

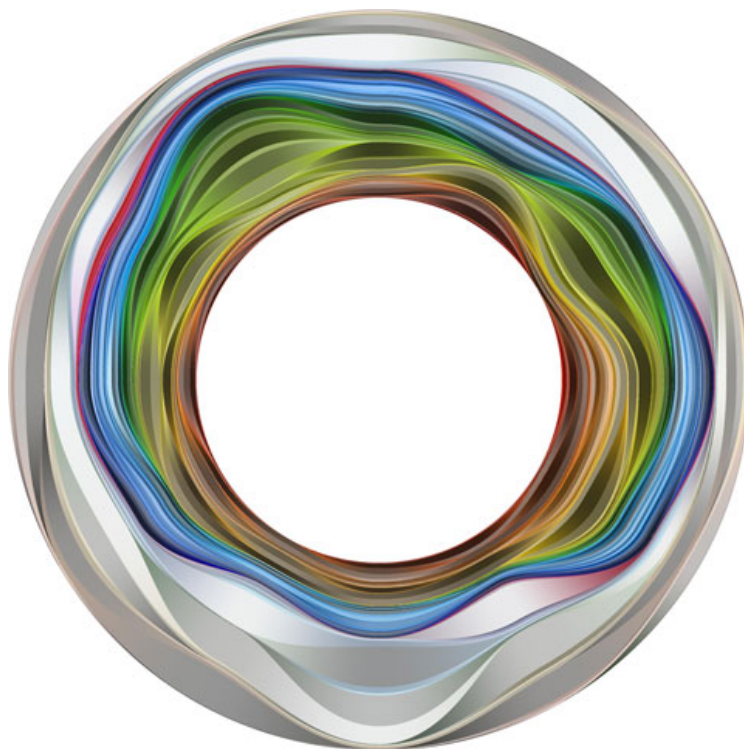
## NOTES

Flickr Flow is an experiment whose materials are color and time.

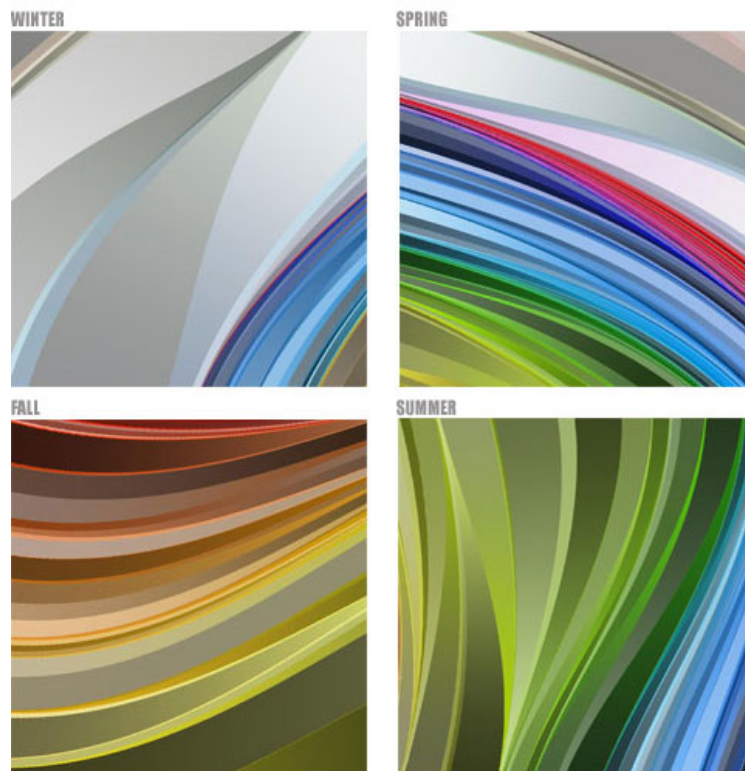
We first used this technique in a Boston Magazine piece, Flickr of Hope, that appeared in March 2009.

Prints are available through [Imagekind](#).

The two of us see the world as a stream of color, and in 2009 we finally had a chance to draw the river in our heads. We began with a collection of photographs of the Boston Common taken from Flickr. Using an algorithm developed for the [WIRED Anniversary visualization](#), our software calculated the relative proportions of different colors seen in photos taken in each month of the year, and plotted them on a wheel. The image below is an early sketch from the piece. Summer is at the top, with time proceeding clockwise.



The resulting diagram picks up the ebb and flow of seasonal colors. The close-ups below show winter, spring, summer, and fall.



The final piece appeared in the *Metric* section of Boston Magazine. Designer Heather Burke worked with us to give readers a more precise sense of the monthly cycle and to include some of the original Flickr photos.

**FLICKR OF HOPE** It may not feel like springtime quite yet, but just beneath the lingering snowbanks the city is coming to life—and Flickr has the photos to prove it. To chart the ebb and flow of Boston's seasonal hues, Examiner asked Fernanda Viégas and Martin Wattenberg at the IBM Visual Communication Lab in Cambridge to analyze the more than 1,200 images of Boston Common found on the popular photo-sharing website (Flickr's informal tagging system means a few Public Garden shots may have sneaked in, too). Their software scanned the photos for the 216 different colors in the so-called Web-safe palette, and tallied how frequently each one appeared. Each stripe on the wheel below represents one color; the thickness of the stripe shows how often that color occurred in a given month. Just look at that green band starting to assert itself in March. You can practically feel the grass between your toes.

