

IAN RUHTER



I'm excited to invite you to the inaugural exhibition of "The Lake." This project represents an incredible journey that began 30 years ago at Lake Tahoe Community College, that led me around the world, and brought me back home again. The entire project was completed in 2024 with the release of my debut book, "The Lake."

My life's course changed three decades ago when I took a class at Lake Tahoe Community College. My teacher, Pat Leonard Heffner, introduced me to a simple yet profound apparatus: a pinhole camera made from an oatmeal canister. This sparked a career in photography that led me around the world and eventually back to Lake Tahoe. For the past 15 years, I've dedicated every waking moment to creating handmade, one-of-a-kind tintypes and ambrotypes from a delivery truck converted into a camera and mobile darkroom.

Now, in the exact place where this journey began, I will be exhibiting 68 original works. Including three 48 x 60" tintypes. In addition to the collodion works, the exhibition will include my first portfolio from the class that changed my life 30 years ago. There will also be an interpretation of the camera truck that you'll be able to walk inside to see its components, including the giant lens and components of the gigantic camera.

This exhibition is incredibly important to me, as I want to share this work with the community and the many people who helped make it possible. The body of work is also a celebration of the community, friends, family, and all the people who made this dream possible.

Open reception: Thursday, October 9, 2025 5 to 9 p.m. Exhibition: October 9 – December 11, 2025