Abstraction

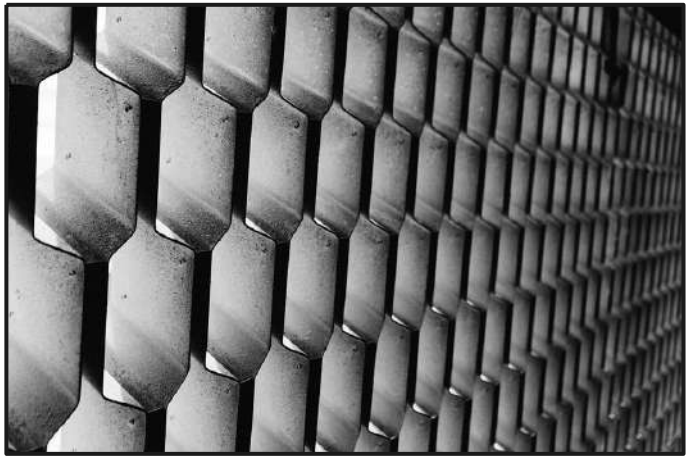
Photography I

Objective

1. Find interesting subjects and objects in your environment.
2. Capture abstract images using manual mode in the camera.
3. Adjust aperture and shutter-speed settings to correct lighting issues.
4. Compose and frame your shots in-camera instead of relying on the Crop Tool in Photoshop.

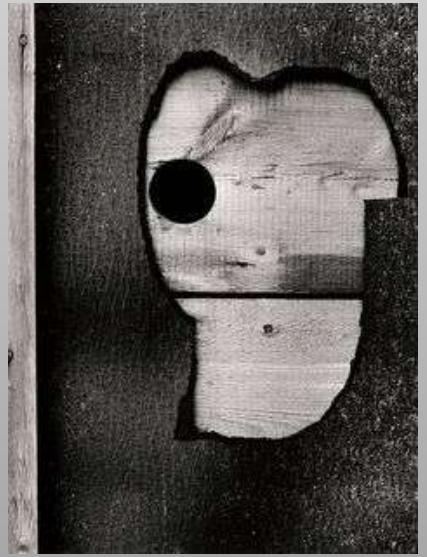
What is abstract photography?

- sometimes called ***non-objective***, ***experimental***, ***conceptual***
- depicting a visual **image that does not have an immediate association with the object world**
- **may isolate a fragment** of a natural scene in order to remove its inherent context from the viewer
- unreal appearance from real objects
- **may involve the use of color, light, shadow, texture, shape and/or form to convey a feeling, sensation or impression.**



Examples of abstract photography. What are these photographs of? Can you tell?

THINK
COLLECTION



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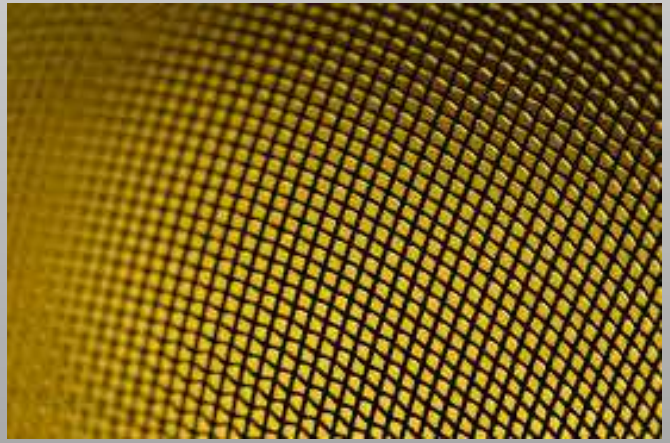
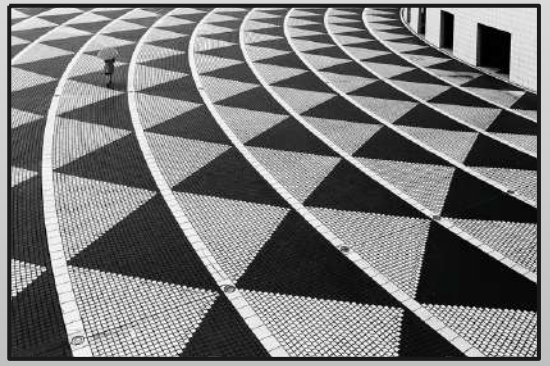


How to I capture abstract photos?



1. **Get Close** : Move close to your subject. Make sure your shot is in focus.
2. Look for Lines and Curves : Find interesting elements in your environment.
3. **Seek out Texture and Patterns** : Find repeating elements.
4. **Flip or Rotate your Image** : Use Photoshop to change the composition of your image.
5. **Shoot Through Another Object** : Shoot through glass, a water bottle, or a frosted window.

PART TWO: Abstract with OIL & WATER

Where do I begin?

Materials Needed:

1. Camera
2. Tripod
3. Cell phone
4. Clear Lid, clear plate, or Pyrex
5. Oil
6. Water
7. Clear Acrylic
8. Pillar object (to hold up Acrylic & Pyrex- ex. cups)

PHOTOGRAPHING PROCESS

1. Pick **interesting backgrounds**
- pick colorful
- Pick bright, contrasting colors and patterns… *Stay away very light pastel*
- Place it on your phone

2. Place your cell phone in plastic bag

PHOTOGRAPHING PROCESS

3. Put two cups down and a plastic plate on top

4. Put your phone (in a plastic bag) under that (see example)

5. Place a small amount of water on the plate. Use the dropper to apply small amounts of oil.

PHOTOGRAPHING PROCESS

CAMERA SETTINGS:

1. Use **LOW ISO**
2. Use **MANUAL FOCUS**- focus on the oil; bring the oil bubble(s) into focus
   - Don’t worry if you can’t zoom in tight- you can crop later

3. Try to shoot using manual settings

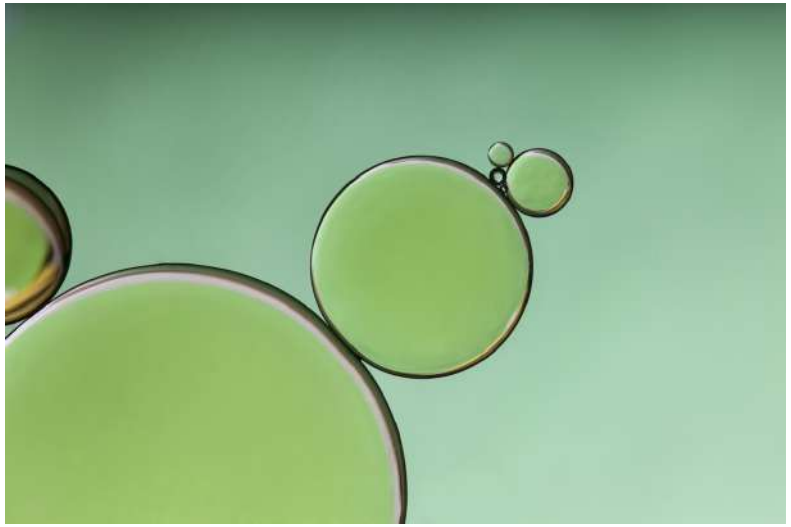
POST-PRODUCTION- EDITING

1. **CROP YOUR IMAGES**
2. See if they need some additional **CONTRAST** (See pictures to the right)
3. **Adjust the COLORS** as needed

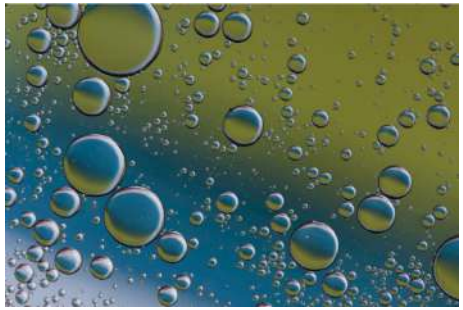
BEFORE

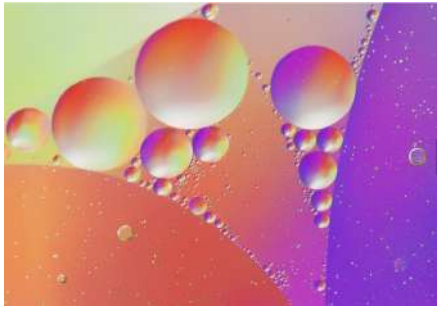
AFTER

Abstract with OIL & WATER- Additional Examples



Abstract with OIL & WATER- Additional Examples





PART TWO: Abstract Oil & Water

- **12+ photographs** of ‘Abstract Oil & Water ’
- **CONTACT SHEET** (12+ images)
- **BEST THREE as JPEGS** (with thoughtful edits: cropping, color adjustments, etc.)
- Must have at least **6+ DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS**

QUESTIONS?? COMMENTS?? CONCERNS??

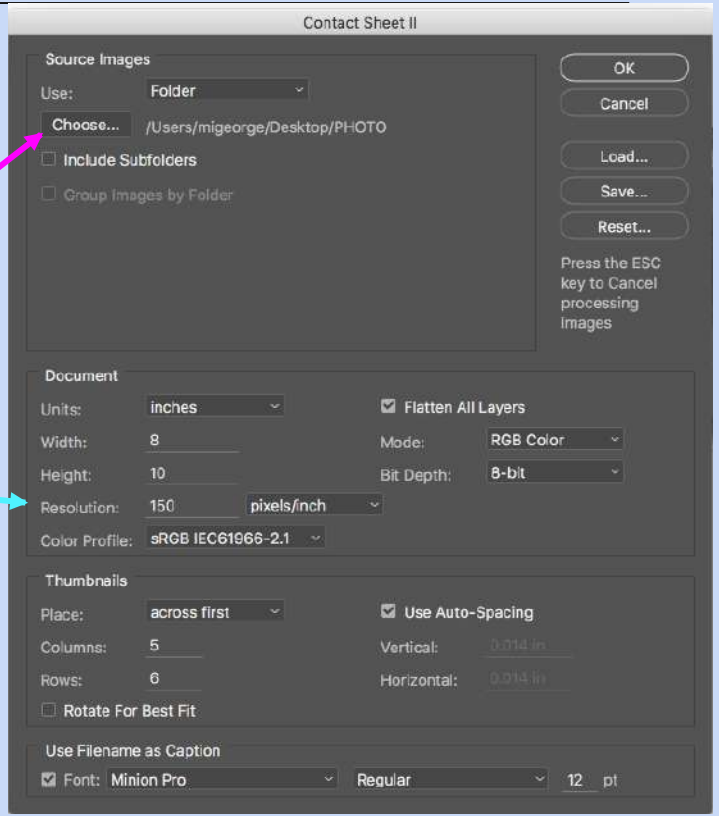
Set wheel to “M” for manual mode.

Vocabulary

Aperture: the size of the opening in the lens. Small value lets in more light. Large Value lets in less light.

Shutter Speed: The shutter is the part of the camera that opens and closes to let light in and take a picture. The shutter speed is how long that shutter stays open, written in seconds or fractions of a second, like 1/200 s. or 1”

ISO: The ISO determines how sensitive the camera is to light. For example, an ISO of 100 means the camera isn’t very sensitive—great for shooting in the daylight. An ISO 3200 means the camera is very sensitive to light, so you can use that higher ISO for getting shots in low light.

How-To: Contact Sheet

1. Make sure all of your files for this project are in their own folder (Name it “Skulls”).
2. Open Photoshop
3. File → Automate → Contact Sheet II
4. Click “Choose” to set which folder you are going to make your Contact Sheet from (should be the one with your Abstract photos).
5. Change resolution to “150”
6. Click “OK” and wait to Photoshop to generate your file.
7. Save As “YourName-Abstract-Contact”
8. Make sure you save it as a “JPEG”