



Stephen M. Schaub, wife Eve Ogden Schaub, and daughter Ilsa.

Viva la revolution!

Local artists pen book on 'Figital Revolution'

By Matthew Rice

The revolution won't be televised, although it will be heavily photographed and is available on the web.

Pawlet artists Stephen M. Schaub and

Eve Ogden Schaub will present a talk on their new book "THE FIGITAL REVOLUTION: A Maverick Manifesto for the 21st Century Photographer".

The talk will be held at the Pawlet Public Library at 7 p.m. on Jan. 17. It is

Schaub

Continued from front page free.

"Figital" stands for "the dynamic fusion of film and digital photographic technologies" or perhaps more simply, choose to use what you want to but don't feel you have to go digital and never return.

F-ilm and d-igital, figital, get it?

"It'll definitely be a fun talk so I hope lots of people come out," Schaub said. "Like the book, it will be a fun look at a serious issue," he said.

With chapter titles like "On the Trail of the Elusive Blind Vampire Photographer" a quick scanning of the book shows you why Schaub calls it "an irreverent look" at the subject.

Schaub said he hopes the gathering will bring in people concerned about creating images, not people who are interested in taking up sides on the digital debate, because, he said, there is no debate. Much like Rodney King, Schaub wonders why we can't "all just get along?" instead of choosing sides.

While he readily says digital is the future of photography Schaub said the past should not be abandoned or discarded, but that is precisely what he said he sees happening within photography as an artform and a medium.

As an artist who works with cutting edge digital technology as well as good old fashioned

film, Schaub said trends within the photography industry concerned the couple enough that they began writing the book last summer and finished the 72-page manifesto in three months.

"I'm outing the industry," he said. With the rise of digital photographic technology, Schaub said what he saw taking place was an industry determined to move everyone strictly into the digital realm at a real cost to the world of art.

"I could see it happening and I decided to blow the whistle on it," Schaub said.

Schaub said the characterization of film or digital as a choice, one somehow right and the other not just wrong, but wrong-headed, or the idea that going digital was substantially cheaper than film were things that just did not ring true for him and something needed to be said.

The reason?

"It's greed, it's pure and simple greed," he said. Companies stand to make a tremendous amount of money on the change-over and then afterwards by selling upgrades, gadgets, archiving materials and an endless supply of stuff to digital photographers.

Schaub holds the consumer photo magazines responsible for being a part of the problem and not the solution.

Those magazines incorrectly characterize film as "dead" and when people read the magazines the idea becomes reinforced, he said.

With characteristic humor, Schaub described the situation as, "The pimply younger brother at all costs trying to destroy the older brother," with just a few years of digital technology being touted as a replacement for more than 150 years of photographic history.

"Film is not dead," he said, "Let's open it up to discussion and let the people decide."

And that was only part of the reason he wanted to have the talk about the book.

It's all part of what he calls the "photo-industrial complex" with an appropriate wink and nod toward President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Since then he said the book has garnered attention from around the industry and the art world.

For photographers who care about art, Schaub said he wanted their small book to be a large kick in the backside.

The book itself is just a part of the project. "The basic information," he said, "the website is kind of like a part two."

Schaub said he makes posts to the website four or five times a week to continue the thought process the book began.

Find the website at www.figitalrevolution.com.

The authors live and work in Pawlet, where they run the Indian Hill Imageworks where they provide unique hybrid printing services, photo classes and other photography-related services.