

ARTS & LIFE

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Jim Thibert is a man of detail. His attention to even the smallest detail is visible in his work, which was featured by Heritage Arts Fort Erie at the Crossroads Saturday night.

AMANDA STREET/STAFF PHOTO

Thibert shoots to the sky with photography

Fort Erie resident's digital images part of exhibition at Crossroads

BY AMANDA STREET
STAFF

Jim Thibert is a stickler for detail.

He tries to capture every detail in his work. His keen eye for even the smallest detail comes from his love of astronomy.

Thibert got his start with photography in 1979 when he bought his first 35mm camera, a Nikon Nikomat. He discovered a hidden passion behind the lens. He dabbled in some commercial photography but as he continued to climb the management ladder in Toronto he soon had little time for photography.

It wasn't until he got into astronomy that he rediscovered his

passion for all things photographic. Thibert, and three partners, operate an observatory from Thibert's Fort Erie home. It is there that Thibert enjoys astrophotography. Some of his images are crystal clear after a 28-hour exposure. One image expands four and a half billion light years. Visible are more than 3,000 galaxies. It is these fine details that appear in Thibert's regular photography as well.

"What interests me, because of astronomy, is the high detail in my work," he said. "I have a passion for detail and colour."

That passion can be seen in his images which span local landscapes to European landmarks to flora and fauna. He spends hours toning the photos to bring the colour up just right.

Since astronomy technology went digital years before cameras Thibert has been processing digitally for 12 years. When he is processing his astronomy images the attention to detail is of

the utmost importance.

"You can't afford to lose a single photon," he said. "It becomes critical."

Because of the local images Thibert has shot Heritage Arts Fort Erie chose to showcase his work as its first one-man show Saturday. Ruby Smith, Heritage Arts chair, said that Thibert's work is compelling. She and fellow volunteer Adrianna Jacobi

discovered Thibert's work during a meeting with Thibert, as manager of Fort Erie Economic Development Corporation. Thibert then took them to his home studio to show them more of his work.

"I was impressed immediately," said Smith. "His work is compelling. It has soul."

An assortment of Thibert's work was on display at the Crossroads Saturday.

His work can be seen on his website at www.jamesathibert.com.

I have a passion for detail and colour.

— Jim Thibert

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