

In 2007 representatives of the **Geneva, IL International Cultural Exchange Committee** and **Croissy sans Frontieres** in Croissy sur Seine, France invited DeWolf to photograph Croissy as a step in developing an artist exchange program between the two cities. Croissy and surrounding villages along the Seine River are called “the playground of the French impressionists”. It resulted in a 2009 **solo exhibit in France** that was attended by a member of the French Parliament, a French Senator, three local mayors, and the family of a former French Ambassador.

### Solo Exhibit in France

About 100 people, including a member of France’s Parliament, a French Senator, and three mayors, gathered for the artist’s reception at my photography exhibit in Croissy sur Seine, France on May 15, 2009. It was such an honor and truly the highlight of my photography career. Croissy and neighboring villages have a heritage of being the subjects of the world's most famous impressionist painters, the artists who invented impressionism; Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Sisley, and others. What a privilege it was to photograph there and be invited to exhibit there.



The exhibit and reception were held in Croissy's 13th century Chapelle Saint Leonard. With the help of members of Croissy sans Frontieres, we hung 35 images I shot here in France and some banners with images shot in Italy, England, and the USA.

Croissy-sur-Seine, France and Geneva, IL have a sister city relationship that is maintained by Croissy sans Frontieres and Geneva's International Exchange Committee. They invited me to visit and photograph Croissy in May of 2007. I returned the following year to photograph more and then this delightful city invited me to have my own exhibit. I returned one more time in September 2009 for two weeks of more shooting and visiting with friends we had made.

**Shown below (from left to right)** are Ghislain Fournier the mayor of Chatou, Aline Pascal mayor of Bougival, French Senator Alain Gournac, Pierre-Roger Davin the Mayor of Croissy, Pierre Lequiller a member of the French National Assembly, Karin de Marco of Croissy sans Frontieres, Brian DeWolf, Veronique Defour representative of the city of Croissy, Jony Garner of Croissy sans Frontieres.



I told the audience that my work was part of a larger effort by Croissy sans Frontieres and Geneva's International Cultural Exchange Committee to bring people together in the spirit of friendship and learning. Without their commitments to bringing people together, I would not have had this incredible opportunity. It is a beautiful and marvelous area with so much history, specifically art history. They love life and celebrate it in, as you can see, a grand style.

This exhibit dovetailed into Croissy's annual festival celebrating the birth of French Impressionist Art. Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Sisley, and other impressionist artists painted many pictures in Croissy and surrounding communities. "The Path of the Impressionists" is identified with monuments at the locations where the artists painted their famous pieces. Four American artists painted in the festival competition and took two awards. It is really something every person who loves art should see. And an added benefit was going on Jony Garner's "walk and talk" tours that brings life to art history.

