

Creative Photography Ideas

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Presentations:

1. Creative Photography Ideas (22/06/15)
2. The Design Process (23/09/15)
3. Judging – “Creative” set subject (04/11/15)
4. Inspiration and appropriation (25/11/15)



Jessica Jenny

What Is Creativity?

- Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality.
- Creativity involves two processes: thinking, then producing. If you have ideas, but don't act on them, you are imaginative but not creative.
- *“Creativity is the process of bringing something new into being. Creativity requires passion and commitment.”* - Sternberg & Lubart, *Defying the Crowd*
- *“Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes and having fun.”*
– Mary Lou Cook

Ways to be Creative:

Pre-Production:

- Adding filters, etc. in front of camera
- Using alternative equipment
- Lighting techniques
- Alternative camera settings
- Setting up the scene / altering subject

Ways to be Creative:

Post-Production:

- Printing onto unusual surfaces
- Altering the printed photograph
- Darkroom techniques (+ digital alternatives)
- Photoshop
- Creative subject matter and composition

Adding filters, etc. in front of camera

- Traditional Filters and adaptors
- Home made filters
- Hand held prisms
- Hand held lens in front of camera
- Vortograph (3 mirrors)
- Shoot through transparent sheets, windows, screens, gaps, holes, stockings, etc.

filters

[Salim Al-Harthy](#)



- neutral density filter reduces the amount of light that enters the camera (allows for longer exposure)
- filters can affect the brightness or hue of a colour, reduce reflections, distort or diffuse a scene.

Homemade filters



Torn plastic at edges:



[Jesse David McGrady](#) (via [PetaPixel](#))

Wrap torn plastic to the outside of your camera to produce a soft, hazy edges – creating a seductive, ethereal or other-worldly atmosphere.

Vaseline filter

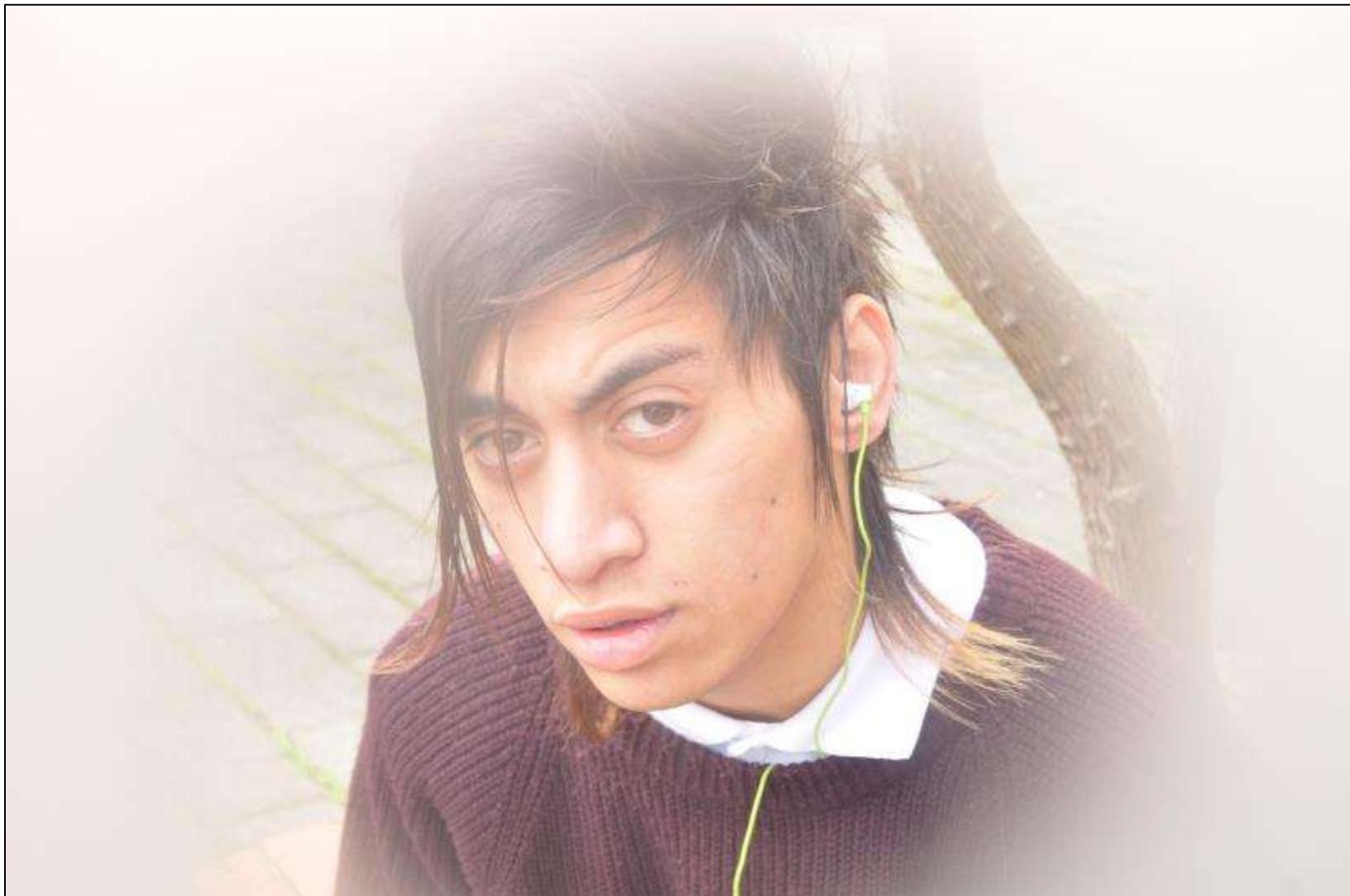


Using vaseline to create a blurred, distorted or ethereal effect



Vaseline that is smudged in waves across the whole lens will produce this kind of distortion

Spot focus filter made by scrathcing
edges of perspex with sandpaper



Photograph objects through mottled or translucent screens



by [Matthew Tischler](#)

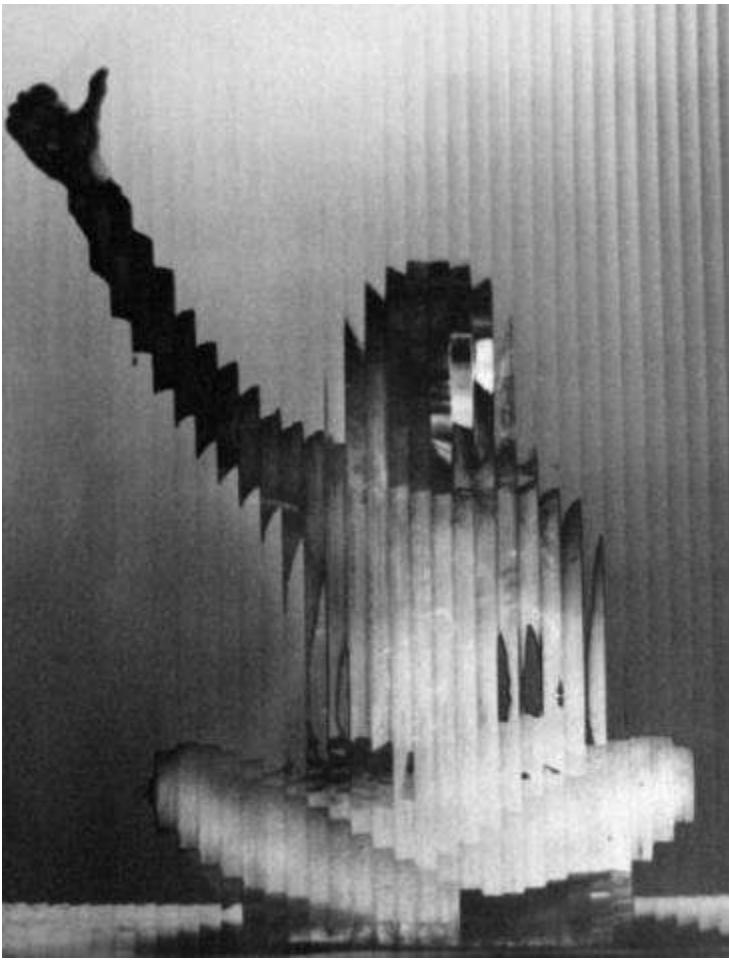
- Photograph through window screens, netting, stockings and scrims, using these to dissect, pixelate and filter images.
- Removes fine detail and creates ‘faceless characters whose identities are defined by their surroundings’.

Photograph through windows



Photographs shot through glass use the reflections in the glass to obscure parts of the image and create mysterious, voyeristic and patterned effect.

Photograph through patterned glass:

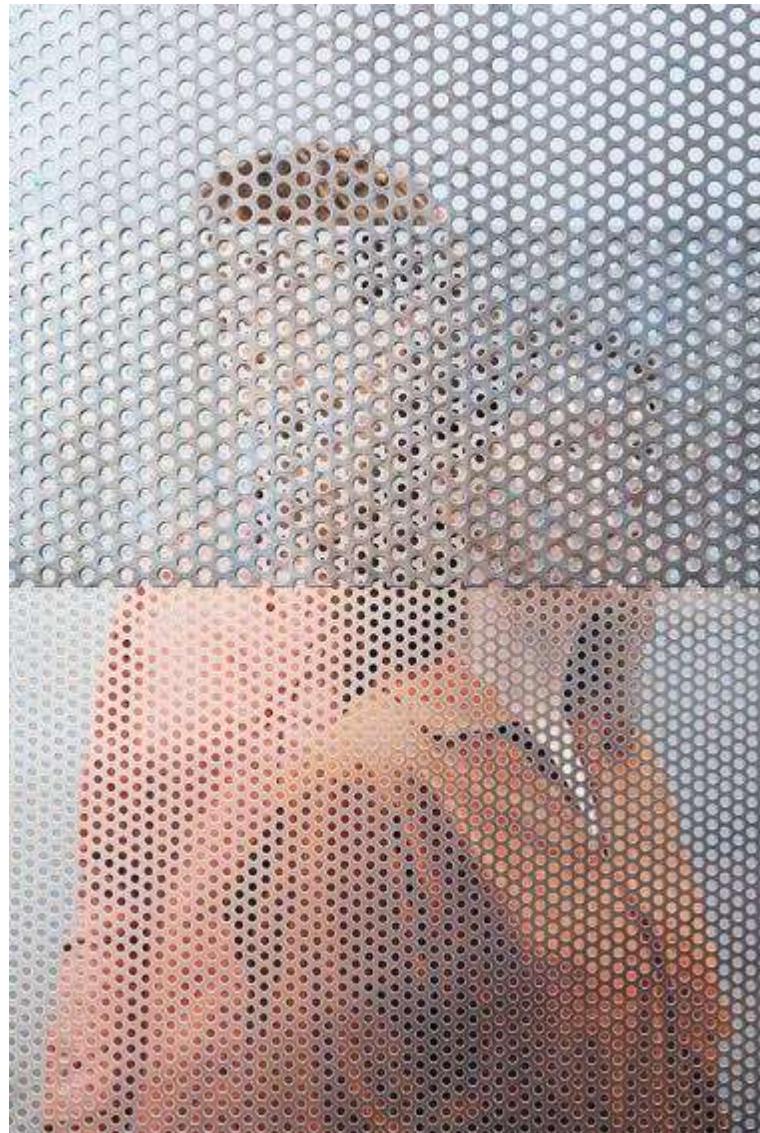


David Ryle

Erwin BLUMENFELD, *Lisette behind glass*, 1944

- Creates interesting distortions
- adds a geometric element to organic shapes

Photograph through small gaps or holes



by [Reina Takahashi](#)

- This fragments and abstracts the image
- It can also cast beautiful shadows.

Photograph things through transparent sheets



by [Flóra Borsi](#)

These images depict models holding a painted transparent sheet, so that the painterly marks semi-obscure their bodies.

Photograph things pressed against transparent surfaces

by [Jenny Saville](#)



Hand held lens



- Photographing scenes through visible hand-held lenses distorts and inverts the scenes.
- The lens becomes a strong compositional element in the image.

Hand held Prisms / Convex lens



A convex lens or prism held in front of your camera lens can create stunning reflections, distortions and 'bokeh'.

Fractal filters



- Shooting through filters can be used to isolate subjects in your photos, create and add interesting patterns, the creative potential is endless.
- From US based designer, Nikk Wong



Vortograph



[Alvin Langdon Coburn](#)

- A vortograph is the abstract kaleidoscopic photograph taken when shooting an object or scene through a triangular tunnel made of three mirrors.

History of Vortography:



- **Vortograph** is one of the first completely abstract kind of photograph, it is composed of kaleidoscopic repetitions of forms achieved by photographing objects through a triangular arrangement of three mirrors. [Alvin Langdon Coburn](#), a member of the [Photo-Secession](#) group and a pioneer in nonobjective photography, invented vortography in 1917 and remained the principal advocate and practitioner of the technique.
- The fractured planes and complex space characteristic of vortography reflect the Vorticists' as well as Coburn's own interest in Cubism.

Using alternative equipment

- Underwater photography
- Kites/drones
- Tilt shift
- Lomography / light leaks
- TtV (Through the Viewfinder)
- Scanography



Underwater photography

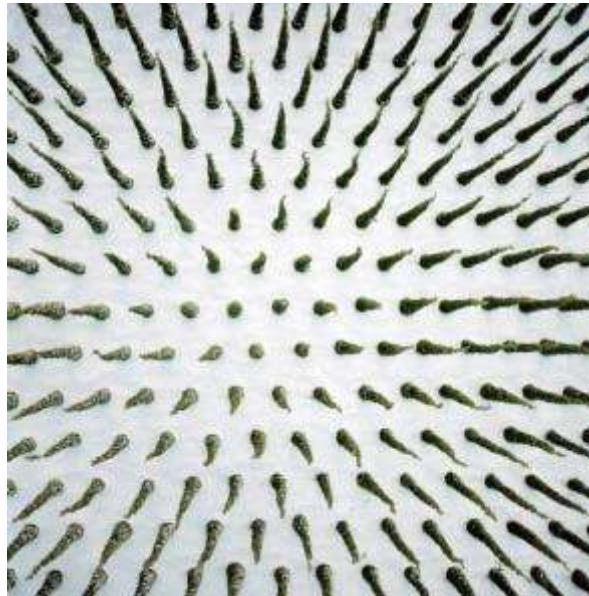
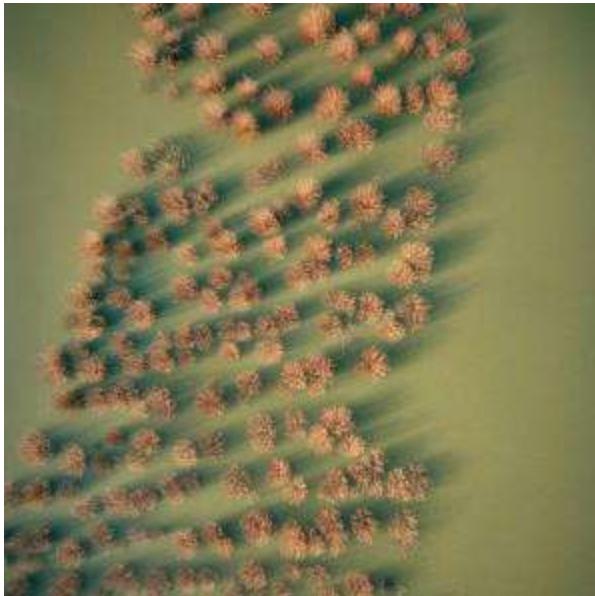


Jacques dequeker

- My modern metropolis
- The dreamlike, other-worldly quality of shooting underwater can lead to abstract patterns and beautiful flowing lines (hair / dresses)

Aerial photography

Gerco de Ruijter



- Kite aerial photography (KAP) is not for the faint hearted!
- It involves lifting a camera via a kite using a purpose-built or DIY rig, with the shutter triggered remotely or automatically. Drones can also be used (although expensive)
- Creates landscapes that are reduced to shapes, patterns and shadows – creating interesting abstracts.

Tilt Shift Lenses



Tilt-shift photography is a technique that makes real objects appear small, as if they were part of a miniature scale model.

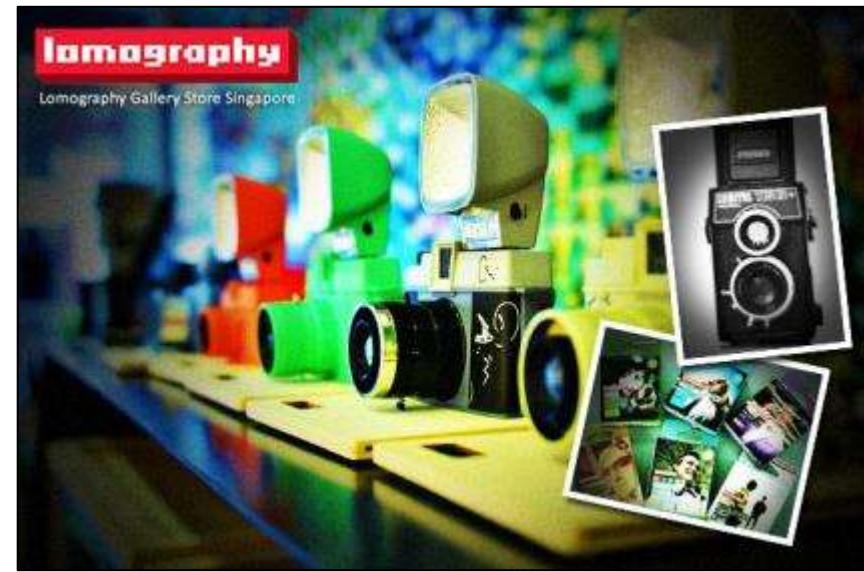
It is achieved through blurring and distortion – either with special camera lenses, lens adaptors or through digital manipulation (photoshop)

Lomography

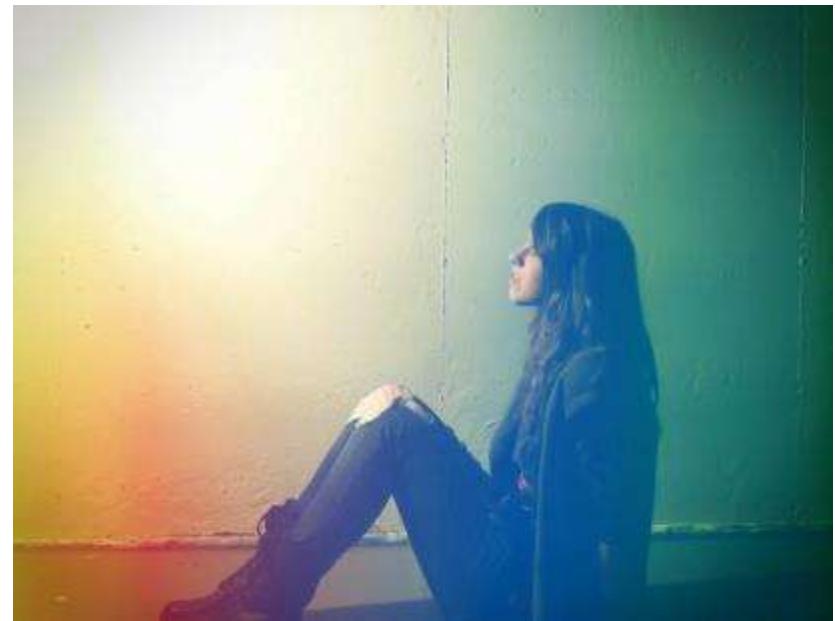
Lomography cameras are deliberately low-fidelity and of simple construction. Some cameras make use of multiple lenses and rainbow-colored flashes; some exhibit extreme optical distortions and light leaks. The lenses are often made of plastic and can create light leaks and colour distortions.

The intention of the lomographic style is one of acceptance of such deficiencies in order to create images with a unique character, that are bold, high contrast, colourful and often blurry.

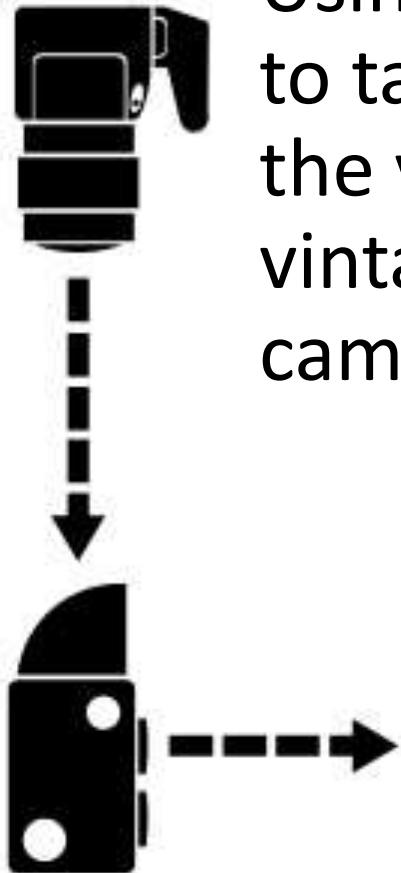




Light Leaks



TtV photography (Through the Viewfinder)



Using a digital camera
to take photos through
the viewfinder of a
vintage twin-lens
camera.



TtV



Scanography

- **Place objects on top of a photograph and scan it**
- Artists arrange objects upon the scanner screen (sometimes covering these with a layer of paper or draped fabric) and create a ‘scanogram’.
- Capture movement in exciting ways as the image is distorted and stretched as the scanner arm moves across the screen. Evilsabeth Schmitz-Garcia’s ‘Borderline Personality Disorder’



Scanography:



by Jaz Marsh on Flickr



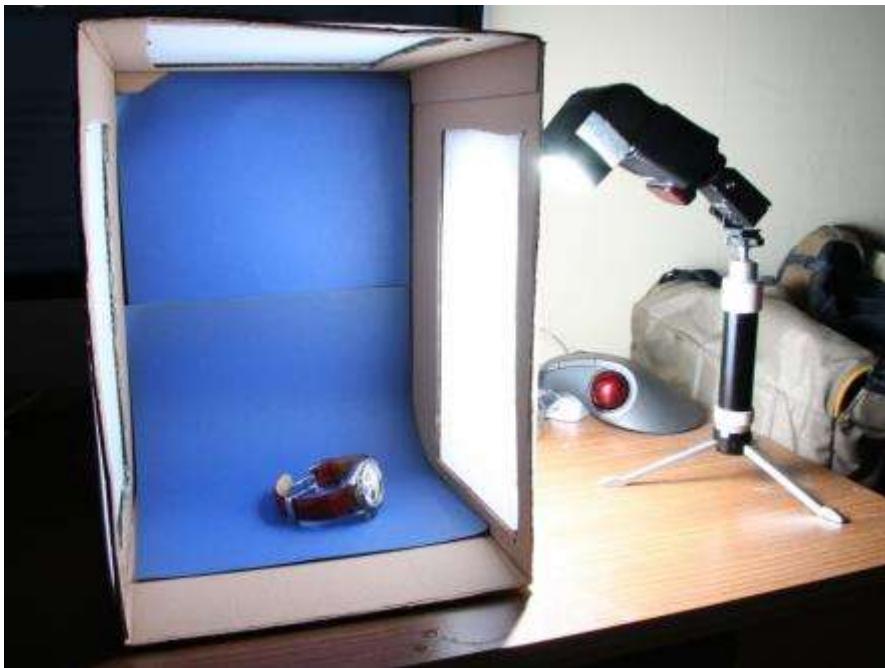
by Natasha de Paiiva on Flickr

Lighting techniques

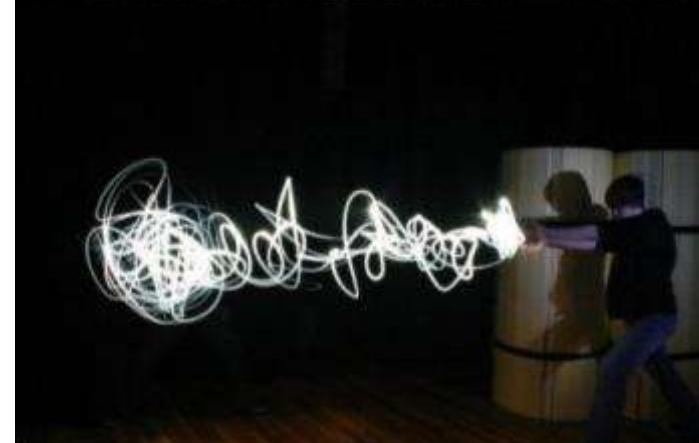
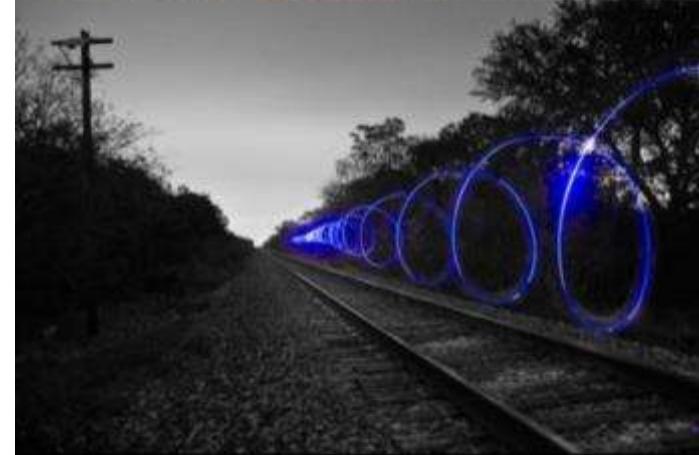
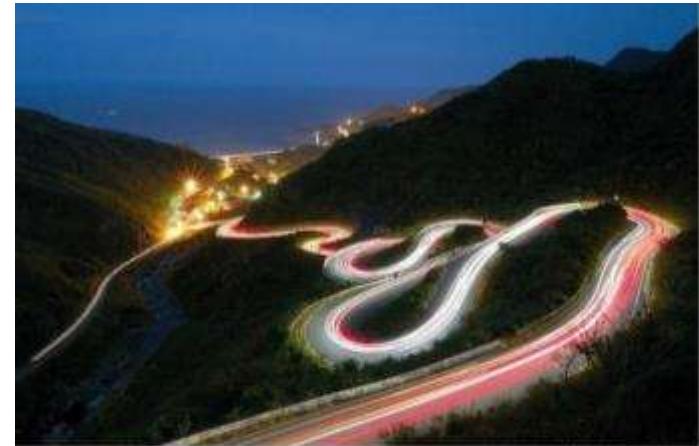
- Homemade light box
- Dramatic studio lighting
- Painting with light
- Strobe

Home made light box / light tent

- You don't need fancy or expensive equipment to make good quality and creative still life images – just make your own light box!



Painting with Light



'Light painting' is the act of illuminating another object or scene using a moving hand-held light, such as a flashlight or laser pointer. 'Light drawing' involves shining the lights at the camera and drawing or painting with light in much the same way as an artist might draw or paint with ink.

Strobe Light + long exposure

- Harold Edgerton developed this style of photography using the [stroboscope](#), which you might know as the strobe light.
- Edgerton used the strobe in conjunction with his camera's flash to capture entire ranges of motion being performed by his subjects.



by [Harold Edgerton](#),



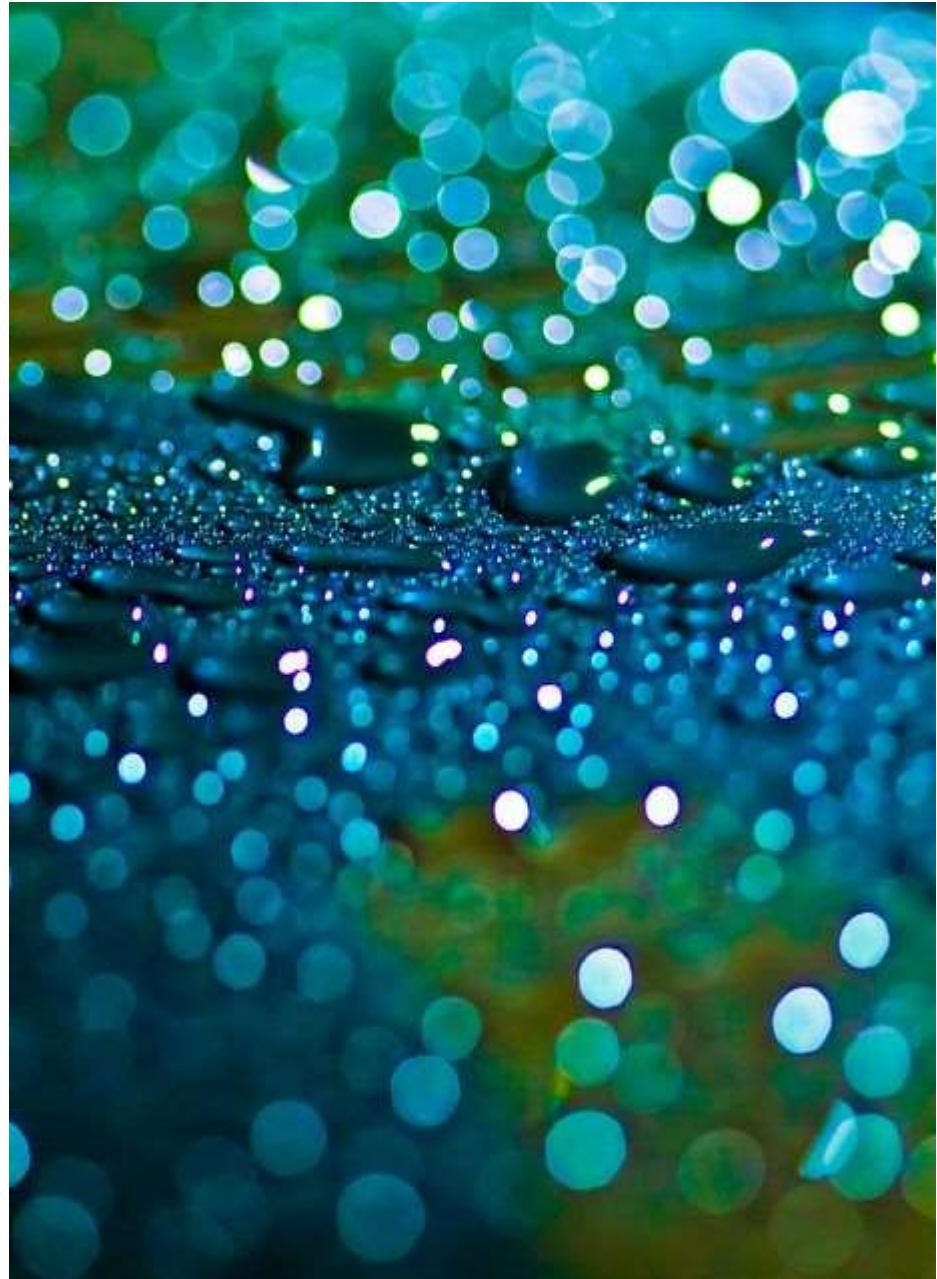
by [Harold Edgerton](#),

Alternative camera settings

- Bokeh
- High key / low key
- Unfocused shot
- Multiple exposures
- Panning, zooming, swinging, shaking, jiggling camera during shot
- Long exposures

Bokeh

- ‘bokeh’ – shimmering orbs that appear when a camera lens attempts to record unfocused points of light. Bokeh is created in different ways by different lenses – typically appearing unintentionally in the background of a scene

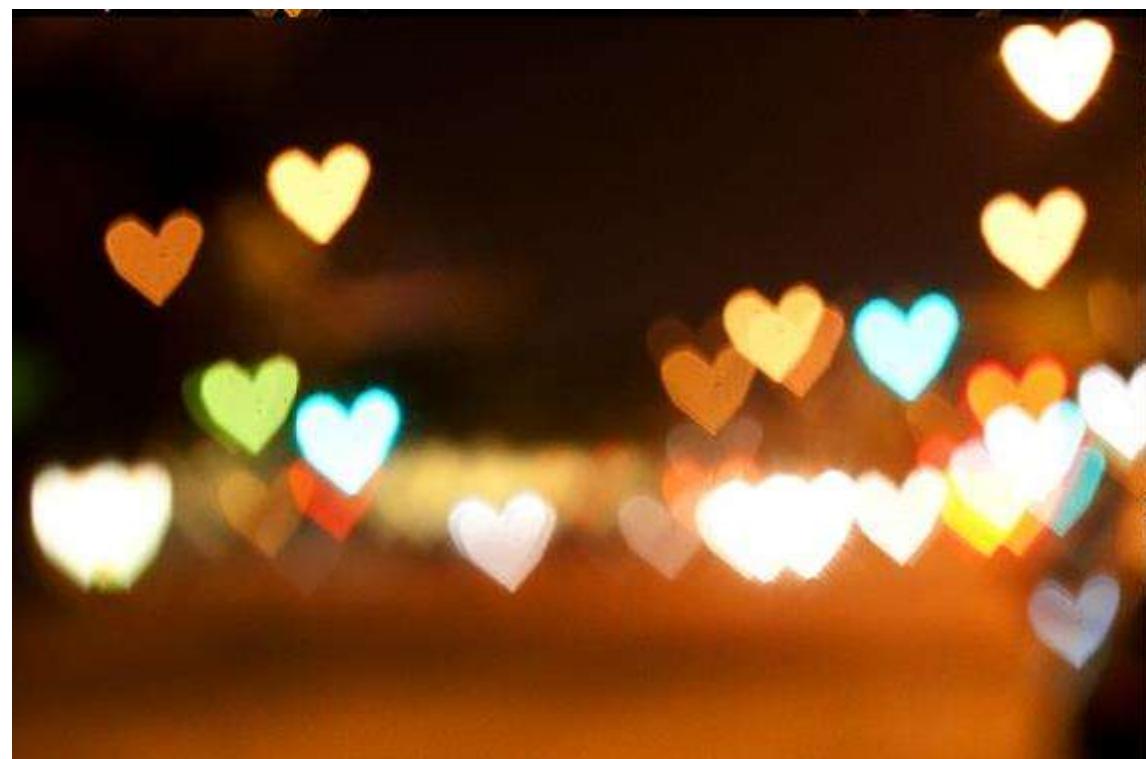


Bokeh Abstract by Mark Chandler Photography on Flickr



by [Takashi Kitajima](#):

Shape Bokeh



High key

- Overexposing your image until your darks become mid tones, your mid tones become highlights and your highlights are blown out (white)
- Typically taken in a bright location with a white background or surroundings.
- Often has a minimal, sleek and/or futuristic appearance: smooth flawless surfaces, pale shadows, few minor details



Low Key

- Underexpose images
- Use dark/black backgrounds
- Minimalist lighting (e.g. snoot)

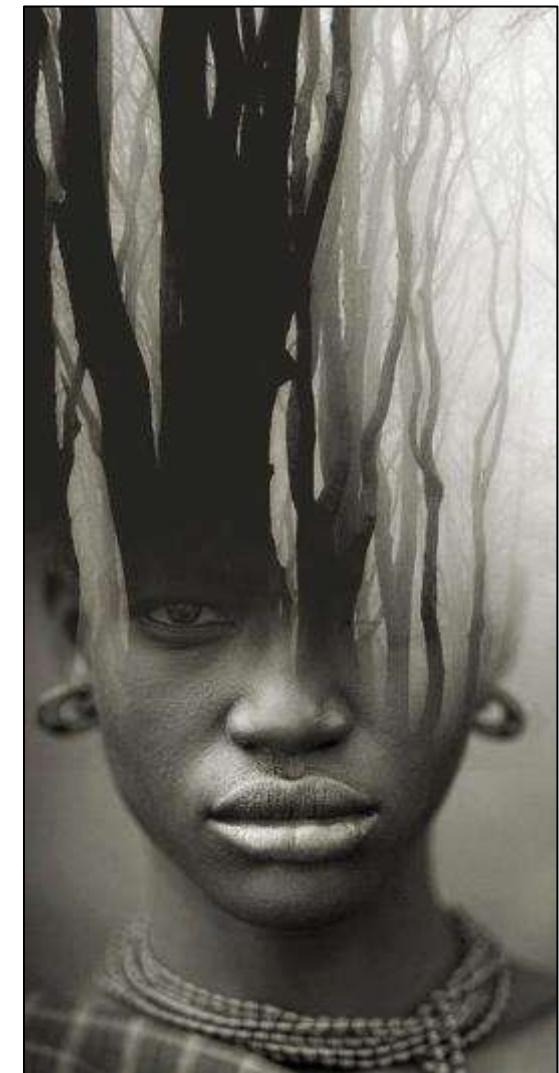


Unfocused shot



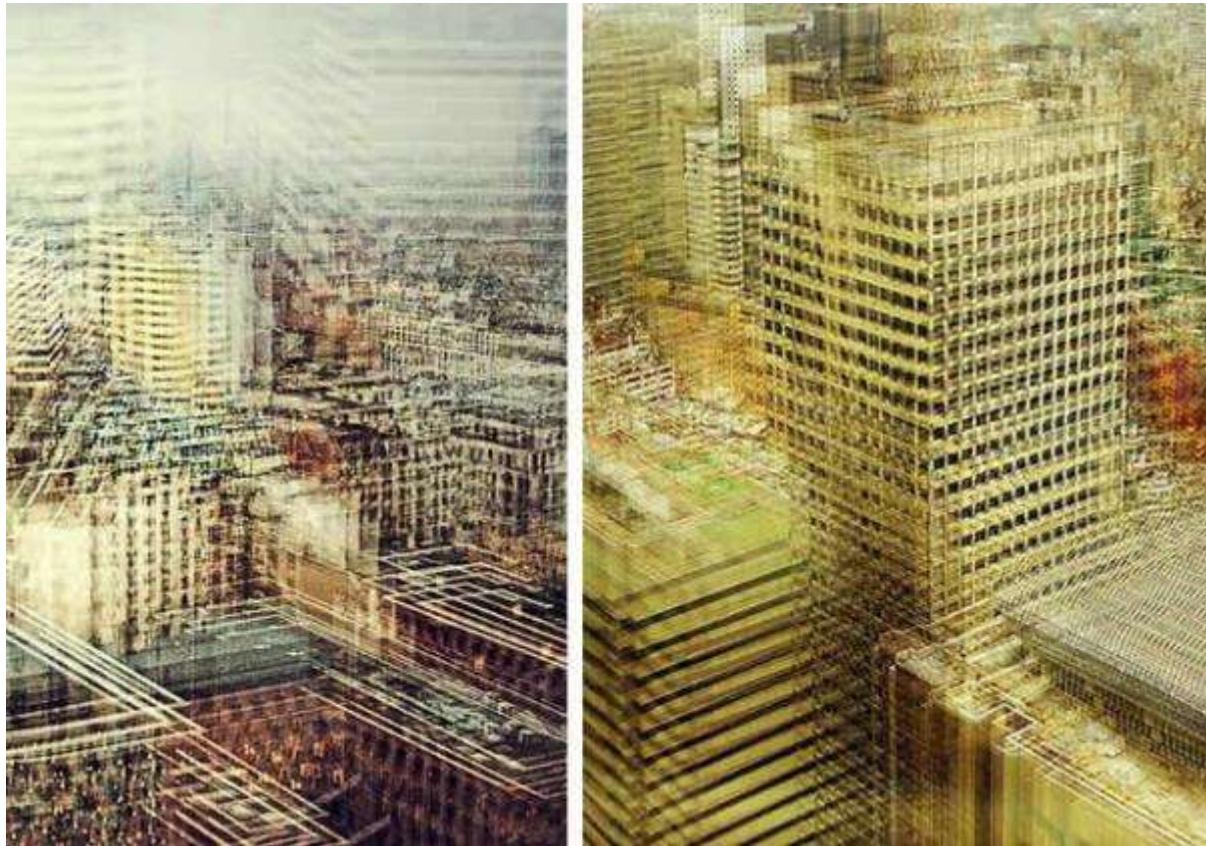
- Purposefully unfocused your photographs to create mysterious and voyeuristic scenes where identities and objects remain anonymous.
- Emphasis is placed upon light, tone and colour, resulting in intriguing, suggestive images.

Multiple exposures



Antonio Mora

Overlay multiple photos from slightly different angles



Scenes that have been taken from slightly different angles, at different transparencies and colour intensities. The repeated forms suggest echoed memories, vibrations of life; the ebb and flow of time.

Panning

- Using a slower shutter speed (approx 1/60th), while the camera follows the horizontal motion of a moving object, ensuring that the panning movement is as smooth and steady as possible.
- This results in the background appearing blurred, with the moving object sharp.



[Mr Bones](#) (via [My Modern Met](#)):



Ursula Abresch



Ellen Jantzen

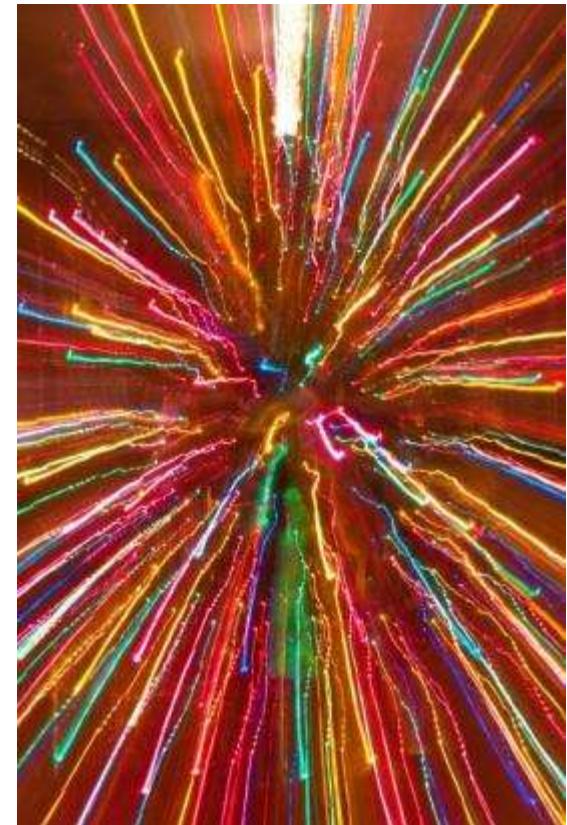


Into a New World-Nature Abstract
Photography by Javid Kamali (Jaka)

Zooming



Freya Dumasia:



Zoom in while shooting with a slow shutter speed

This image was created by zooming the lens in and out at a slow pace, in a relatively low-light setting, with a slow shutter speed (low-lit situations help to avoid overexposure). The model stood still and the camera was on a tripod (the aim is to minimise any movement aside from the zoom of the lens). This photography technique creates a sense of movement and creates a dramatic focal point. It usually takes practise and experimentation to achieve the desired effect

Swinging



Swing the camera while taking photos to achieve a swirling effect



Swinging of the camera while shooting can help to create a sense of movement in a photograph or create spontaneous, unpredictable blurred, generating unexpected abstract photography ideas.

Shaking / Jiggling



by [Gerald Sanders](#)



Dainty Flow by Reservoir Dan on Flickr

After focusing upon a scene, deliberate shaking of a camera with small, controlled movements (making sure that the shake reduction feature is turned off on a DSLR camera) can result in painterly impressionistic scenes.

Long Exposures / slow shutter speed



- Paul Schneggenburger photographs couples sleeping. Taken during a single six hour exposure, the images contain many overlapping forms, reflecting a ‘nocturnal lovers dance’ in candlelight



'Sightseeing Tunnel' series by [Jakob Wagner](#):



by [Mirjam Appelhof](#)

Long exposures can be used to express the ongoing passage of time, or the frenzy or internal battle of the subject. They can also be used to create abstract imagery.



ghost-photo-urban-art
(Alexey Titarenko)



shinichi maruyama_nude2

Setting up the scene / altering the subject

- Create the scene
- Paint on subjects / objects
- Write on subject / objects
- Project images onto subject/object/scene
- Play with shadows
- Used forced perspective
- Forms inside other forms/squished people
- Submerge in milk or coloured liquid
- Use mirrors to create illusions
- Make sculptural installations and photograph
- Adding photo cuttings to real life scenes
- Inset drawings of scene / rephography

Create the Scene

by [Cerise Doucède](#):



Create a complex ‘unrealistic’ setting and then photograph it.



©Juha Helminen

Juha Arvid Helminen's series_Invisible Empire



Mpedziwiatr

Zander Olsen



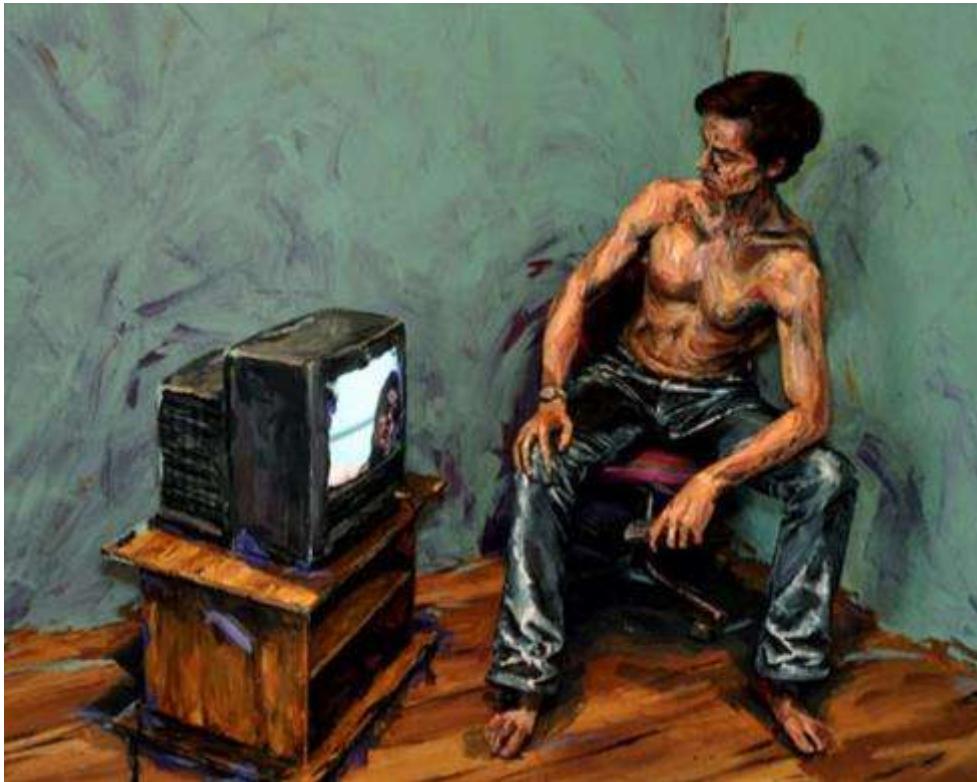
Still life scenes



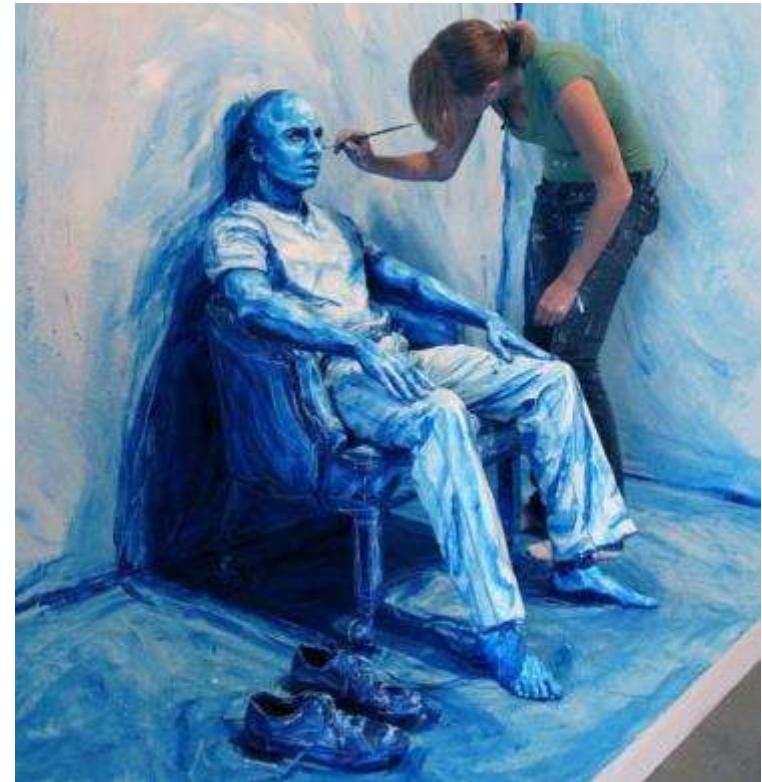
Portrait by Philip Karlberg For Plaza Magazine

Paint on subjects

by [Rachel Ecclestone](#)



Yves Cwajgenbaum

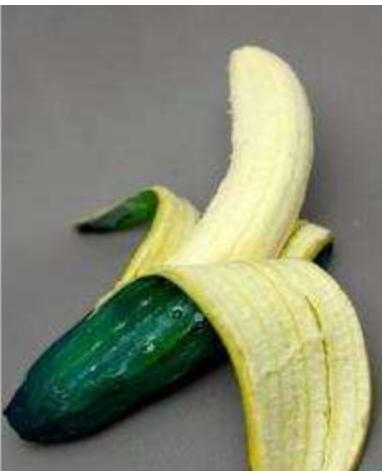


Yves Cwajgenbaum

Yves Cwajgenbaum



Painting on objects



Artist Hiraku Cho paints the outside of fruits and veggies to disguise them as a different piece of produce



PAINTED II by Virginie Gosselin on Behance

by [Hallam Girardet](#)

Write on subject / objects



It is important that photographers integrate text with care, avoiding creating an obvious or literal work.

Project images onto subject/object/scene

[Lee Kirby](#)



- **Project images onto textured surfaces and rephotograph them,**
- The projected image distorts and becomes obscured as it bends around a 3D form and falls within shadowed crevices.
- Projecting images onto people can be a great way to experiment with ideas relating to identity and portraiture, or as mechanism for moving towards abstract photography. It can also become a creative photography lighting technique – a way of introducing mottled, coloured light to a scene.

Play with shadows



[Russ and Reyn Photography:](#)



1X - by Darek Grabus

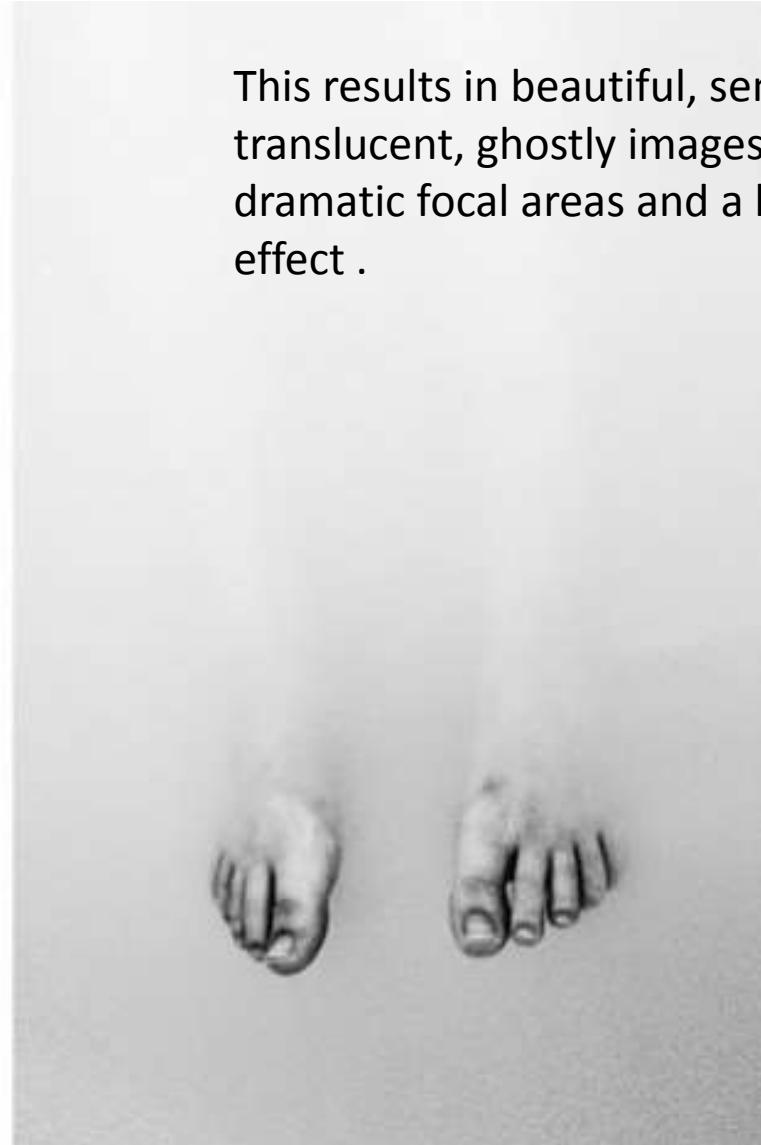


Borisov Dmitry_Nude Dress

Submerge in milk or coloured liquid



This results in beautiful, semi-translucent, ghostly images, with dramatic focal areas and a high-key effect .



Use Mirrors

- Mirrors are useful for directing light as well as reflecting images.
- This photograph was digitally enhanced using Photoshop, so that the mirror appears transparent or invisible, showing the landscape behind the figure.

self-portrait by 18 year old, [Laura Williams](#):





Harán Que Tu Mundo Quede Al Revés



Saul Landell

Edin Bajric - Mirror (2009)



Soekmin Ko, The Square (Detail)





Photography by Jonge Meesters. Source_Cultura Inquieta

Add photography cuttings to real life



surrealist scene created by [Yorch Miranda](#):

Rephography



Russian photographer Sergey Larenkov took some old photographs from World War II and combined them with new perspective-matching photos. The result are a series of time portals that help us contextualize the war into our current reality, with eerie sensations.



(c)Сергей Паренков

Sergey Larenkov

Printing onto unusual surfaces

- Flexible surfaces (+ stretching)
- Image transfer/ink transfer using gel medium
- Canvas, water colour paper, acetate, plastic, glass, fabric, 3D objects

Flexible surfaces (+ stretching)



Michal Macku Print photographs onto a flexible surface and stretch or distort them

Michal Macku has invented his own technique, which he named 'Gellage', whereby photographic emulsion is removed from its paper backing, leaving an image that is semi-transparent and flexible.

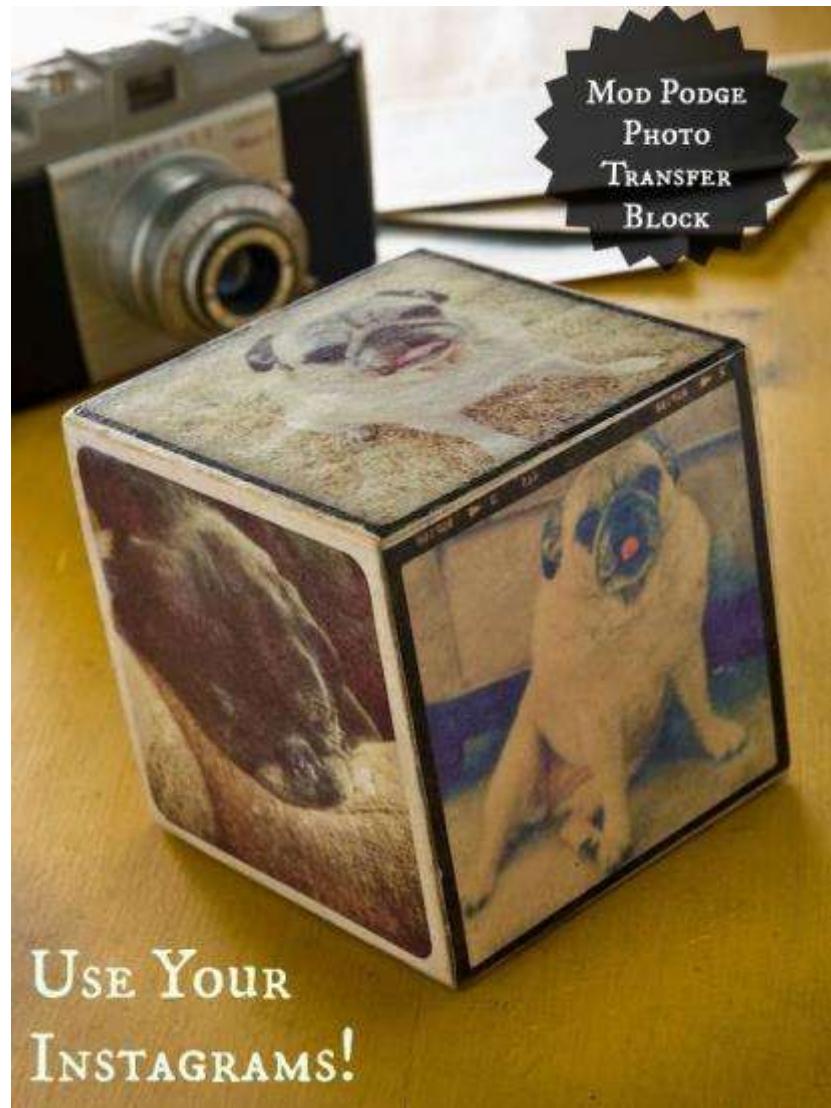
This allows the image to be stretched and reformed – sometimes combined with other images to make imaginative, distorted and/or surreal scenes – before the artwork is adhered to durable paper.

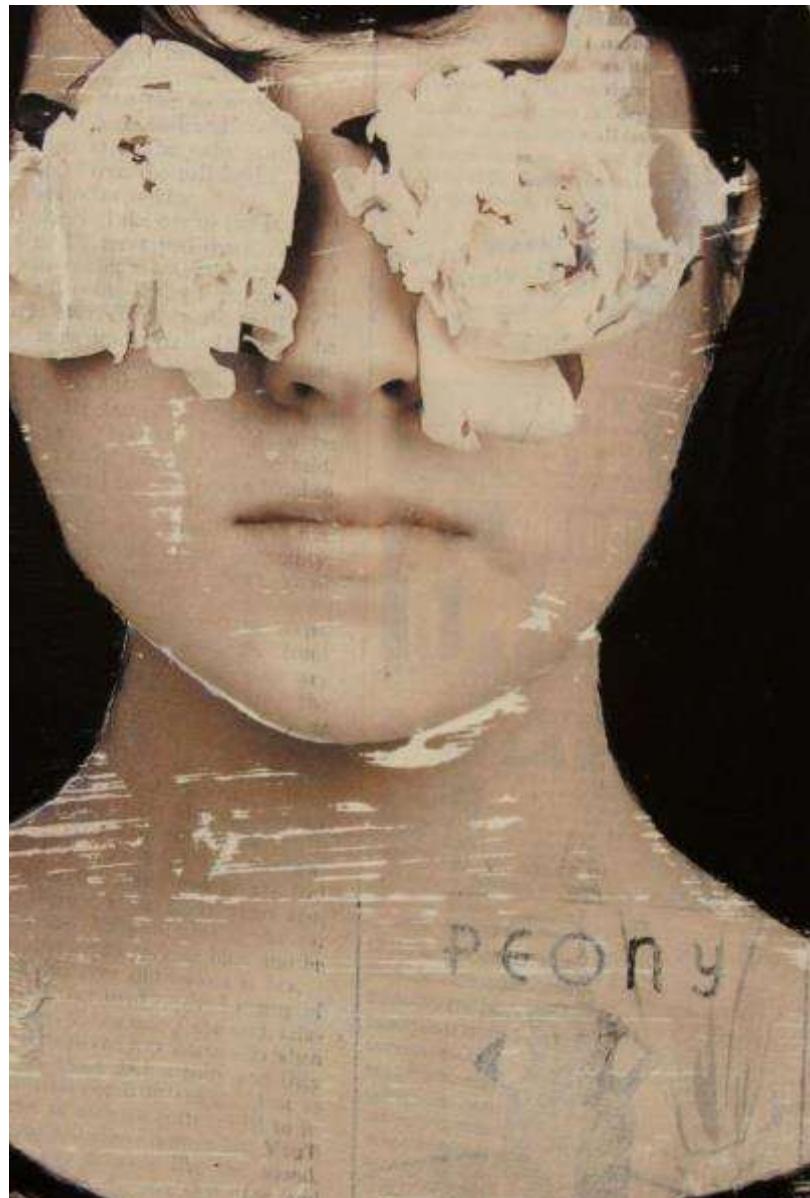
Acrylic gel lift and transfer



mike nourse

Gel Medium Transfer





Katy Bennett. 2

Altering the printed photograph

- Dipping print in water / adding wayer/bacteria
- Burn negatives/prints
- Scratching negative/prints
- Poke holes into negative/print
- Adding paper, paint, water colour, drawing, sculptural elements, found objects, tracing paper
- Sew/embroider/stitch together prints
- Fold/3D collage /cut and fold
- Cut/tear prints/single scene over time
- Layered collages / cut and overlay
- Photomontage /photo assemblage/masking tape collage
- Mixed media
- Encaustic wax

Adding bacteria to photos



Seung Hwan Oh

Dipping in water

Stain, smudge
and erode
photographs
using water

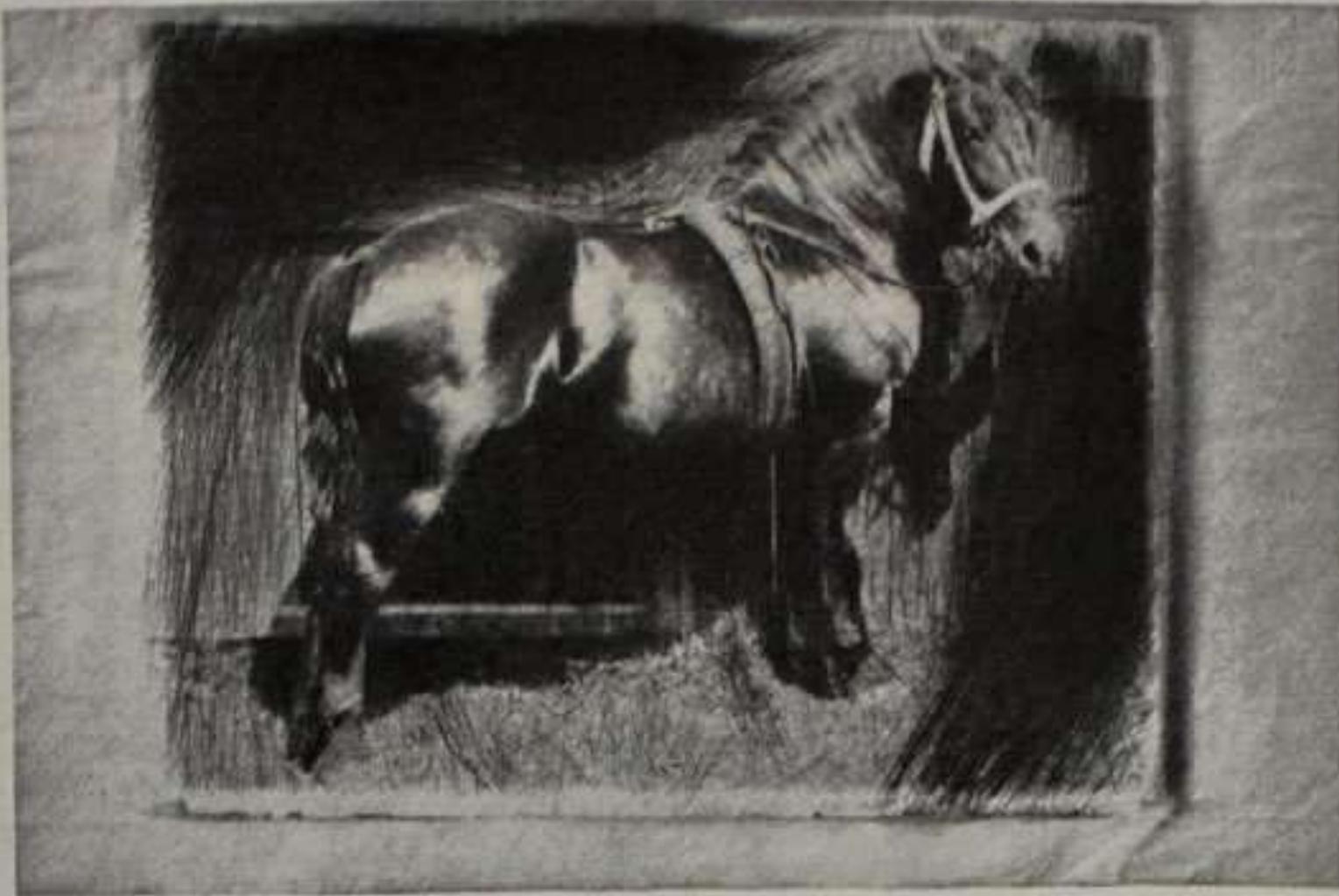
like [Matthew Brandt](#):



Burn negatives/prints



Mark or scratch negative/prints



100 year old vintage print by Frank Eugene

Poke holes into negative/print



[Amy Friend](#)

Poke or cut holes in photos and shine light through

Cut/tear/poke holes in prints



invading homes by
brookeshaden on Flickr



Imágenes intervenidas by Lorena
Cosba on Behance

Paint directly onto photographs

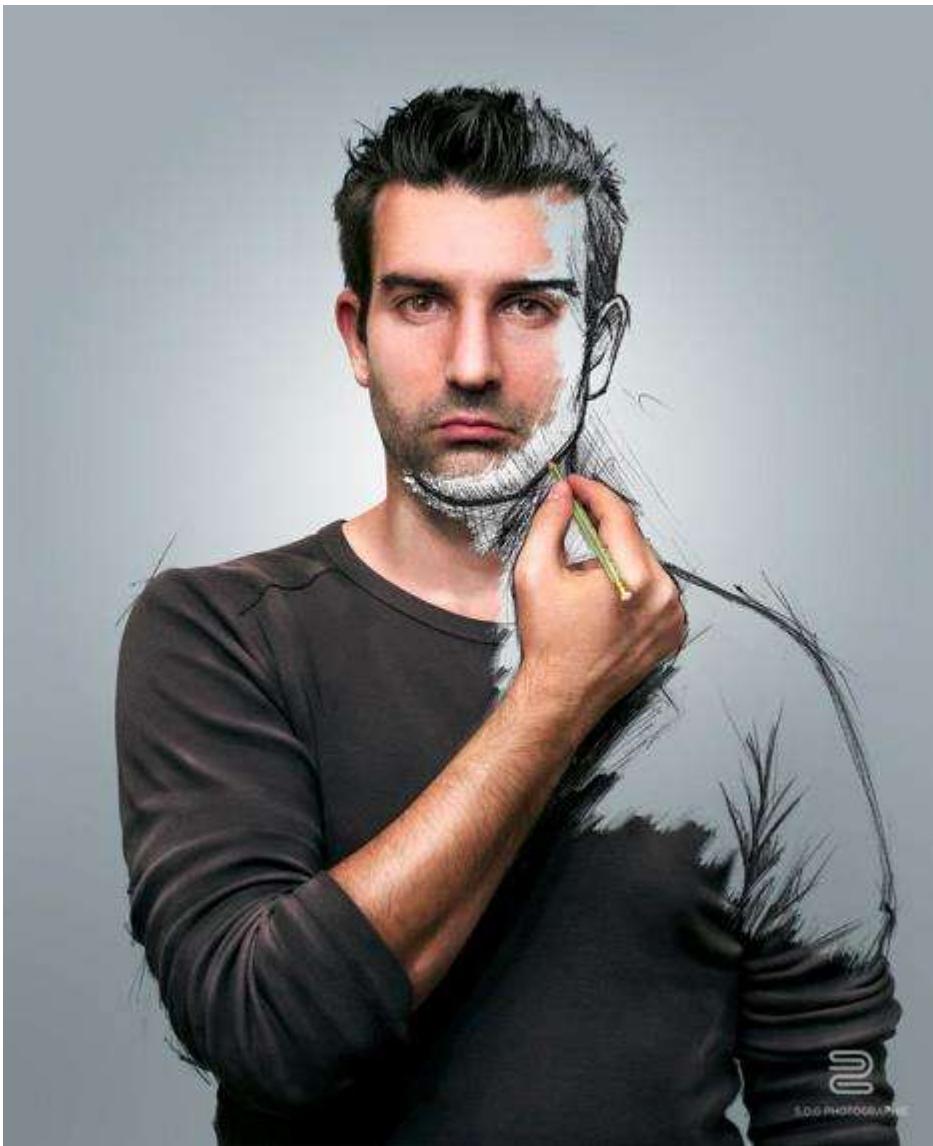


The paint disturbs the viewer – shatters the illusion that we are quietly observing a scene – pulling our attention to the tactile surface and smear of texture in front of our eyes.

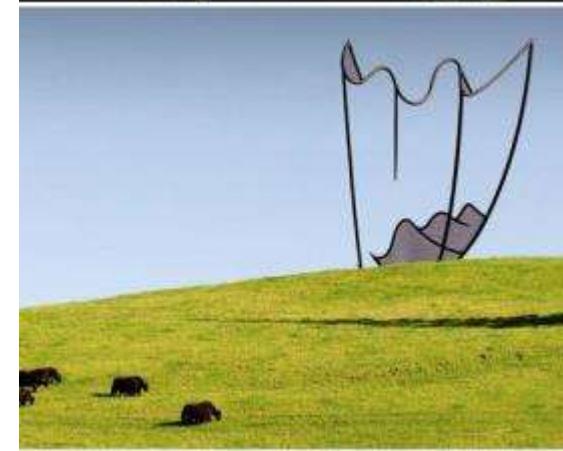
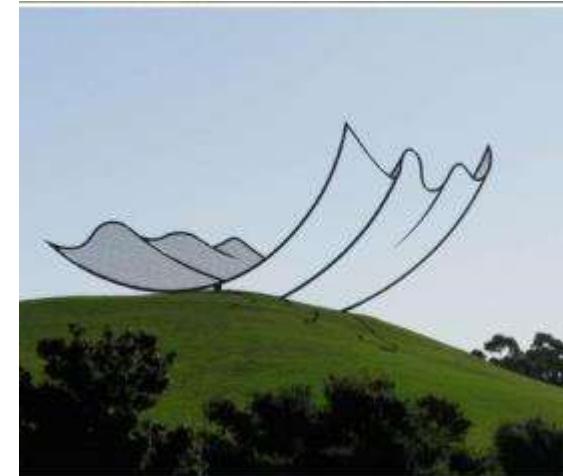
Charlotte Caron



Draw onto photographs:



Self sketch by Sebastien DEL GROSSO on 500px



Horizons, 1994 - Neil Dawson

Overlay tracing paper, obscuring parts of an image

By [Gemma Schiebe](#)



Redraw part of a scene with paint



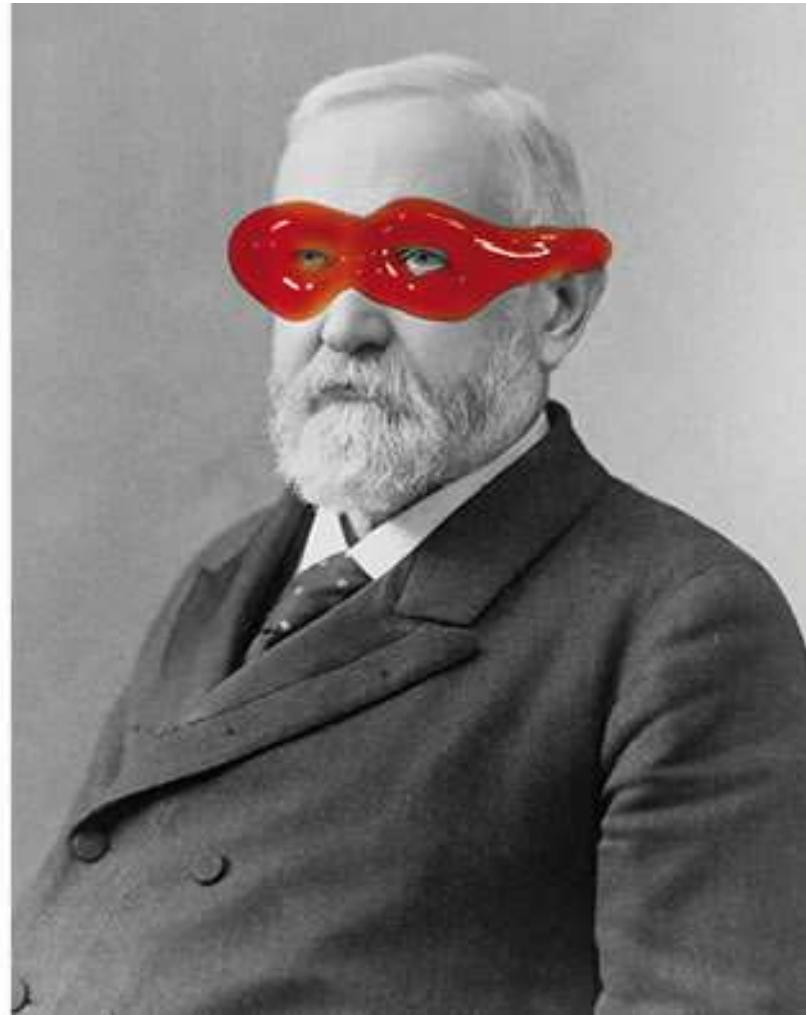
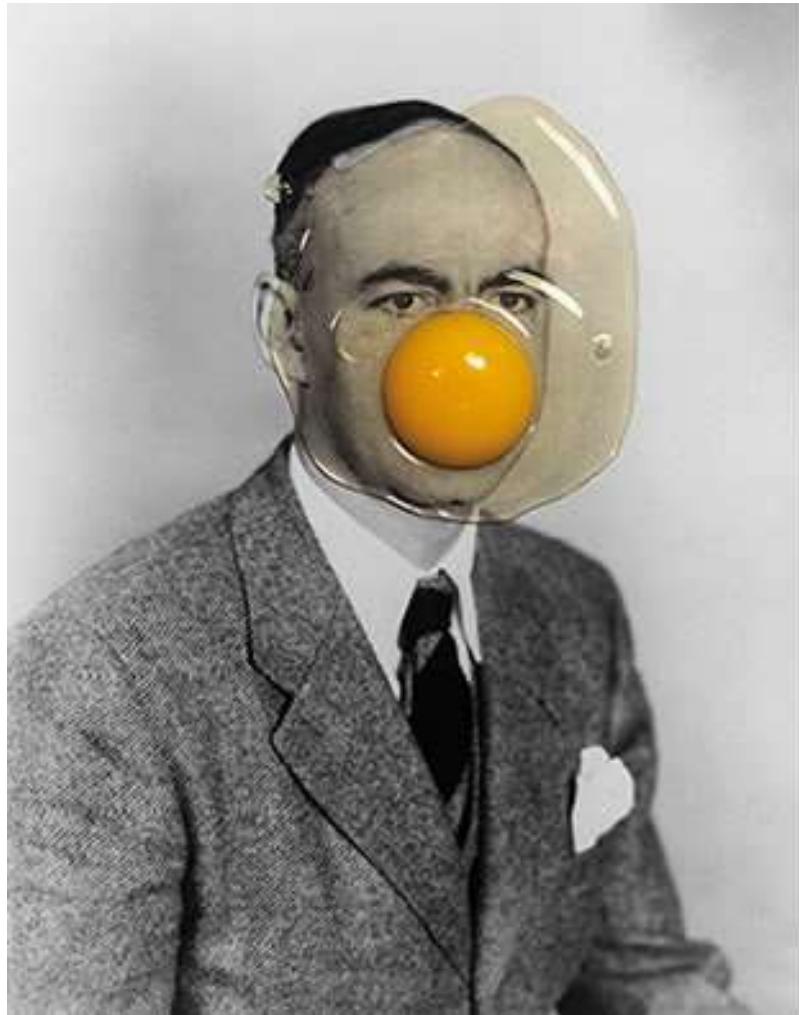
by [Aliza Razell](#)

Add sculptural elements that protrude from the photograph



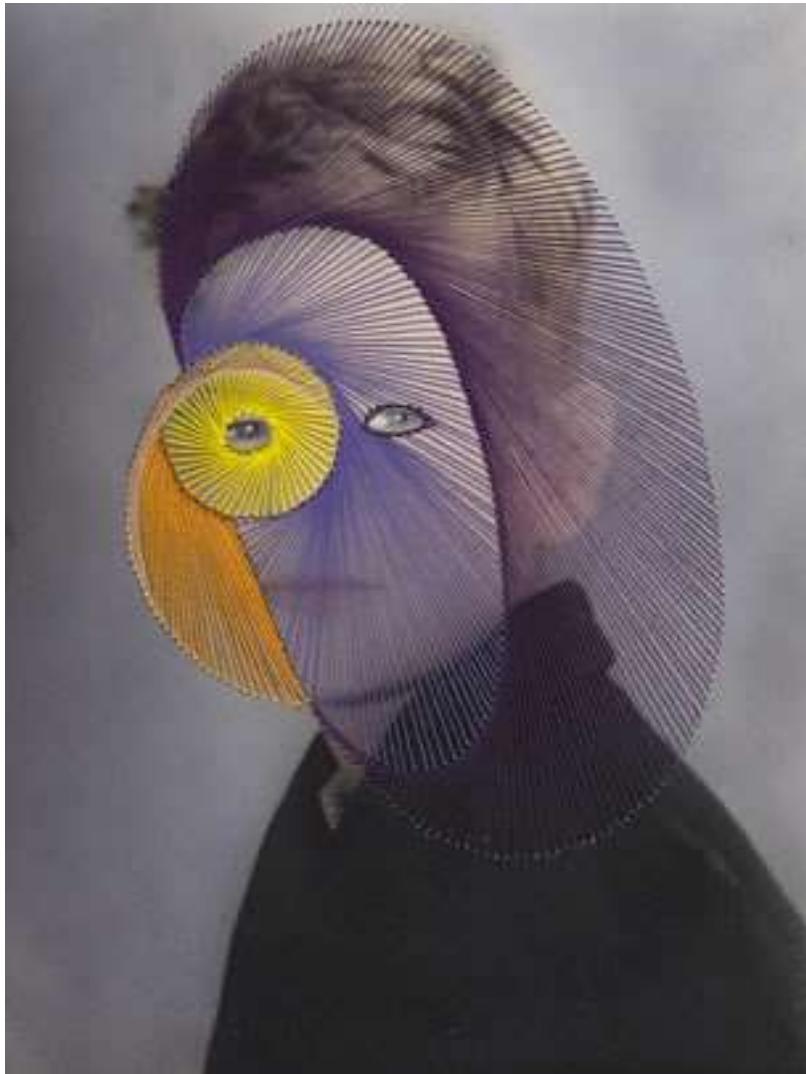
by [Carmen Freudenthal & Elle Verhagen](#):

Put objects on top of photographs and rephotograph them



by Arnaud Jarsaillon and Remy Poncet of [Brest Brest](#):

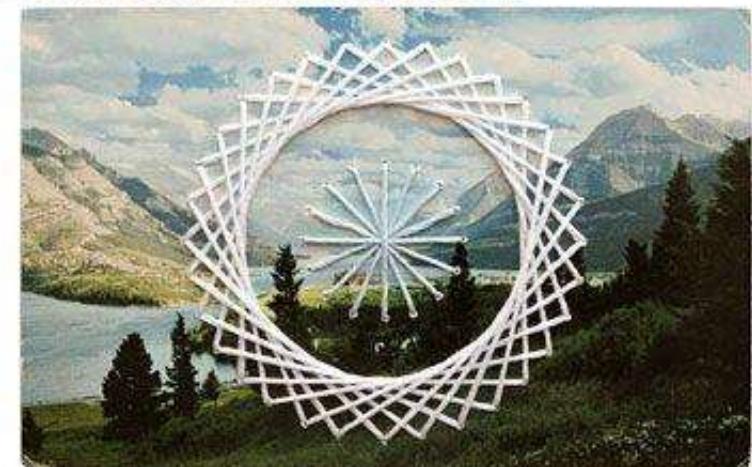
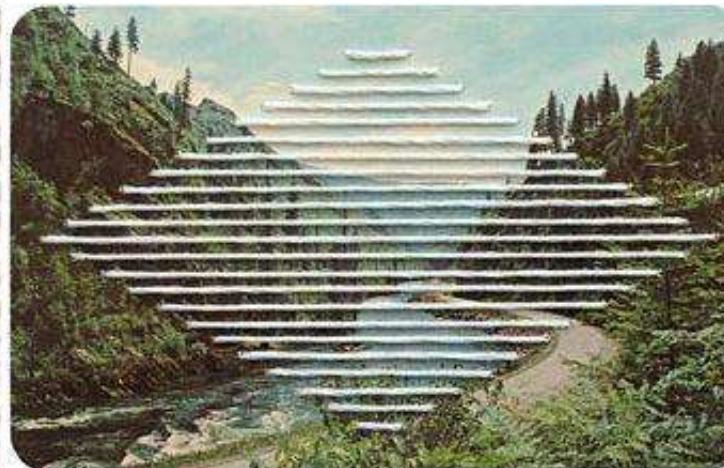
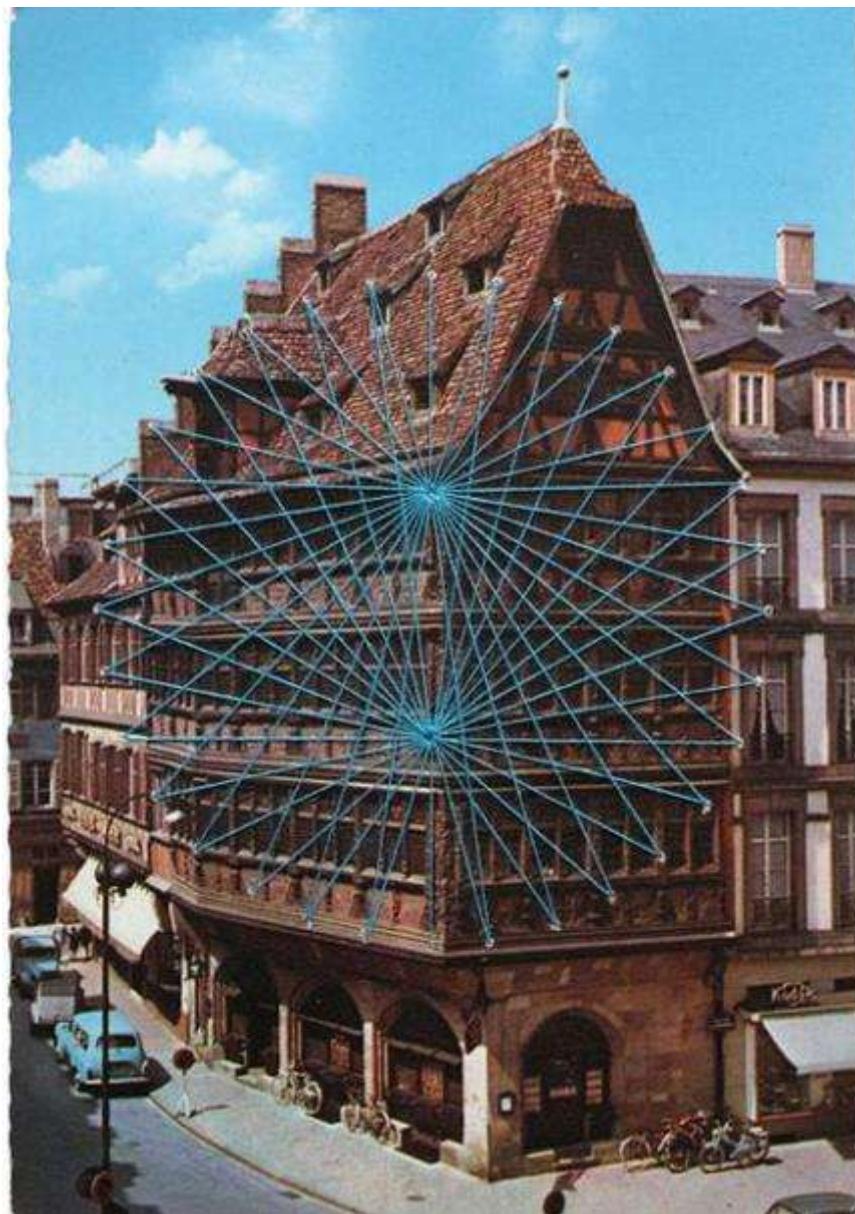
Sew/embroider photographs



[Maurizio Anzeri:](#)

Shaun Kardinal

- embroidery mixed media



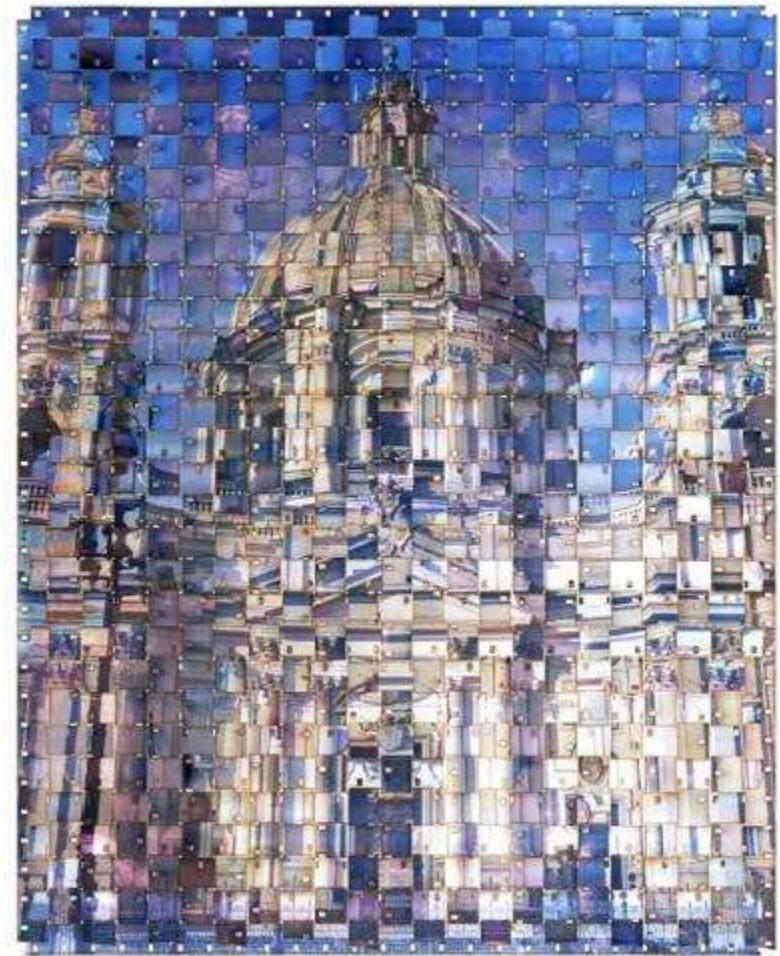
Stitch together prints



- Lisa Kokin takes found, unrelated photographs and stitches them together, fabricating a relationship between them; creating an imagined life from the nostalgic shots.

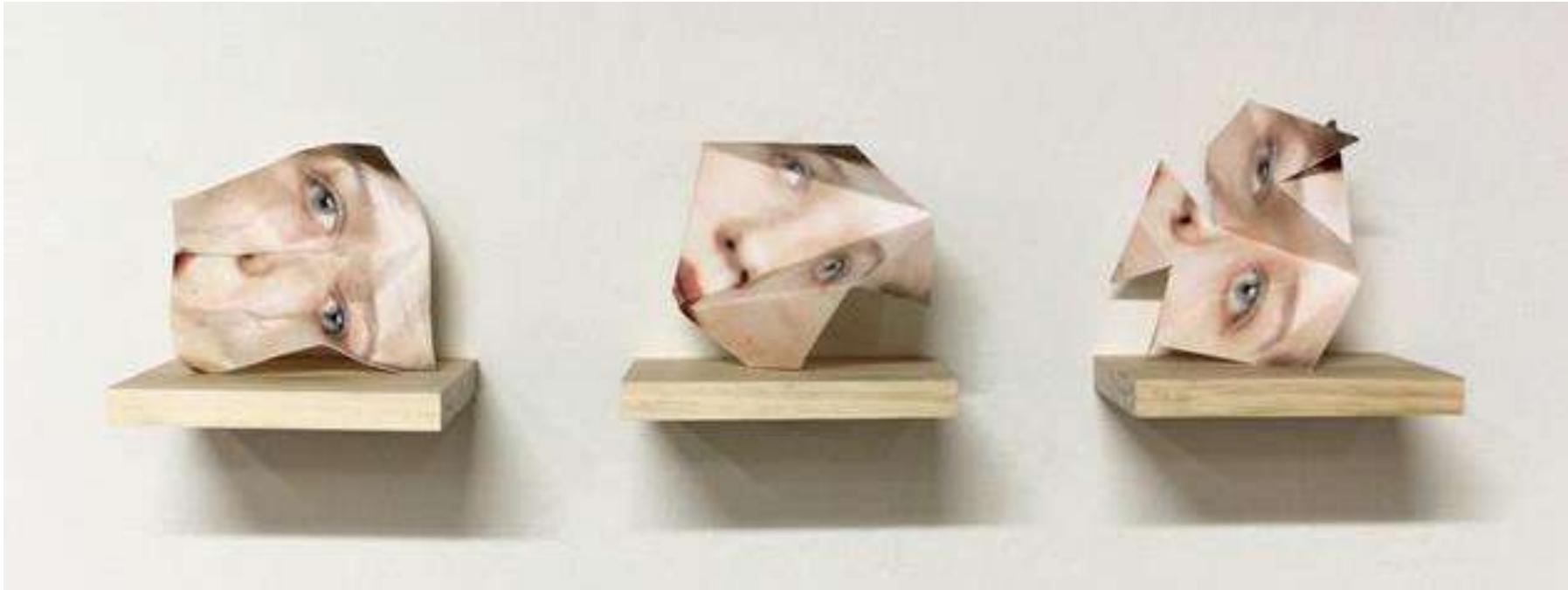
Weave photographs/negatives

South Korean photographer
[Seung Hoon Park](#) - part of his
ongoing series TEXTUS.





Fold/3D collage /cut and fold



by [Joseph Parra](#):

Fold a photograph and make a installation, still life or sculpture

Cut, fold and manipulate photos



In Joseph Parra's 'Braided' series, portraits are sliced into strips and plaited, obscuring the faces.

Paper surgery photography



Stephen J Shanabrook



Only a free press can hurt them. Support our fight. Ad campaign for Reporters Without Borders by Saatchi & Saatchi



Metra-Jeanson's identities

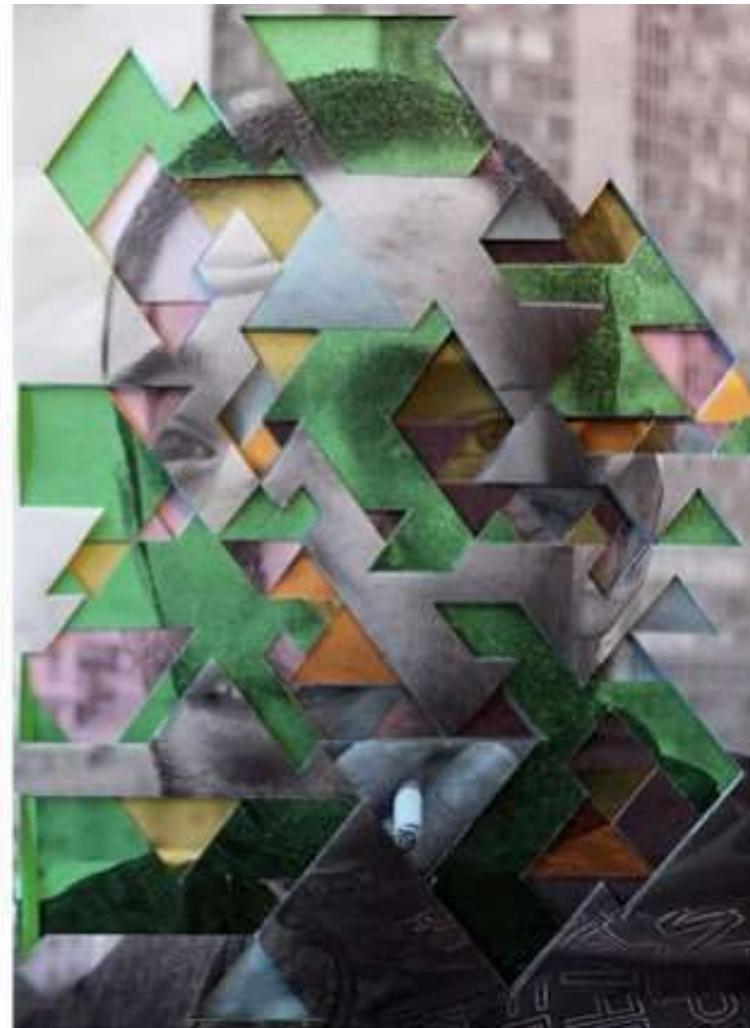
[Metra-Jeanson](#) is a collaboration between French photographers Metra Bruno and Laurence Jeanson. Addressing the unrealistic portraiture in the media we are bombarded with, they reflect on the notion of identity by applying paper magazine cut outs to the faces of their models.

Rip and layer photographs



by [Mark Jacob Bulford](#)

Cut and layer photographs



These images are created by layering a similar photograph on top of another and then cutting precise holes into the top layer to expose the images below. This is repeated many times, creating a semi-abstract final work that is composed of fragmented and disassembled forms.

Create layered handmade collages



by [Damien Blotti  re](#)

Cut and Overlap a sequence of photos



by [Harriet James-Weed](#)

Creates a sense of movement

Cut out shapes and insert coloured paper



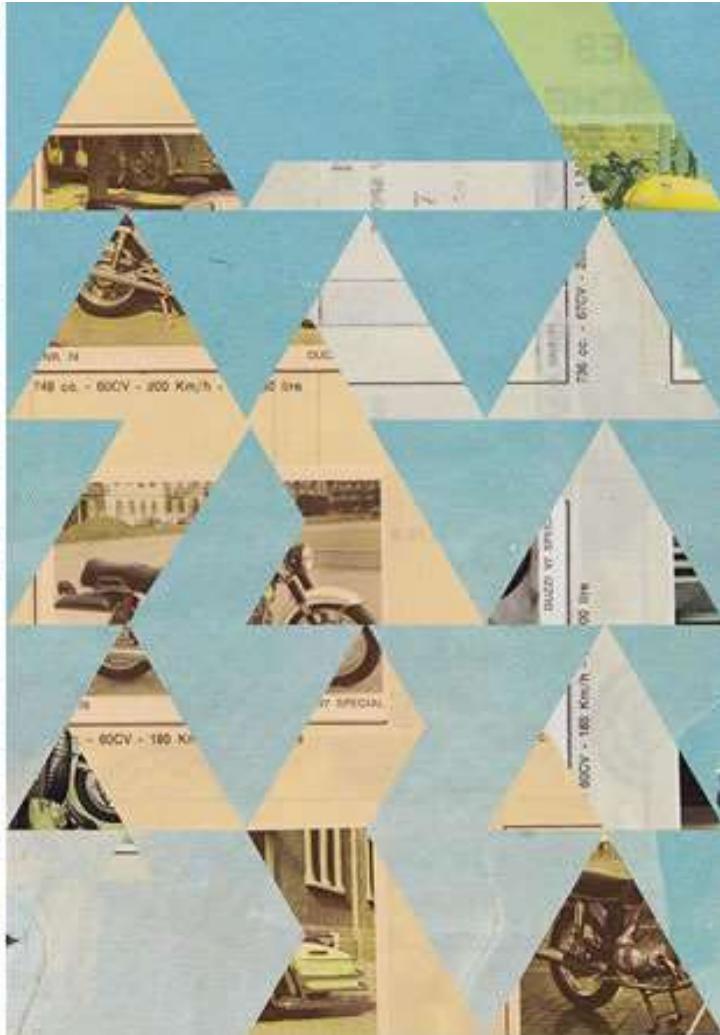
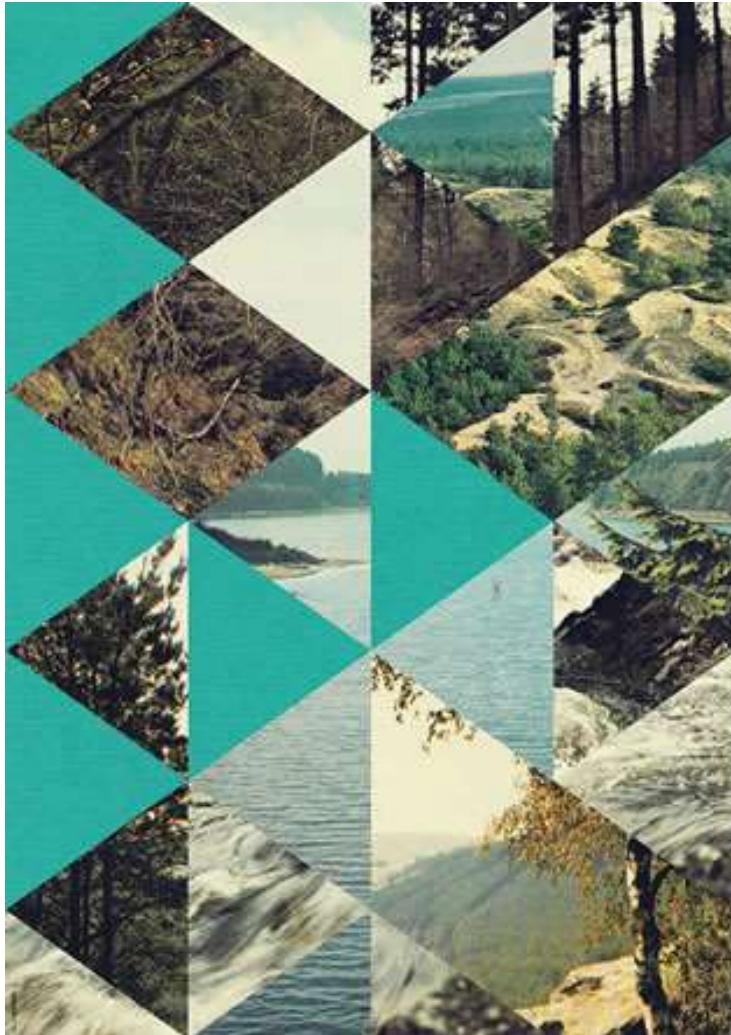
by Micah Danges

Photo collage / juxtaposition



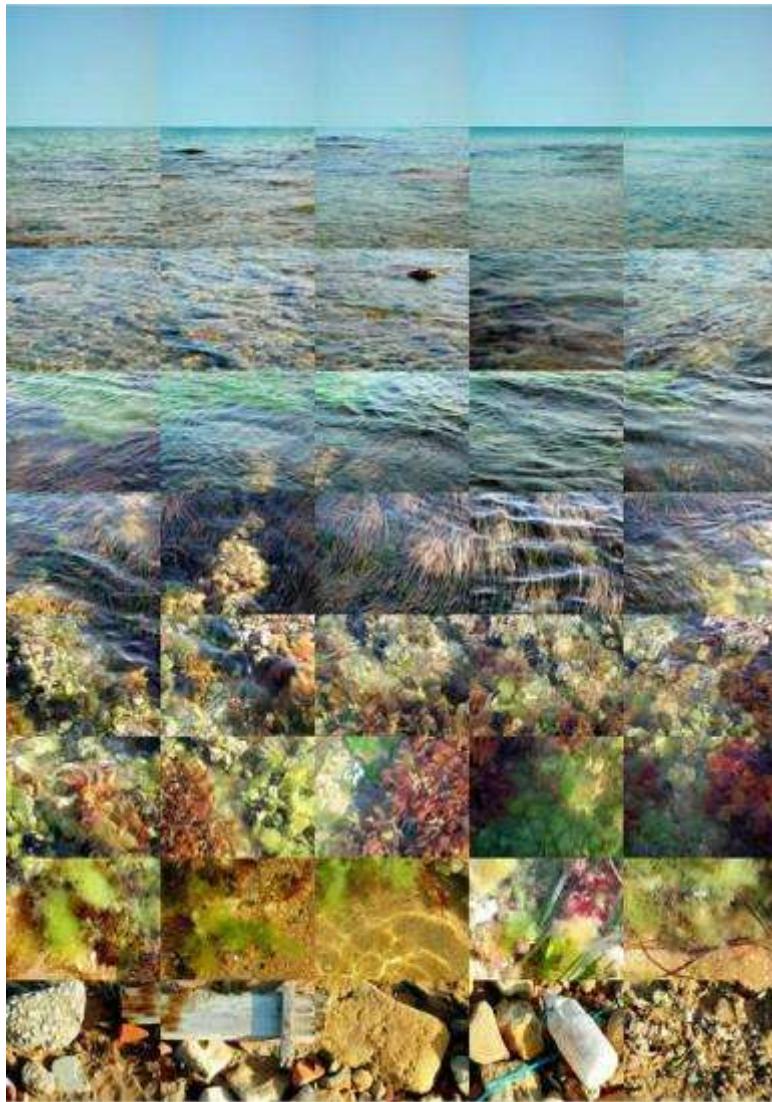
Art Director Stephen McMennamy

Collage photographs and found materials together

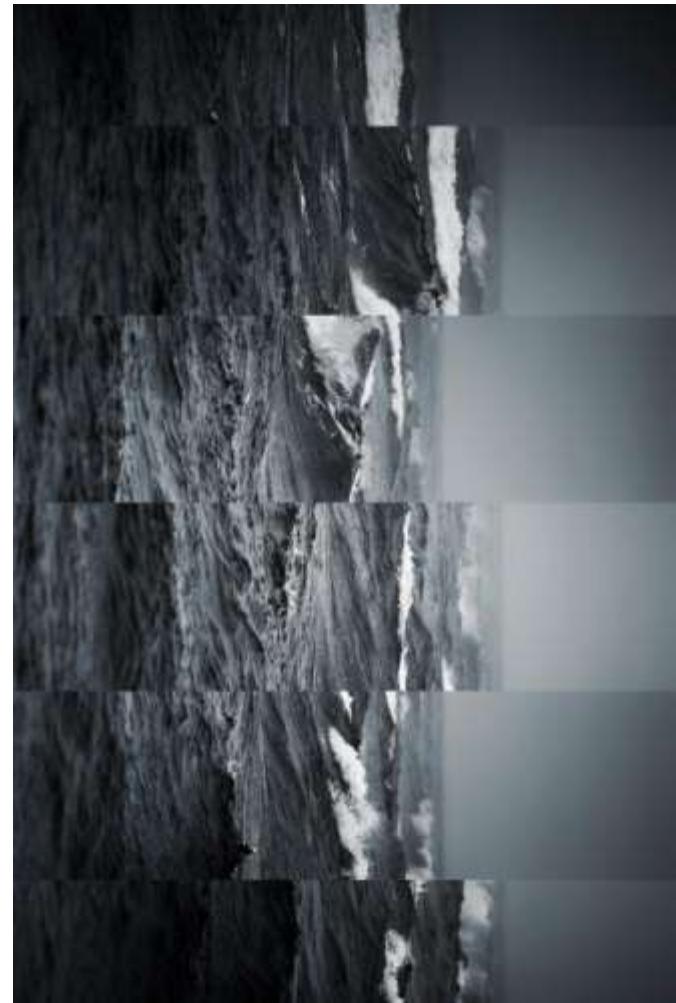


[Jelle Martens](#)

Photographic assemblage



[Matthew Chase-Daniel](#)



kimberlyluii-6o4

Cut and rearrange



Allison Diaz



Adam Martinakis_2014

Photomontage



David Hockney



Multiple viewpoints can be combined within the one photomontage, creating an image that is intriguing and cohesive, despite the distorted perspective.

Collage using masking tape



Iosif Kiraly:

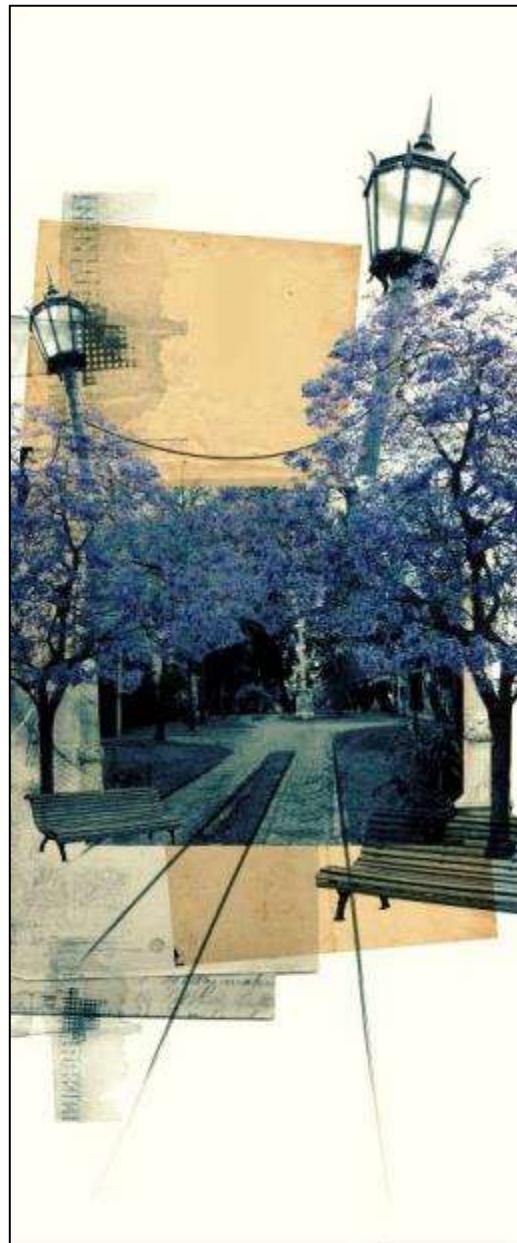
Mixed media



Splash, smear or throw mixed media upon photographs



mdma by exo_on Flickr



Photoshop

- HDR
- Digitally erase parts
- Selective colour
- Filters
- Overlay textures
- Repeat / stretch pixels
- Time lapse / time stacks / time sequence
- Superimpose images
- Play with scale
- Surrealism / fantasy
- Combine objects in unexpected ways
- Add an abstract element
- Create 360 degree images

Digitally combine paintings/drawing with photos

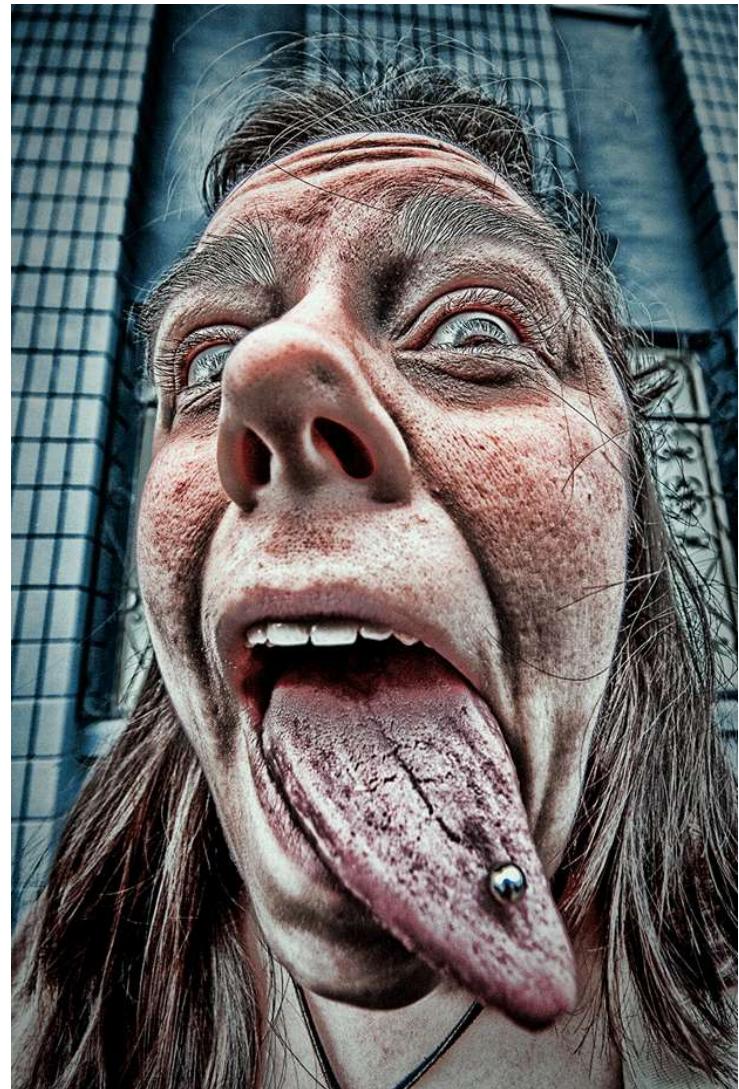
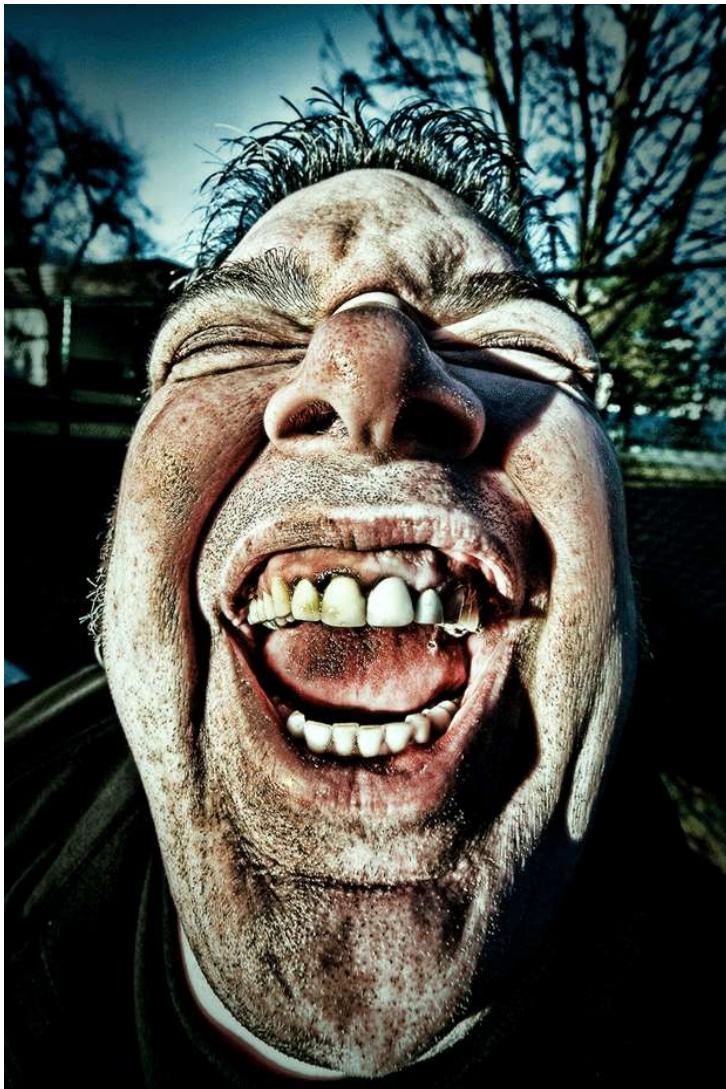


[May Xiong](#)



Dennis Sibeijn and Iwona Drozda-Sibeijn
of [Damnengine](#)

HDR (High Dynamic Range)



by [Photomesh](#) via Flickr

Digitally erase parts



by [Leigh Drinkwater](#)

Found on
omundoinvisiveldeumamulher.blogspot.com

Conceptual Photography:



boy and girl
conceptual
portrait by © 2011
Luke Sharratt on
Getty Images

Overlay textures



- **Digitally overlay textures onto photos**
- Add texture to whole images or mask it to certain parts only.

Repeat / stretch pixels



by [Maykel Lima](#)

Time lapse photography:



Lincoln harrison

Time stacked Clouds



Photo Stack images of landscapes show clouds that look like smears and brush strokes across the sky.

Reminiscent of impressionist paintings



Matt Molloy

Time Sequence Photography



Ray Demski:

Create sequence photography by combine
multiple exposures.

Single scene over time



Photograph a single scene over time and join the pieces in sequence

Combine multiple exposures to create the illusion of repeated objects



Superimpose images

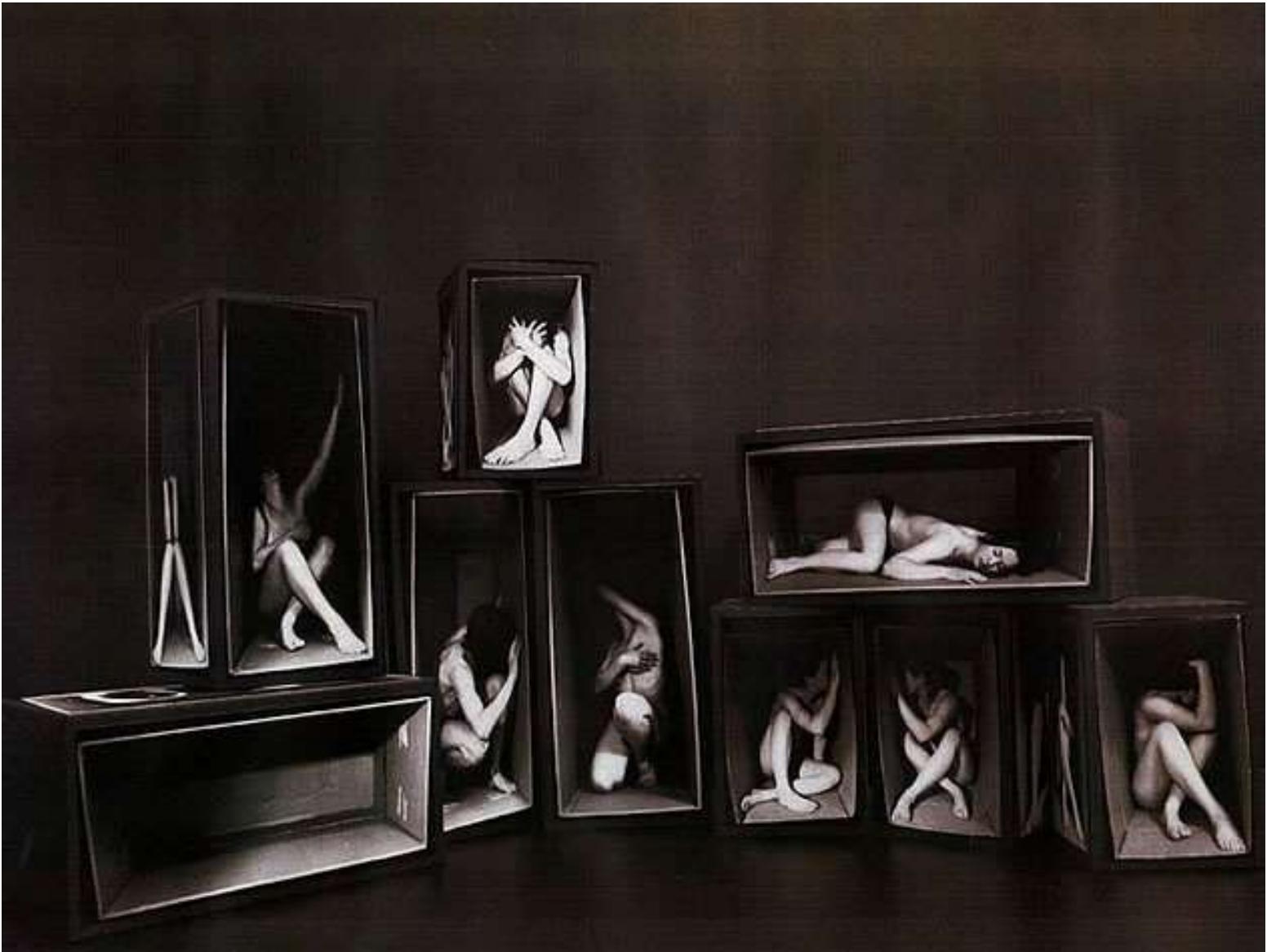


by [John Rankin Waddell](#):



[Adam Goldberg](#)

Play with Scale



by [Katherine Mitchell](#):

Surrealism / fantasy



Create fantasy scenes like [Lorna Freytag](#)

**Combine objects in unexpected ways,
to create something new**



[Carl Warner's foodscapes](#)

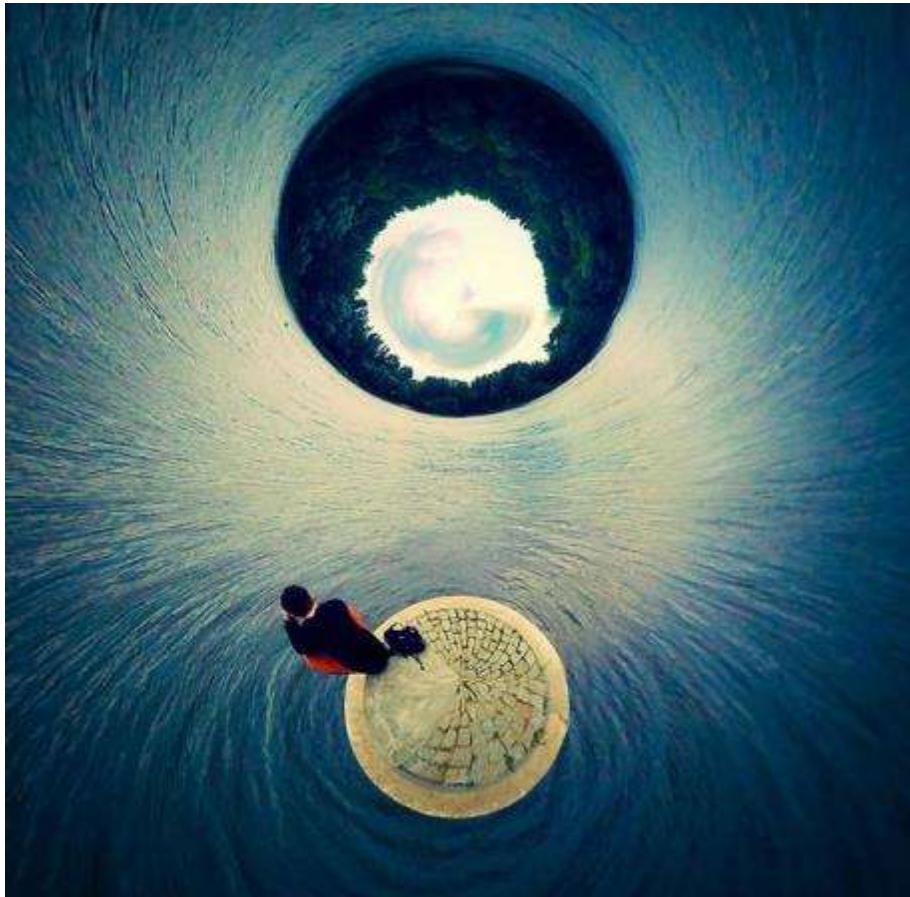


photography by Thomas Barbéy



A cup of little world _ Megan Glc

Create 360 degree images



by [Nemo Nikt](#)



Evan Sharboneau's book_Trick Photography
and Special Effects

Creative subject matter and composition

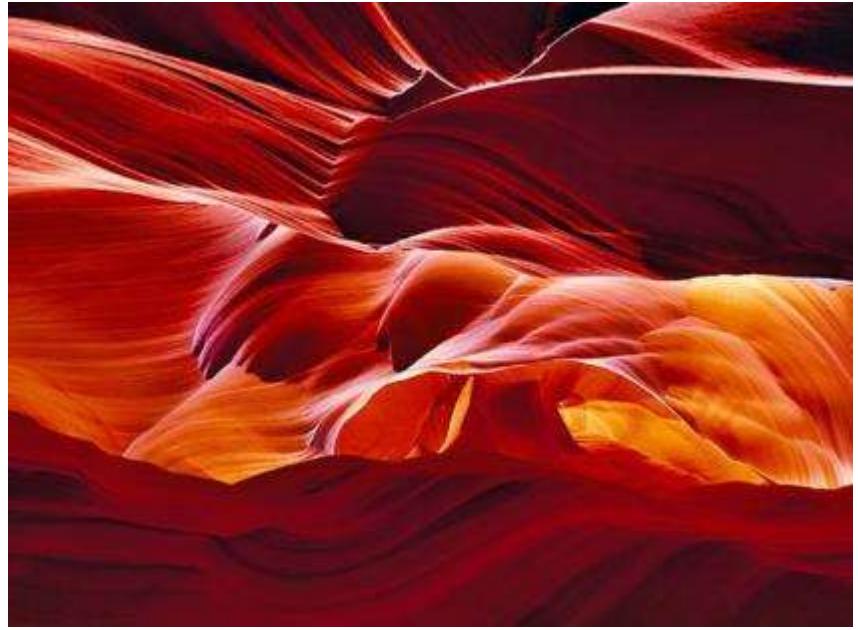
- Abstract
- Typology / series / triptych / patterns
- Emphasize reflections /shadows
- Tell a story
- Unusual viewpoints



Found on goodmemory.tumblr

Abstract

Photograph things without contextual information, so objects become almost unrecognisable



[Peter Lik](#)



by omnia



Found on [thatbohemiangirl.tumblr](http://thatbohemiangirl.tumblr.com)



Bernhard Lang



David maisel Spanish landscape



mushroom



Sheer Curtain, Transparent Beige Fabric

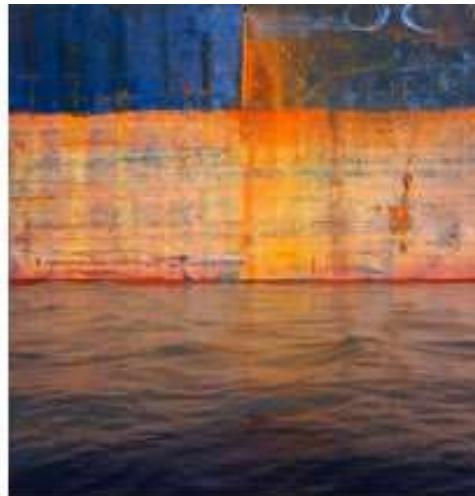
Typology / series / triptych / patterns



Sam Oster's apparatus series:

Collect many similar items and produce typology photography

Create Patterns:



by [Frank Hallam Day](#)

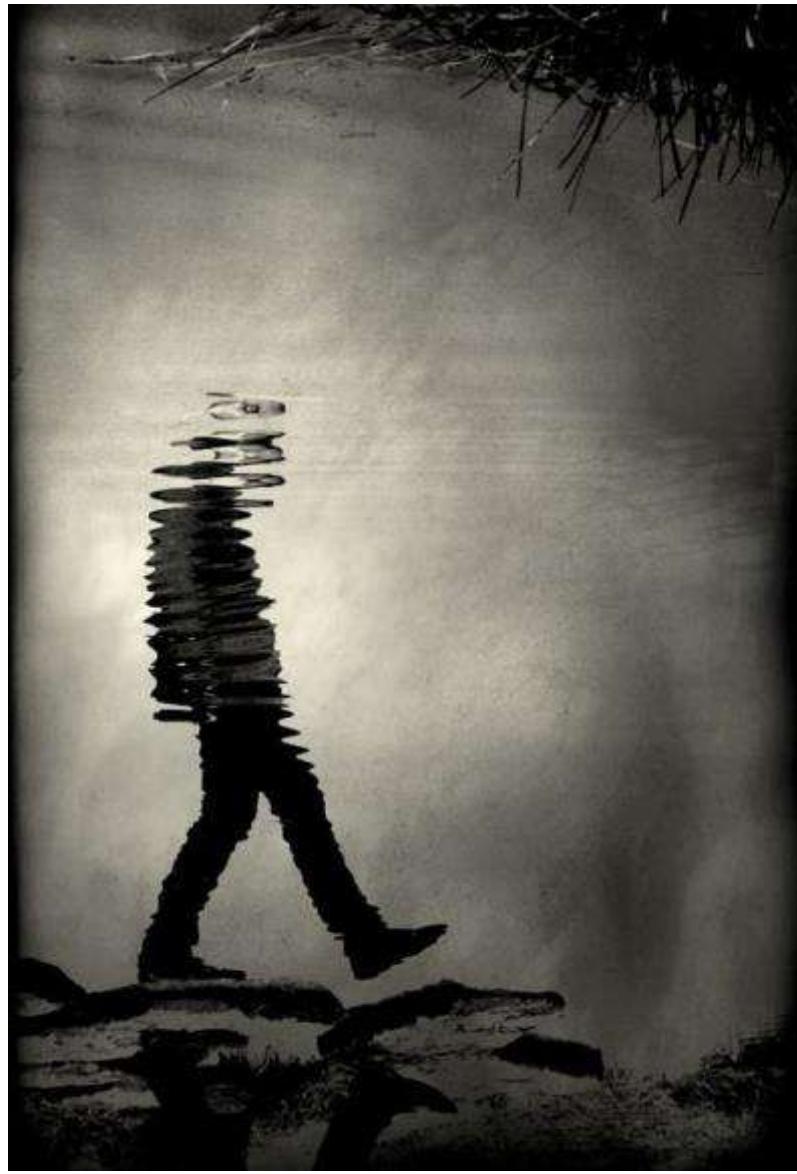
Take close-up, tightly cropped scenes, creating abstract photography from surfaces and pattern

Emphasize reflections

spoon by Manfred on Fotoblur



Emphasise reflections, rather than the objects themselves



Nesne Yalındır



Kobaken via Flickr_Hitachi Seaside Park, Japan

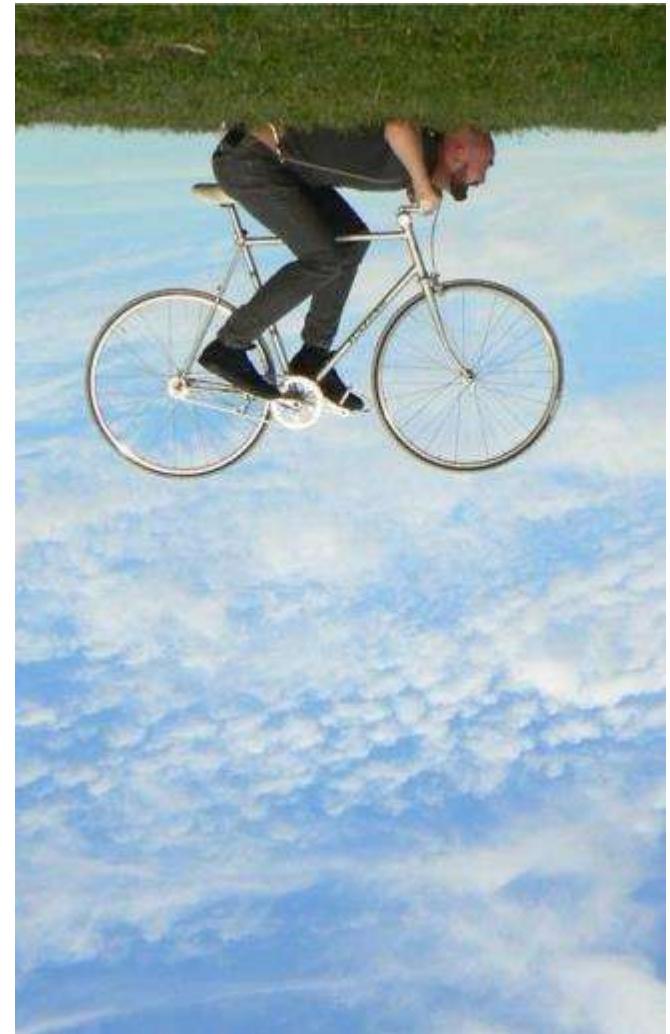
Tell a story

- **Create a composition that tells a narrative or story**
- Narrative photography involves communicating a story through visual clues: a frozen moment in time.
- It involves precise staging and careful manipulation of the ‘characters’ within the story.
- Consideration must be given to models, props, backgrounds, lighting, setting, etc.

Tracey Moffatt:



Unusual viewpoints



Meanwhile in Australia



Photo by Aleksandr Munaev



just chillin' by rosiehardy on Flickr

Darkroom techniques (+ digital alternatives)

- Paint and drip developer medium to expose
- Platinum printing process
- Bromoil printing process
- Collodion wet plate process
- Photograms
- Cyanotype
- Cross processing
- Pinhole Cameras

Paint and drip developer

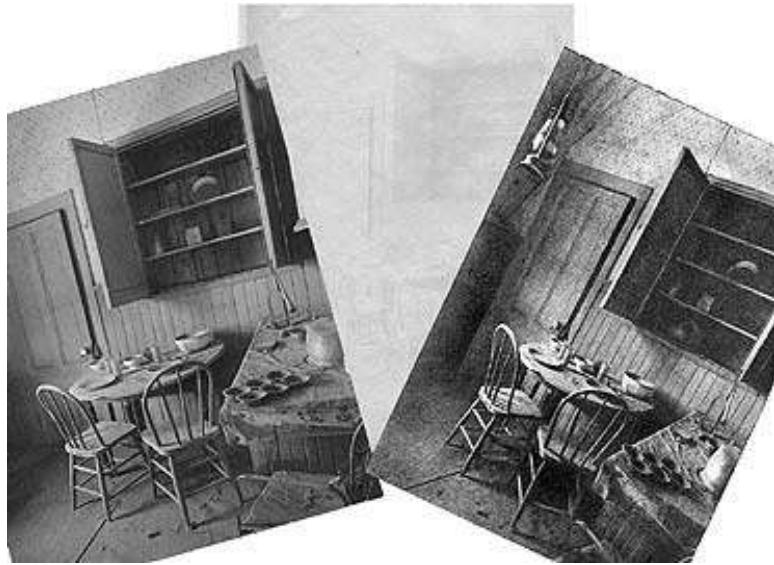
by [Timothy Pakron](#):



Paint developer sporadically onto photo paper to expose only parts of the work, rather than fully submerging

Bromoil printing process

- Very simply, the silver image in a black and white print is replaced by an ink image. The three basic steps are as follows:
- Make a conventional black and white print on a fibre based bromide paper, (grade 2 or 3) washing and drying in the normal way.
- Bleach/Tan the print, fix, wash and then dry. The image should almost disappear. This is called the matrix.
- To print, soak the matrix for a few minutes. Remove all traces of water from both sides of the matrix. Ink-up the print.



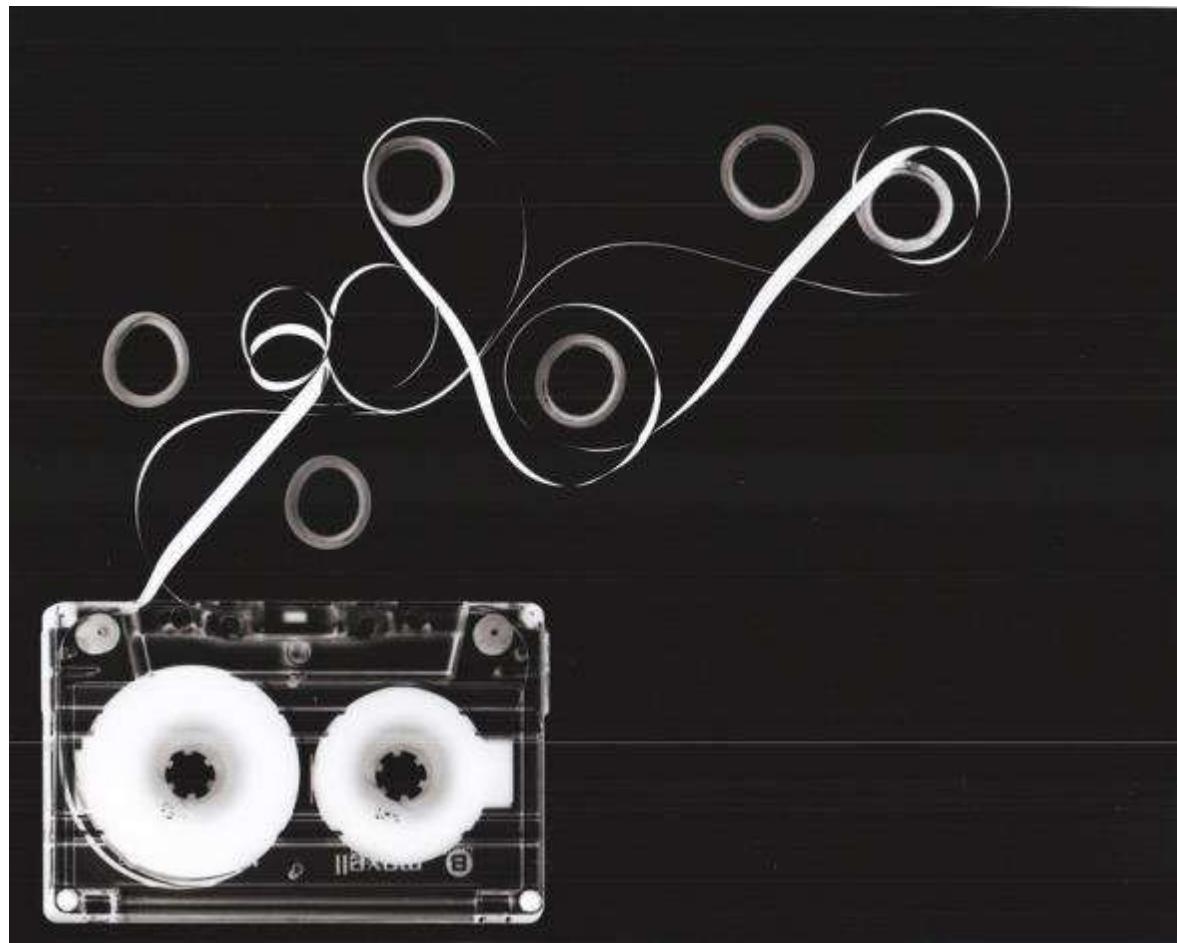
Collodion wet plate process



Sally Mann



Photograms



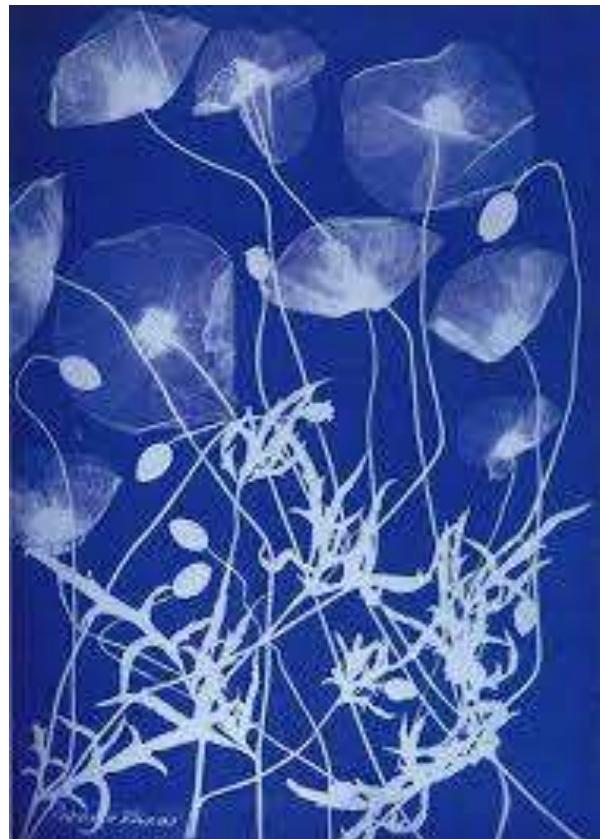
Cyanotype

Cyanotype is an old monochrome photographic printing process which gives a cyan-blue print.

Process Overview

1. Mix two chemicals to create photo sensitive solution of 'sensitizer'.
2. Brush, smear, or soak the sensitizer into cotton-based watercolor paper.
3. Create a negative image on a transparency with a laser/inkjet printer or copy machine.
4. Place the negative over the dried, sensitized paper.
5. Expose to UV light.
6. Wash the image in water to develop.
7. Hang to dry, and enjoy!

Anna Atkins



Cross Processing / Xpro

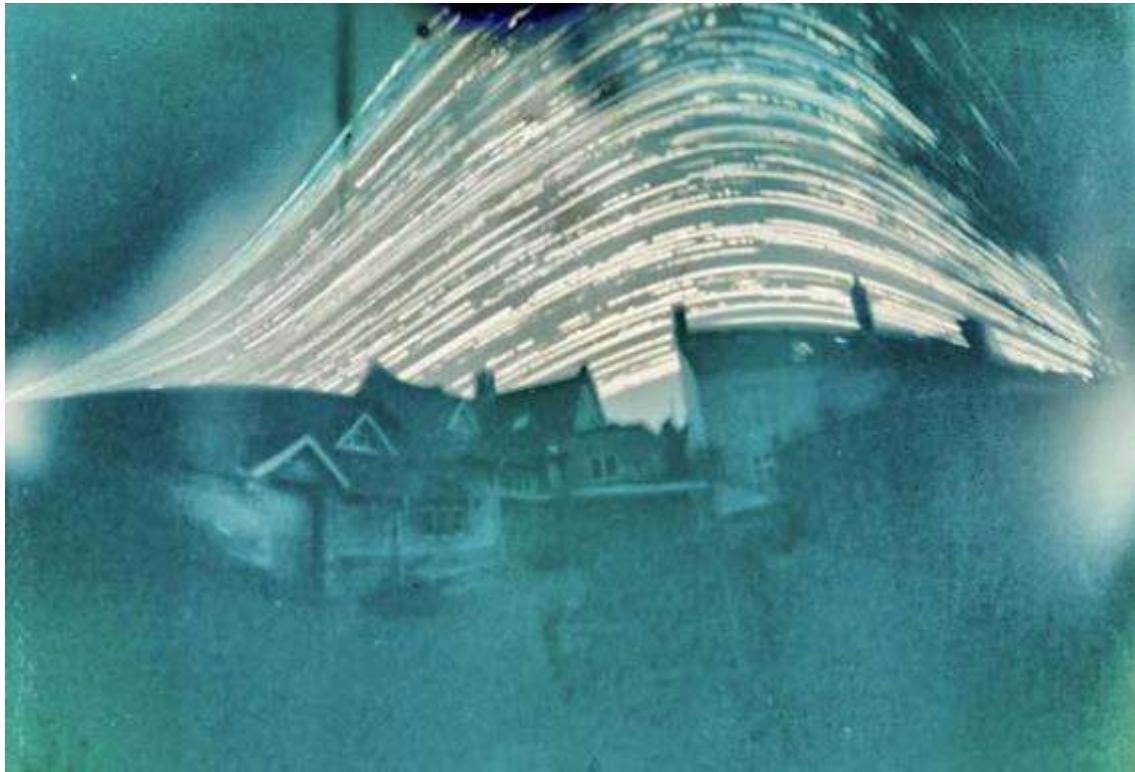
Cross processing (or **Xpro**) is the deliberate processing of photographic film in a chemical solution intended for a different type of film



CROSS-PROCESSING COLOUR SLIDE FILM



Pinhole Cameras



This example by Matt Bigwood captures the movement of the sun (a type of photography known as solargraphy) across a suburban sky.



DIY Projects:

- Choose one of the techniques in this presentation to try out for the creative comp.
- Photograph Reflections (think water, mirrors, glass buildings)
- Photograph Shadows
- Make an Abstract / Series
- Try using mixed media

In conclusion

- Experiment, but select purposefully
- Create artworks that mean something
- Use creative ideas to help you tell a story
- Let go the fear of failure

Have questions?

Feel free to email / facebook me any questions you may have:

- ❖ info@emmagilettephotography.com.au
- ❖ www.facebook.com/EmmaGilettePhotography

Find this presentation on my blog:

- ❖ www.emmagilettephotography.com.au