



## *Important Things*

by Tamara Lischka



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### Commentary

The byline for everything we do here at LensWork Publishing is “photography and the creative process.” It’s that word process that comes to mind when discussing the career of Tamara Lischka. We first published her work in *LensWork* #40 (2002) with the project titled *Figuratively Speaking*. In that project, she photographed hands in mid-gesture.

Fast forward to 2006 to her project *Important Things*, conceived to make an entirely different statement. Where the first project was about touch and *gesture*, this second project is about touch and *relationship*. It’s fascinating to look at both projects and observe her artistic and creative growth so plainly on display. Everything she learned in that first project has been used, refined, extended, matured in this second project.



Through this preliminary project, she learned things — lighting, managing the depth of field challenges, working with models, what she liked and did not like in the resulting photographs. The process of completing the project was educational and, like all such things, added to her repertoire.

nonetheless. It may be cliché to say, but it is true that art is not nearly so much a product as it is a journey.

That’s the thing about the art life — it’s, well, a *process*. Everything we do influences what we do next. This is precisely why I have been such a champion of *finishing work*. I’ve often said it this way: Perhaps the high point of our artistic career might be our 10th project, but we will never arrive there until we’ve first completed the first nine. Each of those nine will probably, in their own way, contribute to the crowning achievement in the 10th — often in ways that are not as obvious as in this work from Tamara Lischka, but the influence is there