



Pep Ventosa “In the Round”

A technique of creating a painterly effect picture using multiple images.

Jenny Adams, 15th February 2025

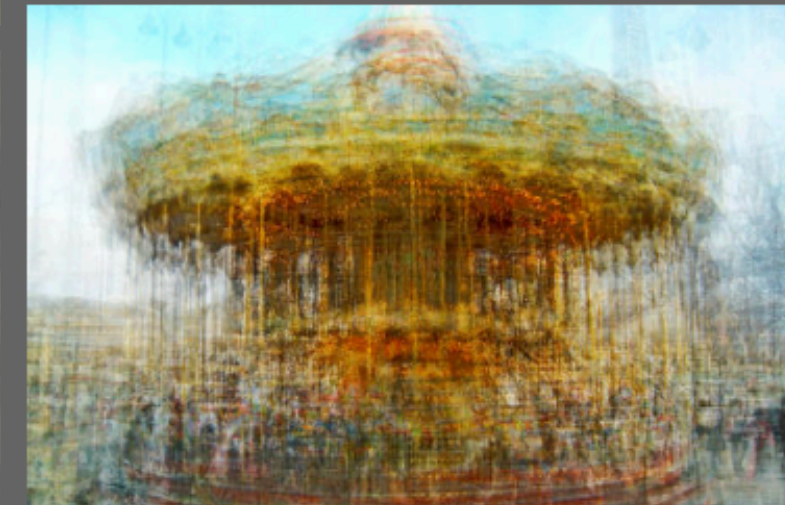
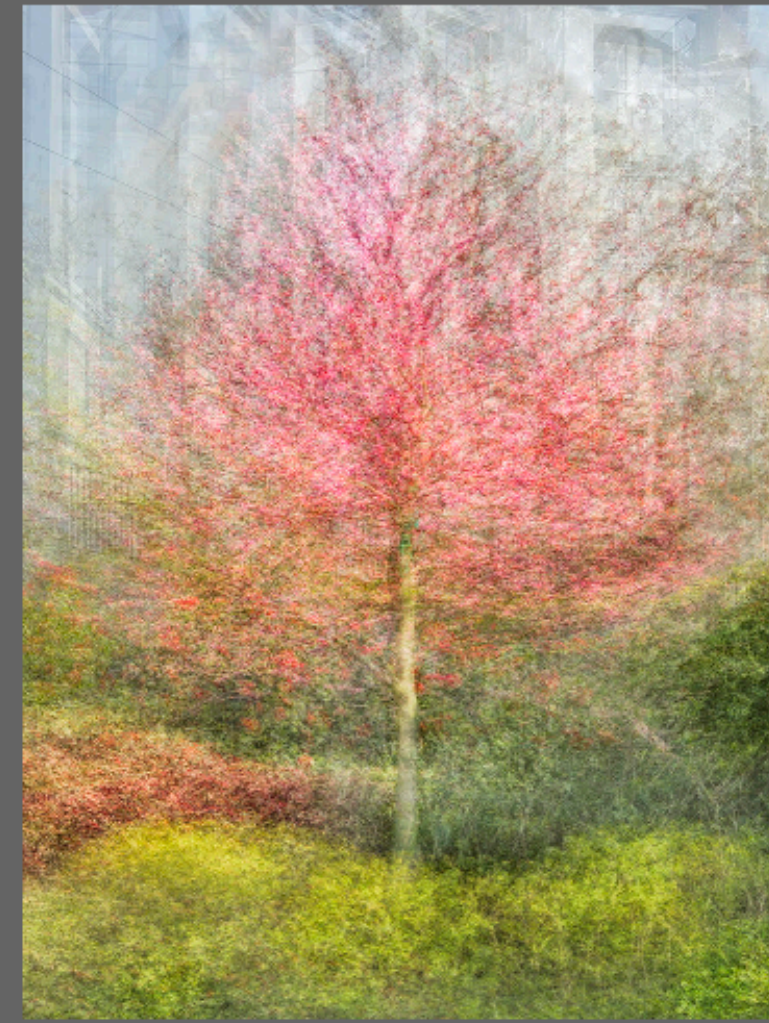
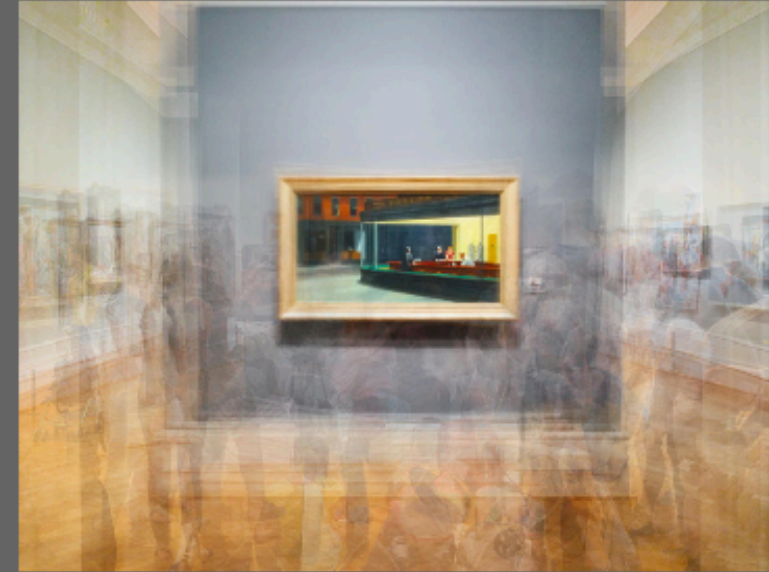
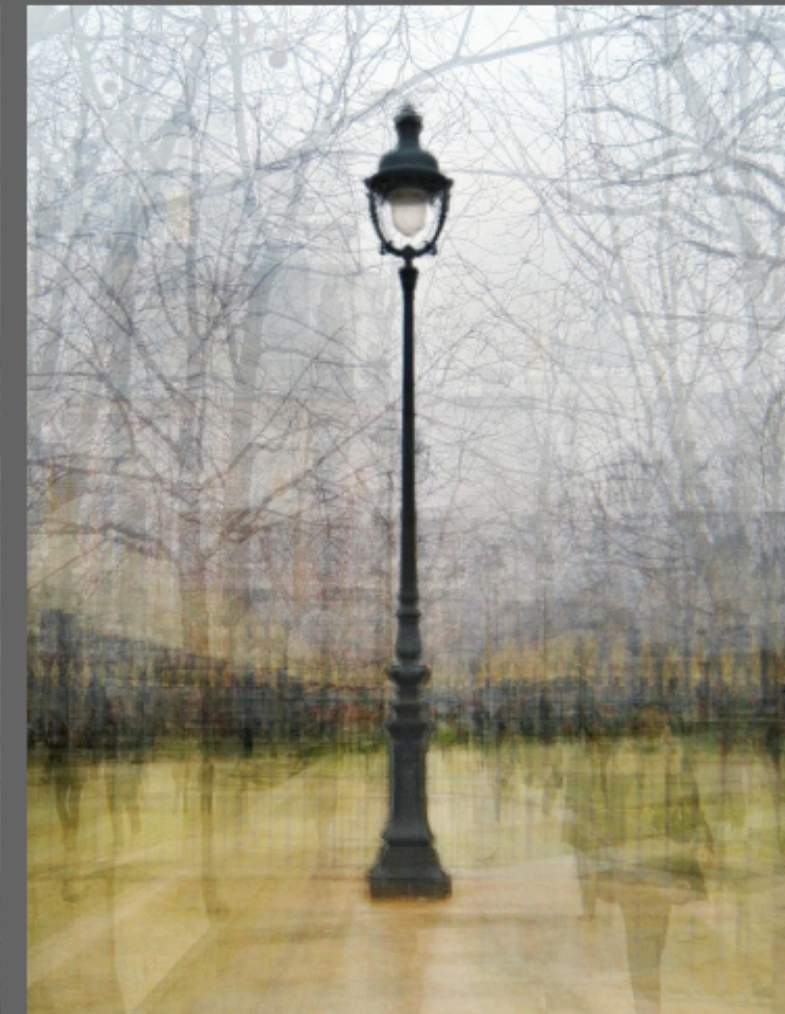
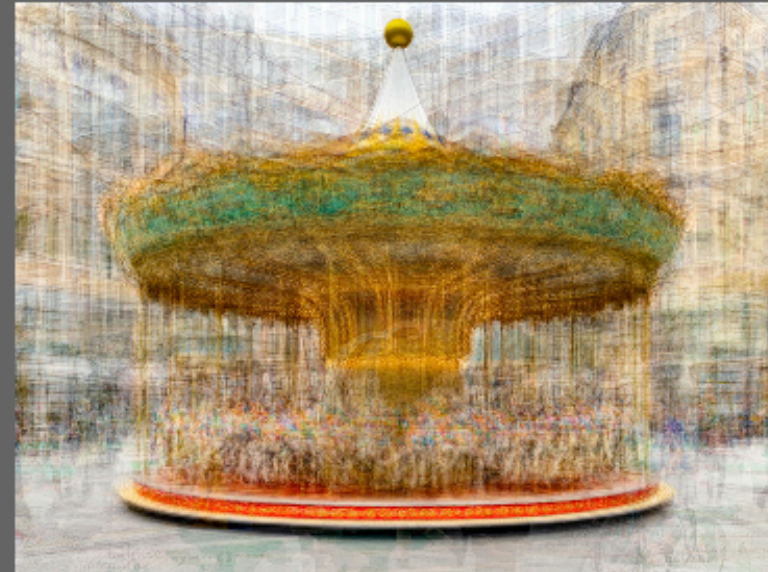
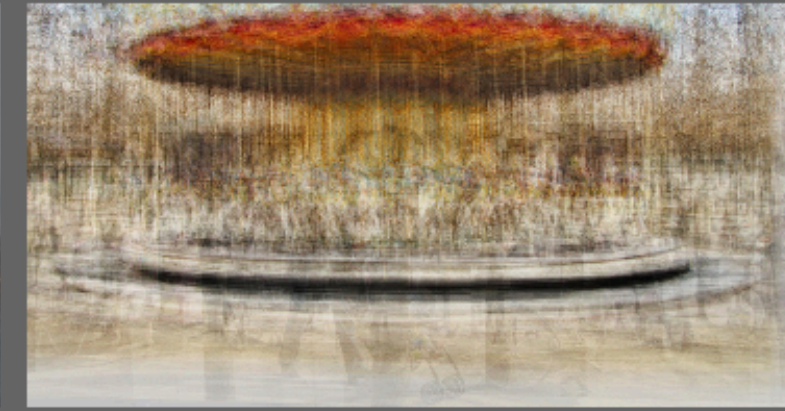
A little about Pep Ventosa

Pep was born in 1957 and grew up in a town south of Barcelona, Spain. His love for photography began at the age of 10 when the family received a camera as a gift.

In 1999 he moved to San Francisco where he is still based today.

In a quote from an interview published in onlandscape.co.uk in July 2017 Pep says with the digital revolution he “found the tools to achieve my photographic vision, the photographic image as a mean to create new visual experiences rather than to reproduce the world”

Visit his website pepventosa.com and see a vast array of his creative images, not only of trees “in the round” but carousels, lamp posts and landmarks (including the Sydney Opera House)



Part 1

My photographic technique

Computer suggestions

- Check your computer has a good amount of memory as the files are very large and can slow down the workflow.
- An editing program that allows layers, such as Photoshop or Affinity photo.
- Lightroom is handy to do initial edits of individual images and arrange files.

Camera Suggestions

- The camera is not critical. JPEG format is recommended as multiple raw files can be too big for programs to handle.
- A fairly wide angle lens is helpful to allow “wriggle room” at the sides of the image for cropping.
- F8 is a good starting point, with the shutter speed and ISO to suit the exposure.
- Mobile phone images are perfectly adequate and easy to do wherever you see a subject with potential.

Taking the Pictures

- Find a subject with fairly symmetric form, ie a tree, rotunda, interesting light pole, that you can walk around, or mostly around 360 degrees.
- Walk around the subject and find the most appealing position to begin. Consider the light direction and all the usual things you consider when taking a photograph. This will be your base image for the compilation.

Taking the Pictures Cont'd

- Position the subject in the centre of the frame with room at the top and sides. Use your 1/3 grid lines so the centre of the object will be in the same position for each photograph. I use the level line, 1/3s and cross lines on my Canon camera to get as close to horizontal and vertical as possible but this is not absolutely critical as you can move the image to align later in post.
- Make use of the horizontal guide line on the mobile phone.

Taking the Pictures Cont'd

- Begin taking photographs - After each photo move a meter or so and repeat, moving around for the complete circle.
- Keep the distance to the subject as much the same as possible for the complete round of images.
- You can use any number of images for the creation. 10 is a good place to start. I usually have 20 to 30 depending on how far I am from the subject.

Part 2

Post Processing Basics



Part 2

Post Processing Basics

- Note: Use images in jpeg format.
- Choose the base image and note the file name.
- Choose a sequence of other images to overlay. 10 is a good start to give a painterly effect, but as you become familiar with the process you can use as many images as you like.
- Edit and optimise these images as you would normally in Lightroom or other application. Flagging or starring helps, or a separate folder if using Bridge or other file organiser.

Part 2

Post Processing Basics

- If using Lr select all the images together by clicking the first image then shift click the last image.
- Click “edit in”, then choose “open with layers in Ps” It may take a few moments for this to happen.
- If using other programs open all images in the one document as per that program’s process. (With Affinity photo open a base image and then select “File” “Place” (I can explain in more detail if needed)
- SAVE AS.....Name, Choose a folder, and in the format space choose psb (Large doc format) as I found the file was too large to save as a Photoshop file. Then you can go back and change things. Do this at or near the beginning and continue to save as you edit.

Part 2

Post Processing Basics

- Ensure your main image is at the bottom of the stack. Click on that layer to highlight, then duplicate by pressing Cmd J. Move this copy to the top of the stack to use later if you like.
- Ensure the images are in order from the bottom up. Rearrange if necessary. Highlight all layers, go to “Layer” - “Arrange” - “Reverse”
- Leave the base layer at 100% opacity.
- Turn off the visibility to all the layers above the base image by clicking the eye icon at the left of the layers and dragging up the stack.
- Now the creative fun can begin !

Part 2

Post Processing Basics

- Highlight the image above the bottom one & turn on visibility (eye icon). Decrease the **opacity** to about **50%**.
- Activate the **move** tool. (Top left key, a cross with arrows and an arrow head). Move the image around to line it up with the base image underneath. Adjust level and rotate if needed.
- Turn visibility off for that layer and go up to the next image and repeat as before. When the image is aligned decrease the opacity a bit more to say, 45%. Decrease a little more for each layer up the stack

Part 2

Post Processing Basics

- That is my procedure for every image above the base.
- Only make visible the image you are moving into place then move up the stack. It is easier to see the image at 50% opacity against the main image for moving into place, then decrease each a little more than the previous layer. (ie 50% down to even 10%)
- When all layers are lined up turn on each layer one at a time from the bottom up and see how it looks!!! You can tweak the opacity of the layers.
- When you get to the top layer (duplicated base image), move opacity slider up and down to see if it adds to the look of the image.

Remember to save this file as you go along

Part 2

Post Processing Basics

- When you are happy with the look do a final “save”
- Then export the version you like to a folder and edit in Lr or preferred software.
- Now go ahead and do any normal edits to optimise the final picture.
- Do a final crop and tidy up any lines with a healing brush if necessary.

THATS IT!!!!

Unless you would like to get more creative.....

Part 3

Post Processing. Getting Creative.

- When you are comfortable with moving between image layers and turning them off and on there are many other techniques to make your image unique.
- **Change the blend mode.** You can switch off all layers except the base image again and play with the blend modes. Highlight each layer in turn as before and scroll through the blend modes to see how the image looks. Screen, lighten and multiply are good places to start. The lighten and screen will help discount dark backgrounds such as trees and hedges. Darken modes will do the opposite.

Part 3

Post Processing. Getting Creative.

- **Masking out unwanted elements.** This can be done on the individual layers for things like light poles, signs for example. Don't go overboard with this as the idea is to create a painterly scene. The non central elements dissolve into the background.
- **Masking to keep elements in the scene.** If you want to keep an element fairly sharp as in a clock face for example, mask out overlying elements on other layers.
- Another technique I found is after importing and lining up all the images, select all but the base layer and change the opacity to about 20% for all. Fine tune the opacity of individual layers from there. It may create quite a good result.

A few final words

- This is very much a “go with the flow” technique by experimenting and finding the look that you like.
- When you get confident with the techniques try using more images...I generally have between 20 to 30 now. Pep uses hundreds!
- If you have your basic images labelled in a folder you can always have another go. In my experience every go results in a different look.
- There are many resources on YouTube if you google Pep Ventosa Technique. The links in the resources page were how I began my journey.

Resources.

pepventosa.com

onlandscape.co.uk July 2017

<https://youtu.be/4jmr11gY4VI?si=dkY4MBSsBZPQ0-84>

Glenys Garnett, Editing a Pep Ventosa style image

https://youtu.be/P6kurH5e-Zg?si=0kdnIBDR4TP_0cXs

Creative photography Tutorial, Shooting and Editing- Pep Ventosa with Lori Lankford

alanbrownphotography.com. Pep ventosa style photography technique - essentials.

Some of my creations.



