

# Fine Art Photography from a Cell Phone?

## Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert will attend the opening of his exhibit in Asbury Park

By PAUL BOOTH

If you head to Art629 Gallery in downtown Asbury Park in the next few weeks, you will likely experience that rare thrill of visiting a fine art gallery and walking away with the near sure feeling that "I could do that too."

That is partly because Steve Forbert, the featured artist in the exhibition "Highway of Sight" makes no claims of being a polished and seasoned photographic artist, and partly because that's exactly how he wants you to feel.

Forbert, who is far more widely known as a singer-songwriter musician, actually relishes in being at that other end of the fine-art photography spectrum; each and every photo in the exhibit, about 50 of them in total and each a uniform 4x5, was taken with a 2005 LG camera phone.

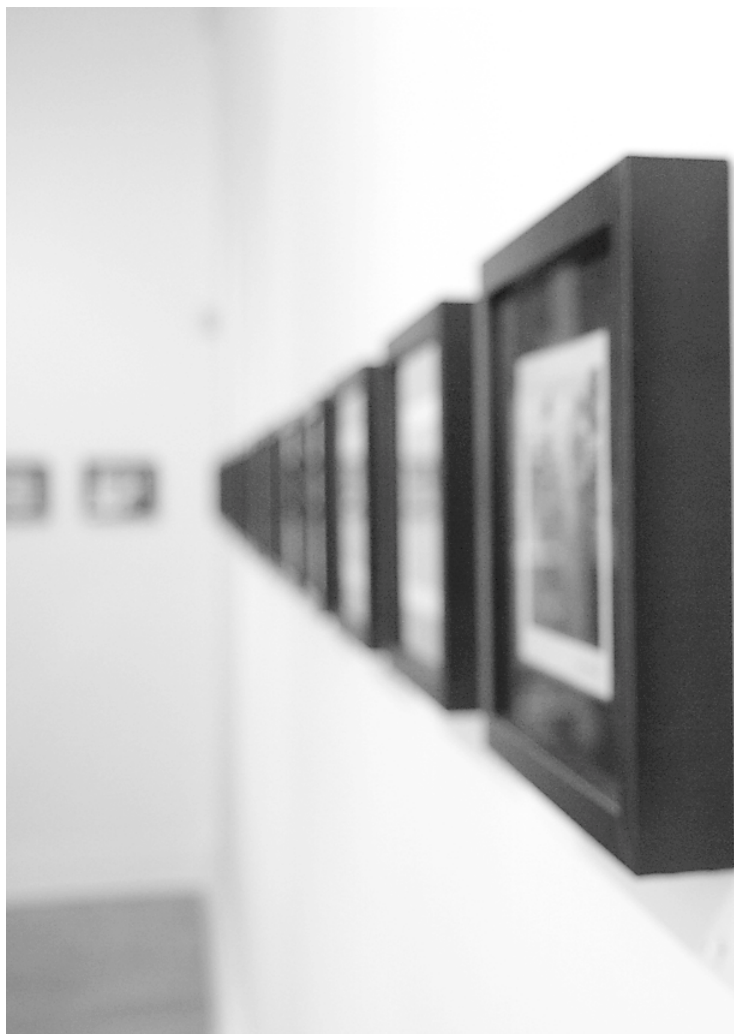
"Obviously I am sacrificing a lot in terms of clarity and quality," Forbert said plainly. "But I don't want to carry a camera around with me and I'm not a photographer. A lot of it has a touch of humor to it; I don't even have a zoom."

But much of that is what lends the photos in "Highway of Sight" their authenticity, he said. The simplicity of the photos, which Forbert took mostly while traveling on the road as a musician, belies their depth and beauty.

The images are varied, from "Orange Carpet" to "Condiments" (which appear just as they are named), but have a unified theme of color and angle.

Because they are often everyday objects depicted, Forbert said he tries to capture images at angles that offer new vision to a common sight.

"I'm kind of a victim of this,"



All the images in the "Highway of Sight" exhibit at Art629 Gallery in Asbury Park, including "Rear View Bricks" shown here, were taken with a 2005 LG camera phone.

Forbert said of his photography, which can veer into the compulsive. "I see things and they speak to me and I have to- if possible- try to shoot them at the angle that allows them to speak the loudest."

Forbert, who is known as a folk musician (he played at the Grammy-produced New Harmonies concert at Paramount Theatre on the Asbury Park boardwalk last weekend), admitted his work was probably not typical fine art gallery fare, but like varied music genres, there is room for this kind of expression.

As a musician Forbert said he has always

been interested in the story being told, in the song's lyrics. In the same way, each one of these photos, in a very simple way, tells its own simple story, he said.

"We're talking about things that are not sensationalized," said Forbert, now speaking maybe about both his music and his art, "but if you look at it in the right way you might find something special there."

"Highway of Sight" opens Sat., March 19 with an Opening Party from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Forbert, who lives in Nashville, will be in attendance. The exhibition will run until April 3.

For more information on Art629 Gallery (629 Cookman Avenue) visit their website [www.art629.com](http://www.art629.com) and for more information on Steve Forbert visit [www.steveforbert.com](http://www.steveforbert.com).

Singer songwriter Steve Forbert will be the featured artist at Art629's new exhibit "Highway of Sight," which opens March 19 in Asbury Park.



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