

Photo Impressionism
Monthly Photo Challenge
Prince George Photographic Society
Topic introduced February 11, 2020.
Photos due March 8, 2020 for March 10 club meeting.
Notes prepared by Bob Steventon

This assignment:

Make a photo with a clearly identified real world subject that communicates your impression of that subject without being a strictly documentary photo.

Don't get hung up on the terminology!

All photographs interpret reality.

There are no absolutely clear boundaries between genres.

Think of your approach as you wish ...

You are creating an impression of the subject.

You are expressing your feeling about the subject ... etc.

Chris Harris talked about four styles of photography when our club sponsored a workshop with him on May 26-27, 2018. He outlined these four styles of photographic expression:

documentary

expressionist

abstract expressionist

abstract

A year later Chris talked about three styles of photography in his newsletter #169 <<https://www.chrisharris.com/newsletter/newsletter-169>>. His newsletters document his exploration of these themes and are great reading.

“By studying art history and reading about various art mediums, including photography, I realized a need to think of photography as an Art Form, and myself as an artist. “

“I now head out with my camera as a visual artist to express myself as a Representational photographer, an Expressionist photographer, and as an Abstractionist photographer.”

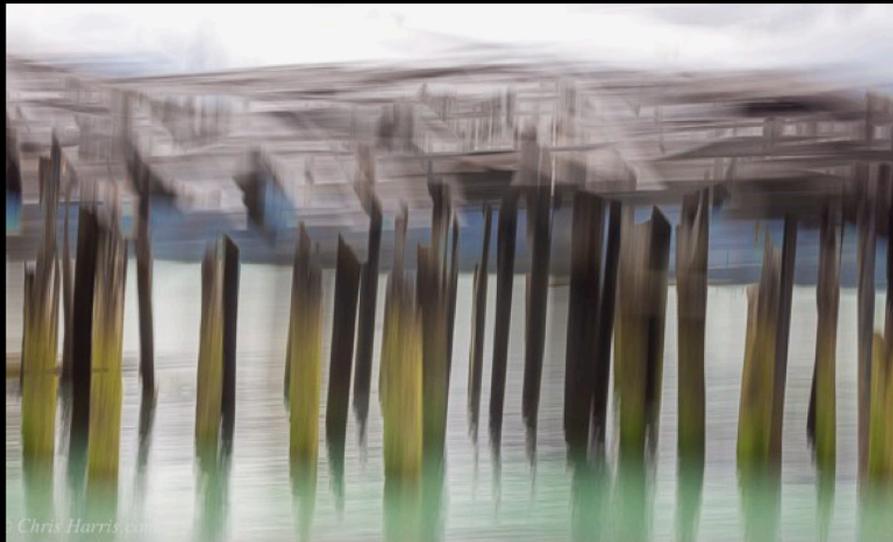
“Developing a creative vision requires bravery and an adventuresome spirit. Original thought and original expression require courage, for it means a smaller viewership will understand or appreciate your art. I experience this personally in my Newsletters; the more abstract images I exhibit, the greater the number of unsubscribers! Interestingly, this is balanced by an equal or larger number of new subscribers each month.”

Here are three photos from that newsletter.



Representational

Cannery Building Remnant
Chris Harris Newsletter #169



Expressionist

Cannery Building Remnant
Chris Harris Newsletter #169



Abstract

Cannery Building Remnant
Chris Harris Newsletter #169

Last fall Chris blogged about impressionist photography. Chris Harris posted 23 episodes about his “Montreal Residency” in October 2019 on his Blog. The discussion and the photos provide many examples of impressionist photography.
<https://www.chrisharris.com/tag/impressionist-photography/>
<https://www.chrisharris.com/montreal-residency-day-1/>

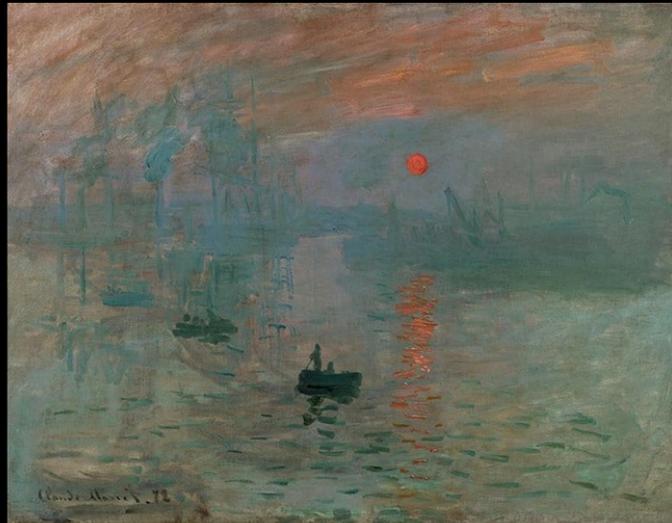


“For me, this ‘multiple perspective’ photograph portrays the vibrant exchange of energy in the modern-day city of Montreal.”

Who were the Impressionists?

‘... this band of artists—which included Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, and Camille Pissarro—held their first exhibition in 1874. Set in the studio of Nadar, a French photographer, the exhibition featured several paintings by 30 artists, with the most notable being Claude Monet’s Impression, Sunrise (1872).’

<https://mymodernmet.com/what-is-impressionism-definition/>



Claude Monet - Impression Sunrise, 1872

Another explanation:

“Impressionism, French Impressionnisme, a major movement, first in painting and later in music, that developed chiefly in France during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Impressionist painting comprises the work produced between about 1867 and 1886 by a group of artists who shared a set of related approaches and techniques. The most conspicuous characteristic of Impressionism in painting was an attempt to accurately and objectively record visual reality in terms of transient effects of light and colour. In music, it was to convey an idea or affect through a wash of sound rather than a strict formal structure.”

<https://www.britannica.com/art/Impressionism-art>

You are welcome to deploy a variety of techniques, both in-camera and in post processing:

- Combining images
- Multiple exposure within camera
- Camera movement - smooth, jerky, up and down, swipes, circles ...
- Motion Blur
- Defocus
- Zooming
- Slow shutter speed, ND filters
- Creative use of camera or software filters
- feel free to add to the list ...

Here are some links for you to explore. (we watched two of these at the Feb11 meeting):

- <https://youtu.be/gXpnz5ONZr0>
- <https://youtu.be/B3R4N1IDv4o>
- <https://youtu.be/0R5gszHsLaE>
- <https://www.impressionistische-fotografie.de/en/>

Search and you will find many more examples ...