

Abstract Photography

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If you're looking to experiment with new photo techniques, abstract photography is a great place to start. It's flexible, fun and doesn't require any extra camera equipment.

In abstract art and photography, the natural world isn't depicted objectively, but instead uses shapes and colors in a non-representational way by manipulating their form, color and composition.

Common subjects may appear anywhere from mildly distorted to completely unrecognizable. Here are some great ideas to get you started:

1. Close-Ups, Framing, and Subjects

Deviating from the norm in these three elements is really all you need to create quality abstract photography. For starters, choose subject matter that is rich in patterns and detail so you can zoom in and fill the frame with appealing shapes.



[Click example for a larger version.](#)

Take for example a patterned crystal glass as above. If you zoom in on the patterns, filling the frame and catching reflections of light, the result can be a beautiful lattice that is unidentifiable as an ordinary household glass. You can also use subjects like Persian rugs, or other fabric that is rich in detail and can be used to create non-representational images.

2. Motion Blurring

Using exaggerated motion in your photos can heighten their emotional and artistic appeal. There are two digital techniques you can use to photograph movement.

Say you want to shoot a moving vehicle: You can make the camera stationary using a tripod, and let the vehicle blur naturally as it moves through the frame. The longer you set your exposure time, the more blur you'll capture on the CCD. Or you can pan the camera along with the moving vehicle. In this case, the vehicle will turn out sharp and focused, while the background will be blurred.



3. Color Manipulation

First, you can turn your camera in to Black & White mode and doing the above techniques. You can also choose from a variety of other color-mode settings that allow you to expand your creativity in taking photographs.



One way to do this is by adjusting your color saturation settings. Through your color-modes menu, you can select between neutral or saturated color settings. By playing with saturation settings, you can achieve exaggerated enhancements that will make brilliant abstract photos that are possible by adjusting color modes.

Photos taken in neutral mode provide a more realistic color exposure, with colors that aren't very vibrant or vivid but have an interesting luster. Shots taken with a saturated setting provide an exposure where the colors are much more pronounced, making for a more visually impressive abstract photograph.

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