

TARDIOLI BIO

Michael Tardioli flourished as a student in the full time Program at Algonquin. He graduated in 1989 near the top of his class, and was immediately recruited by a professional colour print lab. This initial professional experience provided him with the chance to produce custom prints for both Yousuf and Malak Karsh, allowing Michael to develop a high-end fine art sensibility early in his career.

Tardioli then ventured into a partnership to produce signature, fine art, archival black and white portraits. During this time he developed new techniques in print-making to enhance black and white photographs and increase their "presence". The success of these techniques was made evident by the numerous prestigious commissions he received. Clients included public figures such as the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Margaret Trudeau, and Roberta Bondar, among many others. Acquisitions of his work were made by the National Library and Archives, the National Arts Centre, and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Works are on public and permanent display at the National Arts Centre, and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and the Children's Hospital collection has been published as a book entitled Hope.

The success Michael achieved as a portrait photographer has led to two different and significant directions in his recent career: the development of his teaching skills, and commercial photography incorporating elevated production values. He has achieved a calibre of printmaking with digital tools that has normally only been associated with traditional techniques. Bridging this gap has allowed him to attract such significant clients as the Canada Council for the Arts, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Canadian Museum of Nature. His digital work has also been recognized, notably through receipt of the 2003 Canadian Applied Arts Award for his photograph of singer/songwriter Kathleen Edwards.

His teaching career began in 2000 with the Continuing Education program at Algonquin College where he eventually transitioned into teaching in their full time Photography Program. Michael co-founded The School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa in 2005 to create an intensive photographic experience for those seeking to hone their skills or pursue an artistic or professional photographic practice.