

#46 Jan. 2020 Cameraderie
Thomas Joshua Cooper
(1946-)



I read about Thomas Joshua Cooper a few months ago in an article in *The New Yorker*, and sent out a review of that article to all club members, as I intend to do in the future for all *New Yorker* photographer articles. The *New Yorker* article is available to view here:
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/10/07/a-photographer-at-the-ends-of-the-earth>.

The *New Yorker* article is heavy on personality, but what a personality! Cooper is the most unusual photographer I have ever researched and written about in this series. He travels to the world's remotest and wildest locations, and takes a single photograph with his 121-year old view camera, which he calls his "baby." This man is driven to risk his life for his project, and often does.

You can read a brief biography of him in the Wikipedia article, here:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Joshua_Cooper. If you separately google "Thomas Joshua Cooper" and then select "Images," you will see dozens of his photographs. Please have a look.

Cooper was trained and advised by both Ansel Adams (#12, *Cameraderie*, March 2014) and Imogen Cunningham (#16, *Cameraderie*, Dec. 2014), and you can see the influence of those early 20th century photographers in the purity of his compositions.

Here are a few of his photographs. I drew them from the Internet by searching for "Images" under "Thomas Joshua Cooper." As you look at these and others on the Internet, please think about Cooper out there in rugged weather, perhaps in isolated and dangerous locations, setting up his huge old view camera, and ask yourselves: Why is he doing this? What is he feeling? What should we be feeling?

Shoshone Falls, Idaho, "The Niagara of the West."



Cooper focuses here more on the rock faces than on the water falls.

Very near The Arctic Circle, The North Atlantic Ocean, PistilWarargrunn. Looking towards the Old Lands, Hraunhafnartangi, Melrukkaslétta, Nardur-Pingeyjarsysla, Nordurland Eystra, Iceland, 2007-2008. The North-most point of Iceland, 66° 33.087' N.



This shows Cooper's passion about getting to remote locations, as a sort of explorer. Cooper gives very interesting notes in his titles.

Along the Hudson River—Rockwell Falls—The Sacandaga River Near the Hudson River—
Sacandaga County May 5, 2017



The title of this image is Cooper's own notes on where it was taken.