Creative Tips and Tricks

Granny's cracking up

Why we take images

The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Photographs are a record of a time and place they capture a moment in time.

An image of a child blowing out the candles at a birthday party is a great memory and worth preserving but it only means something to the people involved. It is a record of the event.

Creating an Image

A Creative image can be created in camera, the photographer needs to look at the subject in a different way and use different techniques to show the subject in a way not normally seen.

These techniques may involve:

- Using shutter speed to control movement
- Using aperture to control depth of field
- Using different lenses and lens effects
- Using lighting effects
- Using additional props
- Using add on equipment

In camera effects

Moving the camera vertically with a slow shutter speed to create vertical motion blur

Zooming the lens while taking an image, slow shutter speed required

Panning a moving subject requires you to focus on the point where you will take the image, then move the camera to follow the subject pressing the shutter when the subject comes into the focus spot, then follow through
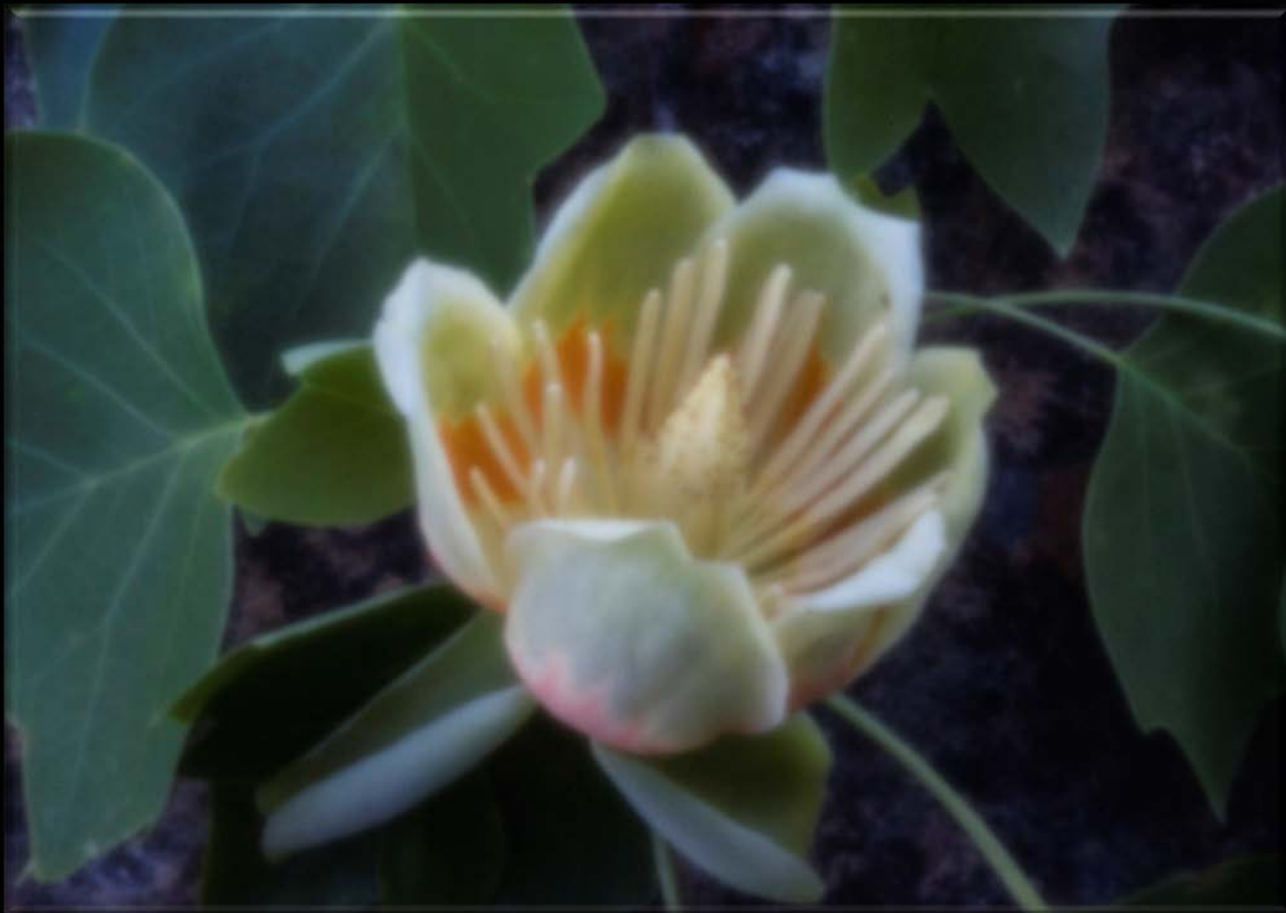
Placing items in a pattern that is not normally seen creates an interesting effect.

Using different Lenses

A fisheye lens shows a really wide view and distorts the image

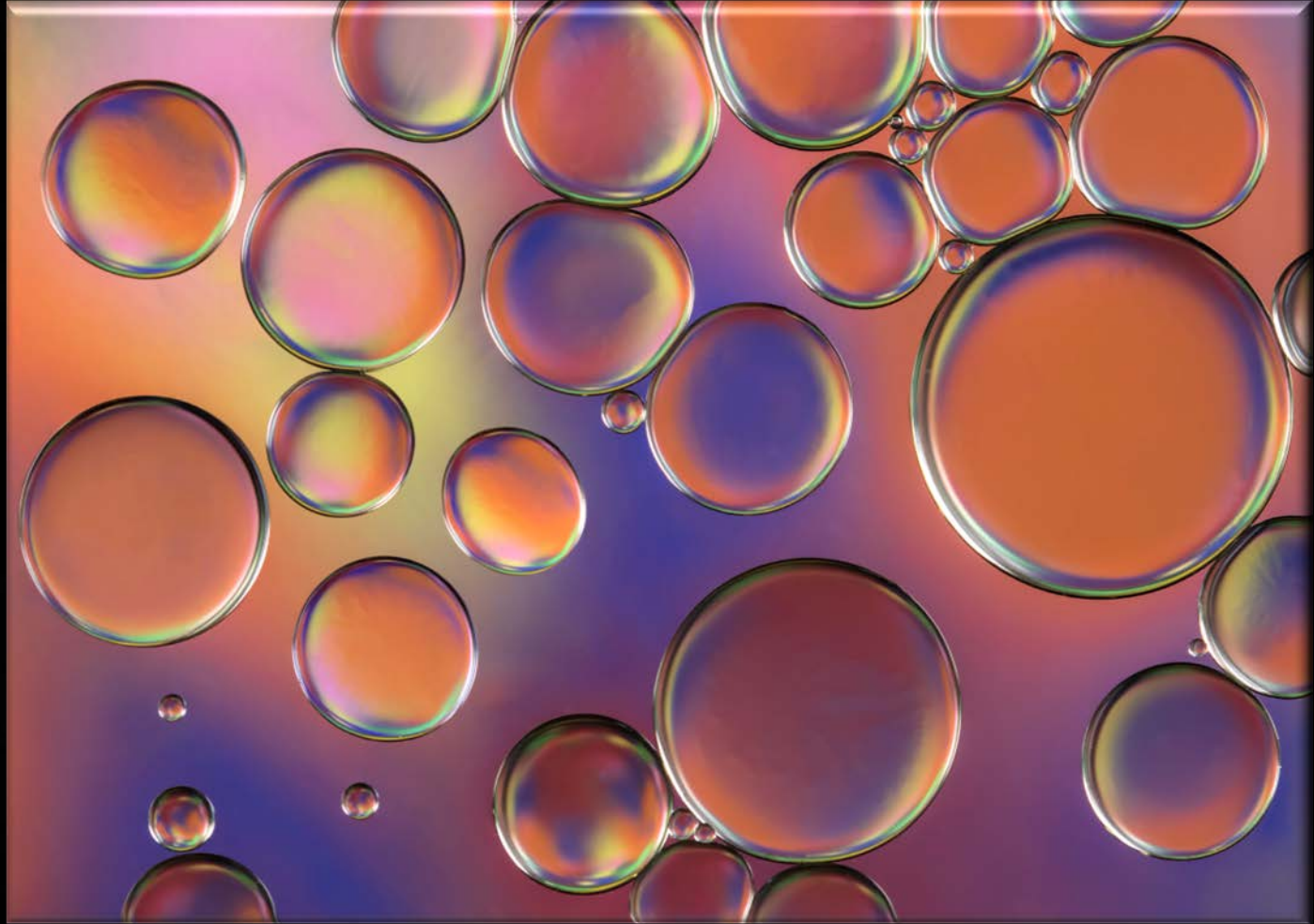A pinhole lens effect gives a soft dreamy feel

Lighting Effects

A slow shutter speed of half a second was used while the model moved, strobe studio light was used to light the model
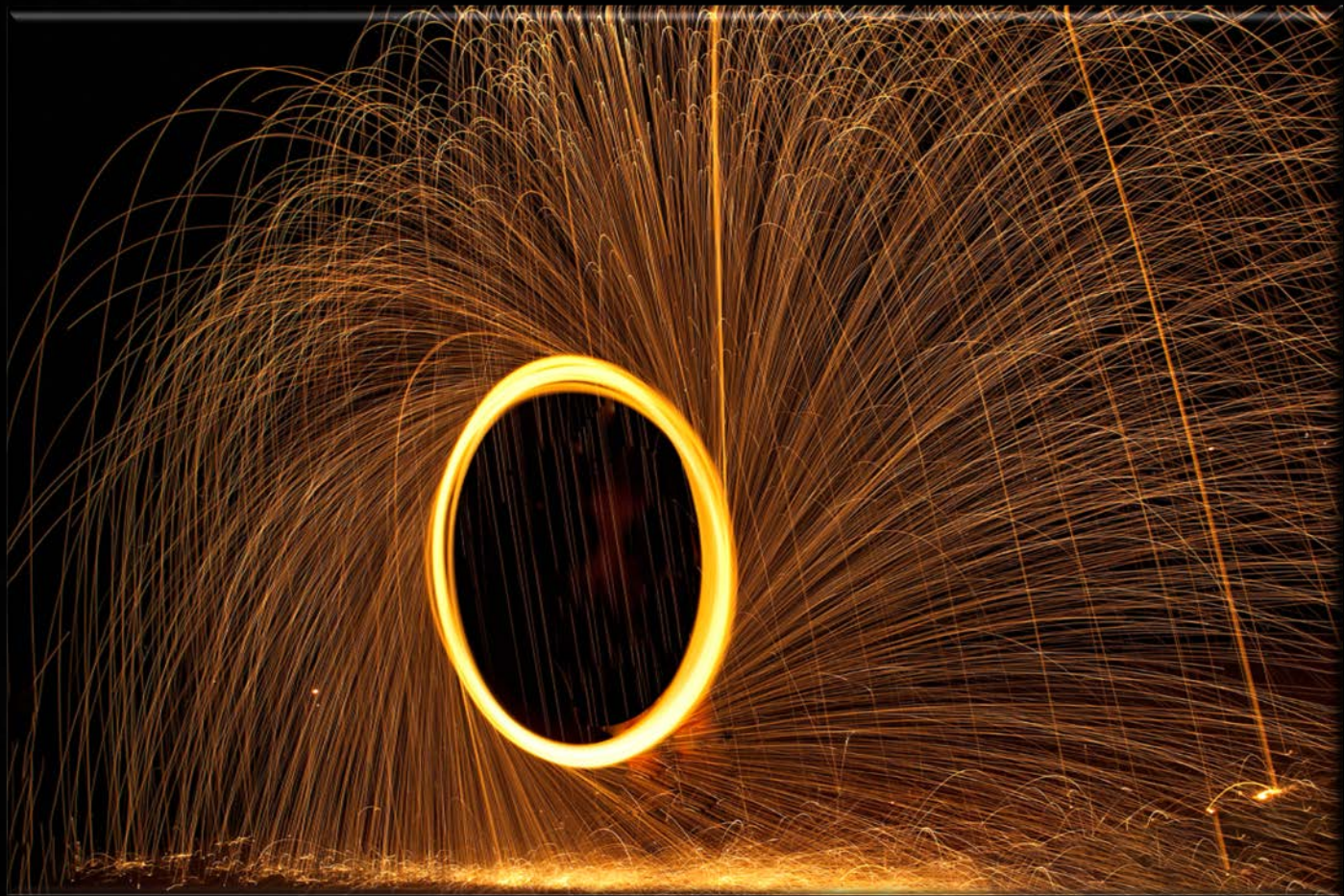
Using additional Props

This image involved setting the scene then dropping an object into the coffee cup.

A flash was needed to freeze the action.

Bubbles created with cooking oil in water.

Burning Steel Wool

Burning incense sticks to photograph the smoke, you will need an external flash, a black backdrop and a remote trigger for this.

Some fun with bananas not as easy as it looks

Infrared image these can be taken with a filter attached to the lens or a camera converted to take infrared image.

A filter to create an Infrared Black and White image was used here.

A crystal ball can create another interesting effect.

Another crystal ball effect.

Star effects from lights or the sun are created using a small aperture f16 is a good starting point.

Add on equipment

Filters, Triggers, Lighting effects, Beam Breakers and many other items are available to assist the photographer in creative imagery.

58mm MULTI IMAGE

Pluto Trigger and Water Valve

MIPOS Trigger

Cactus Laser Trigger - Beam Breaker

Magilight and Pixel Stick for light painting

Digitally manipulated images

A definition of creative photography

Creative photography is an extension of conventional photography into creative art. Its purpose is to stimulate creative thoughts and encourage experimentation with new ideas going beyond a simple photograph. There should be significant photographic content.
It can be a collage or a montage. The final result must be all the photographer's own work including the original image.

Extract from Northside Creative Photography Club definitions

Digital Photo Montage

This image contains a number of images combined to tell a story

This montage was created for an exhibition Paddock to Plate.

A number of the previous smoke images combined with a rose and candle to create this image.

Another example of using an in camera creative image in a composite

A photo montage using an old magazine and a pair of boxing gloves

A photo montage using the models eye and an old watch

A photo montage using images taken at a show, a ladder, ball and child climbing.

Using images of the full moon in combination with other photographs

Some Photoshop Techniques

Two different out of frame effects

A double exposure, created in Photoshop a number of layers and background gradients were used on this image

The Harris Shutter effect
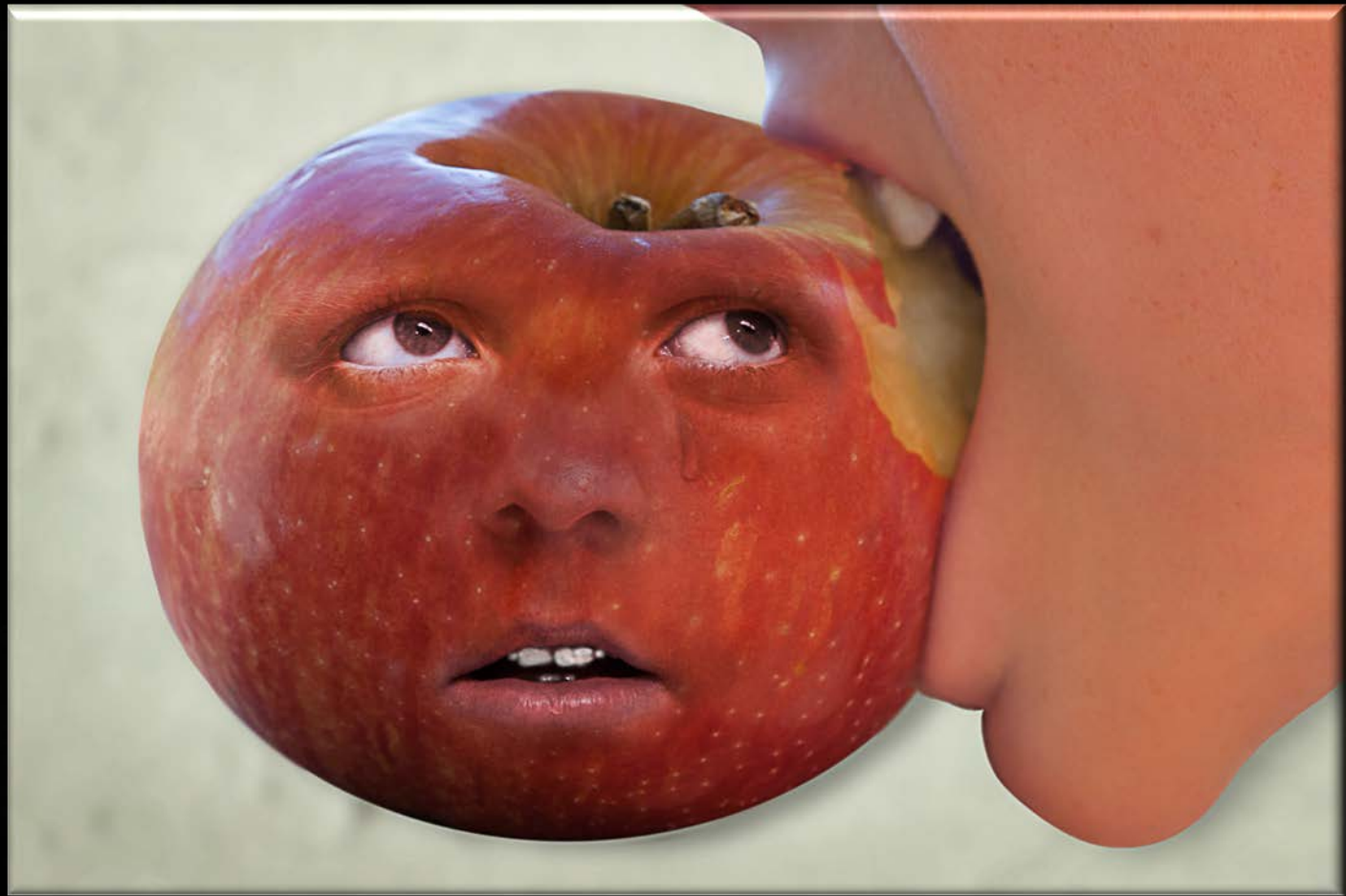
A big bite, created in photoshop
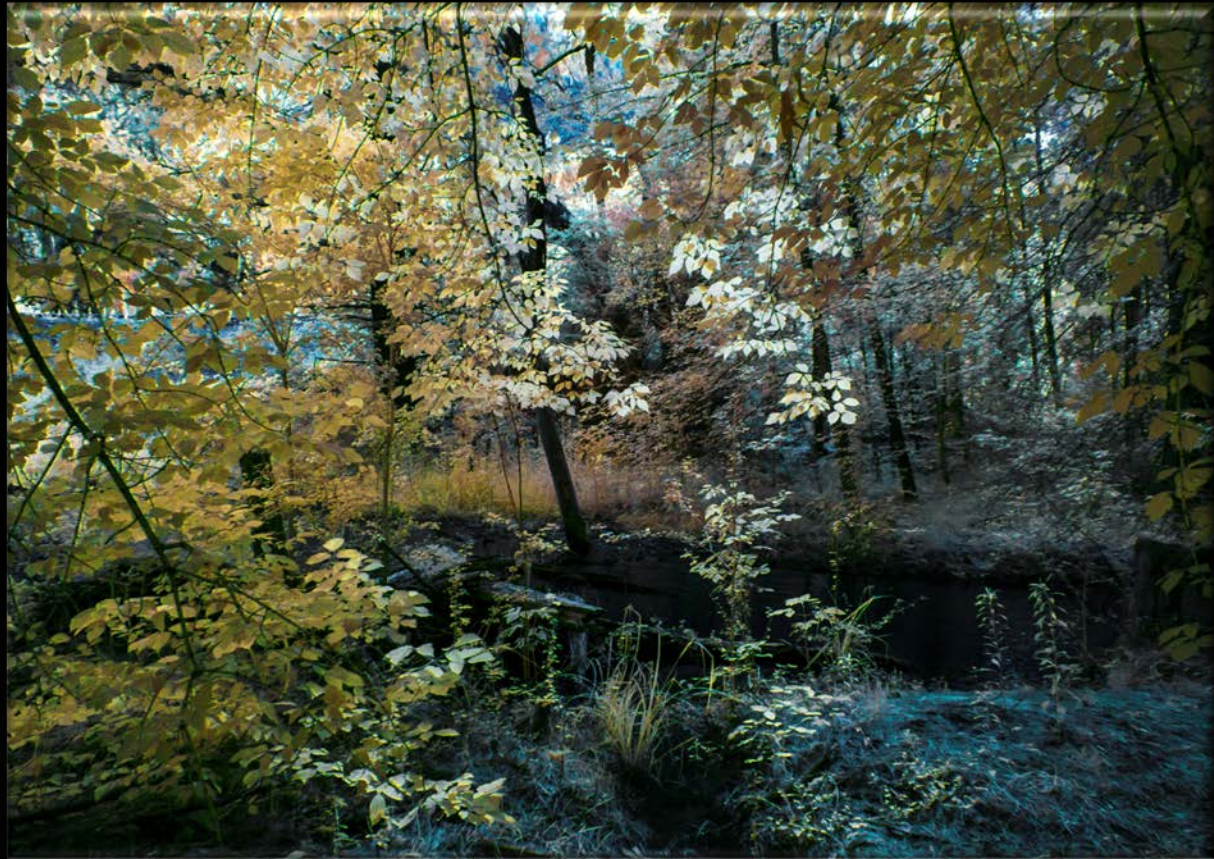
Another infrared shot with different processing

Digital Filters
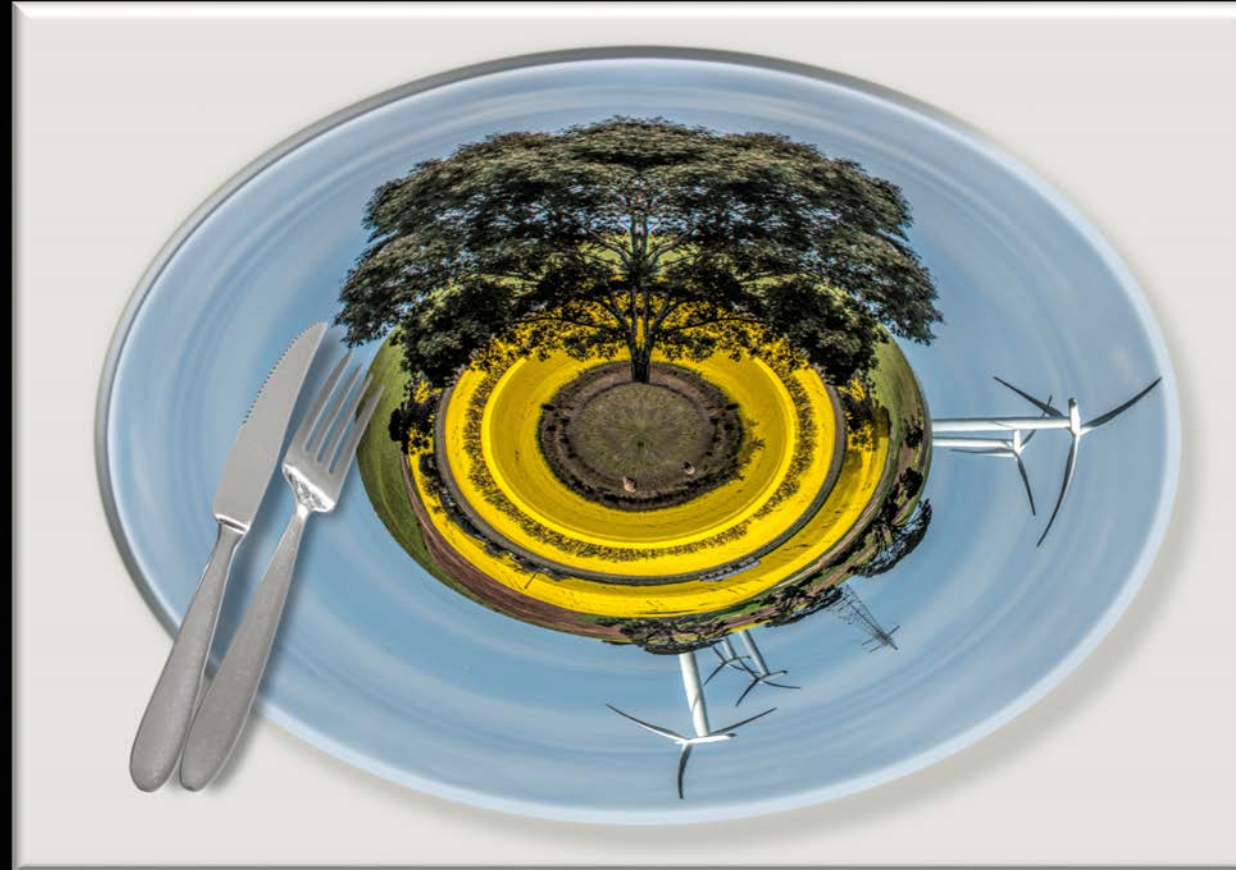
Here I used polar coordinates filter to create the plate from an image
it is found under >Filter>Distort>Polar Coordinates

Created with the Flood Filter from Flaming Pear

A combination of effects including the flood filter

Ship in the night

Two layers of the same image the twirl filter was applied to the top layer

A "Filter Forge effect" applied to some graffiti

Photoshop oil Painting filter
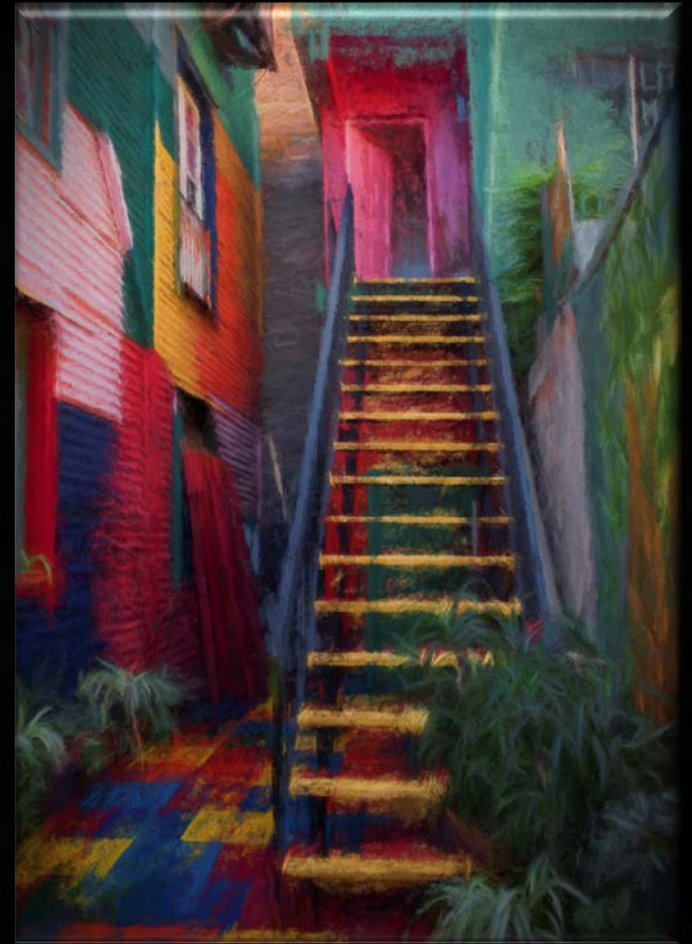
Topaz Turner Impression filter

Painting effect filters are a popular option
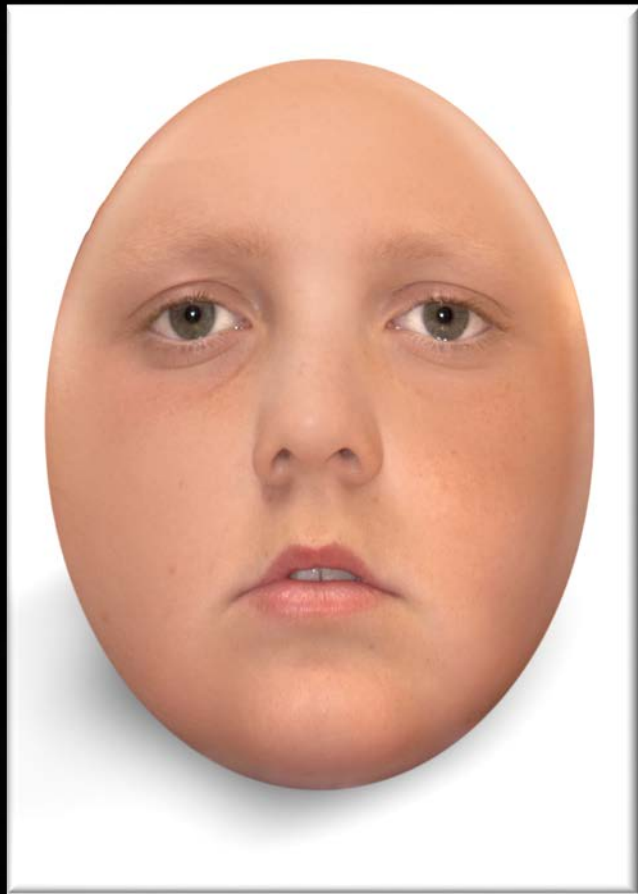
Digital Effects

The Performer
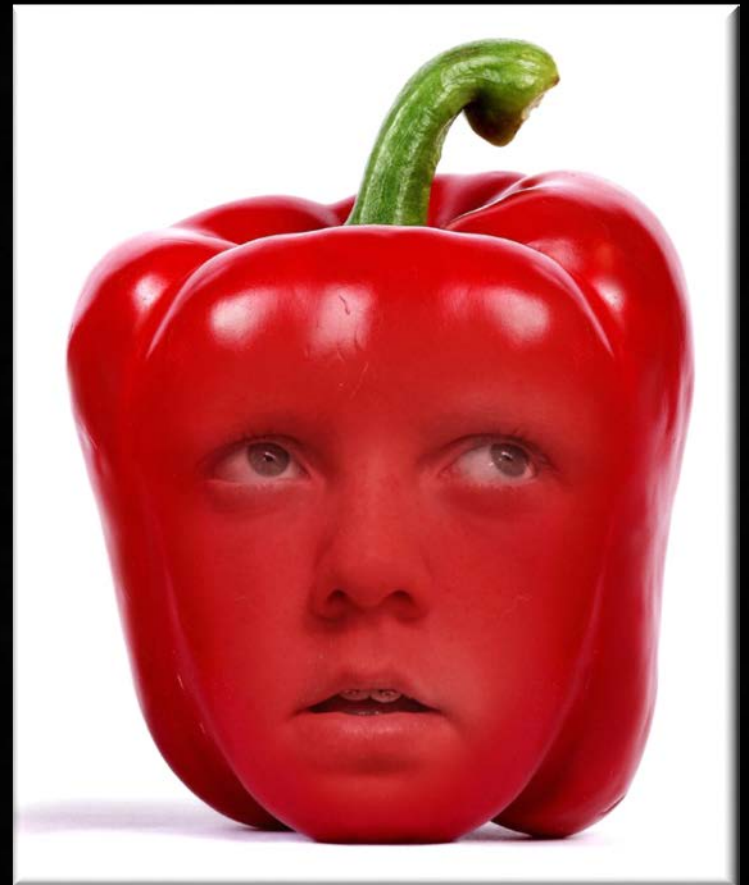
Interesting effects can be created in Photoshop
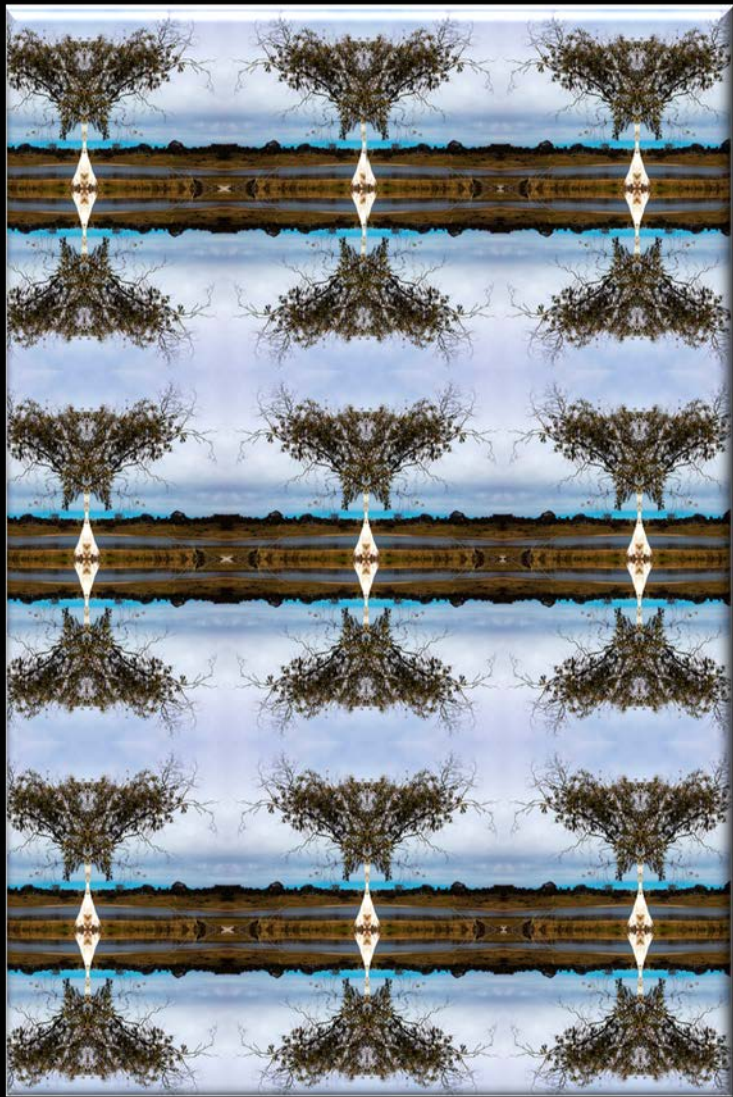
Created in Photoshop

Created on the iPhone with an app

#photolab

Created in Photoshop

Created on the iPhone with an app

Tree Patterns

A toned image

Combining a toned image with another image

Melted Clocks – Dali style

Created with a free action from Adobe Exchange

Life is a puzzle, put the pieces together and grab the opportunities

This was created with a number layers brushes masks and backgrounds

This image is one where I have used my own textures and brushes to create an effect.

Exploding Tractor – taken when I was collecting images for an earlier composite

But droughts and losses came apace
To Riley's Run,
Till ruin stared him in the face;
He toiled and toiled while lived the light,
He dreamed of overdrafts at night:
At length, because he could not pay,
His bankers took the stock away
From Riley's Run

A. B. Paterson

An Image I created for a themed exhibition – Poetry to Painting

Another of my 'Art Effect" images.

Rules

As mentioned earlier clubs, photographic exhibitions, peak bodies all have rules for people entering their images for 'judging'. Camera clubs usually adopt rules that are used by events where their members are likely to participate, for example interclub events, top shot, national competitions. Often publications or web sites will run competitions with different 'rules' .

Some rules that generally apply to Creative Images:

- images must be original
- may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else
- artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated if the original photographic content predominates
- images may not be constructed entirely within a computer

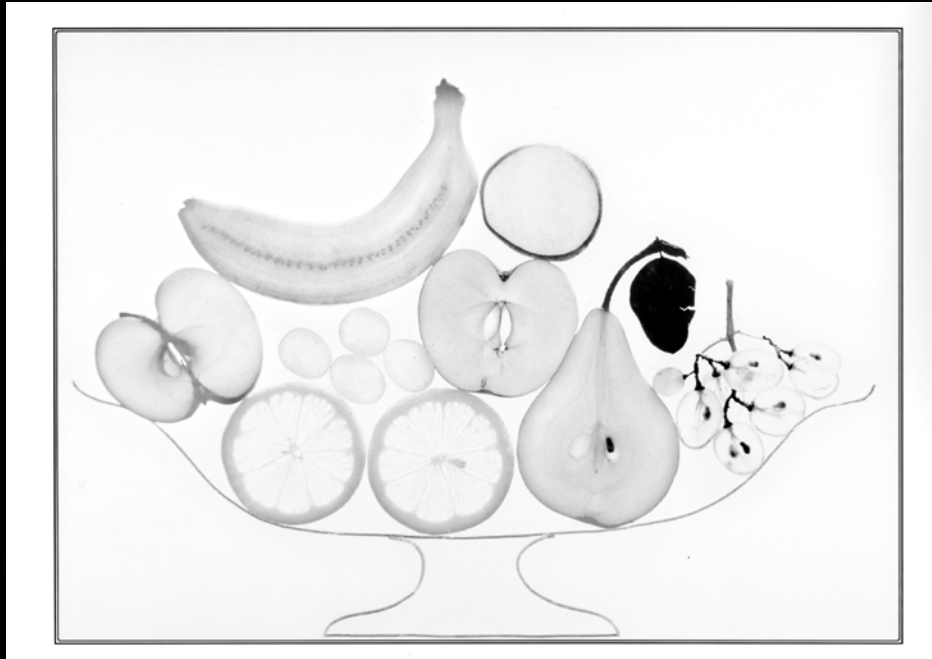An image of my fathers walking stick, the head of a hammer and an old nail

Breaking out

Bubbles Twirl

Conclusion

Digital cameras and software has given us so many opportunities that were not available previously but that doesn't mean creativity is a new idea.

This image won the George Eastman Memorial medal in the 1967 at the Kodak International Salon of Photography in Paris

Half a Bowl of Fruit by Peter Hunter 1967