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Award winning "*Focus on Coffee*" photo poetically reflects a Canadian love for coffee.

Sparkplug Coffee X SPARK Photo Festival X PhotoED Magazine are excited to announce the winner of the 2021 *"Focus on Coffee"* photography competition.

The judges unanimously selected *"Focus"* by Lucas DeClavasio as the winning image that best represents a creative, imaginative and technically well-executed interpretation of the competition theme, "coffee at home".



DeClavasio submitted a unique series of digital-double-exposure images that wowed the judges. He planned each of the five images to poetically reflect each stage of coffee at home from the craving, to the first sip, and through to the last drop.

DeClavasio says: "The double exposure is captured in-camera with the intention of portraying the physical effects of caffeine and the feeling of that first sip. It's like your body is in bloom and your mind is ready for whatever the day has in store for you."

A Toronto-based amateur photographer, DeClavasio credits the pandemic for his return from a photography hiatus. "I needed a creative outlet. My overarching goal with my photography is to embrace the chaos surrounding us, reconnect with my surroundings, and hopefully find a way to mentally cope with all these external factors."

We couldn't agree more! Photography, and coffee, have been a great escape for many Canadians.

In September the winning image, *"Focus"*, will be exhibited in the <u>2021 SPARK Photo Festival</u> in Peterborough, Ontario.

In addition to having his photo exhibited, Lucas DeClavasio will be rewarded with a year's worth of <u>Sparkplug Coffee</u> and a year of <u>PhotoED Magazine</u>. As well, his winning image, "Focus", will be featured on the packaging of a special edition **Sparkplug X SPARK Photo Festival 2021 Coffee**. This special edition coffee will be released in time for the festival in September and will be available for purchase online across Canada.

Be sure to watch Sparkplug Coffee, SPARK Photo Festival and *PhotoED* Magazine social channels for DeClavasio's other images in this series: Caffeine High, First Sip, Give Me Coffee and Last Sip, along with judges' selections from submissions from other Canadian photographers.

For more information, more Q&A with Lucas DeClavasio or to arrange an interview, contact SPARK Photo Festival, Jennifer MacKenzie, Festival Director info@sparkphotofestival.org