

Creativity, Inspiration and Fun with Photography



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There are various techniques that can be used to deliver creatively different images and open the door to your individual expressive output.

In the simplest terms, what we do when we have a camera in our hands is:

- **Compose**
- **Expose**
- **Focus**
- **Process**

Today's cameras are capable of taking care of three of those disciplines, leaving many people to view the art of creativity as composition alone. We've all heard, "I have a good eye!"



There is a little more involved in *contemporary photography!*

Creative Vision

Visual Design

Technical & Creative Capture

Expressive Processing

The first key distinction here is two words, *creativity and expression.*



If you want to communicate only the following messages...

- I was here.
- The place looked like this.
- The weather was like this.
- I was with these people.

...your photograph will communicate well with friends and family! But if you want to articulate on a more meaningful level remember what Ansel Adams always said, “There are two people in every photograph: **the photographer and the viewer.**”





We have to remember the viewer has none of our sensory perception that was working on overdrive while we were making the photograph such as:

- Touch
- Taste
- Sound
- Moods
- Emotions
- Feelings

When capturing an image, our experience of the world is intense and complete. When viewers look at our photographs, all they have are two dimensions of luminosity and tone/color.

If we have any chance of instilling even a little of what we *experienced* when taking the photograph, then we need to load the image with plenty of **triggers and emotions.**

Think about these questions honestly and you will be on the right path to finding your own style and expression.

1. What is it about this scene in front of you that makes you want to make a photograph?
2. What is the overall mood of this experience: happy, overwhelming, sad, melancholy, uplifting, or oppressive?
3. Is there a way that you can capture, convey, or impact the emotion (feeling) to the viewer?
4. If you had to explain this experience to someone over the phone in 10 seconds, where would you start and what would you want to say?

The final question here is critical, because it teaches us to be concise!!



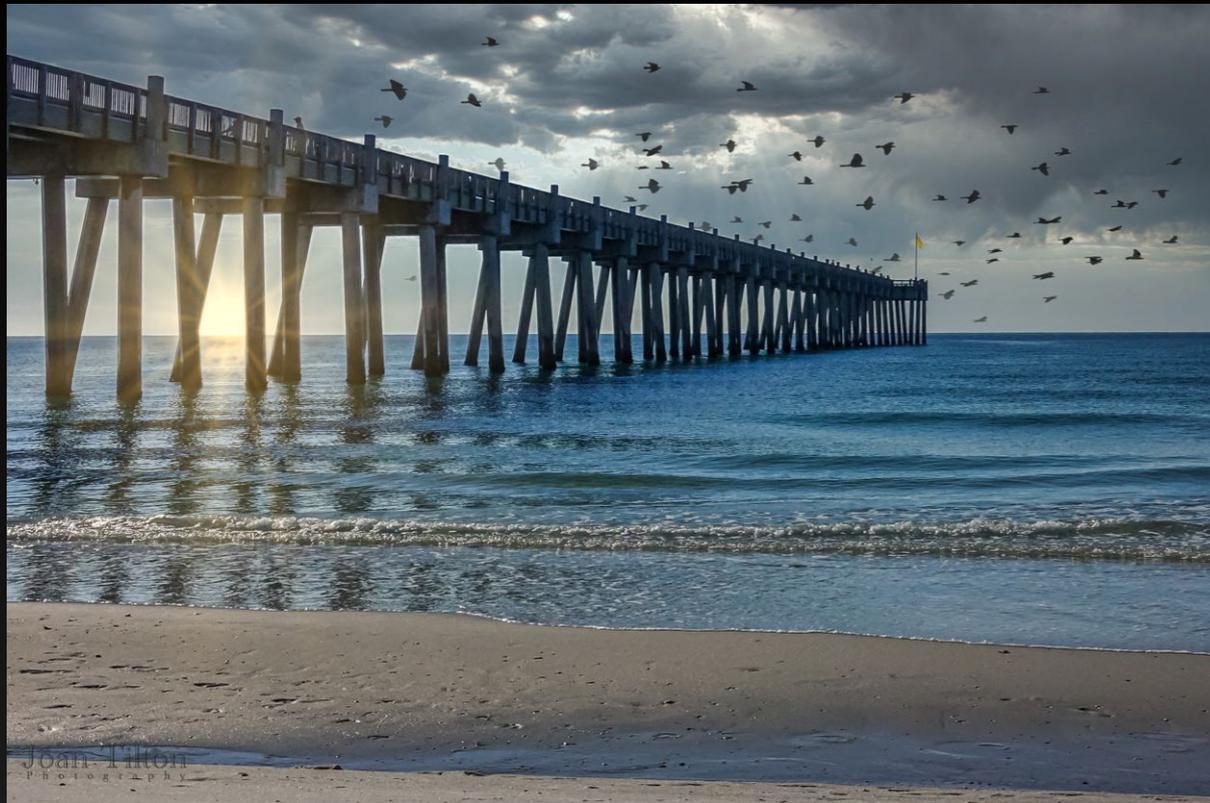
We are all unique and see the world in a different way. Also, think about the following:

- When you spot something to photograph, find out what *inspires* you to take the photograph.
- Identify the subject in the scene (mountain, tree, lake, waterfall, etc.). Do you want it to be dominant? If not, it can become a contextual anchor.
- If shooting icons or sculpture, look for incongruities, twists and fresh *angles*.
- *Shutter Speed = Creative Capture!! It influences the mood in photography. Fast shutter speeds freeze motion and create more energy and excitement. Longer shutter speed blur movement and feel calmer.*
- Do not be afraid of taking creative risks. Try new things. Break rules.
- ***Shoot to please yourself, not others.***





Photography has two phases: times when you are out with a camera in your hand and times when you are at home in front of the computer processing your images.



Creativity is the use of your imagination or original idea in the production of an artistic work. It is also following your curiosity and asking “what if”?



Expressive processing is not new, the tools have changed and the time in which we can effect these changes has reduced exponentially.

Everything in photography is progressive and you can learn and improve as you go along. We are also constantly influenced by the images of other photographers.

Remember, just as Ansel Adams did ¹⁰with his masterful prints of the American West, every image needs processing.



Lightroom is today's darkroom and is a great tool to begin expressing your "what if" ideas!

As photographers it is pretty much in our job description to produce creative and inspiring work.



LOSE YOURSELF IN YOUR WORK
AND
LEARN SOMETHING NEW

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH CREATIVITY



Joan Milton
Photography

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ART PROVIDES INFINITE INSPIRATION



Let yourself enjoy the process.
Open your mind to happy surprises!
Welcome the joy!

A list of some of my techniques!

- Tomatoes—fish eye lens
- Wine Bottles—fish eye lens and Reflect Studio
- Meters on wall—super saturation in Lightroom
- Woodlands Waterway— triangle mirror tube and slide reflection
- Little boy—shot as is and cropped
- Glass palm tree—shot in front of laptop white led screen
- Boat—shot with wide angle and texturized in Topaz Texture
- Bridge—angled low, birds added from Luminar 4
- Band at Sunset—saturated and detailed in Lightroom
- Waterway—double exposure in Nikon Z6 camera
- Withered Sunflower—shot lying on a mirror, added sky from Luminar 4
- Key West Cemetery—sky added from Luminar 4
- Red Ball—shot through a crystal ball
- B&W shell—on window sill on rainy day; reflection from Reflect Studio

Homework!!

4 pictures

- Try different angles
- Explore your camera for new techniques
- Try some 'free trial' plug-ins
- Play with Lightroom's sliders!