

**(My) Hidden Nature: A visual journal of an urban garden space
by Maria Parrella-ilaria**

***September 3-October 5, 2013
Camera Craft Gallery
Sault Ste. Marie, ON***

I live in a building that's 112 years old, situated in the heart of a quasi-forgotten downtown neighbourhood of Sault Ste. Marie.

In 1969 my parents bought the building and shortly thereafter built a second-floor back deck/car port, extending 60ft from our porch to cover the cinder block & scrap tin garage. Of those who helped in its construction, only my father remains (two uncles and a cousin, all welders, died within the last 12 years).

On the deck my parents created a horseshoe-shaped container garden where they grew vegetables, herbs and flowers of all sorts for close to 32 years. Once my husband and I moved into the 2nd floor of the building (2002), the garden became more of a wild meadow (neither of us is particularly blessed with a green thumb) and the hunting ground of three cats (one who would spend his final days lying in the shade of towering sunflowers).

The deck itself has hosted a variety of gatherings—birthdays, bbq's, family reunions, intimate dinner parties. It is a year-round habitat for song birds and crows and due to its elevated construction is noticed in passing by many yet remains a mystery to most.

The current installation at Camera Craft Gallery is the beginning of a multi-year documentation process of my urban garden space and its inhabitants. The images reflect the 12 months of the year and our four seasons (as brief as some might be), starting with September 2012.

For this collection, all images were taken and subsequently edited with an HTC One S Smartphone. Many of the images have been shared on Facebook and Instagram and more will be added as the documentation process continues over the next three-five years. To follow along, go to www.instagram.com, user page: @mavispi and/or #myhiddennature.

All images are professionally printed using archival inks/paper; all images are signed and dated au verso; all prints exhibited are #1 of a limited edition of 10 prints per image.

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