

Friday, July 17. 2009

2009.06.26: Peter and Shaun

My studio is located in the characteristic northern end of the Edmonton Gallery Walk. Between my studio and my apartment is an expansive parking lot. When I'm crossing this parking lot to go to my studio in the morning or when I'm returning late at night I often encounter some of the working poor of our city as they sort through the bins for anything of value. Most just look for recyclable containers with deposits. Some look for resalable goods. I came across Peter, Shaun, and a third companion, Colleen who refused to be photographed. Peter and Shaun have known each other for a few years and Peter's been living on the street for the past seven years. He was a construction worker, mostly doing cement work. However, he lost his job when arthritis rendered him unable to do his job. His employer told him to apply for government disability insurance but in his mind he equated this to welfare and he would prefer to live on the street than to collect a hand out from our government. I chatted with Peter and Shaun for about a half hour while preparing for an engagement shoot. Despite their humble living arrangements they seemed content with their station in life. Most of the police in the area seem to know Peter and don't hassle him when they find him. Strangely, Shaun and Peter may be more content with what they are doing than I am with what I do at times and between parking, speeding, business regulation, and tax filing concerns, they likely have fewer run ins with government officials than I do. Shaun (left) and Peter. I hope that I'm spelling Shaun's name correctly. I doubt that they were Cash Store customers but that didn't seem to bother anyone. This was one of the photos that I took with the Sinar X and the Schneider Symmar-S 210/5.6 after selling the Horseman LE and Calumet Caltar-S II 210/5.6. Velvia 100F, scanned on the Microtek M1 on the glass holder so that I could scan the film edges.

Peter's wrist.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Personal at 18:58