that there was no way to hide from the Cancer that was coming my way.
4. Where Am I? This image was a freak-out to me! I knew this was an omen the second I saw it! That is the image that I asked the pinhole-discussion group what they thought it might mean to them. Some people said it was "just another cool image", but some saw it as scary like I did.
5. Something's Askew at the Big K - This image represents that something major was about to occur in my life, and we now know that it was the cancer. I have a handicapped parking permit and noticed that the parking block was knocked out of place, and that was what was going to happen to me.
6. Camouflage - This image represents that no matter how I hid, the cancer was going to find me and torment me for a couple of years. This green army type colored moth landed on the glass screen door and stayed there even when I had open the door gently to get my pinhole camera, and also came back out to set up my tripod. The camera was so close to this live moth and it didn't move until I had finished. It seemed like it knew that it was being photographed!
7. Ghost - This image represents that a lot of my friends were going to turn their backs on me since I was sick with the dreaded "Big C". In fact this good friend has turned into one of the ghosts and it hurts me deeply.

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## Guestbook Entries 1 to 12 of 102

**Diana H. Bloomfield**, NC (March 12, 2003)

*I just went through your exhibit this morning, Tom. The combined writing and photographs create a powerful and very personal journal. Thank you for sharing it here. I just forwarded it to a friend of mine; I think it will mean a lot to her. And I hope this finds you doing well. Thanks again.*

**Gregg Kemp**, Cary, NC USA (March 13, 2003)

*I think it says a lot about your courage and strength of character to have incorporated art into what has to be a very difficult time. Thank you for sharing this with me personally, and for sharing it with others who may gain some strength and insight from it. I wish you the best, Tom. Hang 5!*

**Henrieke I. Strecker**, Germany, Frankfurt am Main (March 13, 2003)

*Dear Tom Lindsay, I pause for a moment I am impressed. I become thoughtful. Thank you very much. I wish you much strength. Henrieke I. Strecker*

**Wanda Scott**, BC, Canada (March 13, 2003)

*Thank you for sharing your journey with us. It has deeply move me.*

**William Lindsay**, Woodbridge, VA (March 13, 2003)

*I am impressed with the final outcome--very professional. I know it took you a long time to get this far, having to deal with cancer for a second time. I want to thank all those who helped my brother to finally achieve his goal of sharing with the world his experience through pinhole photography.*

**John G**, Troutville, VA (March 13, 2003)

*Just Amazing.....Just plain utterly amazing. How I wandered in to this essay I don't know. But glad I did.*

**Dorothy**, West Chester, PA (March 13, 2003)

*Dear Tom, Thank you for sharing your story - you are very brave. God bless you today and everyday.*

**Carmela Kemp**, Cary, NC USA (March 13, 2003)

*Tom, Gregg has spoken a lot about you and it was a pleasure to finally "meet" you. You and your honey's strength and courage are inspiring. Your photos are blatantly honest and compelling. I learned a lot from your narrative. I share your love of the beach and especially enjoyed those photos. Thank you for sharing this exhibit with me.*

**Richard Heather**, Los Osos, California (March 13, 2003)

*As a photographer and pinholer I find your images very strong. As a doctor who often deals with cancer patients I can appreciate your journey. Courage is facing and completing what you have to do with out giving up. Keep on Pinholing.*

**Willie Anne Wright**, Richmond, VA (March 13, 2003)

*Hello Tom, I remember with pleasure the lovely "pinhole day" we shared. I treasure the beautiful image you sent me afterwards. Your journey is an amazing story. A pinhole camera as your constant companion let's us share the triumphs and tribulations you have experienced. Thank you for putting the record where so many can receive it's inspiration. I hope someday to meet your honey. Yep, I'll keep pinholing and I trust you will too. Willie Anne*

**James Kellar**, Bloomington, Indiana (March 13, 2003)

*Tom, I just return from having dinner with my father who is in the process of dying of cancer. All I can say is thank you.*

**Ed, Humphries** (March 14, 2003)

*KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, PEACE BE WITH YOU.*

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## Guestbook Entries 13 to 24 of 102

**Erich**, Mainz - Germany (March 16, 2003)

*Thanks for sharing this aspect of your life with the "pinhole-community". Deeply moving with a positive sense of humor! Erich*

**Rosanne Stutts**, Augusta, Georgia, USA (March 20, 2003)

*Your enthusiasm and comments always inspired me on the discussion list. I am glad you are still pinholin'. And don't worry that people stare at your neck because you are here to stare right back. Congratulations on an exquisitely told journey through hell and back with your words and your pinhole chronicles.*

**Marilyn Harrison**, Lake Ridge, Virginia (March 26, 2003)

*Tom (Tommy), Remember me? I'm Marilyn, your Mom's friend! I have just viewed the Photos/narrative. I was moved by your photos and your words. You are an inspiration to all who see this. You are a kind and strong man. Thank you for sharing your creativity and your heart. Sincerely, Marilyn*

**Brian Lindstrom**, Sheffield, Mass. (March 28, 2003)

*Hi Tom: Your photos and word touched me deeply. Thanks. Best, Brian*

**Kurt Mottweiler**, Santa Fe, New Mexico (March 29, 2003)

*Tom, I felt like I had been away for years when I came across your awe inspiring presentation on your battle with cancer. I lost my mother to a 12 year battle with cancer last year. I admire your courage and the creative force that was unleashed by your trials. All the best to you. Kurt Mottweiler*

**Zernike Au**, Hong Kong (March 31, 2003)

*I haven't hear from you for a long time! Glad to know you have win the battle. Glad to see your impressive pinhole images again. Glad to hear "Keep on Pinholin" again... Zernike*

**eric nelson**, marshfield wiscosin usa (March 31, 2003)

*Tom, your journey through time has just begun. Your images are timed timelessness. I remembered the effect of unwrapping the "Big K" from the pinhole swap. I was struck with it's mutable transience..... A lot/ a lot. Here there and everywhere but no where and everywhere. So now, this on line exhibition is the same. Warmly, eric nelson marshfield, wisconsin, usa*

**Travis Scheuermann**, pulaski,VA (April 01, 2003)

*that was the best picter staory I have ever seen*

**travis scheuermann**, pulaski,VA (April 01, 2003)

*another thing did you servive your cancer*

**gregg b mcneill**, grand rapids, mi (April 02, 2003)

*Thank you for putting this out there. Few people understand how truly life-altering cancer can be. You realize who your true friends are, and it's sometimes suprising. I lost my Grandmother to cancer 2 years ago. Don't ever give up. Fight to the end. Life is the greatest prize of all.*

**Alexis Rago**, Normanby by Spital, Lincolnshire UK (April 02, 2003)

*I love your pinholes, particularly the ones of the beach and the magnolia is absolutely wonderful. Your story is one of great courage, good on you. The picture of you in you mask says a great deal. Thank you for your testament of courage and inspiration to others. You have given a precious gift.*

**Witold Riedel**, <http://www.witoldriedel.com/MT/archives/001432.shtml#001432> (April 06, 2003)

*Thank you for sharing both, the experience and the photographs which allow us to see the events in such a unique way... Thank you...*

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## Guestbook Entries 25 to 36 of 102

**gordon**, ireland (April 06, 2003)

:)

**Dave O**, Addison IL (April 06, 2003)

*Tom Thank You. And as the wise man says " Keep on Pinholin"*

**Jared Cox**, Randolph,NJ (April 07, 2003)

*Hey Tom your work is amazing all of your pieces probably have alot of meaning behind them. Just from the way the photos were set up they seem like that. I hope you over came the cancer and i hope u put out more work soon. Jared*

**Alan Partlow**, Baltimore, MD (April 07, 2003)

*Great stuff! I'm glad that you had the energy and courage to keep shooting during your illness. Stay well!*

**Laserone**, <http://www.LaserBlog.com> (April 07, 2003)

*Hello. Thank you for sharing your journey. I'm sure that the journey (and making this project) took alot of strength. I wish you well.  
:)*

**Jesse Stansfield**, Boulder, CO (April 08, 2003)

*Thank you, Thank you, Thank you... The part III photographs stands as an amazing body of work and seems to rise out of this documentary as your pinhole soul showing itself. It shines radiantly.*

**Marc Rosaz**, Paris, France (April 09, 2003)

*Your vision of cancer is very sensible and honest. I Like the use you make of the pinhole camera : simple and direct. Thanks*

**Randy Arnold**, Northport, Alabama (April 12, 2003)

*Hello Tom, Thank you very much for a wonderful show. Your images are amazing. The show is intense, beautiful and inspiring. I have been deeply touched. I wish you all the happiness in the world. RJA*

**Anita Chernewski**, Brooklyn,NY (April 13, 2003)

*Thank you Tom for sharing your amazing pinhole images of your journey of life. It helps us all. My best to you.*

**Tom Hawkins**, London, UK (April 14, 2003)

*Amazing exhibit Tom, congratulations on such beautiful and touching images and testimony.*

**Nickki Hill**, Fullerton, California (April 16, 2003)

*Amazing work in every respect. Thank you for showing me how to use the camera in such an honest, personal way. I will never forget your courage, humor and intelligence and the way you have made the camera an extension of your experience and self-dialogue.*

**roy gumpel**, high falls, ny (April 17, 2003)

*I'm glad I happened upon your work here. I am a pro photographer, and your work has inspired me. Reminds me of the possibilities..for our lives and for art. I'm curious how you are doing now Tom. Wishing you well. rg*

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Guestbook Entries 37 to 48 of 102

**Francine Gagnon**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (April 19, 2003)

*Dear Tom, To me, the image "Where Am I?" told you that you would meet your Self in a different way than you were used to in body and spirit until that time. I enjoyed your pinhole journal and found your journey quite amazing. I myself have gone through something similar but different : breast cancer (2000) and then a recurrence due to metastasis (4 months ago). I am a photo based artist and would like to chat with you a bit. Please write to me so I can send you some material, both visual and written, as well as links directly to your e-mail address. I look forward to hearing from you. Have a great day no matter what happens...*

**dave Addison**, new zealand (April 21, 2003)

*I really enjoyed looking at your pictures they truly where 'of the moment' shots,there's something about them I can't really say what,"emotion",but something anyway.They moved me.Good luck with your health KIA KAHHA Dave A*

**Gordon Slippy**, Pittsburgh, PA (April 21, 2003)

*Thank you for sharing your odyssey with us, complete with the honest feelings about the path of dealing with cancer. Your efforts to document this with vivid imagery at every step of the way is commendable. My father is currently suffering with cancer, and your story helped me to understand his situation better.*

**Pontiac Gregg**, Denver, Colorado (April 29, 2003)

*Nice pics, I bought my better 1/2 a paper camera kit for an Easter present. Can you take color photos? Oink 1*

**greg sater**, falls church, VA (May 08, 2003)

*Thanks, Tom.*

**Jeremy Jeffs**, London UK (May 10, 2003)

*Tom Congratulations on your documentary. It is one of the most insightful and coherent photo essays that I've ever seen. You're also one of the few photographers I've seen who uses a pinhole camera in a way that goes beyond the intitial excitement of just getting an image from a simple box. Congratulations again. I hope that this message finds you well. Jeremy*

**David W. D. Mao**, P. R. China (May 16, 2003)

*I like these photos by Pin hole cameras. They give me a new vision to see the world around me. David*

**Ed Gyselynck**, France (May 19, 2003)

*I feel concerned by your story and how you express it, hope the best for you Well done Ted*

**Kathy Bixby**, College Park, MD (June 07, 2003)

*I have had the distinct honor of sharing many trials and tribulations, as well as true joy, with many cancer patients and their families during my 25 year career in nursing. I have come to welcome these experiences and store them as treasures to be counted as gifts. I can't thank you enough for the invitation to share your journey, and what a rare gift this is, as you capture it with such authentic images and emotions. Thank you for demonstrating the the value of hope, promise and determination, and, most especially for reminding us to be thankful for those who love and encourage us. Thank you again for this special treasure. Kathy*

**Joe**, Ansonia, CT (June 18, 2003)

*A very powerful exhibition. My dad's fighting cancer right now. Your photo-documentary has helped me to understand some of what he might be going through. All the best as your journey continues and...I'll be waiting to see more.*

**Rachel Rhodes**, Austin, TX (June 18, 2003)

*Hello! I found this very moving and beautiful. I think you and I may have had the same type of cancer. Though the doctors told me that the type I had was very rare, I keep running into people who may have had the exact same type or something similar. When I do, I ask them about where they grew up and what they know of their neighborhood before it was their neighborhood. I'd really appreciate an e-mail from you on this if you want to talk about such things. I completely understand if you don't. Thanks, Rachel*

**Lisa Williams**, <http://www.cadence90.com> (June 18, 2003)

*These are gorgeous photographs: evocative, luminous, alive. Thanks for making them. I hope that your health returns. Since my father died I pray the rosary frequently, which is something he did. I'll be sure to include you on my circuit of the beads.*

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Guestbook Entries 49 to 60 of 102

**SE**, Washington (June 18, 2003)

*Wow, these are amazing images. The husband of a friend has been battling with throat/neck cancer. He's also diabetic and I really came to appreciate how well our bodies work most of the time, how hard they work to keep us alive, and how terribly off kilter they can get when a few things go wrong. Thank you for sharing. Best wishes.*

**Phylis**, Tennessee (June 18, 2003)

*So very powerful, and the spiritual energy surges through your work. Thank you for sharing that which so many of us try to hide or deny - fear, aloneness, our own weakness when faced with such a challenge... Bless you and may you find peace and health for the rest of your life. You are in my prayers.*

**Ellen**, San Francisco (June 18, 2003)

*Great pictures. Hope that all is well with you now.*

**Rori**, [www.onegirlslife.com](http://www.onegirlslife.com) (June 19, 2003)

*Thank you for sharing your story with us. I especially loved and treasure the tree shots.*

**Jae Malone**, <http://www.homestead.com/jaeworld/poemaday.html> (June 19, 2003)

*What a powerful web site! Your courage is an inspiration.*

**Ann**, Maryland (June 19, 2003)

*I too am a cancer survivor and lover of nature's beauty. You possess not only of the ability to frame and capture images but your descriptions of what is happening to you are inspired, simple and direct. In this age of verbiage, spin, and psychobabble it is refreshing to just get the story.*

**Chuck and Donna Dolinger**, 16300 lee hwy, gainesville va 20155 (June 24, 2003)

*Hey Tuck just popped in to say hey!!!!Hope all is well we are going to search for more info will get back to you soon*

**Danielle**, Sydney, Australia / [www.warbyweb.com.au](http://www.warbyweb.com.au) (July 05, 2003)

*Thank you so much for sharing your story and amazing images.*

**Beth Buchanan**, Washington, DC (July 07, 2003)

*Thank you for sharing your images. These are extremely powerful. You have a gift for turning ordinary images into moments that are majestic.*

**Skip Green**, none (July 09, 2003)

*Tom, This is the most moving web site I have seen. I was in tears as I read through. Sure some will make fun of me, but I'm pulling for you. The photography was astounding and your words are so heart felt.*

**william walicki**, 1718 646-0149 (July 16, 2003)

*Thank You For your courage and Strength and your commitment to live through your photography Wishing and you will be in my prayers william Walicki*

**Elmer & Betty Jane Cohn**, Reagan, TX (July 18, 2003)

*Tommy, you are a fantastic writer and photographer! We graduated from Marlin High School with your Mom and love her dearly. We met you on a trip to DC in about 1986. Good luck with your treatments. You are a special person and we continue to pray for your needs and the doctors who care for you. Hi to "Deanie".*

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Guestbook Entries 61 to 72 of 102

**Deborah**, London UK (July 21, 2003)

*The world is changing so fast, and with your photojournal you are pioneering for the world's people now and in the future. We live in hugely exciting times - the opportunities are enormous and it is people like you who are helping ordinary people become aware of them. 2 or 3 years ago I would have known nothing about you. By exploiting technology from the simplest to the most sophisticated, and combining that with your photographic and writing skills, you have created a classic site that will inspire many for years to come. To have done so while so ill is all the more remarkable. Thank you for doing this for us all, and I hope the future is good for you. It's wonderful what talented people like you will do with no thought of financial gain. Sorry this is a bit garbled, I know how difficult it is to write well, like you have.*

**Bill.**, Washington DC (July 25, 2003)

*Man, that was a great story! I hope you're still in remission. Keep up the good work! Peace. Bill.*

**Melissa Joi Slepekis**, Texas (July 26, 2003)

*I applaud your strength, honesty and creativity in bringing your world to us. Through your words and images I think you have touched many of us even deeper than you are aware. Thank you for sharing with us Tom. I wish you healthy and happy times ahead. Keep pinholin'!*

**denise morris**, new orleans,la. (July 31, 2003)

*your photography is scary and beautiful all at once!i love the magnolia and beach scenes.i will look forward to future pictures and hope this email finds you well.it has been inspiring for me to go out and shoot!thank-you. sincerely, denise morris*

**Andy Lindsay**, Chesapeake, VA (August 06, 2003)

*Hey Blood, awesome photos and words!!! Your photography, imagination and insight are a gift from God. You are a true inspiration--for both pinhole photography and life itself. Thanks for sharing your photos, ideas and thoughts with the rest of the world (Damn, I see people responding from everywhere--man, that's so cool!!!) Love you, Man!!*

**Elizabeth Lindsay**, Chesapeake, VA (August 06, 2003)

*Tommy, What extraordinary gifts to share with the world: your experiences, your talent, your art, your most wonderful, wonderful self. KEEP ON, dear Bro - KEEP ON!! Elizabeth*

**Frank**, Tn (August 08, 2003)

*your struggles in life at this time and great strenght you have shown ,is an inspiration to all who have read this.My dad also struggled many yrs with this,,and as i watched him it saden me.this great man that i knew him to be having this dreaded problem.but you know?after all is said and done..his stuggles touched me in ways i didnt know.i wish you much happiness and great strenght for you and your family..your story is very up lifting..thank you for shareing this with us....agin THX....*

**Alexandre Allegri**, Nîmes France (August 10, 2003)

*Tom, J'ai vraiment beaucoup apprécié vos cliclés sténopés, avec l'appareil photographique qui voit comme l'oeil humain, vous avez su regarder la vie telle qu'elle est, et la faire voir surtout aus autres. Pour cela je vous remercie. Avec toute mon amitié Alexandre*

**Tamara Mariner**, Washington, DC (August 21, 2003)

*Tom, When I found this site, you must know that I never expected to find "Diagnosis: Cancer". I was right in the middle of my work day and I was so taken with your images and words that I read and observed every picture for a total of 45 minutes and it was most enjoyable and stirring and I want to say "thank you" for the experience and may God bless you and keep you!*

**kelsey**, Aizona (September 03, 2003)

*i would like to compliment the person who took the picture of the person with canser and had to be fed threw a feeding tube. i feel bad but it looks so cool. i just had to compliment you on it. love kelso*

**Melissa**, Arizona (September 03, 2003)

*I felt really bad for this guy. There was some pretty cool pictures though.*

**Janeeva Armageton**, Cuba (September 03, 2003)

*i would like to take the time to say Congratulations to all of the people who made pinhole cameras. and then made pictures with them. they are so totally rad. i love them. and they should all be put in all photo books. well i have to go do something (in the bathroom)so maybe i'll write to you guys after i get done looking at all the rest of the pinholes love always Janeeva*

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Guestbook Entries 73 to 84 of 102

**Dennis Lee**, South Salem, NY (September 05, 2003)

*Tom, how the hell are you feeling now? Thank you for this extraordinary story of your life. Both the images and the words are very powerful. I can imagine how this project helped to lift your spirits. It's lifted mine. I hope you are doing well. God, please keep an eye on this man.*

**kaylee harris**, essex (September 15, 2003)

*thankyou for takeing me through the footsteps that you have been through, you are a truly strong person and you have alot of courage, god bless you!!!*

**RubDMC**, Concord, Mass (September 30, 2003)

*Tom -thanks for sharing this personal experience. It's moving and inspiring - God Bless.*

**Edward Levinson**, Kamogawa Japan (October 03, 2003)

*Thomas! I believe yu deserve that name now. The humorous yet saintly and sage way you have told the story with your excellent text to compliment your personal, yet universal photographic images.(the cancer series is VERY pwerful.) I also love looking for symbolism in my photos, now I will look closer after seeing what the mystical pinhole did for you. (Funny, I finally got to view this exhibit today when I found it in my bookmarks. Wonder if it has anything to do with that perfect rainbow arch I saw today?! Ed*

**Eric Renner**, Rt 15 Box 1355 San Lorenzo, NM 88041 (October 10, 2003)

*Tom: Whew ! Maybe it all has to do with Leonardo's statement "The Eye is the Window to the Soul. I think that was a Buckeye moth you photographed with the eye spots on its wings and it carried you through the series. Image #28 was the one that made me think of the da Vinci quote. Thanks for all you have done with pinhole over the years that we've known you! Eric*

**Shimah**, Singapore (November 05, 2003)

*Very inspiring and an excellent documentary. Well shot and keep up the effort.*

**paul eenhoorn**, arnhem, the netherlands (November 07, 2003)

*I wae realy moved by your very personal photographs. It takes a lot of courage to document your own illness this way. I wonder if you ever heard of dutch photographer Ed van der Elsken who made a film of his battle against cancer. I wish you all the best and good health.*

**Sandy**, Victoria, B.C. (November 27, 2003)

*Tom, As a lifelong photographer, I was intrigued by the many amazing images from your pinhole camera. Thank you for sharing your work and your story. I wish you the very best for a long and productive future. I think that a serious illness reminds others of their own mortality and frightens them. As well, they feel helpless at not being able to help their friend. Forgive your friends for their human failings. I'm sure they care for you and just don't know how to express it. Good luck, Sandy*

**andy schmitt**, po box 2040 branchville, nj 07826 (December 11, 2003)

*Well buddy, I finally looked through the entire book in one sitting. It's as powerful as I figured it would be from the initial photos you sent me a while ago. I'm really glad to see you're getting better. Maybe you can take me up on my free class offer this year..keep up the great work & Keep on Pinholin'*

**Ray Snodgrass**, Kingman, AZ (December 31, 2003)

*It was a real interesting site. I too have cancer and just found out that I may have had it return too. I guess I have reached the point where I feel there is really nothing I can do,except wait it out. I have resigned myself to not worry and I am doing well with that. Lots of luck to you..*

**Claudette Curl**, Lansing, Michigan (December 31, 2003)

*I don't know how I landed on your work - perhaps through a link somewhere. . . your work is moving; it rings true. Thank you.*

**norman stickney**, edgartown massachusetts usa (December 31, 2003)

*my fiance's sister passed away recently from cancer of the everything and it looks like you got a good picture of it thanks for sharing and using the internet good luck*

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Guestbook Entries 85 to 96 of 102

**richard turner**, wichita ,ks (January 09, 2004)

*God Bless you for your courage and will power to fight---and win the battle over cancer. I am recovering from colon cancer so I can relate. You did wonderful job with your camera.*

**Kacey Hallock**, Mesa,Az (January 16, 2004)

**Nathaniel Demere**, Macon, GA, USA (February 10, 2004)

*Tom, thank you for sharing your work on this site. Your story and your images fill me with inspiration - telling it through pinhole photographs somehow seems austerely appropriate. I admire your courage and appreciate the honesty portrayed in your images. Regards, Nathaniel*

**JEAN&RAY KINCHELOE**, SPRINGFIELD VA (March 19, 2004)

*NEW FRIENDS IS A BLESSING SO GLAD WE MET THANKS FOR ALL THE INFO YOU GAVE US JEAN & RAY KINCHELOE*

**Sunny Parr**, Mason Neck, VA (May 18, 2004)

*Tom, Thanks for sharing this with me. I enjoy seeing your smiling face and cheerful comments during a hard days work at Woodbine. You are always working harder, though. Keep on smiling. Sunny*

**Steve Wilson**, Memphis, TN (May 19, 2004)

*What beautiful images you have made with your pinhole camera. Even more amazing is the beautiful imagery you have made with your writing. Like your camera, you have perfect focus and unlimited depth of field and you have shown me that you really can see more through a pinhole. I have gained new insight into my own life and I thank you for that. I suspect that you have touched many more people than you realize. Thank you and good luck*

**steve ingham**, 0161 848 0597 (May 19, 2004)

*is it possible you could contact myself re the possible use of some of your images in a brochure we are looking to produce. kind regards steve*

**John Jeanes**, Germantown,Tn. (May 19, 2004)

*I was truly touched by your exhibition. I wish you the best, and my prayers are with you.*

**Tom Miller**, Coon Rapids, Minnesota, USA (August 09, 2005)

*Hi Tom, Glad to see that this remarkble, moving and affirming photo essay is back on the internet. Thanks for telling and showing us this story.*

**wim mintjes**, netherlands (August 15, 2005)

*Tom, thanks for sharing this dokument. Thanks for teaching what is live and remaind us. I wish you and your hole family the best you can get and most of all love.*

**Vlad Volintiru**, Romania (August 23, 2005)

*I found your story incredibly impressive and touching. You are a very very strong man, who will not be broken down by anything! Your photos are truly impressive visions too. Thank you so much for sharing your story. I wish you and your family all the best in the world (but you already have that, because you have each other). Sincerely, Vlad*

**Susan Sherwin-Albert**, Red Hook, NY (September 30, 2005)

*Your work is disturbing, inspiring and beautiful. I'm new to the pinhole format but I learned alot from absorbing your work and your hellish struggles with your health. May you and your family know many year of health and happiness together.*

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Guestbook Entries 97 to 102 of 102

**Michelle Lawson**, UK (October 24, 2005)

*I am fortunate to have stumbled across your photographic story - like others visiting before me it is creatively and honestly inspiring, and movingly so, and certainly shows the impact that pinhole photography can have - Thank you and all the best. I haven't made a pinhole camera for a while, but I'm going to experiment again*

**Richard Cresswell**, Warwickshire UK (November 08, 2005)

*Wow. Thankyou so much for sharing all that with us, I am an art student about your age searching for inspiration on a new part of my course work "DESIRE" and had the great fortune to come across your work, which encompasses two of my desires, health and pinholin. Thanks for kick starting the next 11 weeks studies. All the best to you to you. Richard*

**Bob Hartley**, South Central Pennsylvania (November 13, 2005)

*It takes just a sliver of courage to keep reading when you see the title of your work. I can't imagine the courage it took to actually make it. We run from our own mortality like little children from a bad dream, but you faced your own demons and actually took photos of them! Amazing. Thank you for sharing this very personal time in your life with us. I don't believe this particular aspect of photography can aspire to much more than what you've shown us here. Thank you again. Bob Hartley*

**Peter Williams**, Plano, TX (December 22, 2005)

*Wonderful exhibit. Today it's 3 days before Christmas and I do feel blessed after reading your story. I think that the goal of all fine art is make the viewer remember what is truly important in life - those parts that get lost in the daily shuffle. You have certainly done that. Thank you.*

**Steve Lewis**, Novato, California (January 17, 2006)

*This is one of the finest pieces of art as documentary that I've ever seen. Thanks for sharing you vision, I know I'll never forget it.*

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## An Interview with Tom Lindsay

The following interview was not part of the original web exhibition. It was published on the Pinhole Visions website in 2005.

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Interview with Tom Lindsay

Tom Lindsay's pinhole photo documentary "Diagnosis: Cancer" returns to the Pinhole Visions website today. This has been one of the most viewed and most popular exhibitions on the site in the past few years. I'm happy to say that Tom is doing pretty well for someone who has been struggling with Multiple Sclerosis since the 1970's and has fought cancer three times. And he's still making his pinhole photos. I thank him for his time and for sharing his thoughts, experiences, emotions, and ever-inspiring humor in the following interview.

- Gregg Kemp

**GK:** As someone who has been fighting cancer for some time, how did you find the energy and motivation to pursue your pinhole photography at the same time? Did documenting your experience energize you? Or did it wear you down more?

**Tom:** In the beginning I didn't feel all that bad. Pinholin' was and will always be a treat for me. After getting radiation therapy though, everything changed! I became drained like an old battery, and keeping up the spirit to pinhole became very laborious. The doctors told me I had received the equivalent amount of radiation that occurred from the first A-bomb that was dropped on Japan. I am still very weak today from that blast of radiation, and pray daily to be whole again. I kept right on pinholin' like it was a project that needed to be done and told myself that I had to keep at it.

**GK:** Did people find it interesting or unusual that you were documenting your cancer journey with a pinhole camera, or that you were documenting it at all?

**Tom:** A few people were surprised that I had chosen a pinhole camera, but didn't look at me too strangely. I explained how the pinhole camera was the only art medium that could make one feel my ordeal the way I was experiencing it, and they all seemed to understand. The bigger the exhibit got the more people began to tell me how it related to their own lives and the others around them that were also suffering through cancer.

**GK:** Looking back on the last few years and where you are now, where does pinhole photography fit in with your life these days?

**Tom:** I think about pinhole almost all the time still. I have bad insomnia and think about new things to shoot during the long nights. But my mind and body are not in sync like they used to be. After the third cancer (melanoma) and then breaking my femur (upper leg bone) in a couple places, that slowed me down to a snail's pace. But I still manage to get a few pinhole shots from time to time. I just need to get the rolls developed to see if I got what I had envisioned. I'll scan the negs when I get them back and share those images with those who might be interested.

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Interview with Tom Lindsay (2)

**Tom:** Multiple Sclerosis is a very wicked cruel disease. In the first few years that I had it, I had eye problems. I began to see double vision, which required an eye patch that I had to wear for 9 months before my sight returned to normal. Then I went totally blind one day and thought that things couldn't get much worse than they already were, luckily my vision returned to normal as strangely as it had gone. But the M.S. just got worse. I became semi-paralyzed in my right leg and my leg would drag around, which led to having to use a cane to walk. Then when I had just become used to the fact of having a degenerative disease, I discovered that I had cancer in my right lung. I had called my HMO for days on end telling them something was seriously wrong with me, as I was coughing blood up everyday. After two weeks I finally saw a doctor and was immediately rushed to the hospital. I was told I had Hodgkin's Disease (cancer) and that it was terminal! On top of that I found out that I had also contracted Hepatitis somehow. Long story short, I beat the 1st cancer, and it never came back. I took a lot of alternative medicines along with what the doctors were giving me during my first ordeal with cancer, and I truly believe if I hadn't I wouldn't be here today. I never told them about the alternative medicines, as at the time they were frowned upon.

Reading a magazine on photography during my recuperation from my cancer and M.S., I came upon a story and image about pinhole photography. I just loved the look and feel of the image (one of Willie Ann Wrights' Pool images), and decided then and there that the slow-tech, inexpensive medium was a good way to keep my mind from dwelling on my health problems, and it was right up my alley as I was not well to do with finances.

Dealing with multiple health issues can be very taxing on the mind and body. Seeing 5 different specialists almost all the time makes one shy away from scheduling appointments. Seeing the doctor nowadays is something I try my best to avoid. I know what diseases I have, and find out that I'm more on top of the issues than the doctors are from my constant reading about my health problems. In fact, I told every doctor each time that I had cancer and where to look, not the other way around. People need to be in tune with their bodies and go seek help when you believe something may be wrong with your body.

# Tom Lindsay, Diagnosis: Cancer

## Interview with Tom Lindsay (3)

**Tom:** My M.S. changed again in the late 1980's. I started getting torturous pains all over my body. The pains were in different categories, from being stuck with a red hot ice pick all over my body, to having the muscles' trying to twist themselves right off my bones; mainly in my legs. And then there were the "fake" heart attacks that occurred on both sides of my chest. Life was "NO PICNIC", and I was very distraught but not depressed. Then in 2000 I got my second bout with cancer. This time it was head and neck cancer, and the surgeon told me and Janet point blank that I would be DEAD in four years no matter what the doctors did or what ever I might try. It was another "terminal" death sentence. The next few years I documented my cancer and hoped for the best, and that's how this exhibit began and became what it is today. I kept right on pinholin' and taking my "lumps". I was a nervous wreck for the two years previous to when my "due date" was in June 2004, mainly because I was in a three person pinhole gallery exhibit, and the opening and reception was in June 2004. It's now July 2005, and I can say that the doctors were wrong, because I'm still here!!!

In the fall of 2004 I went to the dentist. I found out that all the radiation that I had received from the second bout with cancer left me with 18 cavities, gum loss, and brittle teeth. And a whooping bill of \$2000.00. Radiation isn't all that they say it is, and more and more the lay people out there are discovering the truth about the cancer industry.

So people out there, eat right, exercise, get some sun, don't do anything to excess (except pinhole), and you'll be alright! As for my third cancer bout, it's not terminal, and I'll beat this one too! And by the way, my leg is healing, not like I would like to see it, but I'll deal with that too.

"Keep on Pinholin!",

*Tom Lindsay*

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