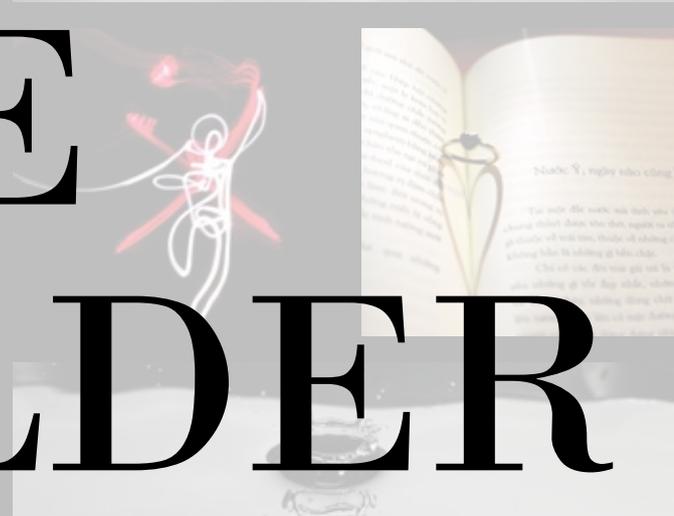
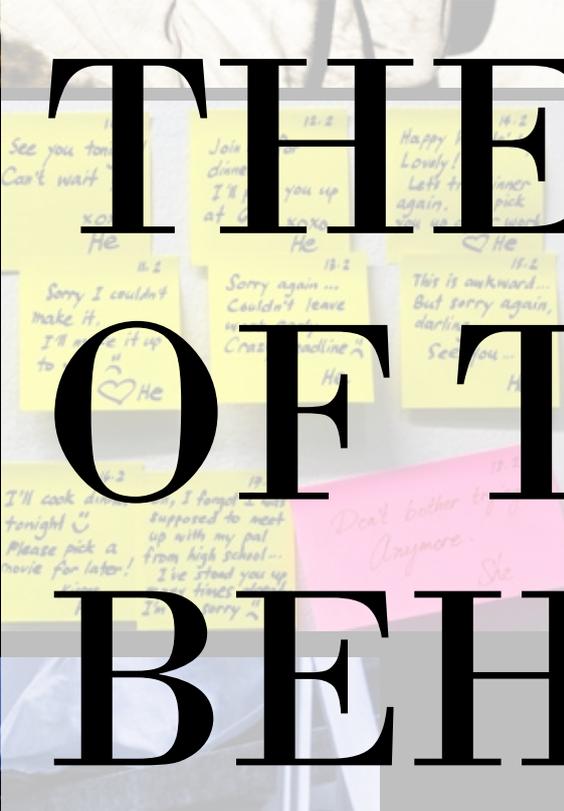




THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER



Creative Digital Photography

Edited by Hugh Clack



*The Eye of the Beholder:
Creative Digital Photography
Edited by Hugh Clack*

This work has been made by students of Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences and international exchange students from University of Valencia, Jinhua Polytechnic University, University of Western Brittany, and University of Lyon 2 Lumiere, in collaboration with Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences students studying Creative Digital Photography.

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Introduction

Photography, as we know it, has been around for almost 200 years and has come a very long way in the last 15 years with the advent of digital photography. Nowadays, people use all kinds of devices in addition to cameras, such as mobile phones and tablets to capture images, and there are a lot of software options available to manipulate images into something more artistic. However, the camera itself is far from redundant. Knowing how to use the various settings and lighting to create artistic images directly in camera is a necessary skill that will help you understand your camera better, and also help you improve your photographic technique.



This book contains various projects completed by students of my Creative Digital Photography course at Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences in the spring semester of 2014. Each chapter starts with some basic information of either the general set-up of camera, equipment, and subject, or an explanation of what is required. Students own photographs, camera settings, and their visions have been included to each chapter.

The book is intended for anyone interested in taking the next step in their photography, and to get inspiration to take it to a more creative level. I hope you enjoy exploring the possibilities offered in these projects and have a lot of fun on the journey.

*Hugh Clack
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Optical Illusions

*“There is an optical illusion about every
person we meet”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Trang Hoang "Hanged Man"
Nikon D90, ISO 1000, f/5.6, 1/30 s, 28mm

The camera never lies, or so we are told. However, we can create some stunning optical illusions by distorting the view we see through our camera's viewfinder depending on what kind of effect we are trying to achieve. Distant objects can seem nearer and smaller in comparison to close objects, subjects can be seen to float in the air, or we can simply add elements for fun.

Try different angles such as low viewpoints, long depth of field (small aperture), shallow depth of field (large aperture), wide-angle to stretch the perspective or telephoto for compressed view. Get your subject involved by showing them what you wish to achieve. Have fun and remember that ALL effects are done in camera not in post processing!



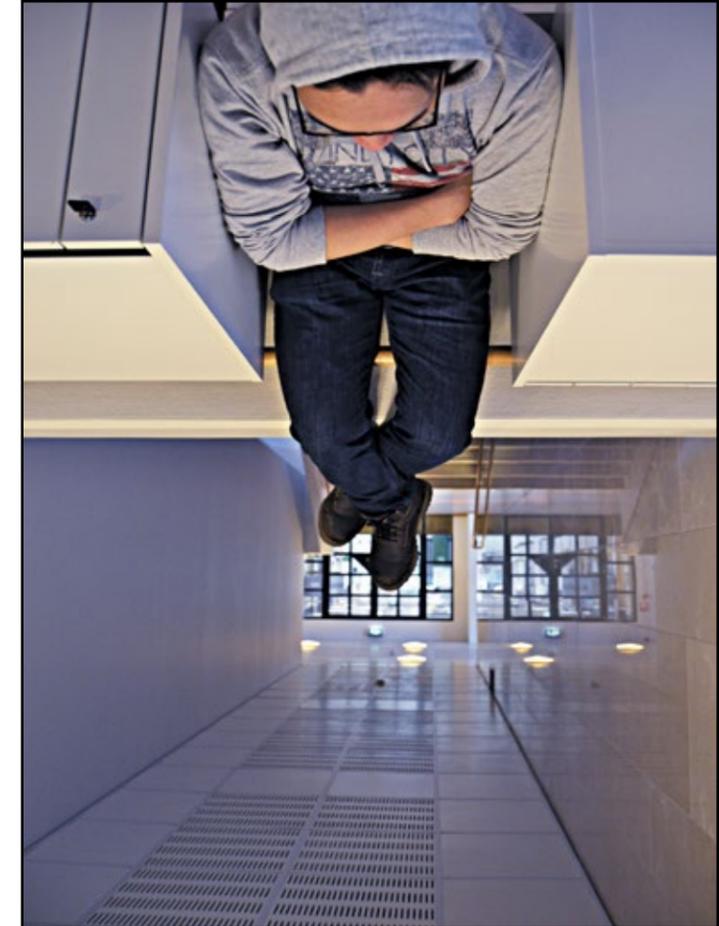
*Nguyen Anh "Bubble Tea"
Nikon D90, ISO 1000,
f/5.6, 1/30 s, 28mm*

"This photo was taken on a rainy evening, when I was sitting inside enjoying a warm cup of tea. I got the feeling to capture that moment."

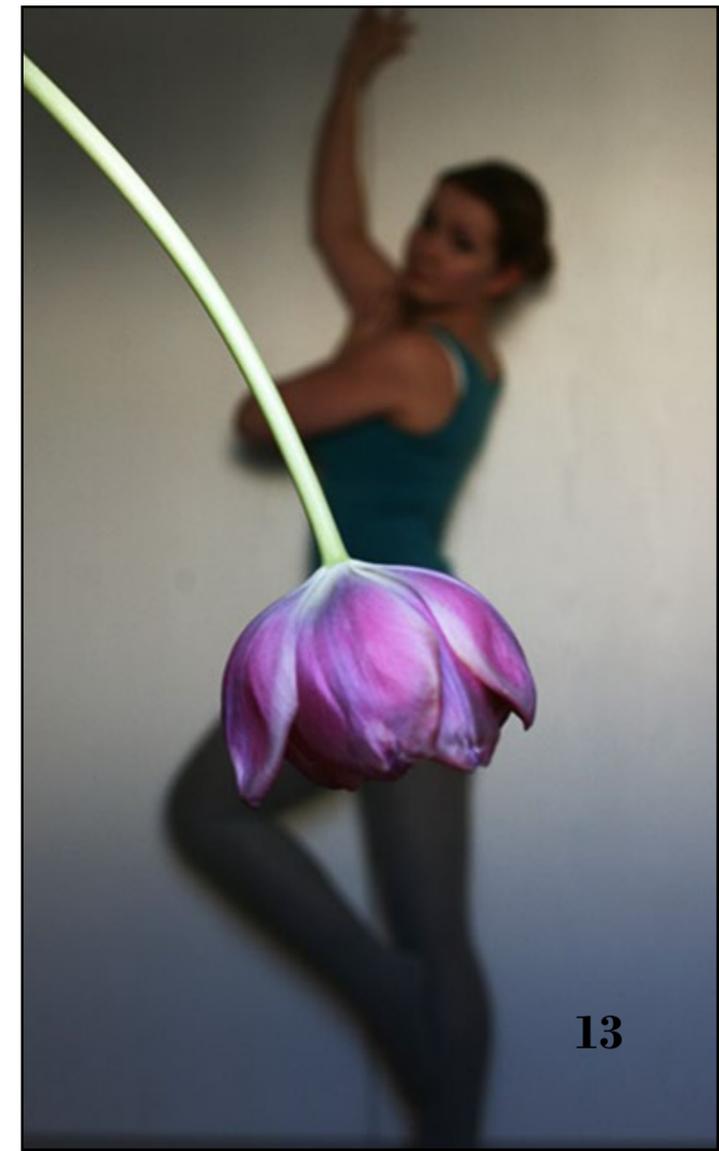


*Eda Brasileño-Hatanpää "So Near Yet So Far"
Sony NEX-5N, ISO 800, f/16, 1/200 s, 75mm
"I wanted to test the viewer's depth perception by controlling the perspective. I placed a miniature version of a car at a good distance away from it on the sidewalk. I matched their angles and positioned the camera close to the model car, which is my subject. Since the model is 24x smaller than the real car, I positioned the camera on the ground approximately 24x lower than my eye level and played around with the positions until the perspective seemed right."*

*Ngoc Tran
Nikon D3100, ISO 800
f/4, 1/40 s, 18mm*



*Sanna Hälikkä
"Dancing with the Flower"
Canon EOS 400D, ISO 400
f/8, 1/25 s, 40mm*



Ring and Book

A simple setup with no special equipment needed. The idea is to take a shot of a ring placed on the open pages of a book. The choice of book is irrelevant, but for example, using a wedding or engagement ring works very well on the open pages of a bible.

The idea is to have the ring stand up in the centre of the page fold, then place a light source such as a desk lamp behind shining down onto the book so that it casts a heart-shaped shadow over the page.

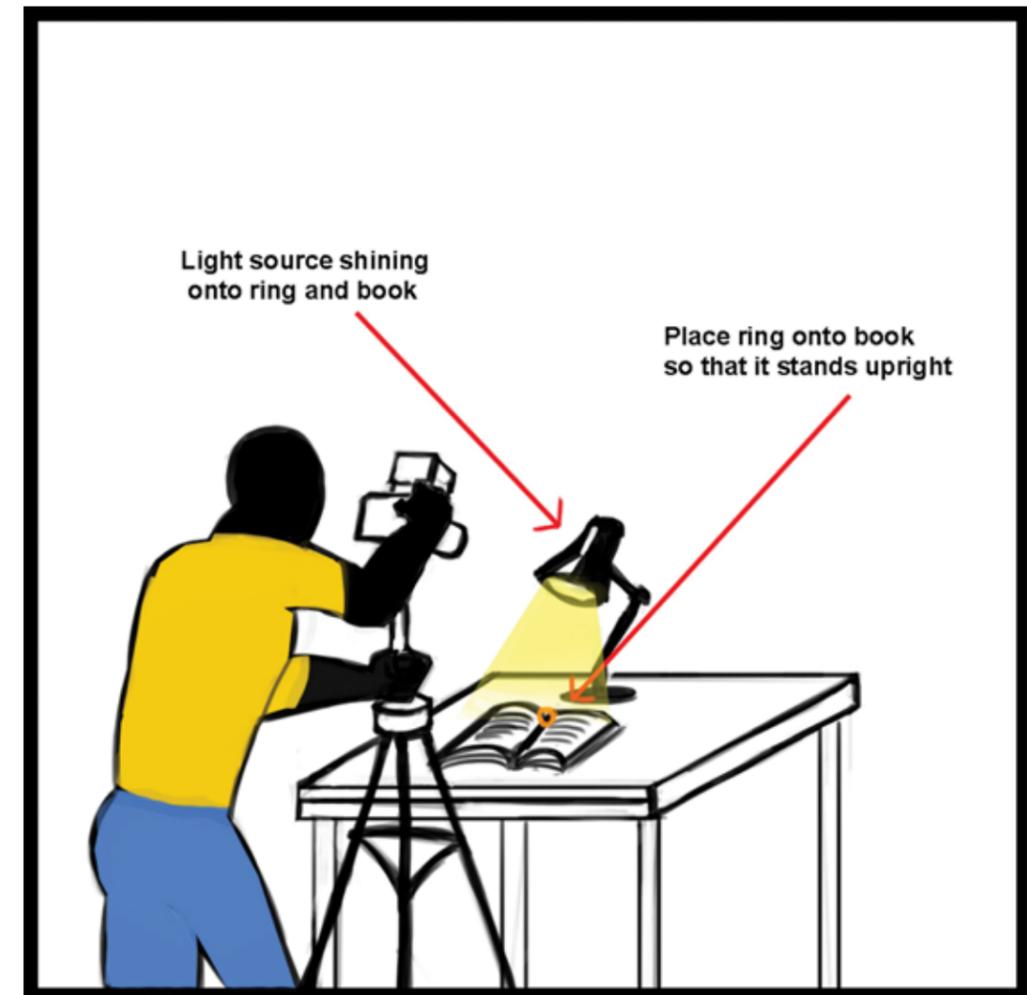
To take the shot, you will need to use a tripod to get a nice sharp shot, especially if your shutter speed drops below 1/60 s. Set the camera to Manual (M) or Aperture Priority (Av/A). Set the aperture quite wide open to give you a shallow depth of field. In manual, set the shutter speed accordingly to get a correct exposure or in aperture priority mode, let the camera set it as we don't need to worry about there being a long exposure as nothing is moving (this is where a tripod is useful). Use a low ISO, around 100 to get a nice clean shot.

You should focus on a word - "love" is a typical one used in this setup - and have the shadow falling near this. Position your camera in front, slightly looking down and at an angle to the book's centre line. Use manual focussing to focus on your chosen spot and don't forget to turn off any image stabilisation (IS) or vibration reduction (VR) system in your camera when using a tripod or your images may be blurred.

Variations on this theme can be made with spectacles instead of the ring, and sunshine through a window as your light source. Try different settings and play around with the setup to achieve the desired results.

“So many books, so little time”

Frank Zappa

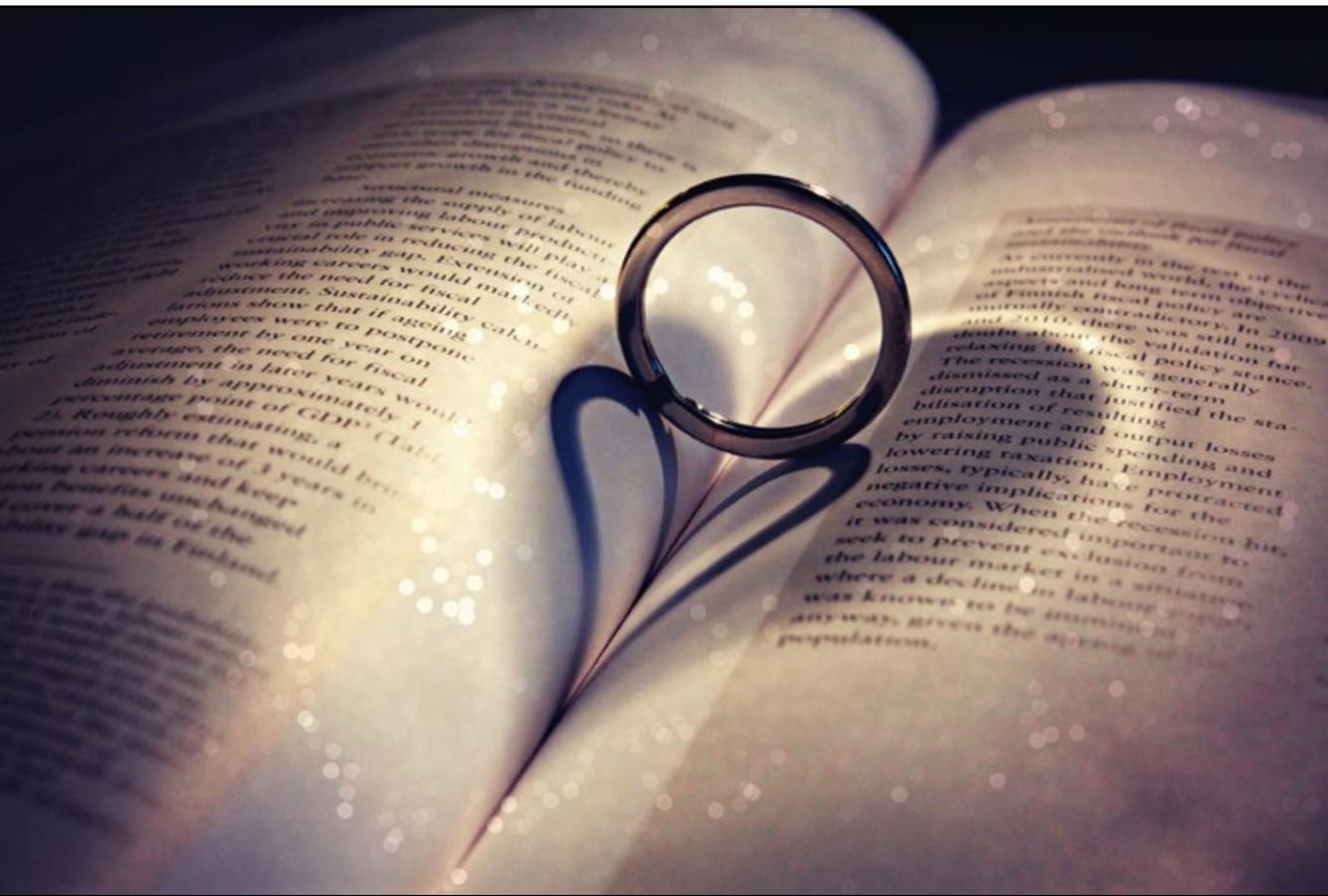




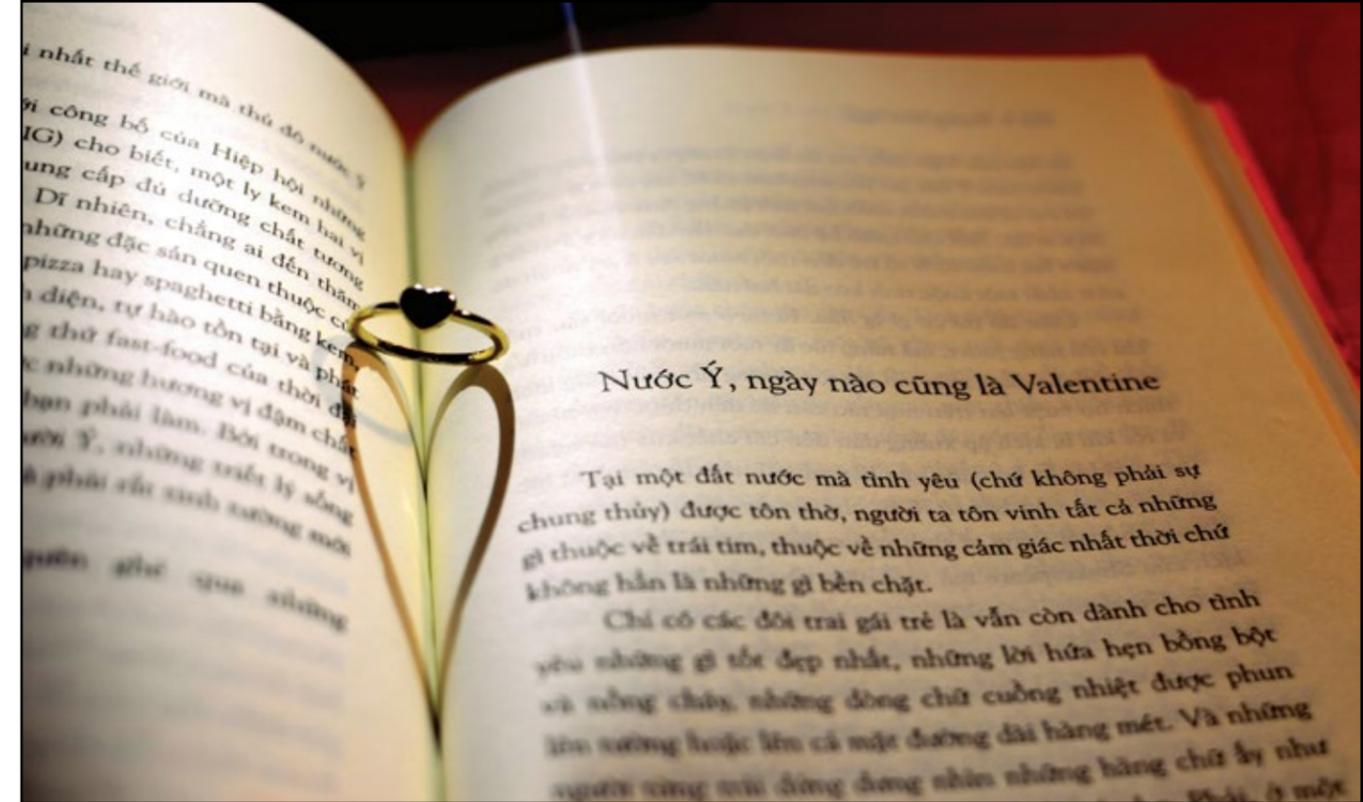
Petri Valtanen "Shadows"
Nikon D90, ISO 1600, f/6.3, 1/60 s, 65mm



Mikko Valkama "Don't Stop Reading"
Canon EOS 1100D, ISO 800, 1/80 s, f/5.6, 25mm
"So I didn't have a ring, but I guess a piece of paper did just fine."



Liya Lakerbaya "Love Story"
 Canon EOS 60D, ISO 2500, f/10, 1/10 s, 55 mm



Nguyen Hoang Anh "Italy, Every Day is Valentine!"
 Nikon D5100, ISO 100, f/3.5, 1/13 s, 35mm
 "Thanks to photography, I've found love is all around! I've observed that more important are the ideas of shooting rather than technique itself."



Anastasiia Shekhovtcova
 Canon EOS 550D, ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/25 s, 50mm

Sanna Hälikkää "Chairman"
Canon EOS 400D, ISO 100, f/16, 30 sec, 21mm



Painting with Light

*“In order for the light to shine so
brightly,
the darkness must be present”*

Sir Francis Bacon

Light painting is a specific photographic technique that consists of using long exposures to capture 'trails' of light in the air. This technique requires the use of a tripod to ensure that there is no movement of the camera, and a dark room or low light levels outdoors. Set your camera to Manual (M), and also the focus to manual. Use around f/8 and ISO 100 to get a sharp shot.

Decide where your subject (the light source) is going to appear, and focus on that spot - place something to focus on and light it with a torch so that you can see it clearly for focussing. Set your shutter speed to around 30 seconds and start painting.

Tip: It is useful to wear dark clothing to ensure that you are not recorded in the shot from any stray light hitting your clothing or skin. The kind of light source you can use can be anything, from specialist light wands (think Star Wars™), battery operated christmas tree lights, or even mobile phones and tablets. This technique can also be applied to street scenes at night with moving traffic.

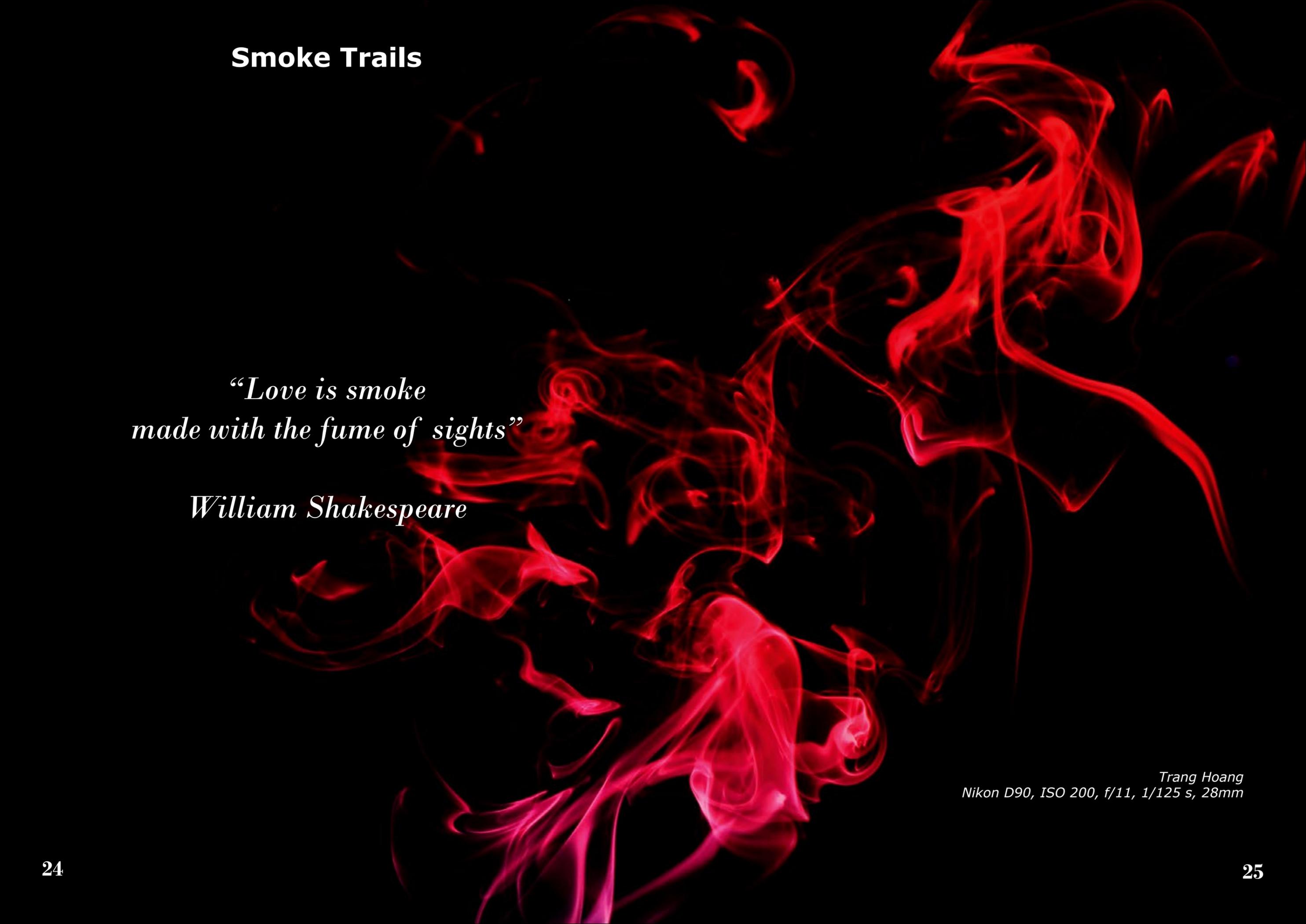


*Trang Hoang "Fire Ball"
Nikon D90, ISO 200, f/8, 5 sec, 28mm
"This photo looks like a giant fire ball to me."*



*Johanna Romppanen "Heart"
Canon EOS 350D, ISO-100, f/8, 10 sec, 27mm*

Smoke Trails



*“Love is smoke
made with the fume of sights”*

William Shakespeare

*Trang Hoang
Nikon D90, ISO 200, f/11, 1/125 s, 28mm*

Anna Bagdasaryan "Waves"
Canon EOS 700D, ISO 200
f/5, 1/125 s, 29 mm



There are two main methods for this: using off-camera flash (flashgun), or a desk lamp/spot lamp (high wattage if possible). The off-camera flash method requires of course a flashgun, and either a cable to attach the camera to the flash, or a wireless trigger. The desk lamp method is by far the cheaper solution if you do not have a flashgun. A third method but not so successful (as the smoke really needs to be lit up from the side and behind), can be using the built-in flash on the camera (if it has one).

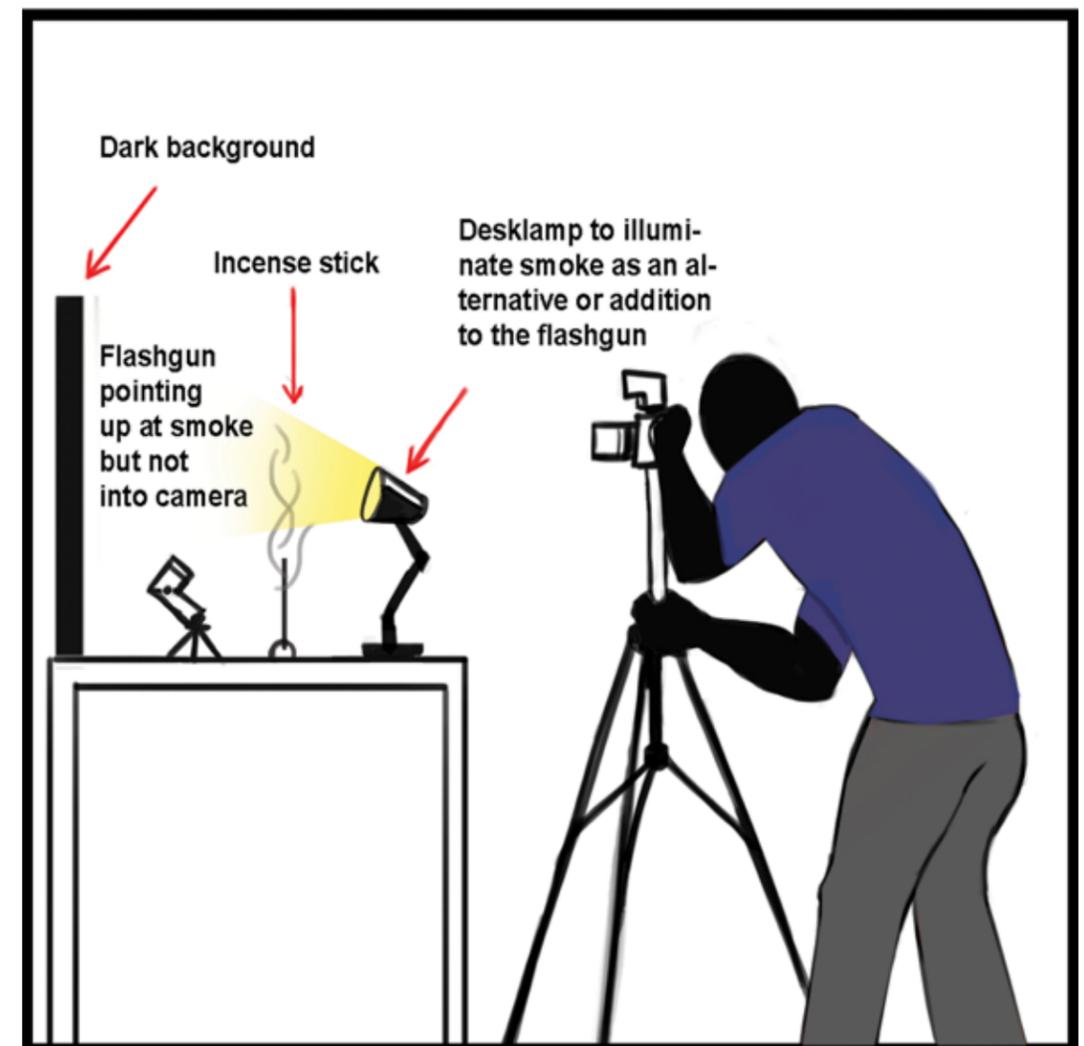


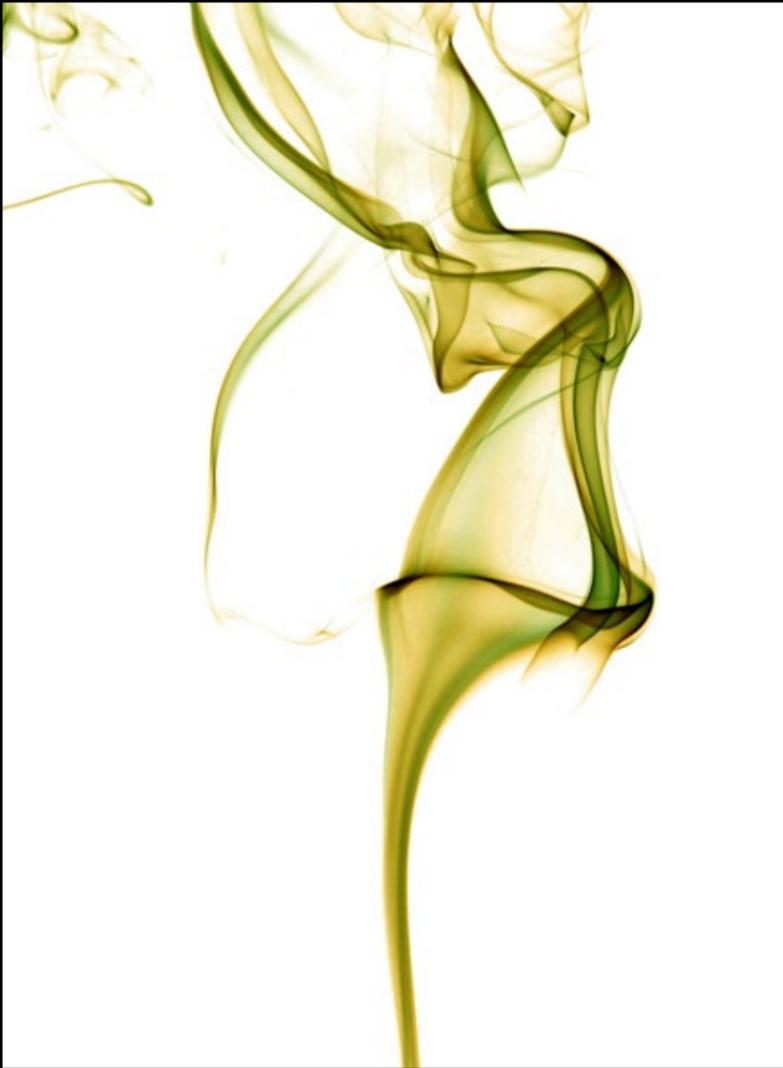
Kien Pham
Canon EOS 600D. ISO 100
f/8.0, 1/125 s, 55mm

Equipment needed:

- Camera
- Flashgun/desk lamp
- Black background (velvet is great as it absorbs light)
- Tripod
- Incense stick - can often be found in ethnic and health stores
- A draught-free room with not too sensitive smoke alarms (normally, household smoke alarms are not affected by this kind of 'smoke') and the ability to let the 'smoke fragrance' out afterwards

Place your camera on a tripod, then put it in Manual (M) mode, use ISO 100, 1/125 s (or your flash sync speed), f/11, and set the focus to manual. Place something where the main body of the smoke will rise and focus on that point. Make sure you do not move anything after this. Put the flash in manual mode and reduce the flash output to around 1/16, try not to light up the background with the flash or that the flash is visible in the lens of the camera. Turn out the room lights and start shooting. You may need to slightly adjust the flash power or your aperture to get the correct exposure for your setup.





*Thanh Vu "The Orchid"
Canon EOS 60D, ISO 100,
f/8, 1/125 s, 55mm*

*Ngoc Tran
Nikon D3100, ISO 100,
f/8, 1/125 s, 55mm*



*Minh Luong "The Story of Two"
Canon EOS 600D, ISO 100,
f/11, 1/125 s, 55mm*

"They are together, side by side until the end of time. Under the lights, they dance as if they are the last creatures left in this universe."



*Nguyen Anh
"Colourful Silk"
Canon EOS 600D, ISO 100, f/11, 1/100 s, 50mm
"As seeing the smoke trail, I imagine that it would be like a soft and fragile silk."*



*Mikko Valkama "Stretching"
Canon EOS 1100D, ISO 100, 1/125 s, f/7.1, 47mm
"Smoke is a hard thing to catch on a picture and it felt like it happens only by chance. This one was the most interesting one that I got. I converted it in Photoshop because I think it brings out the smoke better."*

Eda Brasileño-Hatanpää "Fly Me to the Moon"
Sony NEX-5N, ISO 100, f/11, 1/200 s, 75mm,
External flash 1/16 full power

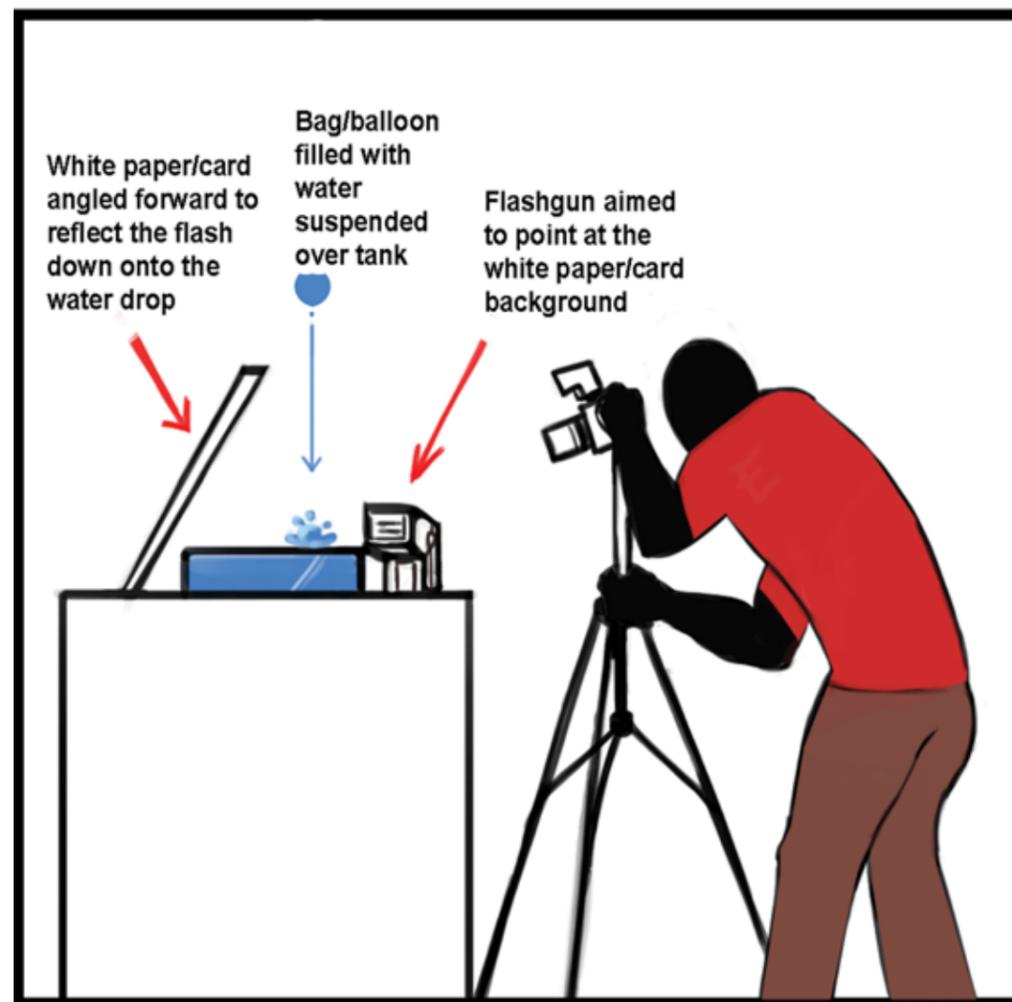


Water Droplets

"Time itself comes in drops"

William Jones

Another one for flashguns, but can also be achieved with a built-in flash, or enough available light using a fast shutter speed. Taking abstract shots of water drops/splashes. Place a tank of water (large glass/plastic dish, similar to a casserole dish or a deep tray) on a table top, then suspend a plastic bag filled with water above it (you will need something to hang it from). Make a pinhole in the bag and water will slowly drip out, about 1 drop per second is ok. Later, you could try about 6 drops per second to get more interesting shots. If you substitute the water for something more viscous like milk, you will get better drops.



To set up your shot put your external flash on Manual and reduce the flash power down to 1/16 of full power, and if using the built-in flash of your camera dial in - (minus) flash exposure compensation, this reduces the flash duration and a shorter duration will freeze the action better. Set your camera to Manual (M) and 1/200 s (or your flash sync speed), f/11 to start with and increase/decrease the f/stop as necessary to get the right exposure and DOF. The white paper/card for your background is to reflect the flash down onto the water so aim the flashgun at this.

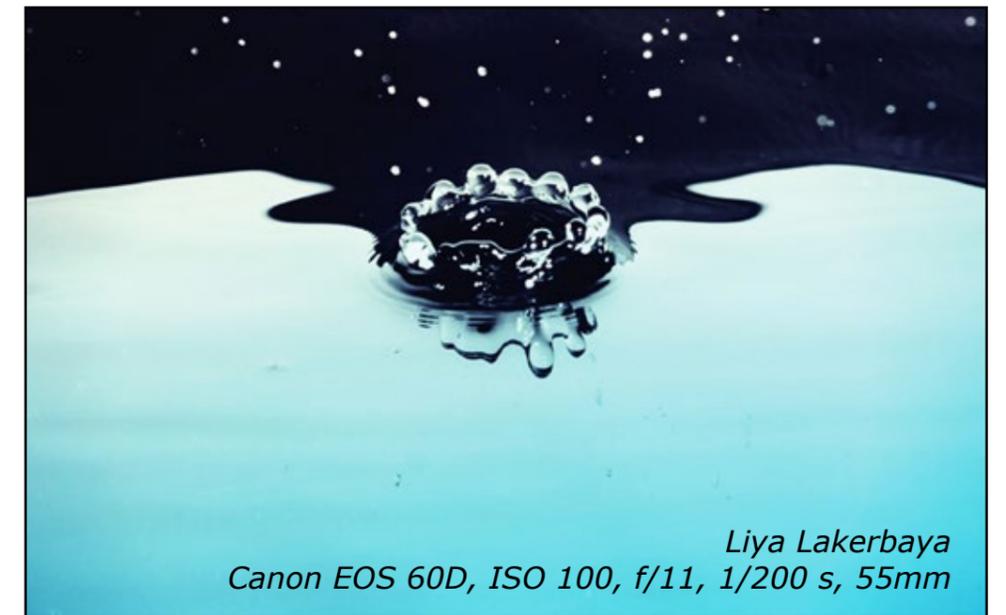
Put your focus on manual and then place something into the water tank, e.g. a pencil, where the drops will fall and focus on that. You will need to fire the shutter as the drop hits the water, and you will need to take many shots before you get it right. You might want to stop down the aperture to around f/16 to increase the DOF if you are using a macro lens or are quite close to the subject.



*Elina Matikainen
Canon EOS 1000D, ISO 100,
f/10, 1/100 s, 70mm*



*Nikita Kogankov
Nikon D90, ISO 100, f/11, 1/125 s, 50mm*



*Liya Lakerbaya
Canon EOS 60D, ISO 100, f/11, 1/200 s, 55mm*

Photo Story

“Antigonish”, William Hughes Mearns, 1899

*Yesterday, upon the stair,
I met a man who wasn't there.
He wasn't there again today,
I wish, I wish he'd go away...*

*When I came home last night at three,
The man was waiting there for me
But when I looked around the hall,
I couldn't see him there at all!*

*Go away, go away, don't you come back any more!
Go away, go away, and please don't slam the door...*

*Last night I saw upon the stair,
A little man who wasn't there,
He wasn't there again today
Oh, how I wish he'd go away...*

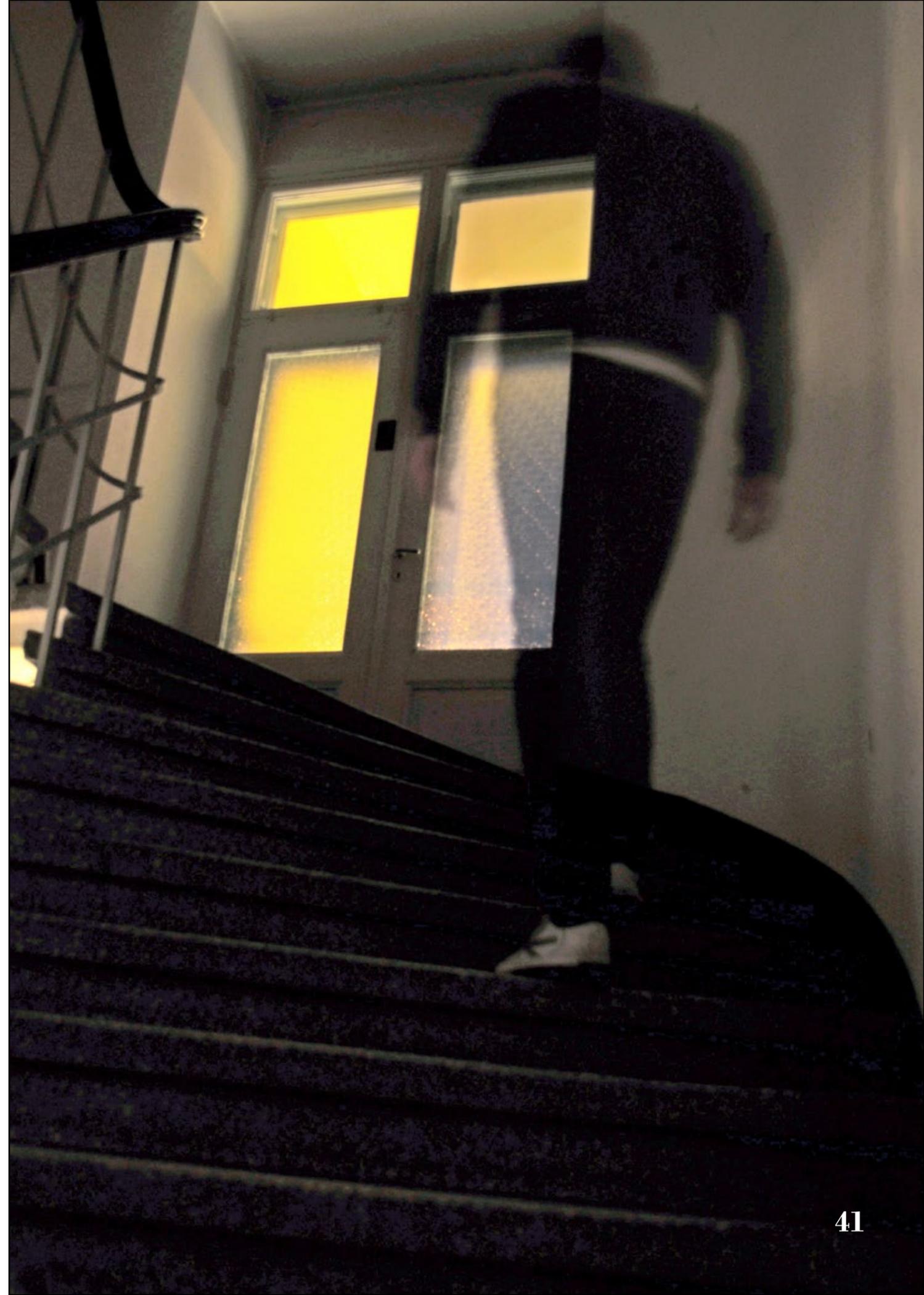
"Many photos tell a story"

Just like the saying, every picture tells a story. When a photographer takes a photo, they should have the intention to take a photo that contains emotion, feelings and vision.

Our students will tell you part of a story in this chapter, let's enjoy it, and to try to understand the meanings of the photographers. In the end, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Yesterday, upon the stair

*Petri Valtanen
Nikon D90, ISO 200, f/4, 30 sec, 22mm*



I met a man who wasn't there



Thao Tran
Canon EOS 600D, ISO 100,
f/4.5, 1/25 s, 33mm

10.2
See you tonight!
Can't wait!
xoxo
He

12.2
Join me for
dinner?
I'll pick you up
at 6. xoxo
He

14.2
Happy hearts' day,
Lovely!
Let's try dinner
again. I'll pick
you up after work,
♡ He

11.2
Sorry I couldn't
make it.
I'll make it up
to you ☹
♡ He

13.2
Sorry again ...
Couldn't leave
work early.
Crazy deadline ☹
He

15.2
This is awkward...
But sorry again,
darling.
See you ...
He

16.2
I'll cook dinner
tonight ☺
Please pick a
movie for later!
Kisses,
He

17.2
Oh, I forgot I was
supposed to meet
up with my pal
from high school...
I've stood you up
many times already.
I'm so sorry ☹

18.2
Don't bother trying...
Anymore.
She

He wasn't there
again today

Eda Brasileño-Hatanpää
Sony NEX-5N, ISO 400, f/4, 1/160 s, 75mm
"I was working around the theme 'Pictures speak louder than words'. Ironically, I came up with a simple idea to capture words with a camera instead and let it tell the story."



Oh, how I wish he'd go away...

When I came home last night at three

Hoang Tung
Canon 600D, ISO 800, f/4, 1/100 s, 27mm



The man was waiting.....there for me

*Elina Matikainen
Canon EOS 5D, ISO 640, f/2.8, 1/2000 s, 70mm*

"It took a while to find a perfect place to take a photo but I knew it had to do something with railways. The man is waiting for someone from the train. The sun was nearly down and gave beautiful light in the picture. My grandma's old bike gave the finishing touch."



But when I looked around the hall

Anastasiia Shekhovtcova
Canon EOS 550D, ISO 3200, f/5.6, 1/125 s, 34mm

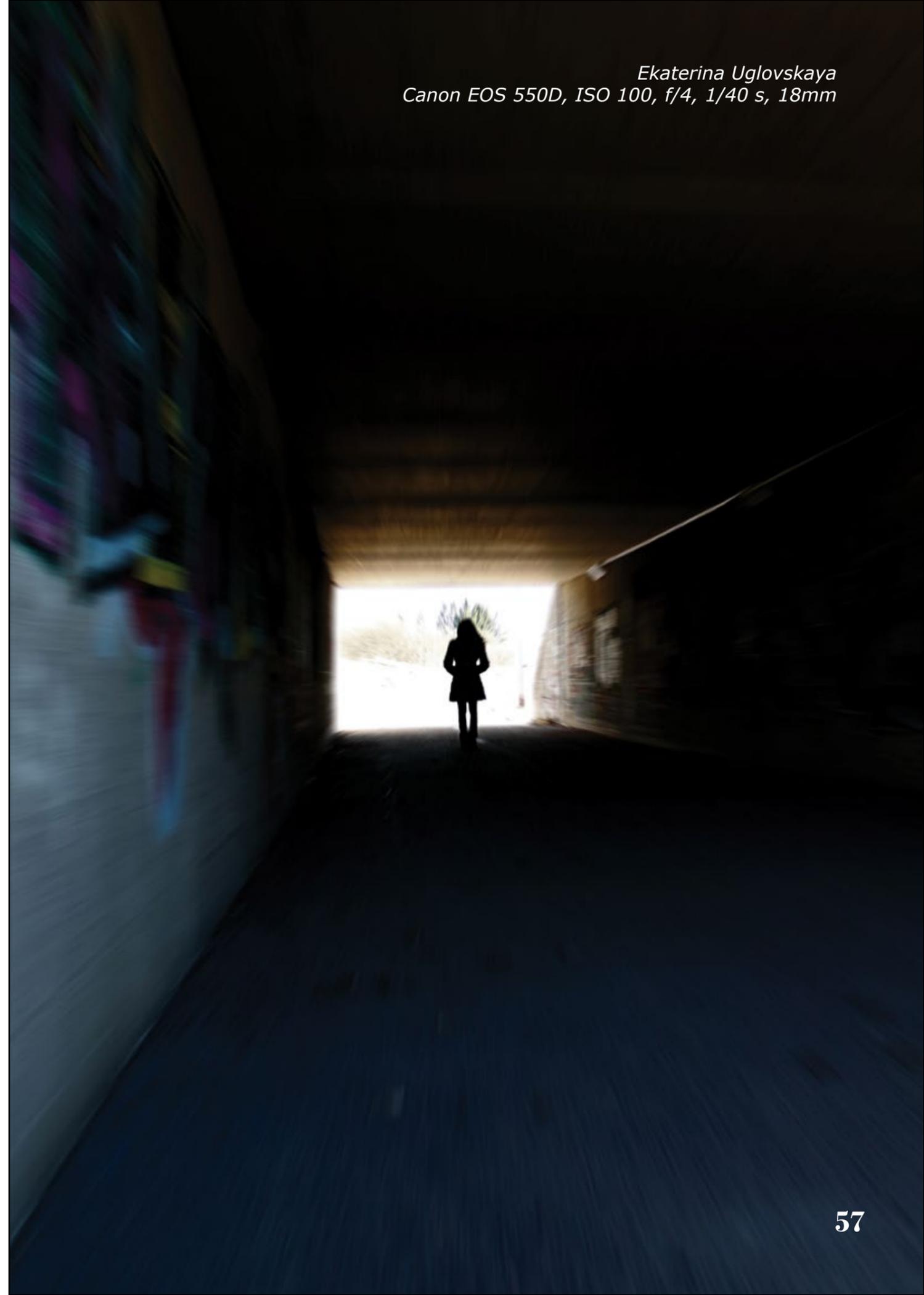


*I couldn't see him
there at all!*



*Trang Hoang
Nikon D90, ISO 400, f/2.8, 1/160 s, 135mm
"To me this sentence of the story is not only talking about vision but also a feeling of regret. It's like someone who's always there to get your back but you never realise until that one is gone."*

*Go away, go away,
don't you come back any more!*





*Go away, go away,
and please don't slam the door...*

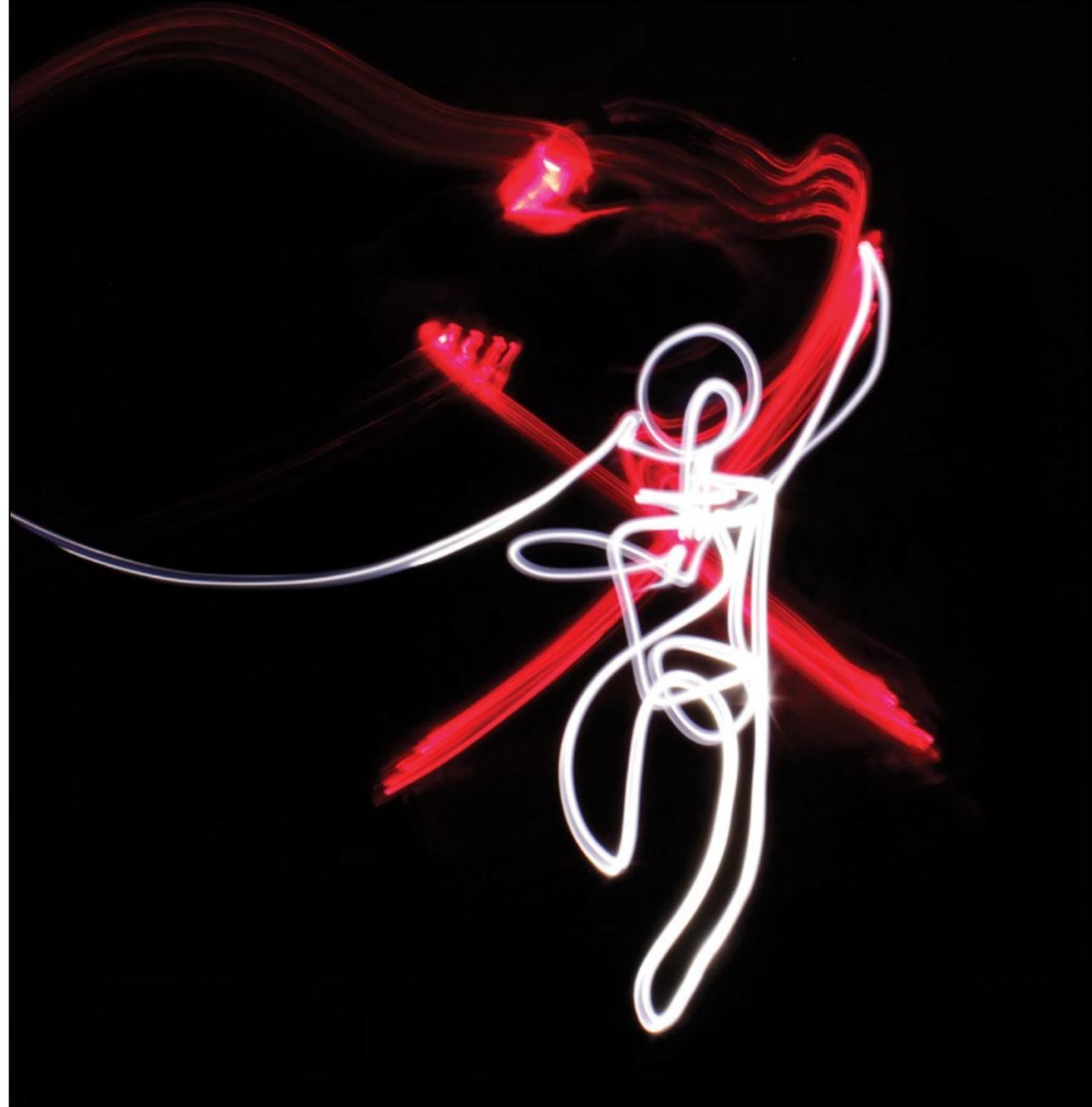
*Johanna Romppanen
Canon EOS 350D, ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/60 s, 47mm*

Last night I saw upon the stair

Anton Volkov
Canon EOS 500D, ISO 400, f/6.3, 1/8 s, 44 mm
"I decided to make a picture with a model,
looking towards a particular object, with a
shadow reflected from an overhead projector."



A little man who wasn't there



Mikko Valkama
Canon EOS 1100D, ISO 100, f/22, 25 sec, 18mm
"It was pretty difficult to get an idea for this sentence. First nothing came to my mind. Eventually I decided to use light painting, basically because I didn't know how to do it otherwise."



He wasn't there again today

Thanh Vu
Canon EOS 60D, ISO 200, f/5.6, 1/125 s, 55mm
"When I received the topic, I immediately thought of shooting something for two people so that it could highlight the disappearance of the subject. The double swings nearby my apartment were the perfect choice."



Oh, how I wish he'd go away

Minh Luong
Canon EOS 600D, ISO 100, f/5.6, 1/160 s, 18mm

Movement

This project explains how to take a photograph showing movement of people (or other objects). Use around half to one or more seconds depending on how fast subjects are moving. The idea is to show that there are people and not for them to be completely invisible. The longer the exposure and the faster they are moving the less they will show - if you use too long an exposure, they may disappear altogether!

You can use the modes Manual (M) or Time Value/Shutter Speed (Tv/S). Make sure that the environment is correctly exposed and that the focus and depth of field is correct for what you want to achieve, then think about capturing your subject.

Remember to balance exposures so that you can adjust where necessary, i.e. start with finding the correct exposure and adjust the shutter speed/aperture combination to obtain the same exposure value. For example, if you find that the scene exposes at a value of ISO 100, f/8, 1/2 s, but find that 1/2 s is not long enough to record the movement in the way you want and you decide that 2 seconds would be better, then that is going to be 2 full stops of difference (more light) from the original exposure (1/2 s > 1 s > 2 s), therefore you need to close (stop down) the aperture by 2 full stops to get the same exposure, which means f/16 (f/8 > f/11 > f/16). As you are using long exposures you should have a fairly small aperture opening, so depth of field will be sufficient. Also remember that a tripod (or other secure camera placement, e.g. table, low wall, etc) will be an absolute necessity at these long speeds. Also use a low ISO (100).

Take note of whether your camera is using half or third stop increments and adjust your calculations accordingly.

Half stops might be:

f/8 > f/9.5 > f/11 > f/13 > f/16

Third stops might be:

f/8 > f/9 > f/10 > f/11 > f/13 > f/14 > f/16

*“We see in order to move;
we move in order to see”*

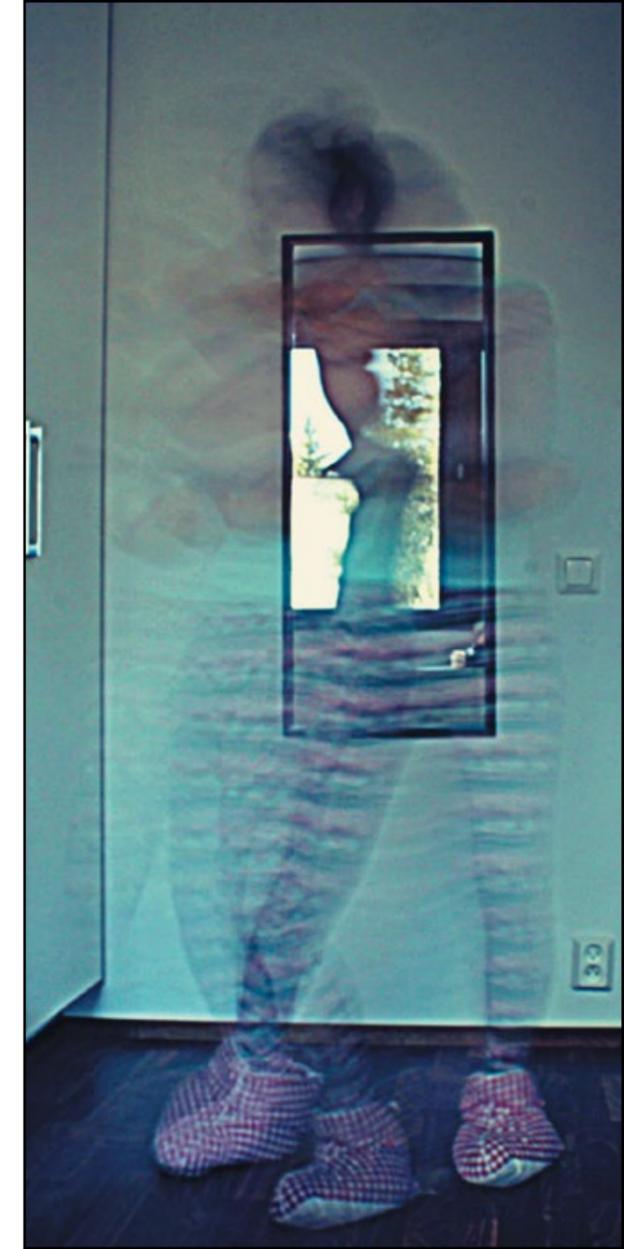
William Gibson



*Mikko Valkama, "Wait for Me!"
Canon EOS 1100D, ISO 100, f/20, 1/25 s, 20mm*



*Ekaterina Uglovskaya
Canon EOS 550D, ISO 100,
f/22, 1/4 s, 18mm*



*Liya Lakerbaya "Octopus"
Canon EOS 60D, ISO 100,
f/22, 1/6 s, 18mm*



Hoang Tung, "The Ghost Car"
Canon EOS 600D, ISO 800, f/7.1, 1/8 s, 55mm

Multiple Exposure

*“Exposure and experience is all,
what counts”*

Lovely Goyal



*Petri Valtanen
"Doomsday"
Nikon D90, ISO 200, f/11, 1/200 s, 98mm*

Multiple exposure is a photographic technique that combines separate frames into a single image. The technique has been practiced for many years - sometimes inadvertently in the days of film by loading an already exposed roll of film into a camera by mistake! Nowadays, digital manipulation can make it easier to create the same effect, with some digital cameras even have a setting to achieve this directly in camera.

To set up your shot make sure that your camera is secure on a tripod and does not move between exposures. Set the correct values for a good exposure and focus manually on a set point. Work out what you want to achieve and explain this also to your subject. Then simply have them strike a pose in one area of the frame moving on to a new pose in a different area after your press the shutter each time. It helps to use a cable release if you have one to ensure that you do not move the camera between shots.

After you get the images onto a computer, you will need to use an image editing program to create separate layers with each frame, and then carefully mask different areas of each layer allowing the subject below each layer to show through.



Eda Brasileño-Hatanpää "Alone"
Sony NEX-5N, ISO 800,
f/22, 1/25 s, 55mm



Elina Matikainen "Bored"
Canon EOS 1000D, ISO 100,
f/4, 1/40 s, 50mm



Anton Volkov "One Boy, Three Moods"
Canon EOS 500D, ISO 100,
f/7.1, 1/200 s, 18mm



*Mikko Valkama "Waiting for Warm Weather"
 Canon EOS 1100D, ISO 200, f/7.1, 1/30 s, 29mm
 "We found a pretty interesting background for the photo. I think it was Johanna Romppanen's idea. She was also the model in this picture. It was surprisingly hard to fit three figures in one picture without them stepping on each other."*

*Thanh Vu "Sofa Girl"
 Canon EOS 60D, ISO 1250, f.5, 1/20 s, 18mm
 "I had the intention of taking photos with my dear old rusty sofa since it would be sold a few days later. This photo shows some of my habits on the sofa: reading, taking a nap, teasing my flat mate etc."*



Kymintehdas Kuusankoski

The Kymintehdas area was formerly the site of a UPM factory. Today the area is home to many small businesses and also the Taideruukki art quarter, home to many local artists and artisans.

I visited this area with students in April 2014 as a field trip in order to explore the former factory buildings, many of which are now derelict and abandoned – perfect photographic material. The following pages display some of the students' chosen images.



*Nikita Kogankov
Nikon D90, ISO 160, f/8, 1/160 s, 30mm*



*Anna Bagdasaryan "Who Can Say Where the Road Goes"
Canon EOS 700D, ISO 100, f/7.1, 1/125 s, 18mm*

Petri Valtanen "Revolution"
Nikon D90, ISO 500, f/25, 1/3 s, 29mm



Anastasiia Shekhovtcova "Russian Book on the Expanse of Finland"
Canon EOS 550D, ISO 100, f/5.6, 1/30 s, 50mm



Mattea Näveri "Men at Work"
Canon EOS 1100D, ISO 100, f/6.3, 1/40 s, 37mm

Kien Pham "Old Electricity Lockers"
Canon EOS 600D, ISO 1600, f/4, 1/20 s, 24mm



Ngoc Tran
Nikon D3100, ISO 400, f/3.5, 1/80 s, 18mm



Anton Volkov "Something to Read"
Canon EOS 500D, ISO 100,
f/14, 1/40 s, 30mm
"They look like a footprint of that
big paper block."



Nguyen Hoang Anh "The Lorries"
Nikon D5100, ISO 500, f/3.5, 1/3200 s, Rokinon fisheye 8mm
"Different people look at different things from different angles.
Sometimes I am in love with close-up shots that bring me such
a dynamic feeling. Especially, with the effect of a fisheye lens,
the quiescent factory looks much more lively!"



Johanna Romppanen "Knock and the Door will Open"
Canon EOS 350D, ISO 400, f/8, 1/250 s, 31mm



Elina Matikainen "Pipes"
Canon EOS 1000D, ISO 100, f/2.8, 1/200 s, 48mm
"I love brick walls and when I saw this collection of pipes I wanted to take a picture of it. I found many other cool things and places but I just like this one."

Mikko Valkama
"At the End of the Tunnel"
Canon EOS 1100D, ISO 200,
f/11, 1/100 s, 55mm

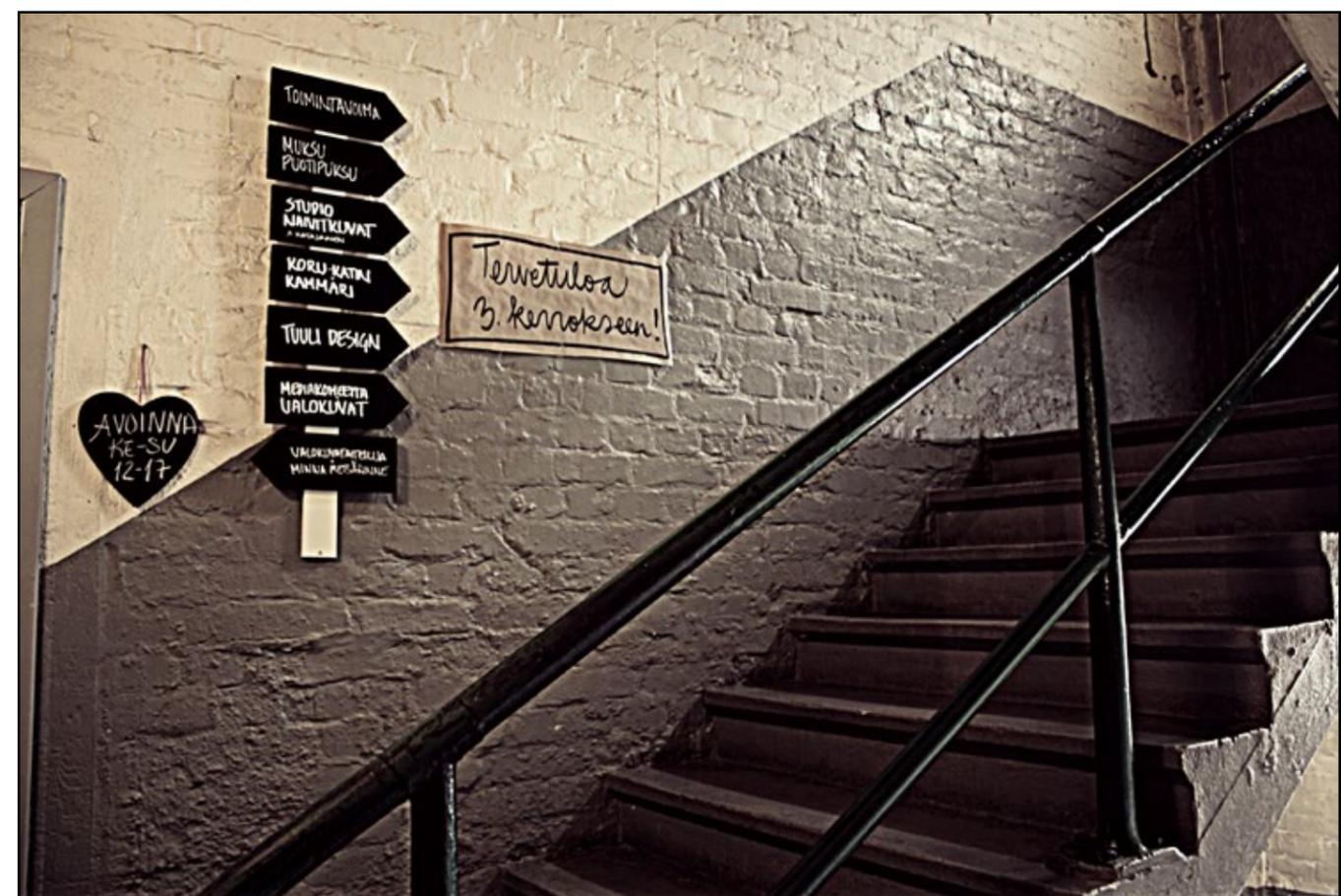


Hoang Trang "Sister's Chair"
Canon EOS 600D, ISO 100, f/9, 1/80 s, 37mm
"I was inspired by a fiction, which told the story of the two sisters, one of them passed away in the end of the book. I could not recall the title or the author's name, but the shadow of an empty chair on its cover impressed me so much that I keep recalling it."



Trang Hoang "No Way Out"
 Nikon D90, ISO 1000, f/2.8, 1/30 s, 28mm
 "To me this is an extraordinary place to create art. You can come up with freaky ideas here without being disturbed since it's an isolated area and you get the chance to see what you can't ever imagine. I found this old and rusty lavabo inside one of the abandoned buildings and immediately loved the creepy impression it gave me."

Thanh Vu,
 "Unexpected Guest"
 Canon EOS 60D,
 ISO 160, f/8, 1/80 s, 25mm



Liya Lakerbaya "Imminence"
 Canon EOS 60D, ISO 100, f/3.5, 1/3 s, 18mm

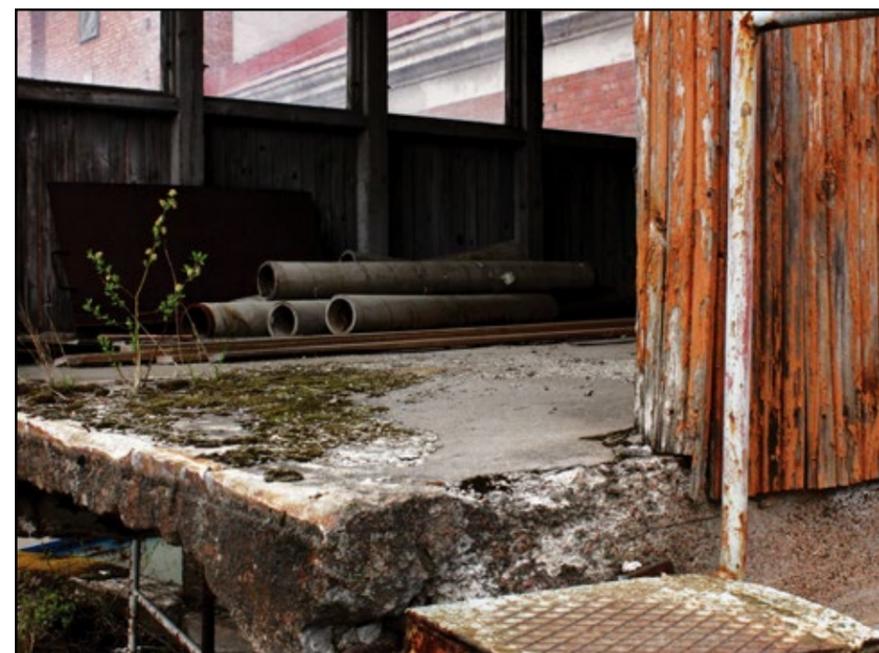


*Sanna Hälikkä
Canon EOS 400D, ISO 400,
f/4.5, 1/800 s, 40mm*

*Tatiana Uliashova
Nikon D60, ISO 200,
f/7.1, 1/200 s, 44mm*

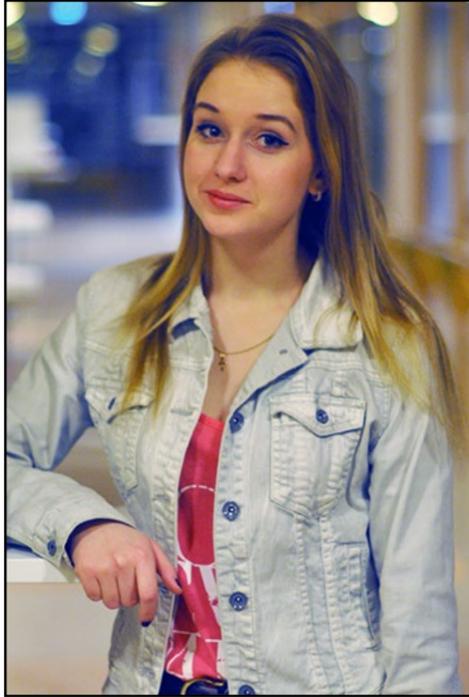


*Anh Thai
Canon EOS 650D, ISO 400,
f/4, 1/125 s, 27mm*



*Ekaterina Uglovskaya "Life Unexpected"
Canon EOS 550D, ISO 1600, f/13, 1/250 s, 27mm*

Photographers



Anastasiia Shekhovtcova

Personally for me, photography is the ability to feel seen again. Photographs help people remember the moments of our life as well as to feel some emotion again. For example everybody has an album with printed photographs of childhood. Throughout life we view these photos and every time thanks to them, we can return to the carefree world of childhood. On the other hand every photographer is the artist. When we see a quality image we can read the character of the photographer, his experiences and thoughts that he is trying to tell us.



Elina Matikainen

Hello there! My name is Elina and I come from Finland. I'm studying in a programme Multilingual Management Assistants. I started photographing about 5 years ago when I got my camera for a Christmas present. Since then I've been photographing all kinds of things. I've been asked to photograph for example in celebrations and parties. It means a lot to me if someone asks me to come and photograph. It's an honour and doesn't feel like work at all. Mostly I like to take pictures of people, nature and interiors. I get inspired by old buildings, white interiors and natural light. If I'm not taking pictures I love to look at some from the internet or magazines like Deko.



Anh Thai

Hobby. That's what I call photography. Everything I've seen, every place I've been to, they are all in my camera. For me they are new experiences in life, everything, snow, new cultures, new nations, new life. Traveling to some places and capture something I think is interesting, beautiful, amazing or strange always makes me enjoyable.



Nguyen Anh

Currently a second-year student at Kyamk. For me, photography is a powerful non-verbal language that is able to reflect all of the most complex emotions. Photography plays a significant role in my life because it captures every invaluable moment I've experienced even though I haven't had any feelings at that time. But every time I look back, each photo is considered as a piece that will enable to fulfill the whole picture of emotions.



Liya Lakerbaya

I was born in Saint-Petersburg. I am fond of taking beautiful pictures of people and nature. Photography is my hobby and it helps express myself artistically. I enjoy making nice pictures and it inspires me. Taking photographs is a creative process for me and it shows how I see this world, and of course, photography is also about keeping memories of different moments of my life.



Mattea Näveri

I am 25 years old, and counting. I am a second year design student and I come from Croatia. I like photography as I find it creative and a wonderful source of art. It also allows me to use mixed media. I will continue to pursue the skills and knowledge for photography as it nicely builds on my profession.



Kien Pham

The first things that come to my mind whenever I think about Photography are simplicity, perfection and inspiration. Those are aspects that I always keep in my priority. Seeing the world through the camera lens is definitely a wonderful and different experience which always inspires and motivates me in daily life. My photography style is all about life, still subjects, and outdoor portraits.



Mikko Valkama

I'm a second year industrial design student. I have had my camera now for about three years. I can handle it well but of course there is still a lot to learn. A camera is a good tool to save things, such as expressions, events feelings, etc., in a certain place and time. Photos can be just documentary, like the ones that a designer takes during a project. On the other hand they can create fictional stories that take you away from this world. Or they can be just about anything between those two. Anyway photography is a great method to expand one's understanding about everything.



Johanna Romppanen

I love taking pictures, especially when I travel! Pictures can capture amazing moments and make those moments last forever!



Tien Pham

For me, photography is the art of freezing and saving the invaluable life moments so that one day I can look back, no regrets!



Hoang Anh

As for me, photography is about capturing precious moments in my life. As some moments just come once in a lifetime. In my first priority, inspiration is artistic; and good cameras (& other technical support) may help make this picture more beautiful. Since photography and travel are my whole life passions, I cherish a dream to travel around the world to discover the wonderful life around me!



Ekaterina Uglovskaya

I have been in love with the process of taking pictures for a couple of years now. Photography is the art of expressing oneself. It is possible to show the way you see the world through the pictures that you take. Photography gives the ability to capture emotions and come back to the moments that are precious to your heart but faded from your memory.



Hoang Tung

Photography appears to be absolutely extraordinary in my mind since I had a chance to see a photography exhibition, and I definitely love something that can touch deeply to bottom of my heart where the greatest feeling could be effusive without the discrimination of social class, age or gender. Interestingly, pictures are different emotional puzzles of life – it could be evil, heaven, extreme grief, embarrassment, or even sickness, but we all can learn great deal of lessons as well as experiences from those, undeniably. In my opinion, photography should be considered as an international language in which everybody can truly experience in the emotional galaxy and understand thoroughly without knowing of any languages.



Petri Valtanen

I am an engineering student from Kotka. Personally for me, photography is about capturing precious moments in my life. It's a way to go back in time and remember good moments of your life.



Anna Bagdasaryan

First year International Business student in Kouvola



Trang Hoang

To me photography basically is capturing unexpected moments. It is you who has the power to freeze time and seize the emotion into - what I call - 'visible evidence' that you can show others, make them sense the same feeling you had when you took the picture. One thing I always bear in mind: just because you have a camera doesn't mean you are a photographer.



Thanh Vu

Coming to the photography world, I simply wish to capture my feelings. My photos' subjects are not necessarily splendid or exotic scenes or creatures. Whenever I find something moving me, making me emotional, I feel the need to capture that moment and hopefully be able to express those feelings through photos. They can be the most little ordinary things from daily life. Photography is truly a powerful tool to keep and tell stories.



Sanna Hälikkä

To me photography means capturing important moments and events in life. Every picture has been taken for a reason, so they all have a story to tell.



Eda Louise Brasileño-Hatanpää

I've always been interested in photography for as long as I can remember. I have done a lot of photo manipulation either for personal reasons or school projects, as well as in my line of work both as an architect and game designer. But I just got my enthusiast-oriented camera two years ago for a basic photography course I attended prior to the Creative Digital Photography class, and it was only then that I learnt how to use one. Before that, I only used compact cameras in any occasion using auto settings.

I always set a challenge for myself from the tasks given by the instructors. I want to create a story behind the photos I take because I myself am a big fan of storytelling. If the pictures fail to convey the meaning intended and the viewers don't see it the way it's meant to be, it doesn't really matter because I had a great time taking those photos and I have picked up something new in the process, and the memory is mine to keep.



Minh Luong

I am a second-year business student from Vietnam. Photography is a hobby that I started for not so long time but I have always enjoyed taking photos and learning about it. As for me, photography is a special tool to capture unforgettable moments in my life, to share my feelings and emotions with others and lastly to store beautiful pictures from journeys. Through pictures, I can recall memories that are faded from my mind and come back to those moments again.



Anton Volkov

Originally from St. Petersburg, but I've been in Finland for almost 14 years already. Photography is not just taking pictures to show them afterwards and say "look, here I am with this, here I am with that, and here is my 500 selfshots with iPhone in the mirror". Photography is something completely different, something that captures the emotions, the exact moment of that particular second, when you are taking the photo. Something that can transfer the viewer to that moment so he or she can feel everything that was happening at that time. Feel all the emotions just as own ones, and imagine being a part of that moment.



Ngoc Tran

I come from Vietnam. For me every memory is precious whether it is a bad or a good one, because it will never come back again. I enjoy capturing moments simply because whenever I look back, I see the place I've been, people I've met and realise how much I've grown from yesterday. Life is a long journey. Our point of view and experiences are different, that's why you can tell which photo you prefer but can not tell if it's better than another one. In the end, photography should be about expressing and sharing, not comparing or judging, right? Also, photography somehow reflects the person's personality. When you see someone's shot, you see things that they saw, sense the beauty that they sensed and may find yourself sharing the same feelings.



Tatiana Uliashova

For me photography means keeping different moments of my life because emotions which we experience at that moment can never be repeated. It is also a way to see extraordinary and vital in simple and not significant things and express all feelings without words.



Nikita Kogankov

My love of photography began many years ago, when I had an opportunity to visit a gallery of the best photos from National Geographic magazine. It was fantastic! After that I borrowed a camera from my parents and understood that it helps me to see the world from the other side! Nowadays, I always take part in different photo competitions with my lovely camera!



Hoang Trang

Yes, another business student at Kyamk. There are different ways people choose to express and to save themselves from hiding their true beauties in this normal, crowded, noisy and sometimes lonesome world. Some people write diaries, some take photographs. Photography for me means very same to the purpose of keeping a habit of writing a diary. It has the power as strong as literary works in evoking the readers' or viewers' sense of emotion, because that is the time when they see the beauty lying not only in the photos, but also in the soul of the creator.

Helpful Info

Terms

Bokeh – Refers to the out of focus area behind a subject due to a shallow DoF, seen in many images as small out of focus “circles” of light.

Composition – What you include in the field of view and the angle of your shot, when composing your image.

DoF – Depth of Field, this is determined by the aperture value you set and controls the amount of the subject that will be in focus. At very small apertures (e.g. f/22) focus can stretch from just in front of the camera to infinity, but at very large apertures the amount of the subject that is in focus can be very small resulting in only the subject remaining sharp with an out of focus background. DoF can also be influenced by the type of lens and camera-subject distance. Wide angle lenses usually have good DoF and are useful in landscape photography. Tele lenses usually with large apertures are better for producing out of focus backgrounds, useful in portraiture. Also, the closer the subject is to the camera such as in macro photography, the less DoF there will be, so the difference between a large and small aperture might only be millimetres.

f/stop – The value of the aperture measured in full stop, half stop or one-third of a stop (increments).

Focus – can be set to manual or automatic. Most cameras also have different versions of autofocus that are suitable for moving subjects.

ISO – International Standards Organisation value for “film speed” refers to the sensitivity of the image sensor in a digital camera. The lower the value the better the quality (less sensor “noise”), but the higher the value the more sensitivity for low-light shooting. This can be useful when you cannot or do not want to open up the aperture any further or increase the exposure time.

Noise – Usually seen in the image when high ISO values are used. Some camera sensors handle noise better than others.

Sensitivity – See ISO

Stopping down – Closing the aperture of the lens so that the opening is smaller.

Common Camera Modes

Auto – Fully automatic, the camera controls everything and you really have no room for creativity except for composure. Ideal for giving your camera to someone else for snapshots.

P – Programmed automatic exposure (Programme AE, also called Programme Shift), the camera takes care of the shutter speed/aperture combination although you can influence these. Ideal for general purpose photography when you don't have time to fiddle with the settings.

A/Av – Aperture Priority, you set the aperture and the camera matches the shutter speed according to the light levels. Ideal when you want to take control of the DoF. Used by many photographers as their standard shooting mode.

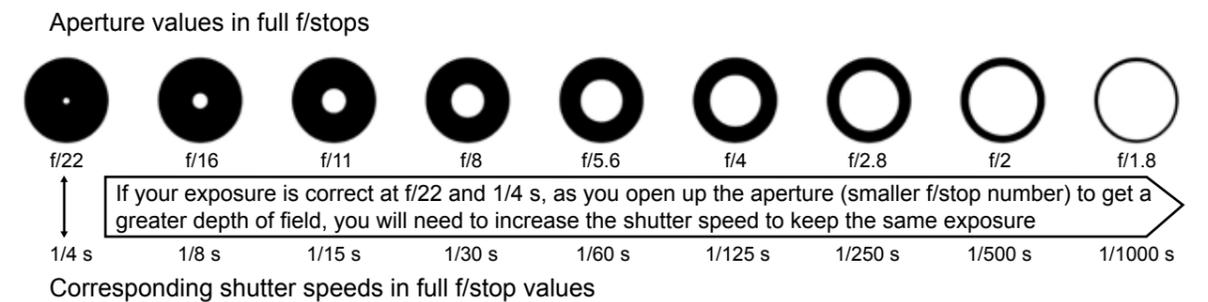
S/Tv – Shutter Priority/Time Value, you set the shutter speed and the camera matches the aperture value according to the light levels. Ideal when you wish to take control over the length of time of the exposure and do not need to worry about DoF.

M – Manual, you control the aperture and shutter speeds, setting them according to the lighting conditions and your creative mood. Full control over your camera and recommended to use to get a better understanding of creative digital photography!

Exposure: aperture value and shutter speed

One of the most important aspects of photography is getting the exposure right because it determines how light or dark an image is and what mood it conveys. The two most important exposure controls are the shutter speed and aperture because both affect the total amount of light reaching the image sensor.

- The shutter opens to begin an exposure and closes to end it. The shutter speed setting determines the length of time the shutter is open to expose the image sensor.
- The aperture is the hole through which light enters the camera. The size of the hole can be changed to control the amount of light that reaches the image sensor.



Setting corresponding aperture and shutter speed values

CREATIVE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

ANNA BAGDASARYAN
MINH LUONG
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EDDA BRASILENO-HATANPÄÄ
PETRI VALATANEN
ANH THAI
SANNA HÄLIKKÄ
ANTON VOLKOV
HUGH CLACK
TIEN PHAM
HOANG ANH
TUNG HOANG
ELINA MATIKAINEN
EKATERINA UGLOVSKAYA
NIKITA KOGANKOV
ANASTASIYA SHEKHOVTCOVA
NGA DINH
MATTEA NÄVERI
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