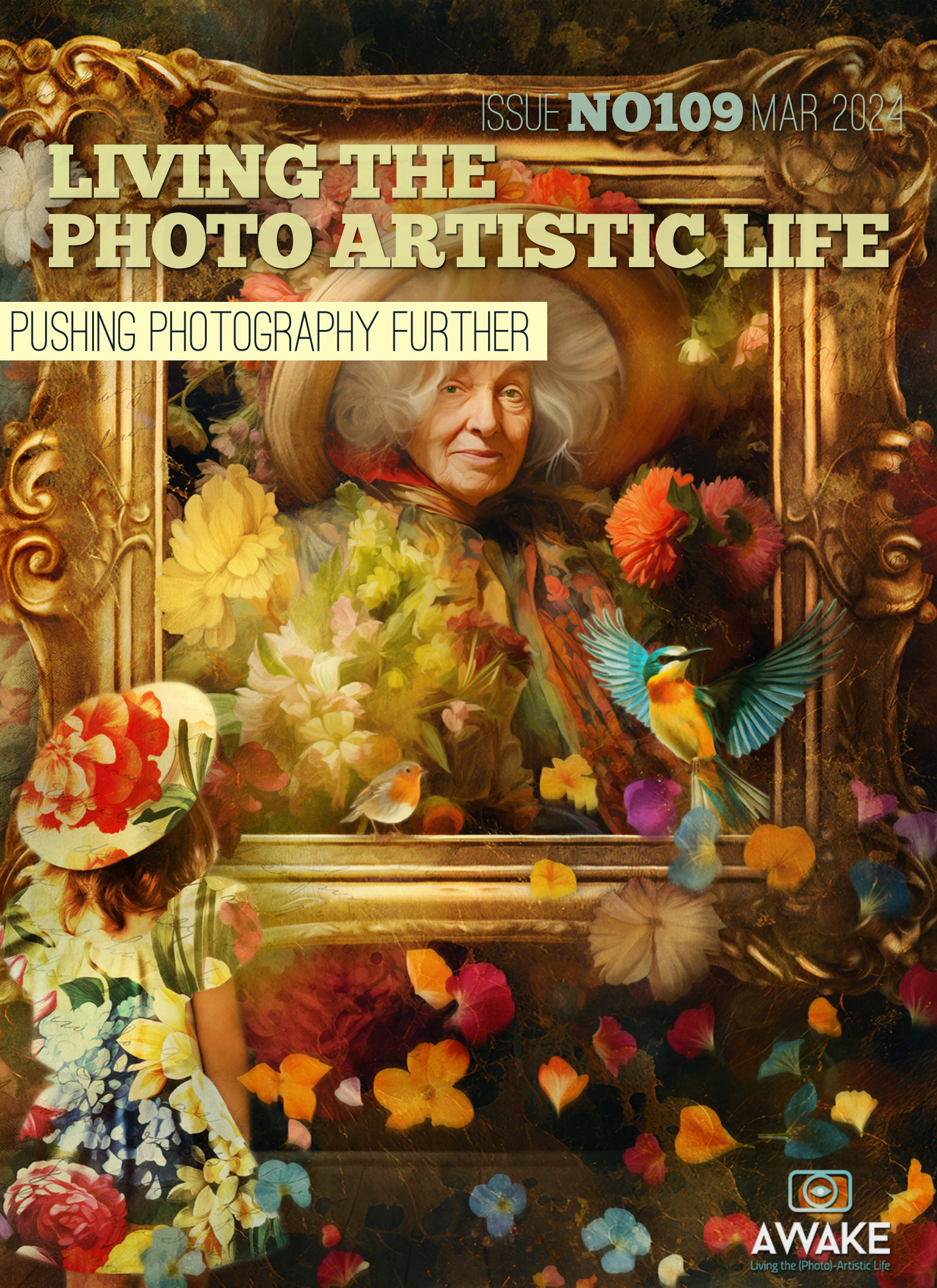


ISSUE **N0109** MAR 2024

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MICHAELS

I've always loved the idea of the *artist as craftsman*.

Which is to say, the idea of an artist fully at home with his work, bolstered by all the tools necessary to the practice of the craft, comfortable with the creative process itself and all the nuances of expert execution. All those inside secrets. All the tricks of the trade.

And you can see the expertise most visibly in the way the artist wields his or her tools.

The painter with her canvas and paints . . . The woodworker with his chisel and lathe . . . The potter with her wheel and carving tools . . .

And of course the creative photographer equipped with camera and lenses, tripod and filters, and all the techniques of framing and exposure — almost a kind of muscle memory of the hands and eye.

Or take the digital artist working in Photoshop: an artist who has slipped into that peculiar flow state familiar to all who create or perform. Here — if you sit quietly, if you just watch — you might see a shuffling of images, a selection of creative possibilities, then a series of steps (too many, too fast to track) as photos are edited, manipulated, extracted, sized, transformed and *altered*, all the while as layers stack up, masks are added and painted upon, adjustment layers clipped, filters run, more materials brought to the canvas and layered into the composite, manipulated in turn . . .

Some digital artists will work faster than others, employ a looser hand

with the brush as it were. Others will work slower, more meticulously. Every artist is different. Every artist moves to a different rhythm.

Not that there won't be false steps here and there, experiments that don't turn out well. When these happen layers are deleted and you'll see the artist backtrack and take up the creative thread again and try something else.

But when the artist has been at this trade for a while, the expertise — the confidence, the mastery — will be unmistakable.

However many discarded layers along the way, the adept artist will push forward, forward, forward still. Or rather, better to say up and up and up in the layer stack, dropping back now and then to tweak, to adjust, to include some other essential touch before continuing the climb.

And so the canvas takes shape.

What's most fascinating, perhaps, is the way so many of these canvases only reach the fullness of their effect near the very end. More often than not, the composition really comes together only in the final half dozen or so layers. Only then, many hours into the process, does the canvas feel complete. There is mastery in that as well.

I love imaging our artists at work. I love their devotion to their craft.

And the creative work that comes of it is beyond inspiring.

~ Sebastian

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

004 MARIETJIE DU TOIT
 005 MARGO REASNER
 006 LOU ANN DONAHUE
 007 KARLA BERNSTEIN
 008 INGRID POMEROY
 009 MAXI BALCER
 010 PAMELA WALDER
 011 DORI FLEMING
 012 MERRILEE SOBERG
 013 CHRIS HARRIS
 014 MARJUT KORHONEN
 015 SANDRA DANN
 016 VICKI ARDOIN
 017 SARA VICTORIA SANDBERG
 018 DOV FUCHS
 019 PAULA D POWERS
 020 ANN LAVIN
 021 HELEN MCLEOD
 022 REBECAH THOMPSON
 023 JO CRANE
 024 DIANE EASTHAM
 025 CHERYL PARRIS
 026 KRISTIN COUCH
 027 NANCIE ROWAN
 028 MARILYN SUMNER
 029 VIV BUCKLEY
 030 GITAMA DAY
 031 ROSA PERRY
 032 ALBERT FITSKIE
 033 BARBARA MIERAU-KLEIN
 034 JEAN HUTTER
 035 CARLA MALLENS
 036 DEBORAH MORRISON
 037 NICOLE WILDE

038 NINA IRVIN
 039 MARY ANN ROESLER
 040 MARK HEMSTREET
 041- **FEATURED ARTIST:**
 045 **PENNY DE JONG**
 046 CATHERINE KING
 047 MARIUS ELS
 048 MINDY COLLUM
 049 RENEE PHOENIX
 050 NANCY BRIZENDINE
 051 DONNA ELLIOT
 052 ASHBY PRESLEY
 053 BOB DESILETS
 054 MARIE FARMER
 055 KIM RICCI
 056 DIGITAL DESIRES
 057 MARK LUTNES
 058 BEVERLY EVERSON
 059 KARLA BERNSTEIN
 060-061 JOHN MOLINO
 062 INGE KLEMENT
 063 AUGUST NAUDE
 064 PAULINE VAN DER SPUY
 065 ILONA ABOU-ZOLOF
 066 BARBARA A LANE
 067 LINDA LEWIS
 068 ANNE WILLIAMS NORMAN
 069 JAN ROBINSON
 070 JAMES RANKA
 071 SONIA PUSEY
 072 TINA CHRISTENSEN
 073 ANITA HUBBARD
 074 DEE ADAMS
 075 SUSAN BAILEY

076 DAVE HATTORI
 077 CINDY COLLIER HARRIS
 078 DAN LAVERY
 079 CINDY CHARLES
 080 KEITH G. HAWLEY
 081 DON SCHIFFNER
 082 RANDY J. LAGANA
 083 DENISE HUNTER LOGAN
 084 BOB RUDE
 085 JRG MIRANDA
 086 EVELYN ELWAN
 087 RON PEARL
 088 MAUREEN MAXWELL
 089 LYNETTE PAUL
 090 MARIE OTERO
 091 HELGA BLANKE
 092 DIANA HARONIS
 093 KATHLEEN GREENWOOD
 094 SUE CANTIN
 095 CAROL ABEL
 096 SUSAN PULASKI
 097 LARRY BUCKLEY
 098 KEELEY MCCLEAVE
 099 JANET SIPL
 100 MAGGY R. THORVALDSDOTTIR PEASE
 101 DEB ROSELL
 102 CLARE BARTON
 103 TERRI BUTLER
 104- **CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS**
 111 **SPOTLIGHT**

FRONT COVER & BACKGROUND IMAGE
 PENNY DE JONG





Flight from the City

Marietjie du Toit
(South Africa)

<https://marietjiedutoit.myportfolio.com/>



Oliver and Clara



Margo Reasner
(USA)

And So the
Battle Began

Saving Water



Lou Ann Donahue
(USA)

Floating





Celestial Energy

Karla Bernstein
(USA)





Moonlight Journey



Maxi Balcer
(USA)

Lady Eggatha



Peace Will Guide the Planets

Pamela Walder
(UK)

The Gold Leaf
Fairy's Tool Box





Is There No Escape?

Dori Fleming
(UK)





Rendezvous



Chris Harris
(USA)

Sunday Showers

Tea Time



Marjut Korhonen
(Finland)

Inside or Out





**Spring is
in the Air**

Sandra Dann
(Australia)



Something Blue

Vicki Ardoin
(USA)

<https://vickiardoinfineart.com/>



The Wishing Well



Sara Victoria Sandberg
(Sweden)

<http://www.saravictoriasandberg.com/>

Drop of Hope

The Painter



Dov Fuchs
(Israel)

The Staircase
of Memories





Springtime In Paris

Paula D Powers
(USA)

<http://www.pauladpowers.com/>



The Night is Cold

Ann Lavin
(Australia)



Helen McLeod
(New Zealand)

The Last Piece of the Puzzle



<http://www.2-galleries.com/>

Pillars of Society



Spring is in the Air (Series)

Rebecah Thompson
(USA)

<http://www.rebecahthompson.com/>





Siso

Jo Crane
(Just Josie Photography)
(UK)

<https://justjosi photography.myportfolio.com/>



The Crow Keeper

Diane Eastham
(Canada)

<http://www.dianeeastham.com/>



Bluebirds are
Never Blue



Cheryl Parris
(USA)

<http://www.cherylparris.com/>

In the Cat's Lair

Development



Kristin Couch
(Sweden)

<http://www.kcart.se/>

Time for Change





The Mask



Nancie Rowan
(USA)

Love Leaves
Memories

Social
Hour



<http://www.marilynsphotoart.com/>

Marilyn Sumner
(USA)

Searching





Viv Buckley
DIGITAL ARTIST & PHOTOGRAPHER

The Money Lender

Viv Buckley
(Ireland)

<http://www.vivbuckley.com/>



Feeding the Dragon

Gitama Day
(Australia)



Starry, Starry Night

Rosa Perry
(Australia)

<https://rosa-perry.myportfolio.com/>



The Tattoo Ladies

Rotterdamert Digital Art
(Albert Fitskie)
(Brazil)



**Blue Ait
Ben Haddou**



**Barbara Mierau-Klein
(USA / Germany)**

Blue Cityscape

The Limits
of Time



<https://www.instagram.com/jeanhutterart/>

Jean Hutter
(USA)

Being Normal is
So Overrated





A Glimpse of Summer

Carla Mallens
(The Netherlands)



Flowers by the Barn

Deborah Morrison
(USA)

<http://deborah-penland.pixels.com/>



Nicole Wilde
(USA)

Cedar Waxwing



<http://www.photomagicalart.com/>

Coyote Chill



Soon!

Nina Irvin
(USA)



38 Timeless Journey



Golden Sun Garden

Mary Ann Roesle
(USA)

<https://roeslerwings.wixsite.com/fine-art-photography>



Mark Hemstreet
(USA)

Merman-ish

Featured Artist

Penny
de Jong



The Spellweaver at Work

“ Living the Photo Artistic Life means enjoying the ability to be able to create art from nothing but imaginative play with photographs, textures, an endless array of other elements and the use of technology. It is a delight to lose oneself in the creative process. ” **41**



Hope



Weird Fun at Grandma's House

“ I am inspired by the artists in the **AWAKE** and **KAIZEN** art groups as well as many traditional painters. I love that I can be transported to any other time and place and that the digital art world has no limits. ”



Precipice



Woman in
Lampshade

Bella Walking Her
Buterflies



“ The creative art journey is a never ending one with the added bonus of the joy of continuous discovery and connecting with others. Within this space I find that I am constantly evolving as an artist and it will be interesting to see where this path leads. ”



From The Sea

Penny
de Jong

(Australia)

<https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-4/penny-de-jong/>



Pegasus

Catherine King
(USA)

<http://www.ckingfineart.com/>



Weathered Wisdom (Series)

Marius Els
(UK)

<https://mariuselsphotoartistry.com/>



Guardian Angel

Mindy Collum
(USA)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/yosmama151>



Fancy Feline



Renee Phoenix
(USA)

<http://www.reneephoenix.com/>

Mindfulness



Bunny of Darkness

Nancy Brizendine
(USA)





of life, and
lively; brisk
Spring (spring) (n)
SPRUNG (spring) (v)
ing.] To leap; to
to start or rise
To start or rouse
sudden; to explode
to bend or strain
jump; a flying back
tic power; an elastic
as a steel rod or
strip of India rubber
for such mechanical
poses as imparting power

Late Winter Early Spring

Donna Elliot
(USA)

<http://donnaelliot.slickpic.com/>



Ashby Presley
(USA)

Rose and Roseate the Spoonbill



Bob Desilets
(USA)

Flower Power



Rainbow of the Sea

Girl in
Lace Jabot



Marie Farmer
(USA)

The Postman





Inhibitions Lost

Kim Ricci
(Australia)

<https://kimricci.myportfolio.com/>



Desires

<https://www.deviantart.com/digitaldesireess>

Digital Desires
(New Zealand)

Aella



Hic'ry Dic'ry Dock



Mark Lutnes
(USA)

Roux



Lost and Found


Beverly Everson
(USA)





Painted Wood Carving

Karla Bernstein
(USA)

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a window. A large, dense hanging plant with many thin, dark stems and some green leaves is positioned in front of the window. Three lit candles in glass holders are placed on a surface in the foreground, casting a warm, yellow glow. The window looks out onto a bright, overcast day. The overall mood is mysterious and intimate.

The Coast
is Clear!

John Molino
(USA)





Never Felt so Lost Before

Inge Klement
(Norway / Austria)



<https://www.augustnaudephotography.com/>

The Other Man on the Cross



August Naude
(South Africa)

Decay



When Fear Haunts You

Pauline van der Spuy
(South Africa)

Beetle in Flowers





Distant Memories

Ilona Abou-Zolof
(Australia)

<http://www.zolof.net/>



Mousewarming

Barbara A Lane
(USA)

<http://www.barbaraalane.com/>



New
Fangled



Linda Lewis
(USA)

<http://www.lindalewis.net/>

Compartment

Cilicia



Anne Williams Norman
(USA)

Downtown





Framed

Jan Robinson
(Australia)



All We are is Dust in the Wind

James Ranka
(USA)

<https://www.pictorem.com/profile/James.Ranka>



Broken



Sonia Pusey
(Australia)

Unexplored



Winter Song

Tina Christensen
(USA)

The Night is When
Magic Happens





Heading Home

Anita Hubbard
(Canada)

<https://digartography.pixels.com/>



How About Sharing?

Dee Adams
(South Africa)

<https://www.instagram.com/deeadamsphotography/>



<http://www.susanbailey.smugmug.com/>

Winter Dreamscape



Susan Bailey
(USA)

Goldfinch



Nature Returns

<http://www.davehattoriphoart.com/>

Dave Hattori
(USA)

The Professor





The Songwriter

Cindy Collier Harris
(USA)

<http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/creativearts>



The Photographer

Dan Lavery
(Canada)

<http://danlaveryartist.ca/>



Sweet Angel



Cindy Charles
(Canada)

Dreamer



Brownies

Keith G. Hawley
(Australia)





Shortcut Home

Don Schiffner
(USA)



**The Birth of Bellona,
Goddess of War**

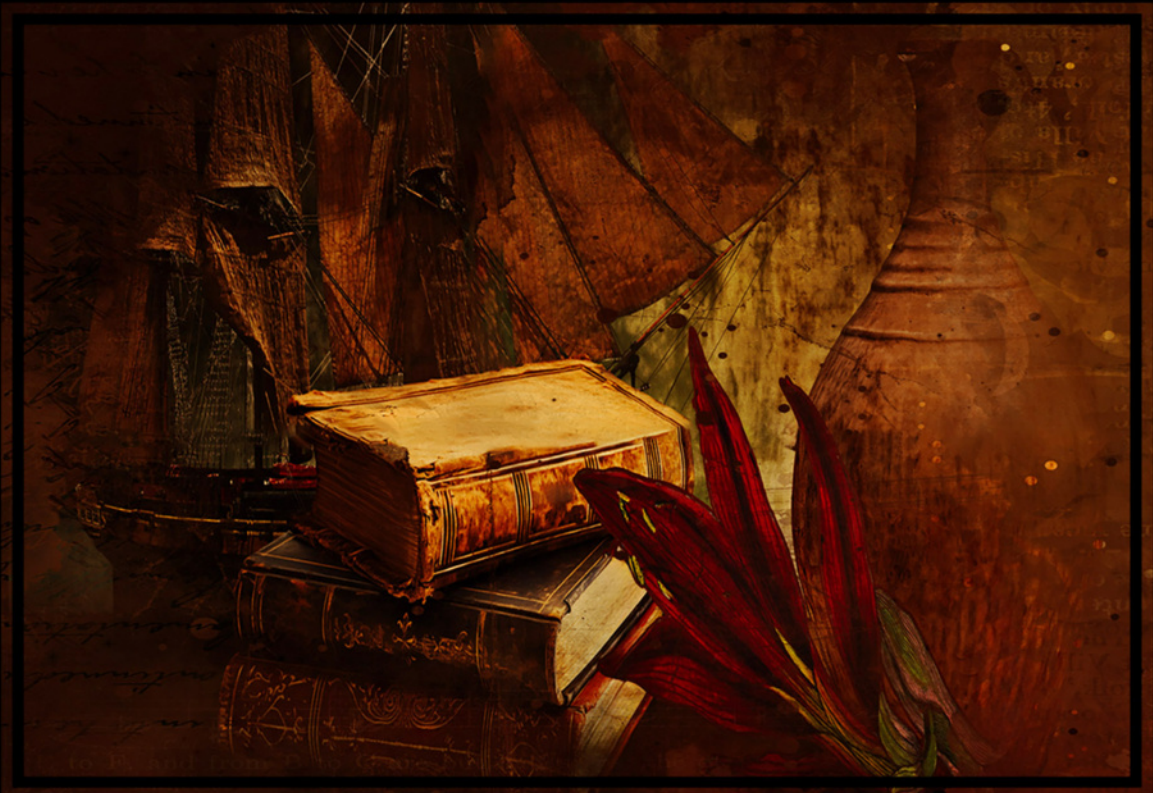
Randy J. Lagana
(USA)

<http://www.randylagana.com/>



Denise Hunter Logan
(Australia)

Blue Bird





Midnight Visitor

Bob Rude
(USA)

The Stars
are Out





Urgent Delivery

Jrgmiranda
(Portugal)

<https://www.deviantart.com/jrgmirandart>





"Dance is about
never -ending
aspiration."
- Judith Jamison,
Choreographer

Aspiration



The Art of Movement - Ballroom Dancing (Series)

Ron Pearl
(USA)

The Viennese Waltz



Are They Friendly?

<https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-3/maureen-maxwell/>

Maureen Maxwell
(Australia)

A Parisian
Heading Home





Thinking is Not Doing

Lynette Paul
(New Zealand)

<https://www.instagram.com/lynettepaul/>



A Spring Bonnet

Marie Otero
(Australia)



**The Fantasy World
of the Coneflower
(Series)**

Helga Blanke
(The Netherlands)

Luck of the Irish



Diana Haronis
(USA)

Easter Hares





Lulu's Look Out

Kathleen Greenwood
(USA)

<http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/kathleen-greenwood/shop>



Homeward Bound

Sue Cantin
(Canada)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/digiladi/>



Out on the Town



Carol Abel
(Luxembourg)

Alice in the
Land of Circles

The Swing

Susan Pulaski
(USA)



Urban Scene - George Washington Bridge





Surveillance

Larry Buckley
(USA)

<http://www.byLarryBuckleyPhotography.com/>



Stunner & Tiles

Keeley McCleave
(England)



Janet Sipl
(USA)

A Girl At Her Mountain Cabin





A Friendly Visit

Maggy R. Thorvaldsdottir Pease
(USA)





Aurora

Deb Rosell
(USA)



Swans in Love

Clare Barton
(UK)



<https://www.thepixelmixer.com/>

Spring is Coming



Terri Butler
(USA)

Queen of Venus

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Amanda Rockwell

<http://www.brushworkshop.com>

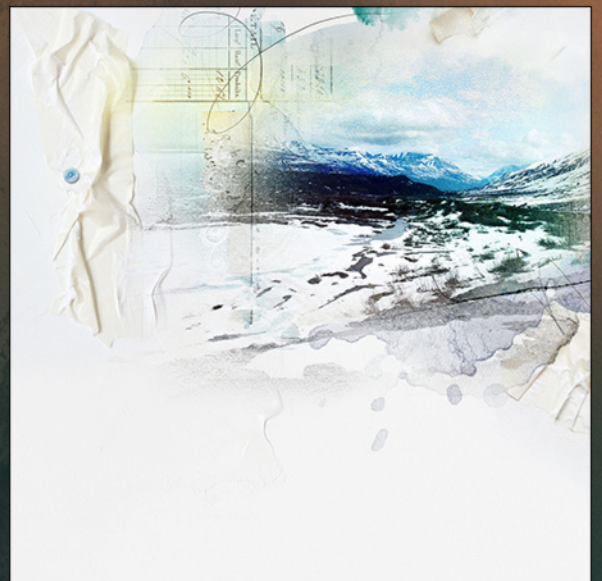
A professional designer with ScrapbookGraphics, Amanda Rockwell creates fantastic content for the AWAKE and KAIZEN groups. But I think her greatest contribution is in encouraging digital artists to get away from their screens and break out the art supplies now and then and actually have fun creating their own custom brushes.



Anna Aspnes

<http://annaaspnesdesigns.com>

Again and again in the work of my top students I was seeing one name turn up constantly when they were citing the source of the artistic content in their work: Anna Aspnes. When I visited her website I was stunned, and when I saw her work in *Somerset Digital Studio* magazine I knew that this was a talent I needed on my team.



Caroline Julia Moore

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/CarolineJuliaMoore>

Over the past two years, I've watched as the immensely talented Caroline Julia Moore shifted from cognitive neuropsychologist to full-time self-employed artist and conceptual photographer ... all while also launching a successful content-design business. Her contributions to the group have been a delight and an inspiration.



Cheryl Tarrant

<http://www.distressedtextures.net>

Cheryl Tarrant is the brilliant creator behind the superb iPhone app Distressed FX and the immensely popular content design studio Distressed Textures. In looking at her artwork, one can't but wonder if her images are paintings or photographs. And her textures are simply divine. We're very lucky to have her working with us as a designer!



CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Denise Love

<http://2lilowls.com>

The textures and backgrounds from 2 Lil' Owls are some of the finest in the digital art industry, and indeed many of the works in this magazine feature Denise's textures – often several in one piece. Without question the photo-artistic community is so much the richer for the love and care Denise brings to her designs.



Foxeysquirrel

<http://www.foxeysquirrel.com>

Immensely popular (and stunningly prolific), Foxeysquirrel is the name by which artist Teddi Rutschman is known around the world. Her artistic design kits bring together a wide range of styles – from the enchanted and purely whimsical to classic illustration, from the exquisitely ornate to elements with touches of dreamlike old world mastery.



itKuPiLLi

<http://www.mischiefcircus.com/>

itKuPiLLi is the rather unusual name donned by Kirsi Rouvinen, the celebrated digital artist from Finland. The itKuPiLLi Imagenarium at MischiefCircus.com is a source for whimsical digital goodies, and the content Kirsi creates for our KAIZEN group is always greeted with excitement and enthusiasm.



Jai Johnson

<http://www.DailyTexture.com>

Jai Johnson is a fine artist and the acclaimed designer behind "The Daily Texture." Time and again when a work of digital artistry caught my eye, I'd find Jai's name listed in the credits as the texture designer. It took some time to get her, but I'm extremely excited to now have Jai an active member of our KAIZEN design team.



CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Jen Maddocks

<http://jenmaddocks.com>

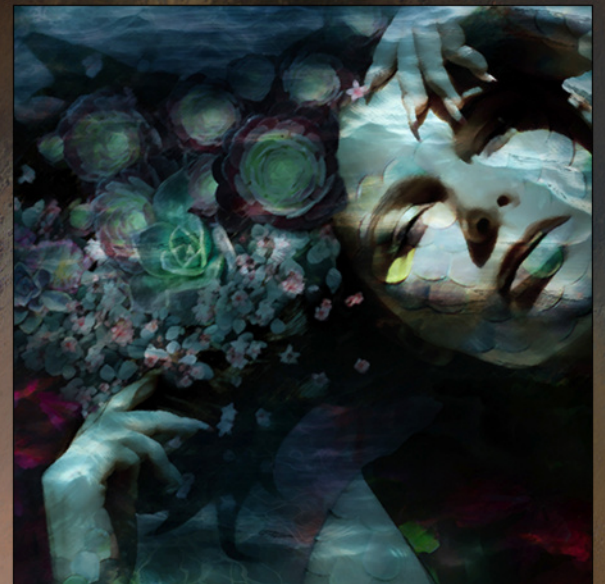
When some students introduced me to the work of Jen Maddocks, I was quite knocked flat. Here was a digital content creator who was as fabulous an artist as she was a designer. We are lucky to have her in our community and MORE than lucky to have her material and tutorials here in "AWAKE" and "KAIZEN."



Jill Catrinel

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/JillCatrinel>

Jill Catrinel works out of her art studio just north of Asheville, making her one of the few designers here quite close to me. Her work is fresh and inspired, and it's exciting to look ahead to everything I will be able to coordinate with her as the projects in the "KAIZEN" group evolve over the years ahead.



Julie Mead

<https://e-scapeandscrap.net>

It's always exciting to see creative success stories, and Julie Mead has certainly become one! She stepped into the digital content scene not long ago it seems, but rapidly brought on a bunch of great designers (and of course created a wonderful stream of original content herself). We're lucky to have her on our team!



Kim Klassen

<http://kimklassen.com>

Kim Klassen was one of the very first truly world-class artists I had the immense privilege of working with when I first launched the original Photoshop Artistry course. It was her textures (and her photography) that first caught my attention. Only later did I realized how wonderful she is as a teacher as well.



CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Miles Beyond The Moon

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MilesBeyondTheMoon>

Mary Bailey is the artist behind Miles Beyond the Moon. She is a digital and paper crafting artist with a vintage soul. Inspired by the details of everyday life, she creates digital graphics that reflect her love for nature, books, whimsy, and adventure. Through attention to detail and an imaginative approach, her hope is to inspire her fellow digital artists to infuse their own artistic creations with a touch of magic.



Rebecca McMeen

<http://www.rebeccamcmeen.com/>

Joining our team just this year, Rebecca McMeen has proven a tremendous hit with her extraordinary material, all of it so rich and complex, whimsical and artistic. Her unique style has made for a fantastic addition to the library of content our artists are now able to employ, and the resulting creations are endlessly charming.



Tangie Baxter

<https://shoptangiebaxter.com/>

Tangie Baxter is the lead artist of her own wildly successful design company with over a decade spent as dedicated “purveyors of digital art journaling supplies.” Her material is quirky and fun, and always a delight. Bringing her onto our team was a big event for us. Everything here got a lot more exciting with her arrival!



The Colby Files

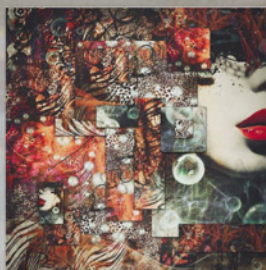
<http://www.thecolbyfiles.com/>

The Colby Files is the intriguing moniker of a celebrated professional photographer located in Scottsdale, Arizona, specializing in female portraits, fashion art, model portfolios and fine art nudes. He has become our resident pro model photographer, providing an amazing library of images for our artists to work with when creating their masterpieces.





Quil
LIVING



Quill and Camera

THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Enjoy interviews with the featured artists of AWAKE at:
<https://www.quillandcamera.com/>

And Be Sure to Follow us and See
Your Favorite Artists on Instagram!

<https://www.instagram.com/photoshopartistry/>



Janice S. Batterbee

*Background Image Credit:
Janice S. Batterbee (Spain)*

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



INTERESTED IN CREATING PHOTO ART OF YOUR OWN?

GET STARTED HERE:

[HTTP://PROPHOTOSHOPARTISTRY.COM](http://prophotoshopartistry.com)

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