

March 2020

Meetings held at Age Concern Rooms in Forth Street, Invercargill at 7.30pm on the first & third Thursday of each month.

## Supper Duty

5 March:

Shane Todd, Wayne Leary

19 March:

David Clearwater, Lindsay Dickson

5 March

**7 pm: Photography Basics**

**Results: Open (1) C Grade**

**Guest Speaker: Ron Willems**

**Set Subject: Guilty Pleasures**

19 March

**Results: Open (1) A&B Grades**

**Member's Portfolio**

**The Autochrome Process**

30 January

Being the first night of the year, we started with a short review of the EOY results from 2019.

This was followed by showing the AV of the Photo Walk the Club had at the end of November.

Dave Watson had a couple of AVs of firstly the Demolition, and on Multiculturalism in Invercargill. Well done, Dave.

Then Stephanie had some wise words about entering SPS Competitions. Please take care you fulfil all the requirements, it makes it so much easier for all those that deal with the Competition process.

6 February

The topic for this night was 'Transform the Everyday'. We started by looking at the Jane Trotter AV.

This was followed by another AV put together by Annie, then Annie, Barbara and Val ran a practical workshop in the Dining area of the Age Concern rooms.

20 February

Another great night - we started with our patron Graham Dainty speaking and showing photos about his 'Motorbike adventure' which included comment about his journey as a photographer.

This was followed by a 'Great Photography Challenge' put together by Les and Dave (accompanied by 'distraction!'). How did you get on?

Q: What is a French cat's favourite dessert?  
A: Chocolate mousse

Q: What is an astronaut's favourite chocolate?  
A: A Mars bar

*'Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' the Divorce Court Judge said, 'And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week,'*

*'That's very fair, your honour,' the husband said. 'And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself.'*

*While shopping for vacation clothes, my husband and I passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since I had even considered buying a bathing suit, so I sought my husband's advice.*

*'What do you think?' I asked. 'Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?' 'Better get a bikini,' he replied. 'You'd never get it all in one.' He's still in intensive care.'*

## Please Note:

**If you would like a copy of the Audio file pertaining to your entries (only after showing on Club Night, and only your own entries) - please contact me by email. I am happy to oblige! Please email me.**

**Patron:** Graham Dainty

**Office Bearers:**

**President:** Cheryl McMath

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Immediate Past President:** Barbara Lee

**Secretary:** Liz Collett

**Treasurer:** Les Ladbrook

**Committee Member:** Ian Smith, Val Wardell, Stephanie Forrester, David Watson, Rosemary McGeachie, Gillian Maclean

**Projected Image Secretary:** Stephanie Forrester

**Print Secretaries:** Ian Smith, Cheryl McMath

**Newsletter Editor:** Rosemary McGeachie

**Facebook/Webpage:** Les Ladbrook

## How Practicing Abstract Photography Can Influence Your Photography

Also known as experimental, non-objective or conceptual photography, abstract photography depicts imagery removed from the immediately identifiable subject matter. Gaining momentum at the hands of photographers like Alvin Langdon Coburn and Paul Strand, practicing abstract photography explores the bare bones of image-making.

Abstraction has performed a critical role in pushing the boundaries of the photographic medium. In this article, we'll look at ways in which abstract photography can inspire your creative approach to all photographic genres.



### Focusing on detail

One of the most predominant ways to create abstracted imagery is through isolation.

Isolation in abstraction involves zooming in on detail, creating a study of subject matter that may otherwise go unnoticed. Through isolation, context is replaced with an emphasis on intimate detail. By elevating detail, the unnoticed subject matter is given a new visual significance.

Abstraction places a great deal of importance on details. As a result, many abstract photographers develop a strong sense of detail in any situation.

Naturally, an eye trained for subtle details proves useful in other facets of photography too. It allows a photographer to pinpoint interesting elements of a scene with greater efficiency.

By practicing abstract photography, the photographer becomes attuned to the visual weight of unique subject matter. This translates to deeper, more engaging photography as a whole.



### Experimentation

Abstraction expands on our understanding of the photographic medium through re-invention. Of course, experimentation is not limited to abstraction. However, abstract photography emphasizes alternative approaches to subject matter. This stimulates creative thought which then flows through to other areas of photography.

Alternative processes, in-camera techniques, image manipulation... abstraction emphasizes the expression of fresh creative possibilities through constant experimentation.

Photographers like Andrew S. Gray, Wolfgang Tilmans and Barbara Kasten all push the boundaries of photographic art. Their work, and the work of countless other abstract photographers, is proof that practicing abstract photography expands the creative horizon of photography as a whole.



### Creating something unique

Abstract photography is highly subjective - every photographer approaches abstraction from a unique perspective.

This means that individual emotions, experiences, and ideas are embedded in abstract visual responses. The more you practice abstract photography, the easier it will be to identify abstract subject matter that fascinates you. It will open up more and more opportunities to hone your skills.

There is no right or wrong way to create your own abstract photography.

In fact, you may not even need a camera.

Because of this, practicing abstract photography provides a free space to forge a unique aesthetic that inevitably carries through to other facets of photography.

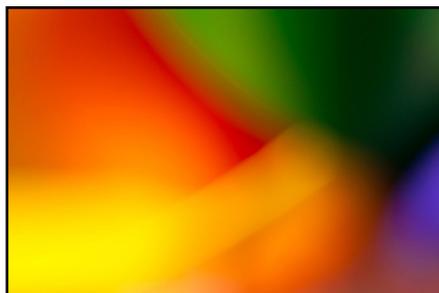


### Pressing the reset button

Adhering to the more formal qualities of photography can sometimes culminate in creative fatigue. Abstraction tends to relax the grip of the photographic convention, adhering instead to the instinctual responses of the photographer.

This means that practicing abstract photography can provide a much-needed *reset button* for photographers suffering from creative weariness.

Abstraction beckons the photographer to capture subject matter that resonates on a personal level. Satisfying lines, intriguing textures, ephemeral colours...Practicing abstract photography reconnects a photographer with the basics of photography and creativity.



### Honing in on composition

Although lacking in objective subject matter, abstraction still relies on the principals and elements of design to cultivate imagery. Elements like form, line, colour, and texture are as relevant to abstract photography as they are any other genre. Likewise, precepts such as the rule of thirds

*Continued on Page 3*

or leading lines can also shape the way an abstract image is digested. Practicing abstract photography coaxes out reflexive responses to image-making, revealing gaps in compositional knowledge and introducing new approaches to subject matter.

Compositional instincts honed within the bounds of abstraction spill over to other types of photography too, revealing practical insights into your own image-making process.



## Conclusion

Abstract photography is sometimes approached with confusion or trepidation. However, in practice, abstract photography is often a liberating and invigorating undertaking.

Though lacking in specific subject matter, abstract photography operates on creativity, critical thinking, and personal growth. Without the freedom that abstract photography affords, photography would be a much more rigid and prescriptive undertaking.

Abstract photography encourages a focus on detail, experimentation, and skill. It can also be a welcome respite from creative fatigue. Availing itself to the unique inclinations of the individual photographer, practicing abstract photography builds on the foundations of the photographic process.

*Adapted from: Megan Kennedy - digital-photography-school.com*

*A doctor examining a woman who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the husband aside, and said, 'I don't like the looks of your wife at all.'*  
*'Me neither doc,' said the husband. 'But she's a great cook and really good with the kids.'*

*Sometimes when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, 'It is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver.'*  
*Babe Ruth*

*A secondary school teacher was arrested yesterday at London's Heathrow International airport as he attempted to board an international flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a pair of compasses, a slide-rule and a calculator.*

*At a press conference, a UK Border Control spokesman said he believes the man is a member of the notorious extremist Al-Gebra movement.*

*He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the Police with carrying weapons of maths instruction.*

*'Al-Gebra is a problem for us,' the Spokesman said. 'They derive solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values.' They use secret code names like 'X' and 'Y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns;' but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, 'There are three sides to every triangle.'*

*In Washington, when asked to comment on the arrest, President Trump said, 'If God had wanted us to have better weapons of maths instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes.'*

*White House Officials told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by the President.*

*'When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin when we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven!'*  
*George Bernard Shaw*

*A gushy reporter interviewing Lydia Ko asked, 'You are spectacular; your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?'*  
*Lydia replied, 'The holes are numbered.'*

*The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.*

*When a woman says "What?" it is not because she didn't hear you, she is just giving you a chance to reconsider what you just said!*

*The graduate with a science degree asks, 'Why does it work?'*  
*The graduate with an engineering degree asks, 'How does it work?'*  
*The graduate with an accounting degree asks, 'How much will it cost?'*  
*The graduate with an arts degree asks, 'Do you want fries with that?'*

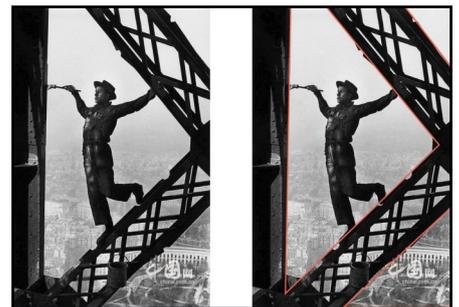
*A farmer gets a phone call from his son. 'I've run over a pig and he's stuck under the tractor still alive' says the son. 'Shoot it,' says the farmer, 'and then bury it.'*  
*About 10 minutes later he gets another call...*  
*'Done that, now what should I do with his speed camera and motorbike?'*

### IMPOSSIBILITIES IN THE WORLD

- 1) You can't count your hair.
  - 2) You can't wash your eyes with soap.
  - 3) You can't breathe when your tongue is out.
- Put your tongue back in your mouth, you silly fool.*

## Short Composition Hint - Look for Triangles

Triangles have a strong visual impact and you don't need to photograph *literal* triangles to achieve this effect. All you need are three visual points that exist in a somewhat triangular formation. The viewer's imagination will connect the dots and tie all elements of the photograph together! The imagined triangle may extend out beyond the edges of your photo as well, so don't worry if it's not completely confined inside the frame.



*'Eiffel Tower' by Marc Riboud*

**PRO TIP:** Try creating a triangular composition with a low camera angle to add depth to landscape photos.

*A dying man gives each of his best friends - a lawyer, doctor and clergyman -- an envelope containing \$25,000 in cash to be placed in his coffin.*

*A week later the man dies and the friends each place an envelope in the coffin.*

*Several months later, the clergyman confesses that he only put \$10,000 in the envelope and sent the rest to a mission in South America.*

*The doctor confesses that his envelope had only \$8,000 because he donated to a medical charity.*

*The lawyer is outraged, 'I am the only one who kept my promise to our dying friend. I want you both to know that the envelope I placed in the coffin contained my own personal check for the entire \$25,000.'*

*'Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, Lord,' and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good Lord, it's morning.'*

*Sunday after church, a Mum asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, 'Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt.'*

*Needless to say, the Mum was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mum asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said 'Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming.'*

### OFFICE MATHEMATICS

*Smart boss + smart employee = profit*  
*Smart boss + dumb employee = production*  
*Dumb boss + smart employee = promotion*  
*Dumb boss + dumb employee = overtime*

# Wild Child Workshops

Unleashing your Creative potential

## A workshop weekend by Gail Stent and Judy Stokes

Two creative Auckland photographers, Gail Stent and Judy Stokes are keen to share their insights into creativity with photographers around New Zealand. They have both won awards for their images. Nationally and internationally and use a variety of techniques and approaches that they would be happy to show you to help you unleash your creative potential and set alight your passion for photography. They will help you let your camera become just a tool to express yourself and capture the essence of the moments found before you. Gail and Judy both have a love for, and experience in, sharing their skills with others.

To see more of Judy and Gail's work do visit their websites:

<https://judystokesphotography.com> and <http://www.gailstentphotography.com>

Last year (2019) we did not hold a w/e workshop because we were hosting the Southern Regional Convention, but this year, we are making up for it with two tutors and a great program!

We are very fortunate that Judy & Gail are going to join us for our weekend at the

### Lakeland Park, Kelvin Heights 15-17 May 2020

Program detail to be finalised, but it will be a full-on weekend and include inspirational presentations, hands-on workshops (multi-media work, Intentional Camera Movement, multiple exposures, light painting, creative landscapes,) and some post processing tips.

Format will be similar to previous occasions - start Friday evening - finish Sunday midday.

Shared bunk-style accommodation (2per room - bring own bedding) and we will be catering for ourselves. Check out location at : <https://www.lakelandpark.co.nz>. (But note - the club has a block booking and accommodation will be included in the final price).

More detail (including cost) soon.

This just to whet your appetite in the meantime!

Numbers will be restricted, so be ready when we ask for names attending.

## Short Composition Hint - Look for Symmetry

Symmetry is all about finding balance in your image. The most simple type of symmetry is dividing the scene in half either vertically or horizontally where both halves have a very similar structure to them, like the image of the Taj Mahal below. Unlike other composition techniques, symmetry is based on minimizing contrast. To master the art of symmetry, you must consider size, shape, colour, line, and texture as elements to balance.



'Taj Mahal, Agra, India' by Annie Spratt

An elderly man in Florida had owned a large farm for many years. He had a large pond in the back, picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some orange and grapefruit trees. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming when it was built. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while, and he grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit while he was about it. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, 'We're not coming out until you leave!' The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked.' Holding the bucket up, he said 'I'm here to feed the alligator.' Moral: Old men like to look at pretty women and can still think fast.

When a woman says 'What?' it is not because she didn't hear you, she is just giving you a chance to reconsider what you just said!

## Short Composition Hint - Centre Your Subject

The Rule of Thirds is a powerful compositional technique, but sometimes, just placing your subject right in the centre of your photo is the perfect spot. Three ideal scenarios for centring your subject:

1. When you're taking a close-up shot in which your subject occupies most or all of the frame.
2. When there's nothing in the background to distract from your subject.
3. When you're specifically



looking to present some kind of symmetry.

'Migrant Mother' by Dorothea Lange

**PRO TIP:** To create a more refined look in a centred portrait, try having your subject look off to the side. This sometimes adds an element of mystery or longing that gives the image more appeal than a vacation picture or corporate headshot.

1. **THINGY** (thing-ee) n. Female..... Any part under a car's hood. Male..... The strap fastener on a woman's bra.
2. **VULNERABLE** (vul-ne-ra-bel) adj. Female.... Fully opening up one's self emotionally to another. Male.... Playing football without a cup.
3. **COMMUNICATION** (ko-myoo-ni-k ay-shon) n. Female... The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner. Male... Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.
4. **COMMITMENT** (ko-mit-ment) n. Female.... A desire to get married and raise a family. Male..... Trying not to hit on other women while out with this one.
5. **ENTERTAINMENT** (en-ter-tayn-ment) n. Female... A good movie, concert, play or book. Male..... Anything that can be done while drinking beer.
6. **MAKING LOVE** (may-king lov) n. Female..... The greatest expression of intimacy a couple can achieve. Male.. Call it whatever you want, just as long as we do it.
7. **REMOTE CONTROL** (ri-moht kon-trohl) n. Female.... A device for changing from one TV channel to another. Male... A device for scanning through all 375 channels every 5 minutes.

The more Vodka I drank, the cleaner the house looked!