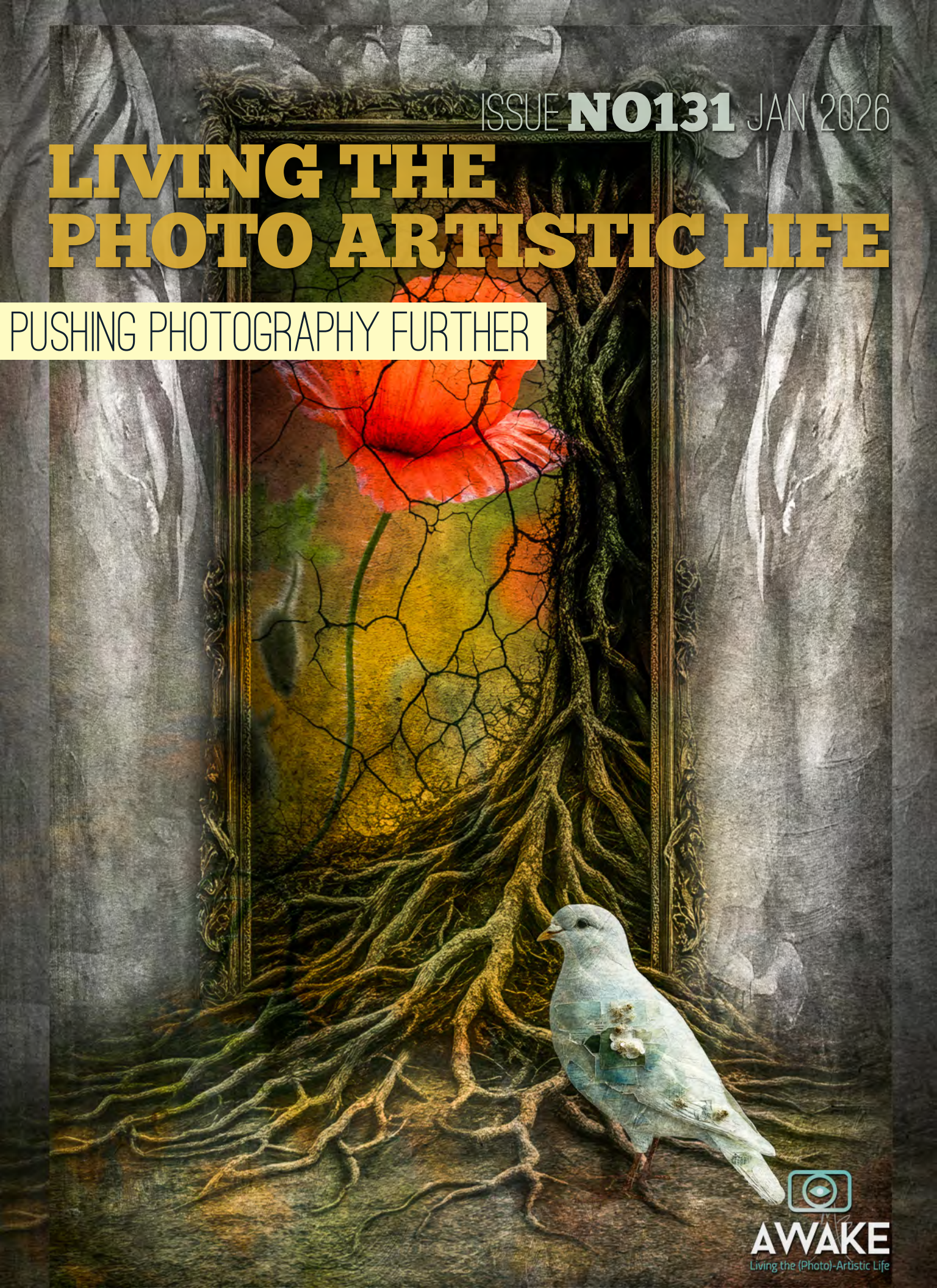


ISSUE **N0131** JAN 2026

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



AWAKE

Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MICHAELS

Here we are! A brand new year.

Question for you: What are you going to *do* with it?

Is this going to be the year you finally assemble all of your best images and organize them all into a book or set them up on a website?

Is this going to be the year you begin scanning collage materials to bring into your artwork, or maybe tackle the Mixer Brush in earnest?

Is this going to be the year you get out your camera again and begin orchestrating some creative photo shoots?

Here's one simple way I like to take stock of my life and set my intentions each year: Sit down with paper and pen and ask yourself what it is you would like to *start* doing, or perhaps what you'd like to do *more* of. Then ask yourself what you really need to *stop* doing, or at least do *less* of.

Start. Stop. More. Less.

(You can also come up with matching pairs. For instance, "I'm going to spend less time staring at the screen in my hand and more time calling my friends and family to talk and laugh together.")

How might you specifically improve your *creative* life through lists like these?

Would you start keeping a creative journal? Or start turning your digital artwork into physical prints and gifts?

Maybe you'll spend more time revisiting your favorite photography books or working on the creative projects you've been putting off?

Would you stop beating yourself up by comparing yourself and your art to what others are posting on Instagram?

Maybe you will spend less time doom-scrolling, less time fretting over the news, less time binging on Netflix — when you could be spending your evenings making something beautiful?

This is one way of helping ensure you are living your life intentionally. And as an artist this can absolutely help you take your art further. It can accelerate your development and will definitely make you more productive.

You can be sure that the most accomplished AWAKE artists published here have made decisions like these. Which is why each month we get to celebrate so much wonderful art in these pages.

So get inspired. And then . . . go grab pen and paper and start planning out the creative life you want to make for yourself in 2026!

~ Sebastian

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

004 ROSA PERRY
 005 DORI FLEMING
 006 MARGARET WEIR
 007 CATHY LABUDAK
 008 ASHBY PRESLEY
 009 BARBARA A LANE
 010 CHRIS HARRIS
 011 LOU ANN DONAHUE
 012 CATBEAGLE CREATIONS
 013 CHERYL PARRIS
 014 RENEE PHOENIX
 015 BEVERLY EVERSON
 016 PAULA D POWERS
 017 REBECAH THOMPSON
 018 DONNA ELLIOT
 019 DEBORAH MORRISON
 020 INGE KLEMENT
 021 NINA IRVIN
 022 BOB DESILETS
 023 KEITH G. HAWLEY
 024 MERRILEE SOBERG
 025 CHRISTINA BRUNTON
 026 DAN BORGE
 027 PAMELA WALDER
 028 EVELYN ELWAN
 029 JANICE S. BATTERBEE
 030 MARK LUTNES
 031 TERRI BUTLER
 032 SHARON JENKINS
 033 NANCIE ROWAN
 034 SHELLEY BENJAMIN
 035 MARY ANN ROESLER
 036 DENISE HUNTER LOGAN
 037 DIANA HARONIS

038 MARJUT KORHONEN
 039 SHERRI REED
 040 MARIUS ELS
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 046 TRACY COOPER
 047 NANCY BRIZENDINE
 048 MAXI BALGER
 049 KEELEY MCCLEAVE
 050 ANN LAVIN
 051 JOHN MOLINO
 052 TINA CHRISTENSEN
 053 SUSAN PULASKI
 054 DAVE HATTORI
 055 AUGUST NAUDE
 056 GITAMA DAY
 057 DONNA WATERSON
 058 DAN LAVERY
 059 LARRY BUCKLEY
 060 DEE ADAMS
 061 HELGA BLANKE
 062 HELEN ANNE LEMKE
 063 RENEE KEEL
 064 JILL JOHNSON
 065 MAGGY R. THORVALDSOTTIR PEASE
 066 DOV FUCHS
 067 MAUREEN MAXWELL
 068 DOREEN FAIELLO
 069 DIANE EASTHAM
 070 KATHLEEN GREENWOOD
 071 SUSAN BAILEY
 072 -073 JO CRANE
 074 DIANE PINSART
 075 KRISTIN COUCH

076 VICKI ARDOIN
 077 JOY BUCKLEY FLYNN
 078 JAN ROBINSON
 079 PAULINE VAN DER SPUY
 080 MARIE FARMER
 081 DON SCHIFFNER
 082 GEORGE KONCZ
 083 JEAN HUTTER
 084 S. H. LAYRE
 085 DIANE LEICHER GLATZER
 086 SUE WATERHOUSE
 087 ROBZ LIPNER
 088 KAREN SORRELLS
 089 BOB RUDE
 090 BARBARA MIERAU-KLEIN
 091 JOHN T JONES
 092 ILONA ABOU-ZOLOF
 093 ANITA HUBBARD
 094 SUE JOESTEN MERRITT
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 100 JAMES RANKA
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FRONT COVER & BACKGROUND IMAGE
 MATTHEW BERBERICH





At One with the Crows

Rosa Perry
(Australia)

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

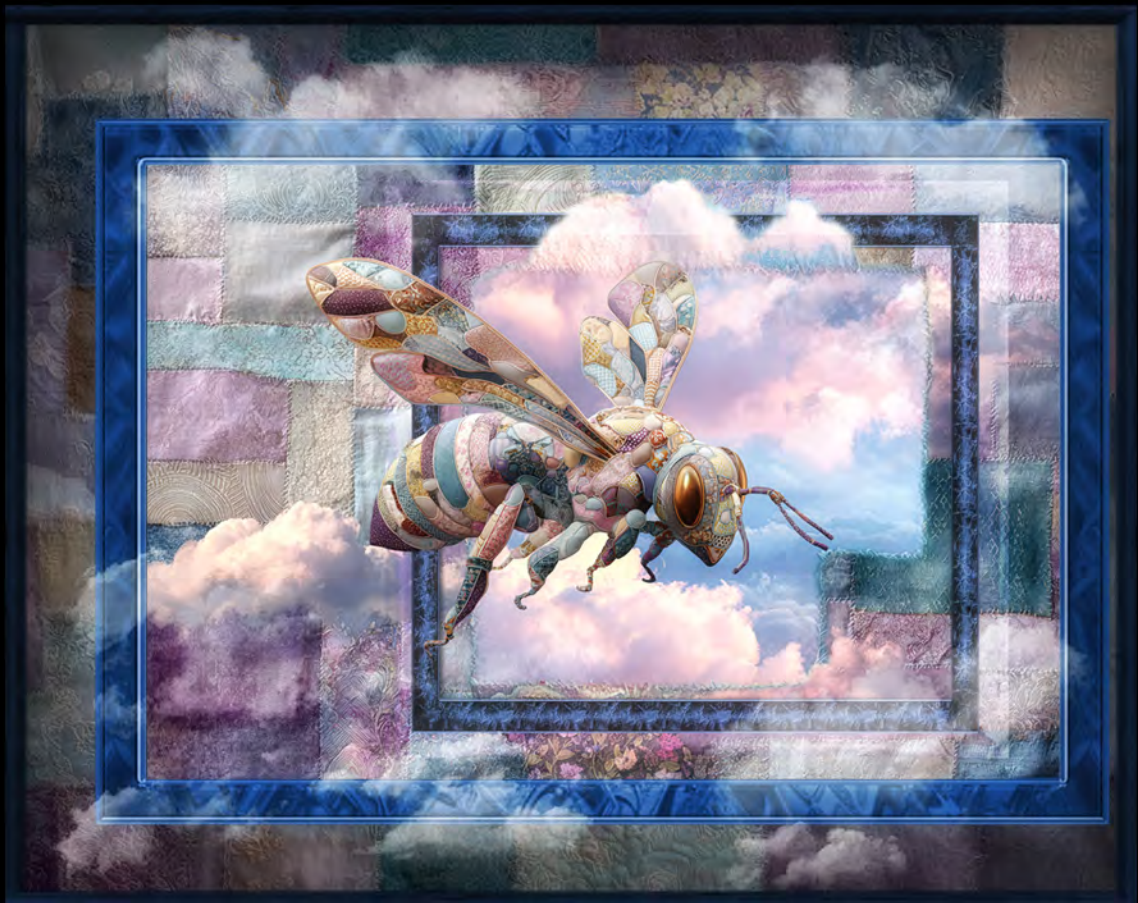


Is this our Future



Dori Fleming
(UK)

Poisoned Fruit



Alone in a Patchwork Sky

Margaret Weir
(Canada)





Balancing Acts

Cathy Labudak
(USA)

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



Forest Patrol

Ashby Presley
(USA)

<http://www.ash3photography.com/>



Innocence of Winter



Barbara A Lane
(USA)

<https://barbaraalane.com/>

Easel Echoes of
Artistic Doubt



Celeste, Wrapped in Roses and Golden Light

Chris Harris
(USA)



A Mermaid's Song

Lou Ann Donahue
(USA)



Last Keeper of the Stars

CatBeagle Creations
(Australia)



The Lantern Keeper



Cheryl Parris
(USA)

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

Queen of Small Wonders

Tattered Cover



Renee Phoenix
(USA)

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

Between Living
and Dreaming





Facing the Moment

Beverly Everson
(USA)

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



Mask Up - Gotta Go

Paula D Powers
(USA)

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



Winter Silhouette



Rebecah Thompson
(USA)

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

Jenny



Some Days

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

Donna Elliot
(USA)

Softer
than Ever





Winter Blue

Deborah Morrison
(USA)

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



Fox Sanctuary

Inge Klement
(Norway / Austria)

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



Nina Irvin
(USA)

Winter Warrior



A Winter's Song **21**



Community Skating Party

Bob Desilets
(USA)



22 Spooky Picture Comes Alive



Moooo

Keith G. Hawley
(Australia)

<https://keith-hawley.pixels.com/>





Ginger Cat



Christina Brunton
(Australia)

<https://chrisbrunton.com/>

Ginger Cat and Girl



Hopper Visits His Painting

Dan Borge
(USA)

Rockwell Visits
His Painting





Oh Boy, it's Mom
with a New Painting!

Pamela Walder
(UK)



Woman in Disguise

Evelyn Elwan
(USA)



Magic Dollhouse



Janice S. Batterbee
(Spain)

@janicebatterbee1695

Everything You See

Time to
Take a Chance



Mark Lutnes
(USA)

Supposed to be a
Mirrorless Camera





Feathered Silence

Terri Butler
(USA)

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



The Seeds We Sow

Sharon Jenkins
(Canada)

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



All Aboard



Nancie Rowan
(USA)

Self Portrait Expert



The Snow Monarch

Shelley Benjamin
(USA)



Winter's Grace

<https://shelleybenjamin.com/>



Snow's Floral Swan

Mary Ann Roesler
(USA)

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



Live Life on Your Terms

Denise Hunter Logan
(Australia)



Faery of Winter



Diana Haronis
(USA)

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

At the Threshold of Time

Bluebirds



Marjut Korhonen
(Finland)

@photoartistrymarjutkorhonen

Pearls of Wisdom





Believe

Sherri Reed
(USA)

@Sherri_Reed_Studios



The Quiet Sun

Marius Els
(UK)

<https://mariuselsphotoartistry.com/>

FEATURED ARTIST

Matthew Berberich



The Herron's Notepad

“ My path into photo artistry began with a promise. In 2019, my best friend of 42 years passed away, and his final request was for me to ‘notice beauty each moment of each day.’ What started as a way to grieve became a way to see. ”



Old Souls



Stepping Out

“ I’m not interested in perfection. In fact, I’ve found that age and imperfection often make things more beautiful. My work lives in the contrasts: the buried seed and the blooming stalk, the goodbye and the hello, beginnings and endings. ”



The Long Goodbye



Led by
Loss

The Guardian



“ If I could share one thing with fellow artists, it's this: don't worry about chasing the 'perfect' image. Just trust your own eye. Art has been a sanctuary for me—a way to be led by loss into noticing beauty in life's incredible mystery. ”



The Spectator

Matthew
Berberich

(USA)

<http://matthewberberich.com/>



**Portents
(The Hair Follies Series)**

Tracy Cooper
(Portugal)

@tracycooper0825



Nancy Brizendine
(USA)

Go Ask Alice



<https://www.facebook.com/nbrizphotoart>

House of the Forgotten



The Snow Queen

Maxi Balcer
(USA)





Moon Worshipper

Keeley McCleave
(England)



Reflections

Ann Lavin
(Australia)



Beauty and Power

John Molino
(USA)



Hello Kitty

Tina Christensen
(USA)



Wanderlust 2



Susan Pulaski
(USA)

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

Wanderlust 1

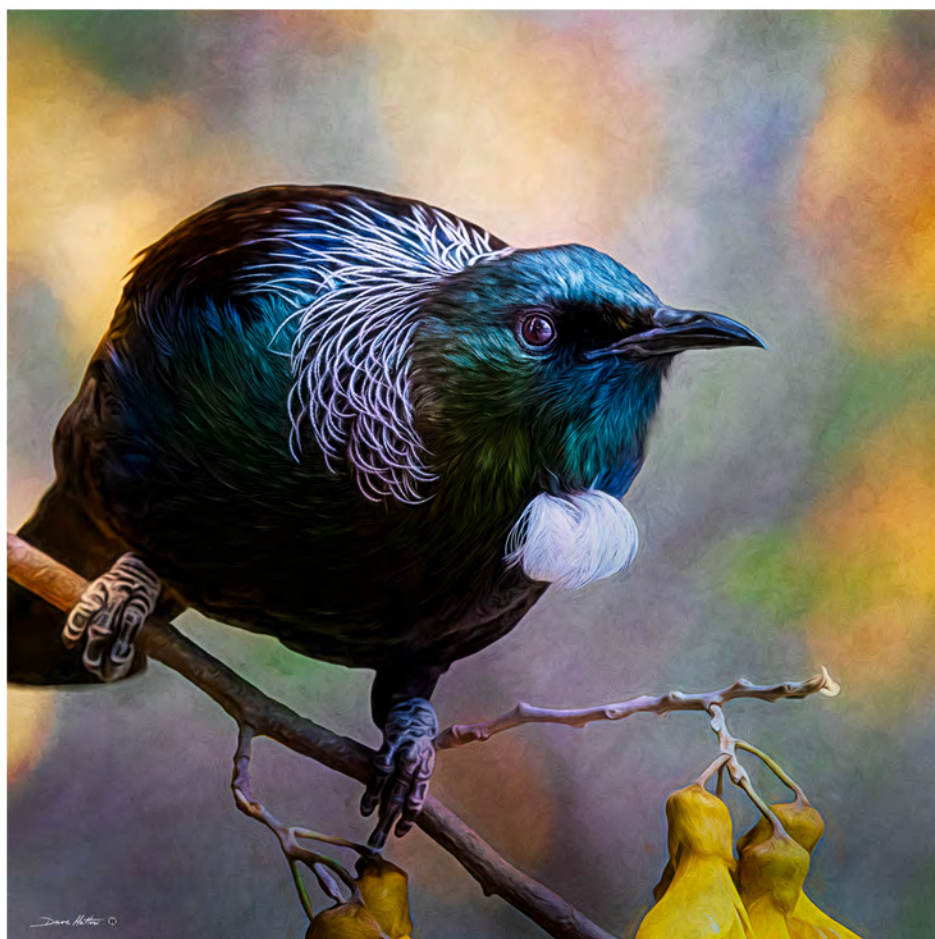


Stormy Night

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

Dave Hattori
(USA)

So Fancy





Dress Positive

August Naude
(South Africa)

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



She's Gone

Gitama Day
(Australia)



The Places I've Been, The Things I've Seen



Donna Waterson
(USA)

Letters

Random Thoughts
While Out on a Walk



Dan Lavery
(Canada)

<http://danlaveryartist.ca/>

The Ebb And Flow
of the Bow





Listen

Larry Buckley
(USA)

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



The Weather Conundrum

Dee Adams
(South Africa)



After the Last Hydrangea



Helga Blanke
(The Netherlands)

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

The Camera Fused
with the World

Tea Party



Helen Anne Lemke
(Canada)

Time with Nature





Into the Green

Renée Keel
(USA)

<https://reneekeel.com/>



Riveting

Jill Johnson
(USA)



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

Red-Breasted Grosbeak



Maggy R.
Thorvaldsdottir Pease
(USA)

Notch

Head in the Clouds



Dov Fuchs
(Israel)

<https://www.dovfuchs.art/>

Farewell to Gravity





Dubious Travel Arrangements

Maureen Maxwell
(Australia)

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

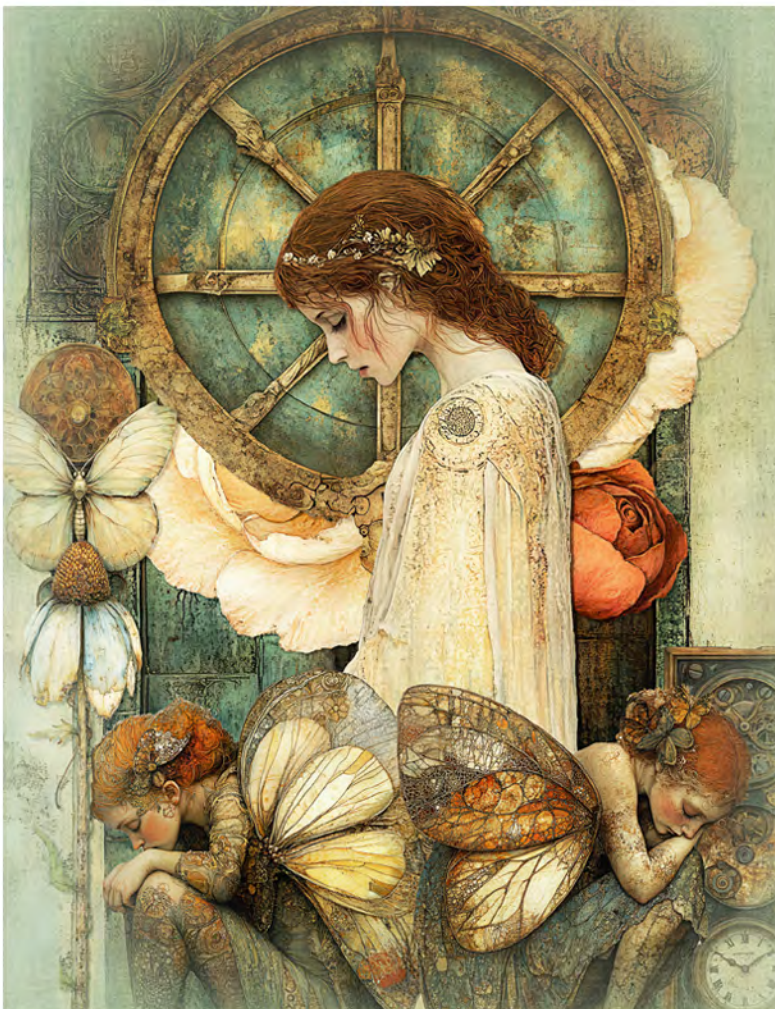


She Walks and Redefines the City

Doreen Faiello
(USA)



No Country
for Old Men



Diane Eastham
(Canada)

<https://diane-eastham.pixels.com/>

Comfort in Grief



Winter Folk

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

Kathleen Greenwood
(USA)

Snowflakes





Corgi Pals

Susan Bailey
(USA)

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

January

Jo Crane
(Just Josie Photography)
(UK)







Break Free

Diane Pinsart
(USA)



The Butterfly Lens



Kristin Couch
(Sweden)

<https://kcart.se/>

Nighttime Journey
of a Woman



Winter Solstice

Vicki Ardoin
(USA)

<https://vickiardoinfineart.com/>

Make a Wish!



Vicki Ardoin



Snow Queen

Joy Buckley Flynn
(Ireland)



Hummingbirds

Jan Robinson
(Australia)



They Left with
No Word of
Farewell



Pauline van der Spuy
(South Africa)

I Just Came to
Talk to You



Well Aren't You Cute

Marie Farmer
(USA)

Rite of Darkness
and Light





Don Schiffner
(USA)

Little Steampunk Girl



<http://georgekonczphotography.com/>

George Koncz
(Australia)

Reflection of a
Mystery Castle



Little Birdie



Jean Hutter
(USA)

@jeanhutterart

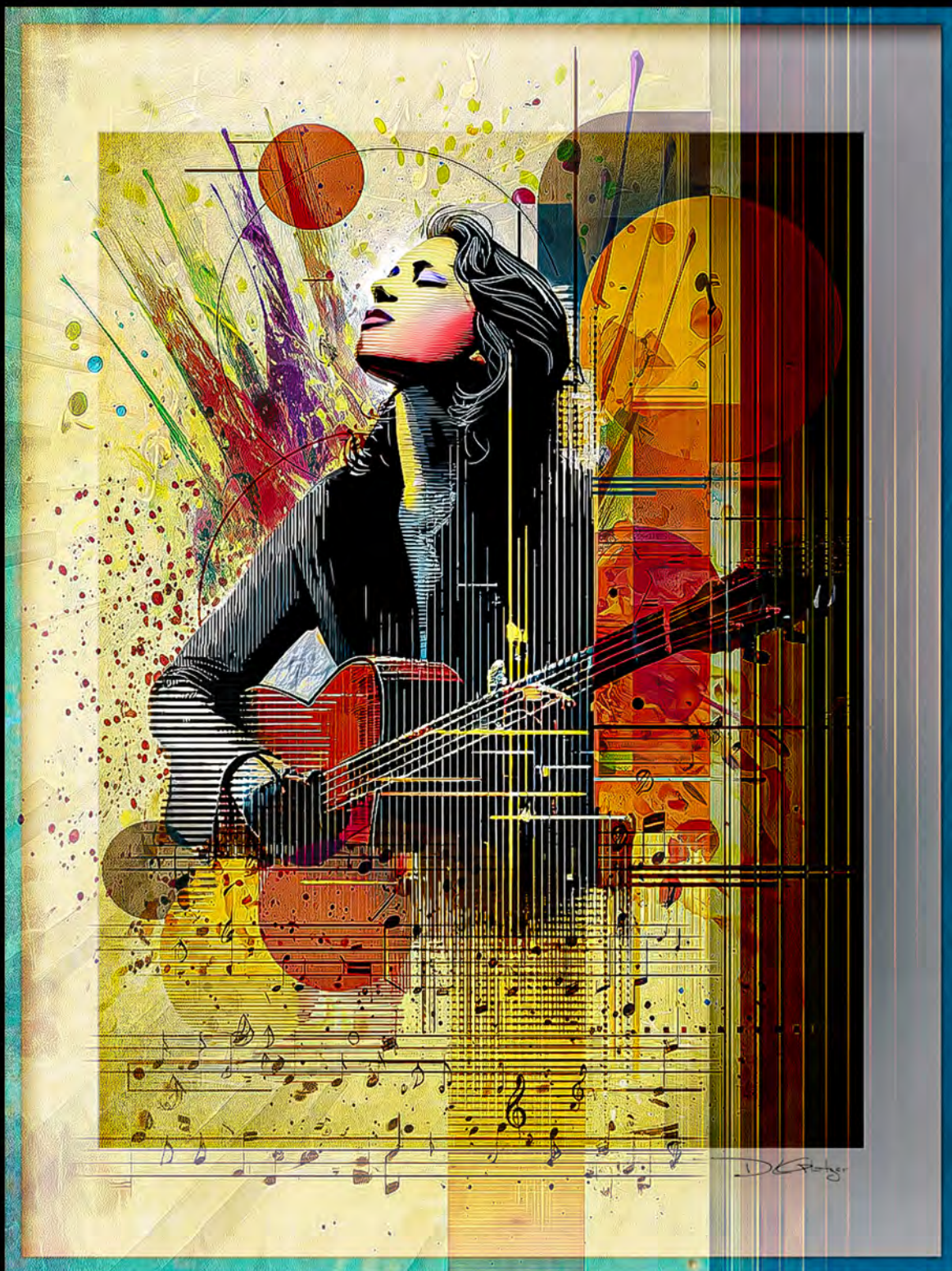
The Question
is Why



Comets and Constellations

S. H. Layre
(USA)





Feelin' the Music

Diane Leicher Glatzer
(USA)



New Beginnings

Sue Waterhouse
(England)



A Moment Held



Robz Lipner
(South Africa)

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

Of Midnight
and Moonlight

Coastal Calm



Karen Sorrells
(USA)

Free Spirits





Country Truck

Bob Rude
(USA)



Blue Winter

Barbara Mierau-Klein
(USA / Germany)

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



Cinnamon
Teal



John T Jones
(USA)

Winter Hunt



Rural Resilience

Ilona Abou-Zolof
(Australia)
<https://gigglegallery.design/>

Ocean Gaze





Whimsical Chicago



Whimsical New York

Anita Hubbard
(Canada)

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



Dahlia

Sue Joesten Merritt
(USA)

<https://suemerrittphotography.com/>



The Initiate



Linda Lewis
(USA)

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

Triage



Ghost of the Arcade

John Schultz
(USA)

Ice Racing





The Night Circus

Esther Byrt
(Canada)

<http://www.estherbyrt.ca/>



Viv Buckley
DIGITAL ARTIST & PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rocker

Viv Buckley
(Ireland)

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



The Whale Born of the Cosmic Deep



Penny de Jong
(Australia)

Apollo



Moonlit Navigation

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

James Ranka
(USA)

Schooner





Point Conception Lighthouse

Catherine King
(USA)

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



Time has No Bounds

Cindy Charles
(Canada)



Quirky Dreams



Ingrid Pomeroy
(USA)

Swan Ride

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Amanda Rockwell

<http://www.brushworkshop.com>

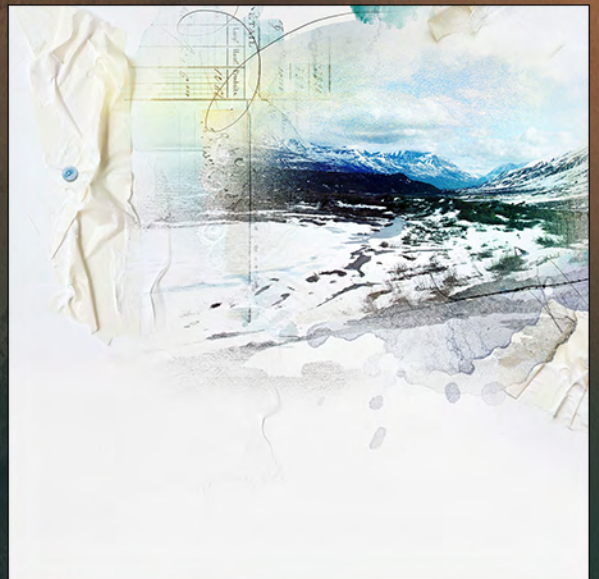
A professional designer with ScrapbookGraphics, Amanda Rockwell creates fantastic content for the AWAKE and KAIZEN groups. But I think her greatest contribution is in encouraging digital artists to get away from their screens and break out the art supplies now and then and actually have fun creating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



Art House Whimsy

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

Tracy Pitchforth is the artist and designer behind Art House Whimsy. Digital art has been a huge part of her life for over a decade – with it bringing much friendship, inspiration and joy. She has embraced the world of AI as a creative partner. When used thoughtfully, it is powerful tool that enhances the artistic process and makes creativity more accessible for everyone.



Caroline Julia Moore

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

Over the past many 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.



CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Denise Love

<http://2lilowls.com>

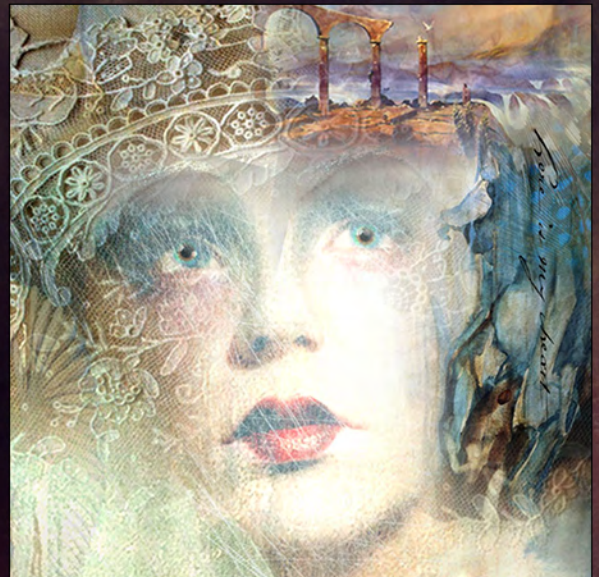
The textures and backgrounds from 2 Lil' Owls are some of the finest in the digital art industry, and indeed many of the works in this magazine feature Denise's textures – often several in one piece. Without question the photo-artistic community is so much the richer for the love and care Denise brings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

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

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 year ahead.



Julie Mead

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

It's always exciting to see creatives 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 incredibly grateful to have her on our team!



Marius Els

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

Marius Els is a digital artist residing in the vibrant city of London. He brings to his craft a unique blend of creative experiences. The creation of his intricate elements is a labor of love. He aspires to provide fellow artists with access to these elements, hoping to evoke the same joy he experiences when exploring a brand-new designer collection.



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!



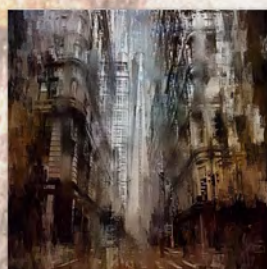
The Colby Files

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!**

@photoshopartistry



*Background Image Credit:
David Walker (UK)*

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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