















The Nocturnal Series began in October 2009 on Toronto Island when I took a casual image of the full moon with my HP digital point-and-shoot camera. Given the night conditions and the fact that I was shooting with a daytime setting, there was no expectation that a useful image would be the outcome. I was pleasantly surprised, then, to find that the computer image — particularly after manipulating the settings for exposure, saturation and temperature — revealed wonderful image versions buried deep within the pixels that just needed teasing out, much like the traditional photograph emerging from the chemical bath.

My desire to capture a host of nocturnal dramas was now realized. The series was launched holding with promise of touching upon the metaphor and symbolism inherent in the nocturnal pictorial condition.

The Toronto Islands, with its bucolic setting and tree-lined winding roads, paths and periodic streetlights lends itself to rich pictorial opportunities, which are then further inflected by varying weather conditions and seasonal changes. The works created out of these conditions are somewhat reminiscent of the Tonalist painters of late nineteenth-century America, who are known both for their use of darker tones and their associations with moonlight rather than with atmospheric daylight. The introduction of the lone figure conjures other associations with the melancholy of Edward Hopper paintings and the melodrama of the film noir genre.

- Allan Harding MacKay