



























ZOMBIE NURSE PRODUCTIONS

ZOMBIE NURSE PRODUCTIONS



PRESENTS



In cooperation with



My Journey Towards Artistic Landscape Photography

Or... how to free your “inner painter”





In 2009-2010 I realized I was headed in a more creative direction with my landscape and other genres of photography.

I (and everyone around me) had known for while that I liked a more colorful and “painterly” style of photography.

I decided to start “creating” pictures as much as taking them. Approaching them like a painter would a new subject.

So I began trying hard to improve my basic photographic skills and also looked more at using artistic filters and HDR and other different editing techniques.



I wanted to try to express a vision or a feeling of a place. To share a sense of what that place meant to me and how it made me feel at the time I actually took the photograph.

So this presentation is really about sharing some of the lessons I've learnt during this creative journey. I've been lucky enough to hang out and shoot with some pretty talented photographers and have learnt a lot from them. I've also gone to many seminars and avidly studied the works and techniques of my favorite "celebrity" photographers online. All of this in an effort to improve my basic photographic skills and hopefully begin creating images that better reflected my artistic vision. I hope you find some of it helpful in your own artistic journey.



The Good Stuff To Know

- Chasing Great Light
- Locations/ Immerse Yourself
- Preparing To Shoot/ Gear
- Camera Settings
- Composition Tips
- Artistic Editing

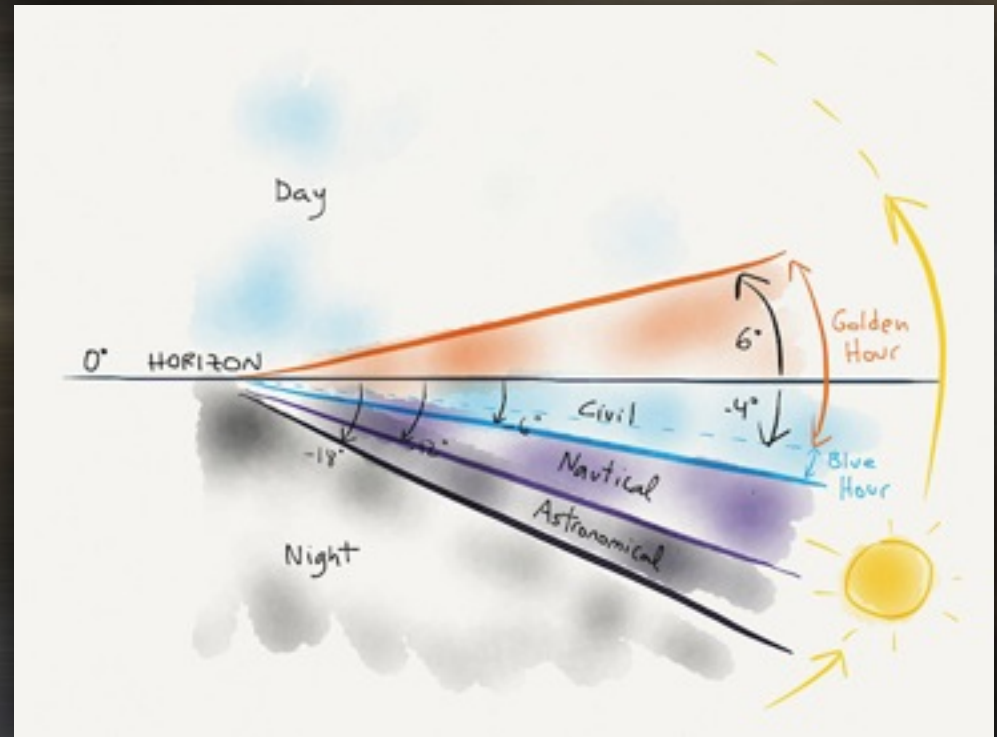
First off we need light....and really great light!



Everyone here knows that light is THE crucial element in photography. And we also know or have heard that the best light for landscapes is usually early in the day and late in the day (sunrise and sunset). But why is this? Let's talk about why it's so good for your landscapes to get up at 3am and then drive for an hour to your chosen spot just so you can be ready to take pictures at 4:15! (or stay out until after dark)

Sunrises, Sunsets, Twilights & Magic Hours

- Nighttime (below -18°)
- Morning twilights (from -18° to 0°)
- Astronomical Twilight (from -18° to -12°)
- Nautical Twilight (from -12° to -6°)
- Civil twilight (from -6° to 0°)
- **Morning magic hours**
- Blue hour (from -6° to -4°)
- Golden hour (from -4° to 6°)
- Daytime (above 6°)
- **Evening magic hours**
- Golden hour (from 6° to -4°)
- Blue hour (from -4° to -6°)
- Evening twilights (from 0° to -18°)
- Civil twilight (from 0° to -6°)
- Nautical Twilight (from -6° to -12°)
- Astronomical Twilight (from -12° to -18°)



Magic Hours for Magic Shots ©

-The Golden Hour

- The golden hour is the period of time the color of the sky goes from red and orange to yellow or, as its name suggests, golden tones, having a warm color temperature. Lighting is soft, diffused and with little contrast, since the sun is low in the sky.
- Due to the type of light that exists during this period of time, that doesn't produce strong shadows and harsh lighting, it's ideal for landscape photography.





Magic Hours for Magic Shots ©

-The Blue Hour

- During the blue hour the sky has a deep blue hue with a cold color temperature and saturated colors. At the beginning (evening) and at the end (morning), a gradient of colors, from blue to orange, can be seen right in the place of sunset and sunrise.
- In the evening, the blue hour coincides with the end of the civil twilight, just after the golden hour. In the morning, it coincides with the initial part of the civil twilight, occurring just before the golden hour.





Magic Hours for Magic Shots ©

-Civil Twilight

- During civil twilight, there is still enough natural light to see and distinguish objects perfectly. Sky is very bright and the color of clouds can be red, orange and yellow to magenta and blue. Of course, it always depends on weather conditions and dust particles in suspension.
- At the beginning of civil twilight, just after sunset, the colors of the sky change most rapidly. Clouds in the west are illuminated by orange-red sunlight, while the ones in the east remain in blue and indigo. Generally speaking, civil twilight lasts for about 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the season and latitude.





Ominous Clouds & Other Good Stuff



Ominous incoming storm clouds, hell any clouds mixed with some sun and sky, or mist, fog, rainbows, lightning, snow, changing weather patterns, all can make a photo unique, and transform a landscape

Daytime Is Ansell Adams Time



After the Golden Hour is over, what do you do with the rest of the day? Think monochrome. White clouds and blue skies can be very dramatic in B&W!

“In almost all photography it’s the quality of light that makes or breaks the shot. For professional photographers, chasing the light, waiting for it, sometimes helping it, and finally capturing it is a constant preoccupation – and for some an obsession.”

Michael Freeman – Capturing Light: The Heart of Photography



Slow Photography- Becoming An Immersive Landscape Photographer

When you are in your home environment, you have the luxury to visit and re-visit locations that appeal to you. So take full advantage of that.

Whether you're at a scenic location for the first time, or have already photographed there before, take the time to stop and reflect on your location. Sit down for a while and immerse yourself in your surroundings. Slow things down, clear your mind, and really take it all in.

Then explore the area fully for different views. Walk around and try different perspectives.

And later think about what the exact best season, and time of day, weather, tides, and lighting conditions, that would be ideal for that location for a second shoot.







Preparing To Shoot- Equipment

- Camera and favorite landscape lens(es), tripod, remote release, fully charged batteries, memory cards, optional are: Polarizer, and ND Filter



If you're going to be there in the dark don't forget a flashlight or headlamp!!!

My Camera Settings

- Use Aperture Mode (AV)
- Set your Aperture to F8 or smaller
- Set your WB to daylight (or learn how to do custom WB)
- Set ISO to 100/ or lowest available
- Enable bracketing (5 or 7 shots at 1 stop per shot)
- Set drive to low speed burst
- Set metering to Evaluative/Matrix/ESP
- Set focus to Manual
- Enable your Histogram
- Use Live-View if available to expose, focus, & compose
- Enable composition guides for Live-View if available
- For good front to back focus, focus 1/3 of the way up the frame
- Save all of these settings to a Custom Function

Composition



- You're in the perfect spot, at the perfect time. Your camera is all set up and the light is perfect. You're ready to capture the perfect shot!
- Hopefully the following suggestions will help you get a dramatic compelling landscape image!



Composition Tip #1-
Get Low For
Drama!

Composition Tip #2- Consider The Rule Of Thirds





Composition Tip #3-
Look For Leading Lines

Composition Tip #4- Find Interesting Foreground



Composition Tip #5- Create Visual Energy

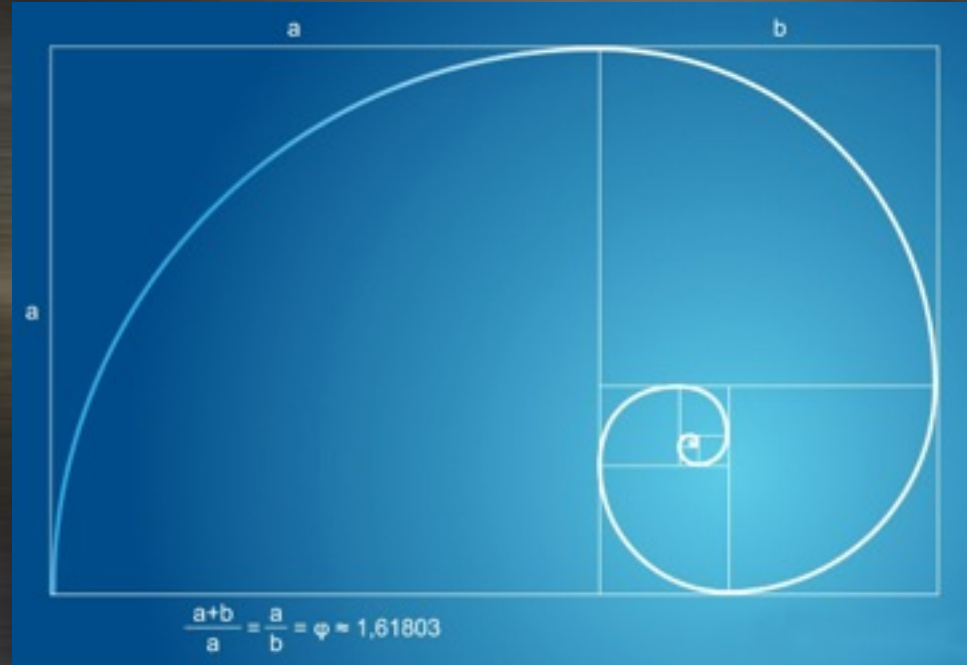
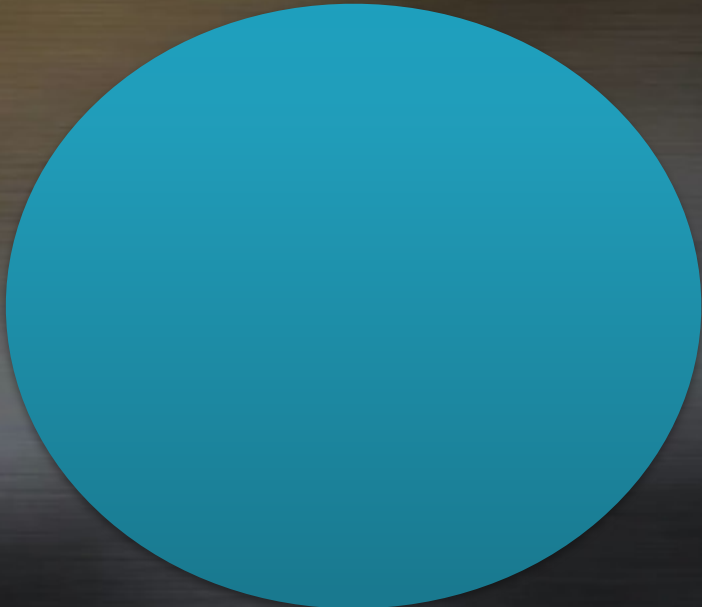


Composition Tip #6- Focus On The Point Of Interest



Other Composition Tips

- Place anchor subjects in corners
- S is a very powerful shape in images
- Triangles add power to images
- Or Google “Fibonacci Spiral” for more mind-blowing compositional goodness!

















My Artistic Editing

My editing skills are pretty basic to say the least so I try to keep my editing workflow fairly simple. Here are most of the steps I normally take when editing my images.





Step 1- Lightroom

1. I import my images into Lightroom. I convert my RAW files into DNG files and add any tags that I want to the images at that time.
2. Then I scan through my images and color code the ones I want to edit immediately. I also use a different color code to mark the bracketed shots I want to edit in Photomatix.
3. Then I apply most of these following global edits to my images in Lightroom.

▼ Navigator



▼ Presets

Lightroom S&B Filter Presets

- Blue Filter
- Blue Hi-Contrast Filter
- Green Filter
- Infrared
- Orange Filter
- Red Filter
- Red Hi-Contrast Filter
- Yellow Filter

Lightroom S&B Presets

- S&B Contrast High
- S&B Contrast Low
- S&B Look 1
- S&B Look 2
- S&B Look 3
- S&B Look 4
- S&B Look 5

Lightroom S&B Toned Presets

- Antique
- Antique Light
- Clearstone
- Cyanotype
- Selenium Tone
- Sepia Tone
- Split Tone 1
- Split Tone 2
- Split Tone 3
- Split Tone 4

Lightroom Color Presets

- Aged Photo

Copy... Paste



Histogram



00:00 80mm f/1.6 0/1000

Original Photo



Tool: Crop & Straighten

Aspect: Custom 1

Angle: -6.79

Control To Warp

Reset Close

Basic

Treatment: Color Back & White

WB: Custom

Temp: 5691

Tint: +3

Tone: Auto

Exposure: +0.71

Contrast: 0

Highlights: 0

Shadows: 0

Whites: 0

Blacks: 0

Presence

Clarity: 0

Vibrance: +36

Saturation: +10

Tone Curve



Previous

Reset

Folder: 2014-02-02 732 photos / 1 selected / B&S_8561.dng

Filter: Filter Off



My Lightroom Edits

- Straighten Horizon/
Crop
- White Balance
- Exposure
- Contrast
- Highlights/Shadows
- Levels
- Clarity/ Vibrance/
Saturation
- Light Sharpening
- Light Noise Reduction
- Enable Lens Profile
Corrections
- Remove Chromatic
Abberations
- Do any spot removals
necessary
- Apply Graduated Filter
if necessary
- Use Adjustment Brush
to dodge, burn, and
any other local
adjustments



Step 2- Photoshop & Filters

1. I open a Tiff file converted in Lightroom with all the edits done so far, in Photoshop
2. I then start my serious cleaning of the image, using the clone tool, healing brush, and content aware fill. I try to be very fussy about removing distracting elements.
3. I then open a new layer and start using my artistic filters (Topaz and Nik products mainly)
4. Finally, using a layer mask, I brush in the filter effects onto the areas of the image I want.
5. Lastly, I do any sharpening or noise reduction needed.

Topaz Adjust

I use Topaz Adjust to punch up contrast, colour and details



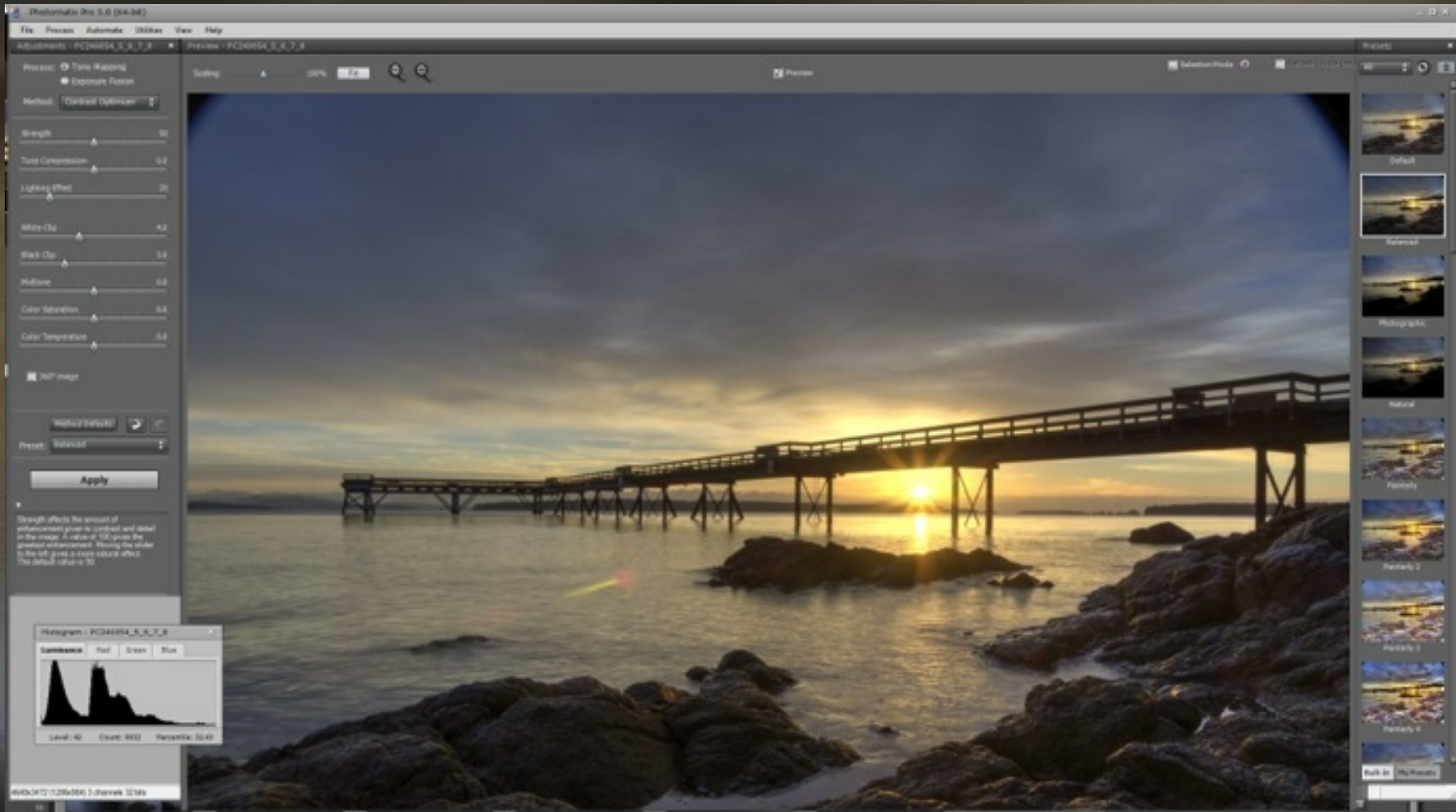
Nik Silver Efex Pro

I use Nik Silver Efex Pro for most of my monochrome images



Photomatix Pro 5

I use Photomatix Pro5
for my HDR images



Some Before & Afters





















Thank you for staying awake!

(or not snoring)