

SLUG MAG



LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY

ISSUE
431

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ABOUT THE COVER: Sharon Reza's stunning high fashion shot, titled "Poolside," graces the cover of our November Local Photography Issue. See more of her immaculate editorial work on page 6 and on sharonreza.com. Read the full interview with Reza on SLUGMag.com.

Alexis Whitney

Contributor Limelight Distro Driver



Alexis Whitney is one of *SLUG*'s greatest distribution superstars. As the driver for our two Sugarhouse routes, she is the one to thank when you see *SLUG* around. Did we mention she owns a Muay Thai gym, too? Keep up with her badassery on Instagram at [@madame.muaythai](https://www.instagram.com/madame.muaythai).

Evan Hancock

Contributor Limelight Photographer



It wouldn't be a Local Photography Issue without highlighting a *SLUG* photographer, and Evan Hancock is up there with the best. He's got an eye for expertly-framed shots wise beyond his years, especially when it comes to portraits. Check out his work on Instagram at [@whosevanscamera](https://www.instagram.com/whosevanscamera).

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Sharon Reza is as colorful and maximalist as her art, which is getting her recognized on a national level. "I like to be cinematic and grand; I like things to be vibrant and large-scale and theatrical," she says.

The Bold, Bright and Beautiful World of Sharon Reza

By Zoe Zorka || zoezorka25@gmail.com

"I Woke Up and Hated Everything," Digital, 2023. From the Domestika series.



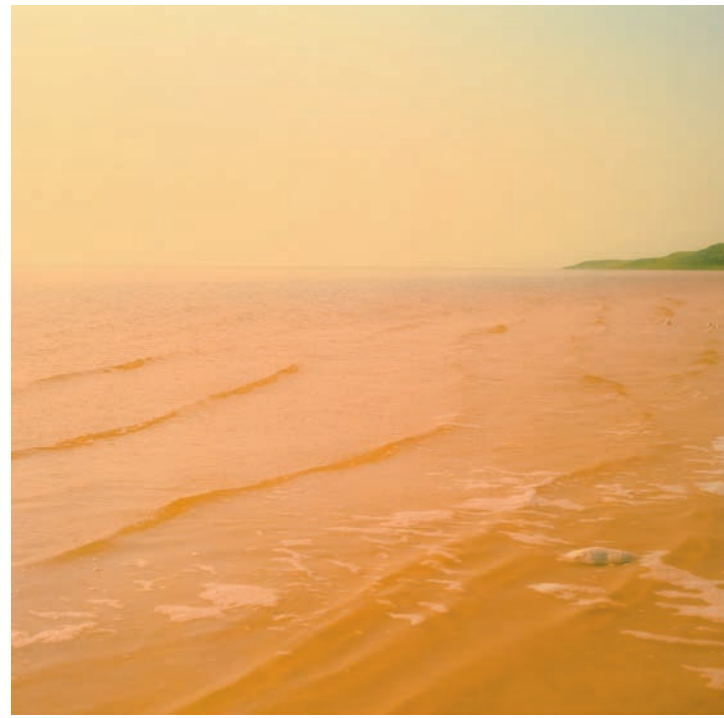
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Dom Ducote's compositions explore the nuanced interplay between beauty and place. Inspired by disparate sources, he sometimes uses a **Blondie** song as a conceptual frame for a still life or a single beam of light across a mountain lake for a landscape. Ducote got his start

FINDING BEAUTY WHERE IT SHOULDN'T BE: The Work of Photographer Dom Ducote
By Pace Gardner || pacegardner@gmail.com

in the art form at just 16 years old. "Photography got me out of bed, out of the house. I just felt like I needed to see as much beauty as possible," he says, drawn to "subject matter that looked like it didn't belong."

TOP LEFT: "Untitled," Analog Photography, 2021

TOP RIGHT: "Untitled," Analog Photography, 2021

BOTTOM LEFT: "Untitled," Analog Photography, 2023

BOTTOM RIGHT: "Untitled," Analog Photography, 2022

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Melanie Moreno demonstrates that photography can be approached similarly to other “fine” arts: with a keen eye that equally respects and embodies your subjects.

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS: The Photography of Melanie Moreno
 By Sophie Caligiuri || sophiecaligiuri@gmail.com

“Naci Perra,” Digital Photography/Graphic Design, June 2024

Laser
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Clark Planetarium's new laser show features the music of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, blending stunning visuals with their symphonic rock sound. Set in the immersive dome, it captivates audiences with intricate laser designs and powerful compositions, showcasing the orchestra's depth and holiday spirit, making it perfect for music lovers and families.

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JESSIE CARLTON: Bridal Photographer by Day, Concert Documentarian by Night
By Elle Cowley || ellecowley003@gmail.com

TOP LEFT: "Sweet Jesus," Sony A7III+35mm, August 2023

TOP MIDDLE: "Parking Lot Elopement," Sony A7IV+35mm Sigma, May 2024

TOP RIGHT: "Towering Cactus," Sony A7IV+24mm Sigma, April 2024

BOTTOM: "Magnitude," Sony A7III+24mm, March 2024

Turning your art into a business is a dream come true, but it can also take some of the joy out of creating. Jessie Carlton keeps her passions alive with both inspired editorial shoots and energetic, hardcore concert photography.




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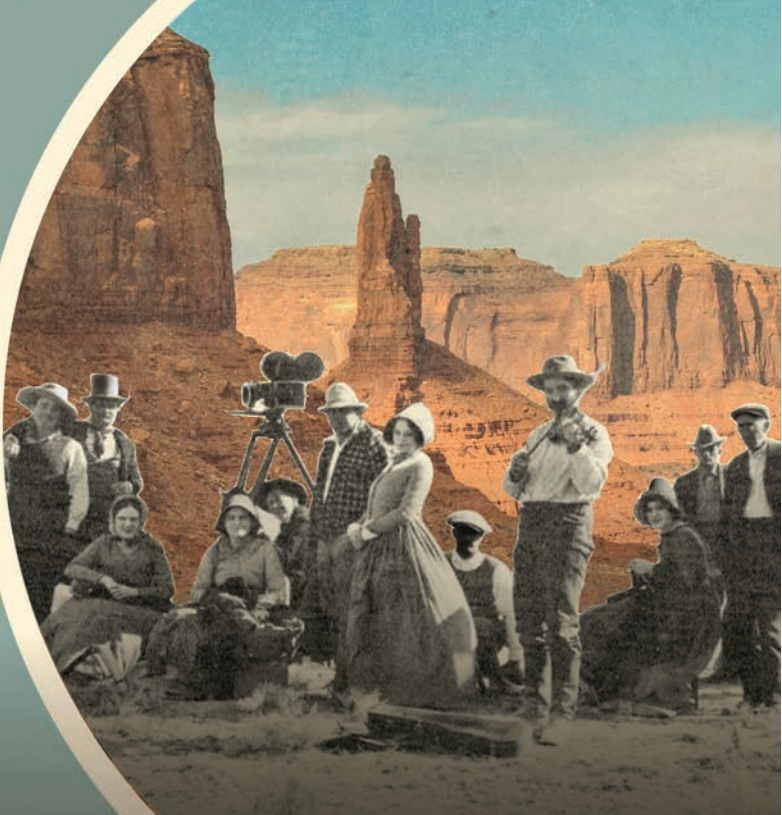



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“There’s a natural sense of order in architecture,” Peter Wiarda says. “When I look through the viewfinder, all the noise in my head just goes away.” This idea comes full circle in his new photo book, *Urban Calm*.

PRESERVING CALM: Peter Wiarda Explores SLC’s Endangered Architecture
By Sara Milano || saramilano98@gmail.com

TOP LEFT: “Worth Nothing,” 2024. Digitally altered image.

TOP RIGHT: “Me & You,” Digital, 2024. Originally published in *Urban Calm*.

BOTTOM: “UGH (Christmas Morning, 2020).” Digitally altered image.



LOCALIZED LOVELACE

By CJ Hanck
colehanck9@gmail.com

Photo: Diego Andino
@diegoandinophotography

(From L-R) **Dell Allred** (guitar), **Isaiah Bumgork** (second guitar), **Elijah Williams** (drums), **Nadine Mora** (bass) and **Ryker Wicknick** (vocals) make up Lovelace, a mixed-genre band whose heaviness and intensity match their sense of humor.

Prepare your heart, soul and ears for a display of Salt Lake City's most intense bands backed by a strong DIY ethos at *Kilby Court* on November 14. Co-headliners Lovelace and **eardrums** will bring the basement screamo-punk-crossover energy to the stage with opener *Lucy*. Tickets are just \$5 for this *Riso-Geist*-sponsored *Localized* show.

While their sound can be blisteringly heavy, Lovelace keeps things light, making their performances as much about the entertainment factor as they are about the music. Their stage banter, wild energy and refusal to stick to a single genre have quickly set them apart in the local scene.

Lovelace's origin story reads like the start of many great bands—friends hanging out, goofing around and stumbling upon a shared passion for music. "We are not very serious," admits Wicknick. "Our music has comedic elements—same as our stage presence. The names of our songs are nonsense."

LOCALIZED EARDRUMS

By CJ Hanck
colehanck9@gmail.com

Photo: Diego Andino
@diegoandinophotography

(From L-R) **Caetano Lubbers** (drums), **Jack Hamilton** (bass) and **Jonas Bunnell** (guitar/vocals) formed the genre-bending screamo outfit **eardrums** as longtime friends, after a casual jam session revealed their musical chemistry.

Behind their noise-heavy performances and raw, emotional songwriting is a story of long-time friendship, organic evolution and a persistent fire in their bellies pushing them to challenge themselves.

When I ask how they'd sum up who they are, Bunnell says, "We are eardrums and we like to get drums, bass and guitar together and sing. We make music for the masses and ourselves." It's a profoundly simple yet perfectly appropriate summary of the band's ethos, one built on spontaneity and the urge to create something that feels authentic.

The origin of eardrums is rooted in such a picturesque and cliché circumstance that it almost feels like the beginning of a rockumentary. The trio, all of whose dads were friends, had known each other for most of their lives. But it wasn't until a casual jam session that Bunnell and Lubbers realized they had something special.

What started as a fun experiment quickly became a passion project, with Hamilton joining on bass soon after the initial jam. As Bunnell puts it, "I saw Jack one day and thought, 'This guy looks like a bassist.'"



Ryan Mayfield believes there's a difference between good photos and interesting photos. He loves the idea that each person can have a different perception of the same image. "My approach to photography is, 'How can I make this photo different for someone else that is standing right next to me?'" he says.

RYAN MAYFIELD: Experimenting With Perception
By Parly Scott || parlysue@gmail.com

TOP LEFT: "Council of the Basketball Hoops," 35mm, 2024

TOP RIGHT: "Memories," Digital, 2024

BOTTOM: "Existential Dread," Digital Infrared, 2024

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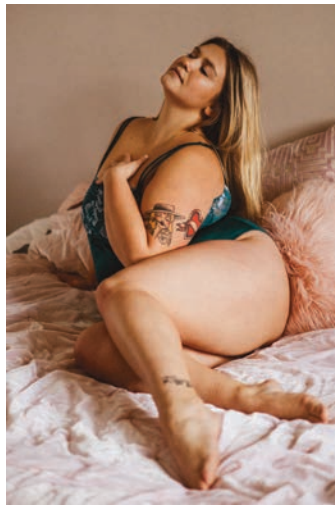
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Brie Pereboom's photo sessions are for anyone, regardless of their gender identity or relationship status. "I want to create a space where anyone can feel comfortable and celebrated," she explains. "Boudoir is about embracing

BOUDOIR BY BRIE: Celebrating Every Body Through Photography
By Aspen English || aspentree56@gmail.com

yourself, whoever you are, and I want everyone to have the opportunity to explore that side of themselves."

TOP LEFT: "At Home Boudoir," Digital, 2021
TOP MIDDLE: "Desert Boudoir," Digital, 2024
TOP RIGHT: "Topless-Turvy," Digital, 2021
BOTTOM: "Destination Boudoir," Digital, 2022



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SLUG STYLE:
Chloe Akira

Photo: Roberto Valdez
@robtookthis

"I love to shoot in nature. I love rich, earthy colors. Being in the trees feels like a warm hug fueling my creativity. As for styles and people

I like to shoot, I love genuineness—people who are kind, willing to collaborate, who are true to themselves and hold themselves to a standard of good morals," Akira says.

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By Rachel Brooks
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The food and cocktails at *Felt*, whose name is an homage to the historic *Felt Building* in downtown SLC, feature local ingredients with an Asian or Latin twist. My best description would be upscale fusion bar food, but that doesn't do *Felt* justice; it is so much more.

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From filming over 21 video parts to being a member of the legendary Forum crew, Jeremy Jones is one of the most recognizable names in all of snowboarding.

SNOW PHOTO FEATURE

By Jovvany Villalobos • countercultureconscious.com



Jeremy Jones - Cab cork 540 - Brighton, Utah

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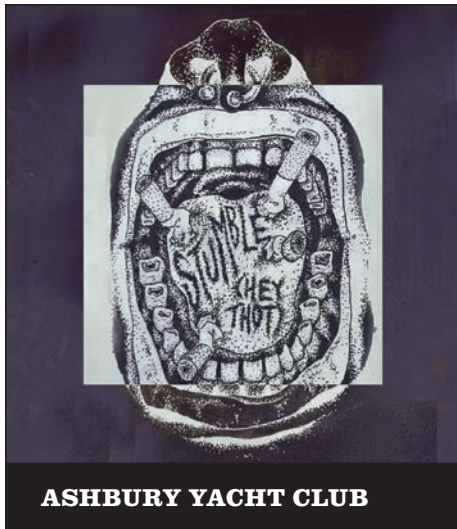
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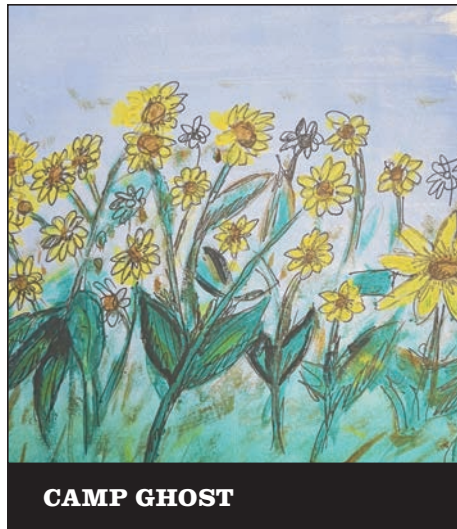
It slaps.

LOCAL MUSIC SINGLES ROUNDUP

By the time this issue hits the streets, the world will be deep into the 2025 Grammy nomination buzz, debating who will win Album of the Year or whether the awards have lost all integrity once again. But here in SLC, we'll be focused on sick local bands making sick music. Below are three incredible tracks to dig into. Check out three more songs by **Gonk**, **John Elwood Morgan** and **Seize the Fire** on SLUGMag.com!



ASHBURY YACHT CLUB



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ENGLISH BUDGIES

“Stumble (Hey Th0t)”

Self-Released
Street: 02.24
Ashbury Yacht Club = (Lumpy and the Dumpers + Flipper) x Prison Affair

Perhaps one of the most unassignable in micro-genre hell of punk music is Ashbury Yacht Club on their single “Stumble (Hey Th0t),” a track that is, in essence, a grab-bag of punk and hardcore tropes, blended together into a quite suave and grimy three-and-a-half minutes. Driven by an incredibly catchy bass groove under a blanket of fuzz, “Stumble (Hey Th0t)” stands shoulder-to-shoulder with underground hits from the likes of **Hoax**, though with slightly dialed back vocals. One of the biggest charms of this track is the unpredictable lead guitar, which only comes through to play a few stinging riffs, then backing off for the bass to shine through. Just when you think they’re fading off, they grab you by the shirt collar to belt out death metal vocals and then cut out the lights. “Stumble (Hey Th0t)” has made it into my musical rotation and I only hope to hear more from this group in the future. *—wphughes*

“Decompose”

Self Released
Street: 09.27
Camp Ghost = Pinegrove + Pierce The Veil

A Midwest emo song at heart, “Decompose” opens with subtle dueling acoustic guitar parts. Just as quickly as we are kept in this acoustic pocket, we are thrown with violent whiplash into absolutely disgusting (in a *good* way) screamo, with visceral vocals that remind me of something you might hear on a Pierce The Veil record. The second release this year for the group (after their EP *Flowers*), there is a clear quality in the track that convinced the band to drop this as their second-ever single. Coming off as anthemic, if this is your introduction to the band, it feels like all you would need if you’re gonna get down with them. Something compels me to mention that almost an air of **Car Seat Headrest** could be sensed (but that may just be myself imagining things). If you got a fever for some Midwest emo, this may be the cure you were looking for this whole time. *—Jake Fabbri*

“Witches Brew”

Self-Released
Street: 10.03
English Budgies = Death Cab For Cutie + Counting Crows

Provo indie soft-rockers English Budgies are making the local live performance rounds ahead of their appropriately seasonal spooky single “Witches Brew.” Seemingly prolific, the Budgies may merely be dabbling in some autumnal playfulness, or may already be brewing up more tracks to offer their listeners. Either way, this brew is brisk and fragrant, no matter what comes after. There’s little especially ‘Halloweenie’ about the single, which is lightly moody yet melodic and energetic with a few brief ambient moments. The vocals are buttery smooth and sometimes suffused with a touch of sadness. Lyrically, “Witches Brew” is rich with visuals of the ordeals and misdeeds of the Puritan era crucible and the stygian suffering of bygone times. The track is crisp cut—just over three minutes in length without a bit of excess flourish. Perhaps pair this little sonic trick-or-treat with a locally crafted pumpkin ale, and your sweater-clad Saturday evening will be complete. *—Paige Zuckerman*



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THE HELLP 11.5
MICHELLE 11.6
 THICK 11.7
BONNEVILLE + Sunhills 11.8
 Zinadelphia 11.9
 Vincent Lima 11.10
The Lemon Twigs 11.11
 Landon Conrath 11.12
 Dark Dazey 11.13
SLUG LOCALIZED:
 Lovelace + eardrums + Lucy 11.14
 Letdown. 11.15
 Dogpark 11.16
 Bay Faction 11.17
 Worry Club 11.18
 Ashley Kutcher 11.19
Ax & The Hatchetmen 11.21
 Daniel Noah Miller
 (of Lewis Del Mar) 11.22
 Anna Tivel 11.23
 Tall Heights 11.24
 mypetspider + bloodydeathpunch +
 lovelace + danceoftheseventhcrow
 zachy 11.25
 zachy 11.30

METRO MUSIC HALL

Unseen Corners 11.1
Seuss Lake City: Cabaret Mega Show! 11.2
 Washed Out 11.5
 Four Year Strong 11.6
 Nico Vega 11.7
 Emo Night Tour 11.8
 Transmitter Single Release Show 11.9
 Panzer AG 11.12
 Popszene SLC Presents:
 TR/ST + Provoker 11.13
 Death Persona 11.14
 Marrlo Suzanne & The Galaxy Band 11.15
 Broadway Rave 11.16
 La Femme 11.19
 Loom + The Magpies 11.21
 New City Movement Presents:
 Sassmouth Chicago +
 Matthew Fit + Tab 11.22
 Viva La Diva: Decades Diva 11.23
 Viva La Diva: Decades Diva 11.24
 Temptaxxions 11.29
 Devastation On the Nation
 + Morbid Angel 12.02
 Marrlo Suzanne & The Galaxy Band 12.7
 Viva La Diva: Jolly Holiday Diva! 12.14
 Viva La Diva: Jolly Holiday Diva! 12.15
 Marrlo Suzanne & The Galaxy Band 12.19

URBAN LOUNGE

Blake Proehl + Haven Madison +
 Kaibrienne + Kayko 11.1
 Jeffrey Martin 11.2
 BabyJake 11.3
 The March Violets 11.6
 Little Moon 11.7
DEHD 11.8
 Ballot Box Detox: Die Shiny +
 Kael Alden + Connor Chisti 11.9
 Crown Magnetar 11.10
 Supersuckers + The Atomic Bitchwax 11.11
 Dance With The Dead 11.12
 The Cancers + Hoppy 11.14
 RJD2 11.15
**IDYKD! NOSTALGIA CORE: VI: BRA,
 MAENAD, DJ RIRI, DJ CAUSITA, TINA** 11.16
CROWBAR 11.19
 KUAA Presents: Mystery Lights 11.20
 SonReal 11.21
 Cosmic Country Club 11.22
 Sapphic Factor: Queer Joy Party 11.23
 Strange Familia +
 The Psychomatics + Detzany 11.29
 Matt Heckler 12.03
 Quintessential 12.04
 Blockhead 12.05



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