WCC Creative SIG

Never stop learning

Today's meeting

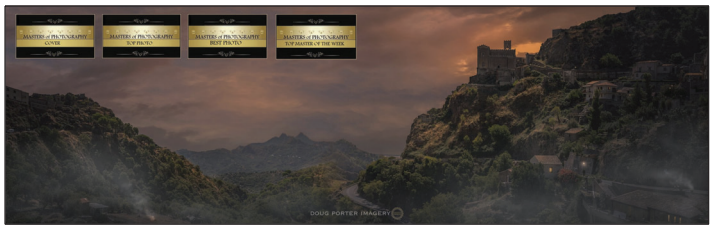
Note: I tend to use my own images to avoid copyright issues.
If I use someone else's image I will give a source reference

- Welcome & Meeting Schedule
- Judging of the Creative Competition
- More comments on AI and Photography
- Creative images that caught my eye
- "How-to" or "How was it made"
  - a brief outline covering last month's winning image
  - Photoshop selection techniques
- Structured homework … learning by doing
  - Critique of homework images
  - A new challenge

Creative Competition

Judge: Doug Porter

Images from https://dougporterimagery.com.au/



Doug Porter

A LIFELONG LOVE AFFAIR WITH IMAGERY

"I HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED MYSELF A PHOTOGRAPHER PER SE, BUT MORE A DOODLER, A DREAMER AN ARTIST"

MY INITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE WAS LIMITED TO WEDDINGS AND OCCASIONAL PORTRAITS IN THOSE STRESSFUL DAYS OF FILM CAPTURE. I PUT ALL MY CAMERA GEAR AWAY IN 1977 AND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FAMILY, DID NOT TAKE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS UNTIL MY FIRST TRIP TO ITALY IN 2006. THIS ITALIAN ADVENTURE, AND WITH ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PEERS, IN PARTICULAR ROBERT PICCOLI, "FRESCO IMAGES" WAS FOUNDED AND NOW "DOUG PORTER IMAGERY".

MELBOURNE BORN AND BRED, MY BACKGROUND IS ART COLLEGE (PAINTING, ILLUSTRATION AND PRINTMAKING) FOLLOWED BY EXTENSIVE TIME WORKING IN THE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INDUSTRY.
MY PASSION FOR ART NEVER CEASED AND WITH THE ADVENT OF THE DIGITAL AGE I FOUND A NEW LOVE IN DIGITAL EDITING AND PHOTO COMPOSITION.

WHEREAS MANY PHOTOGRAPHERS SEEM TO RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO ONE 'GENRE', I PREFER TO ATTEMPT AND EXPLORE ALL THE DIFFERENT AND VARIED FIELDS OF THIS ARTFORM.
MY PHOTOGRAPHS ARE THE 'SKETCHES' ON WHICH I BUILD THE VISION I HAVE, NOT ALWAYS A LITERAL RECORDING OF MY SUBJECT BUT AN ATTEMPT TO BRING TO THE ARTWORK A PIECE OF MYSELF.

"A CAMERA MERELY RECORDS, BUT AN ARTIST CREATES"
CHUCK KIMMERLE

ABOVE THE TURMOIL

Doug Porter

AWARDS TO DATE:- MARCH 2023

FOCUS AWARDS 2018 - 4 X SILVER 13 X BRONZE

FOCUS AWARDS 2019 - 8 X SILVER 10 X BRONZE - PLACED 8TH IN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

EPSON INTERNATIONAL PANO AWARDS 2019 - 1 X GOLD 3 X BRONZE

CANSON INFINITY WINNER NOVEMBER 2019

EPSON INTERNATIONAL PANO AWARDS 2020 - 2 X BRONZE

RISE INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2020 - 5 X SILVER 1 X BRONZE

MOSMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2020
HIGHLY COMMENDED - ART PORTFOLIO
COMMENDED - LANDSCAPE PORTFOLIO

CAPTURE MAGAZINE - AUSTRALIAS TOP EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHERS 2021
PORTFOLIO #1 - TOP 10 OPEN PORTFOLIO SECTION
PORTFOLIO #2 - HIGHLY COMMENDED OPEN PORTFOLIO SECTION

EPSON INTERNATIONAL PANO AWARDS 2021 - 4 X BRONZE

MOSMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2021 - HIGHLY COMMENDED - ART PORTFOLIO

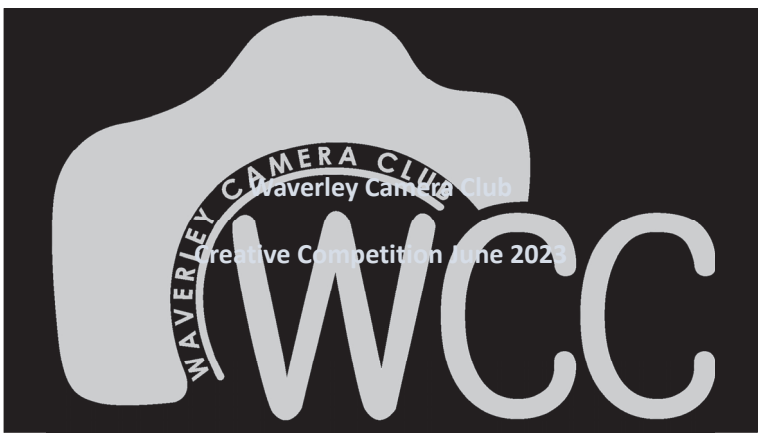
360 DEGREES PHOTO AWARDS 2021
1 X PLATINUM CREATIVE - 1 X GOLD CREATIVE
6 X SILVER CREATIVE
8 X SILVER LANDSCAPE PORTFOLIO
1 X SILVER LANDSCAPE

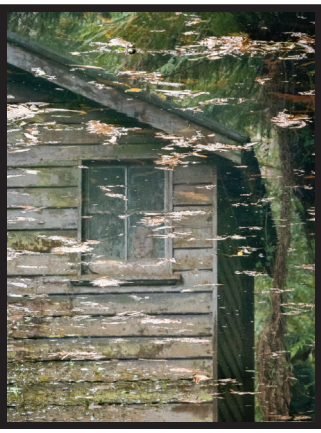
MASTER PHOTOGRAPHERS INTERNATIONAL 2022 PHOTOMATCH
FIRST (WINNER) AND FOURTH PLACE - 'DIGITAL ART'
SEVENTH PLACE - 'FINE ART' - SIXTH PLACE -'PORTRAIT'

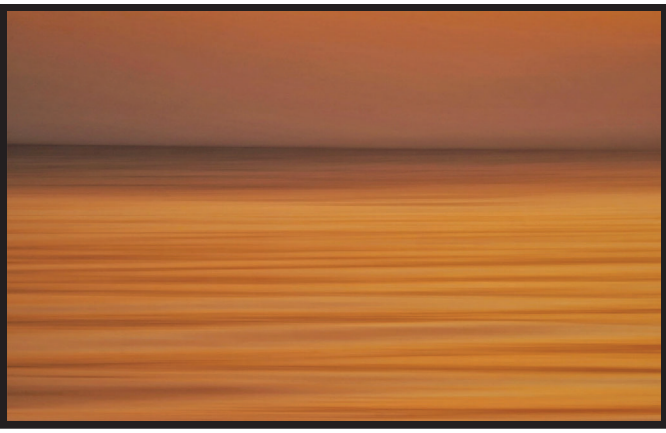
APP (AUSTRALIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC PRIZE)2022
2 X SEMI FINALIST - EPSON PRINT AWARDS
2 X SEMIFINALIST EIZO DIGITAL ARTISTS AWARD
2 X COMMENDED EPSON PRINT AWARDS
4X COMMENDED EIZO DIGITAL ARTISTS AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP (IPG)
COVER PHOTO FEBRUARY 2023 - PHOTO OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2023

WWW.DOUGPORTERIMAGERY.COM.AU - +61 412 150 816 - FRESCOIMAGES@GMAIL.COM





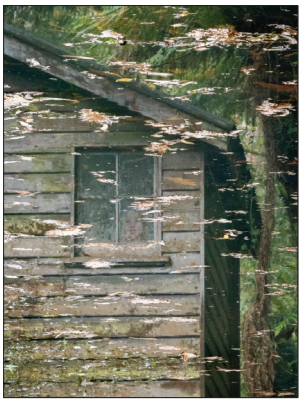


AWARD WINNERS

MERIT

Floating Island

Sim Chong



I see you

Leanne Poole

Skyline

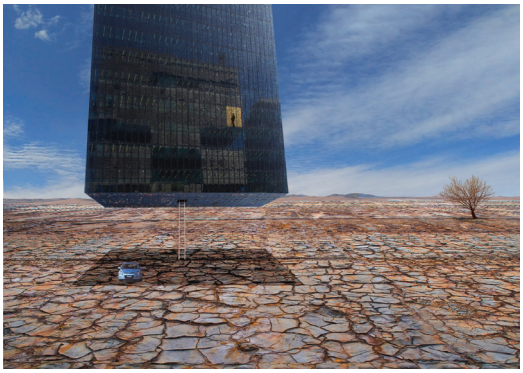
Stephen Jude

AWARD WINNERS

Highly Commended

Nightout

Anthony Yap



Working remotely

Tim Keane

Field of dreams

Steve Hilton

AWARD WINNER

Image of the Month

Red tree Bright

Vicki Moritz

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11 July	8 August	WCC-Geelong Creative Interclub Comp. "Open" + "Surreal Landscapes"
Geoff and Jill are planning to be overseas in October… Any volunteers to run this session?		
26 September	10 October	Judge: TBA

Dates etc on https://resources.waverleycameraclub.org/wcc-creative-2023/

WCC-Geelong Creative Interclub Comp.

Sections
- Open
- Surreal landscapes

Judge requested limit to 12 open and 12 set subject from each club (total 48 images)

We will have to select the "best" 12 in each section with no more than 2 images from an individual per section.

AI and Photography

Boris Eldagsen was awarded the top gong in the Sony World Photography Awards for a haunting black and white image entitled The Electrician, part of his Pseudomnesia series.

But the image was generated using an AI program. Handing back the prize at the London award ceremony in April, he said: "Thank you for selecting my image and making this a historic moment, as it is the first AI-generated image to win in a prestigious international photography competition."

"It was a test to see if photo competitions are prepared for [AI] … They are not."

He maintains he hadn't intended to deceive the judges. Instead, he wanted to start a conversation about where AI art fits in the photography world.

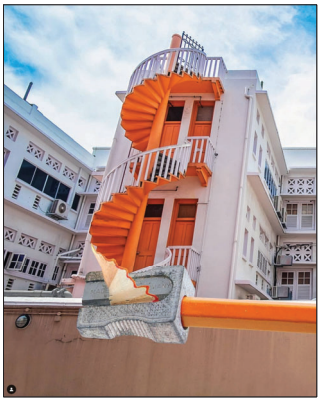
https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-15/what-is-promptography-artificial-intelligence-boris-eldagsen/102305164

Creative images that caught my eye

https://500px.com/photo/59908858/dinosaur-in-the-woods-by-bruno-alves

https://www.instagram.com/p/CYbPBauovqC/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CWSvbEtIbDU/



https://www.photocrowd.com/photos/castle-storm-2180168.6c8602fbd/

https://www.photocrowd.com/photos/break-free-6352165.f0645eb82/

https://www.instagram.com/hari_sulistiawan/

By hari_sulistiawan
https://www.instagram.com/p/Cos-gjWvRRb/

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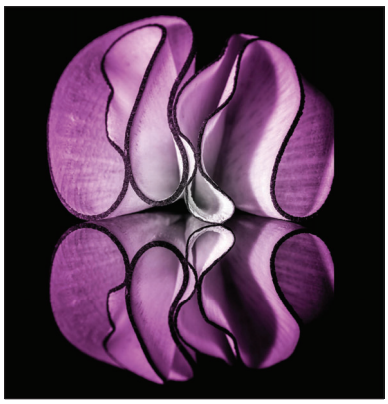

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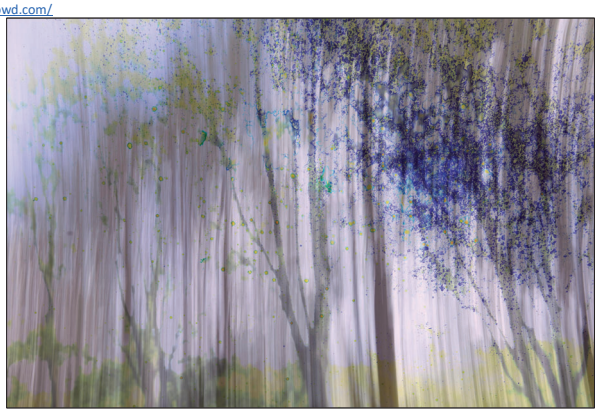
https://www.photocrowd.com/photos/a-composite-8472170.dc3dc842c/



https://www.photocrowd.com/photos/imaginative-mountains-8495422.cdf840f4e/

https://www.photocrowd.com/photos/you-cant-see-me-but-i-can-see-you-8472685.e6142e5ed/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Co-HfcgrKRH/

https://www.instagram.com/brigitte.aeberhard/

brigitte.aeberhard

https://www.instagram.com/p/Co2DopotGTY/

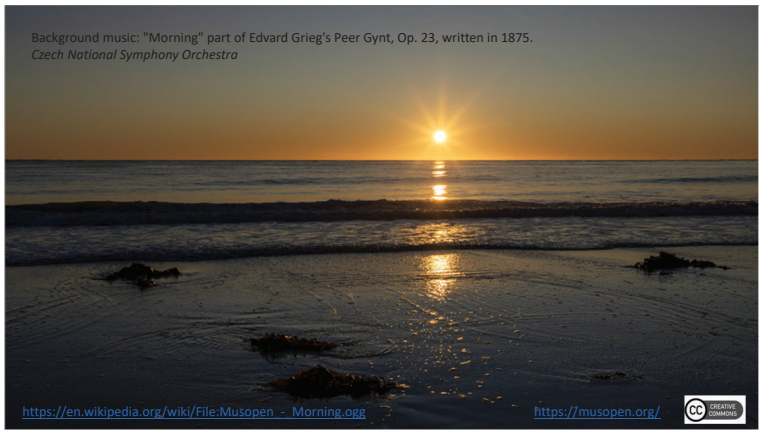
https://www.instagram.com/p/CmvzboCPvBs/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CXd0DGOPpxf/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CXTclFwvV5x/

https://www.instagram.com/p/CA9yqEuDz63/

Background music: "Morning" part of Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt, Op. 23, written in 1875.
Czech National Symphony Orchestra

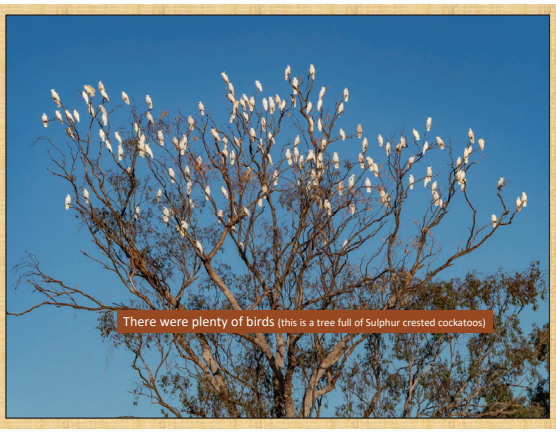


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Musopen_-_Morning.ogg https://musopen.org/

"How-to"
or
"How was it made"

Jill Shaw
Birds at sunset
Section Winner, April

I took these photos while camping by the Murrumbidgee River near Wagga



There were plenty of birds (this is a tree full of Sulphur crested cockatoos)

Sometimes the birds were on the river banks feeding

(here sulphur crested cockatoos and corellas)

Or they were up in the tree tops

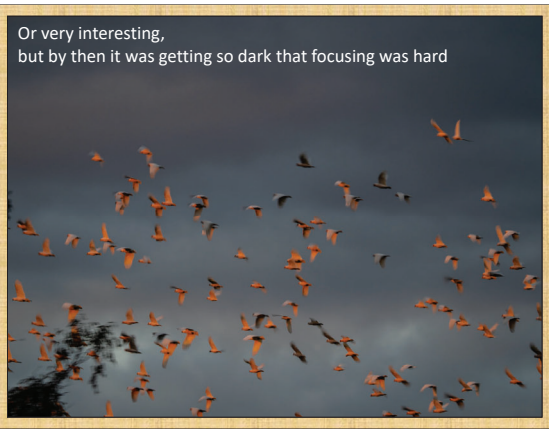
Or they were flying, circulating around

Depending on the light they looked either very ordinary

ordinary

Interesting

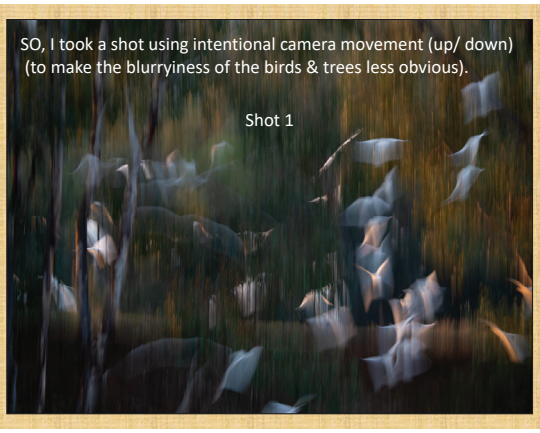
Or very interesting,
but by then it was getting so dark that focusing was hard



As I was shooting handheld it soon got too dark even to keep trees in focus.

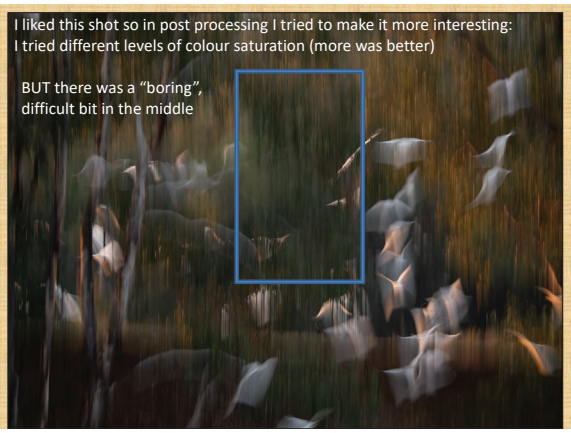
SO, I took a shot using intentional camera movement (up/ down) (to make the blurryiness of the birds & trees less obvious).

Shot 1



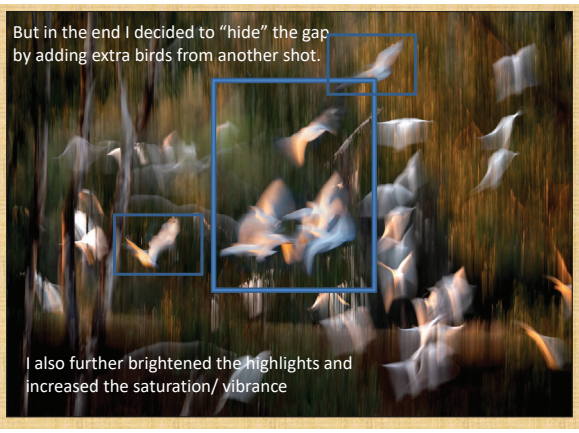
I liked this shot so in post processing I tried to make it more interesting:
I tried different levels of colour saturation (more was better)

BUT there was a "boring", difficult bit in the middle



I tried various crops to try to make it "better"

But in the end I decided to "hide" the gap by adding extra birds from another shot.



I also further brightened the highlights and increased the saturation/ vibrance

The shot from which I stole the extra birds

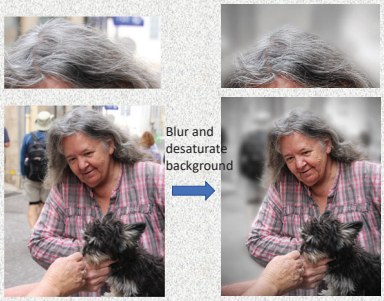
... Thanks Jill.

"How-to"
or
"How was it made"

Selections etc.

Ross Eddington has asked for more coverage of selections etc.

His image below as a working example



Switch to Photoshop

- Photoshop's new AI powered selection tools – select subject etc. can work well, but have limitations
- Refine by adding or subtracting as needed
- Select and Mask to refine selection
- Invert selection if needed
- With complex selections it is a good idea to save the selection to a channel as you go along

- "flyaway" hair can be problematic, especially against a complex background
  - use plain backgrounds/greenscreens where possible to achieve contrast between hair and non-hair
  - Try different colour channels to see if you get better contrast
  - Try sharpening before selection
  - If it is really important, zoom in to pixel level editing (eg 600%) and paint the hairs onto the mask.

- Think about scaling. If you have, say, an 8200 x 5500 px image and are aiming at reducing it to a final image that will be, say 1920x1080 px then don't worry about features that are 1 pixel wide on the original. They won't be visible in the final.

- Consider using *Lens Blur* rather than *Gaussian Blur* to blur backgrounds

- *More approaches at* https://helpx.adobe.com/au/photoshop/how-to/select-mask-hair.html

Feb Meeting's Structured homework … Armoured Man

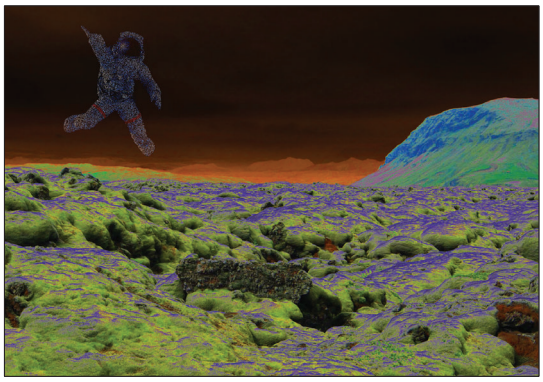
- *project challenges*
- *finding / sharing inspiration*

Place the armoured man on the image provided (or another image of your own if you prefer) onto a different background
- Selection and masking
- Using layers
- Positioning and scaling
- Matching lighting – image selection and image adjustments
- Making shadows

by Marie Shaw

April Meeting's Structured homework … Surreal Landscape

- Share ideas
- How was it done
- Critique

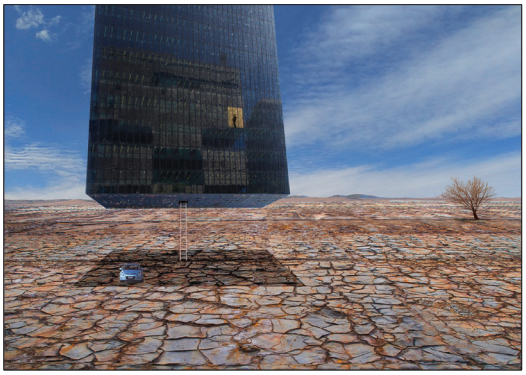


untitled by Jill Anderson

Curiosity by Vira Vujovich

Major Tom by Tim Keane

Inspiration for Major Tom by Tim Keane



Working Remotely by Tim Keane

Inspiration for Working Remotely by Tim Keane

Structured homework … learning by doing

- *project challenges*
- *finding / sharing inspiration*

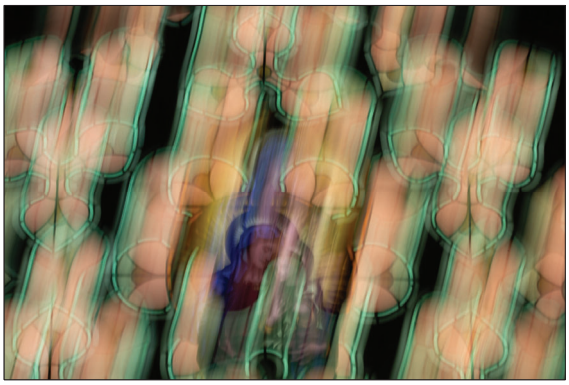
Creative Images

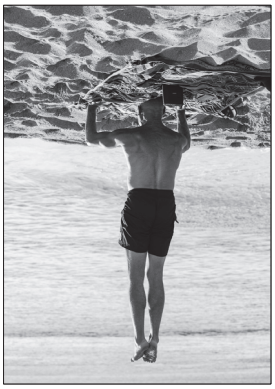
"straight from camera"

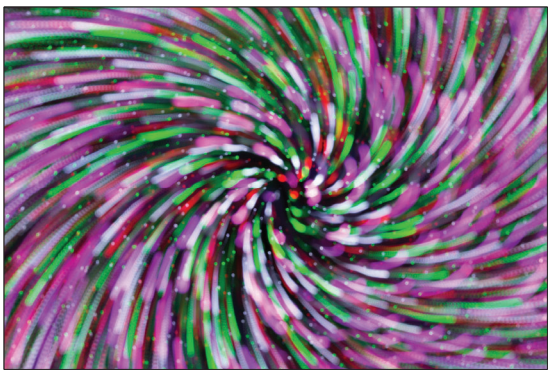
with minimal post-processing

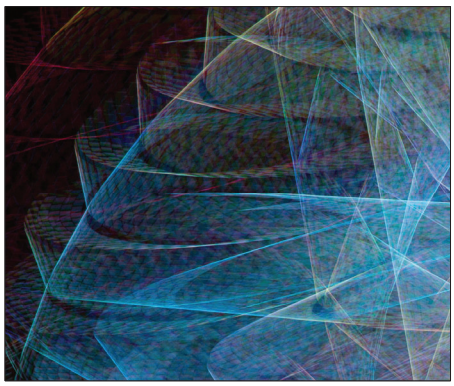
No need to be a photoshop whiz, you can get creative images straight from camera

- Unusual objects
- Usual objects, unusual perspective; abstraction
- Creative motion blur (slow exposure: moving object; camera movement; zooming)
- Creative focus blur
- Etc….



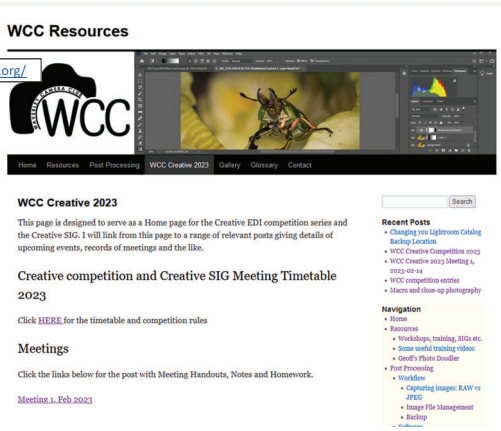






https://resources.waverleycameraclub.org/

Let me know if you would like any topics added to collection of techniques, reviews etc.



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