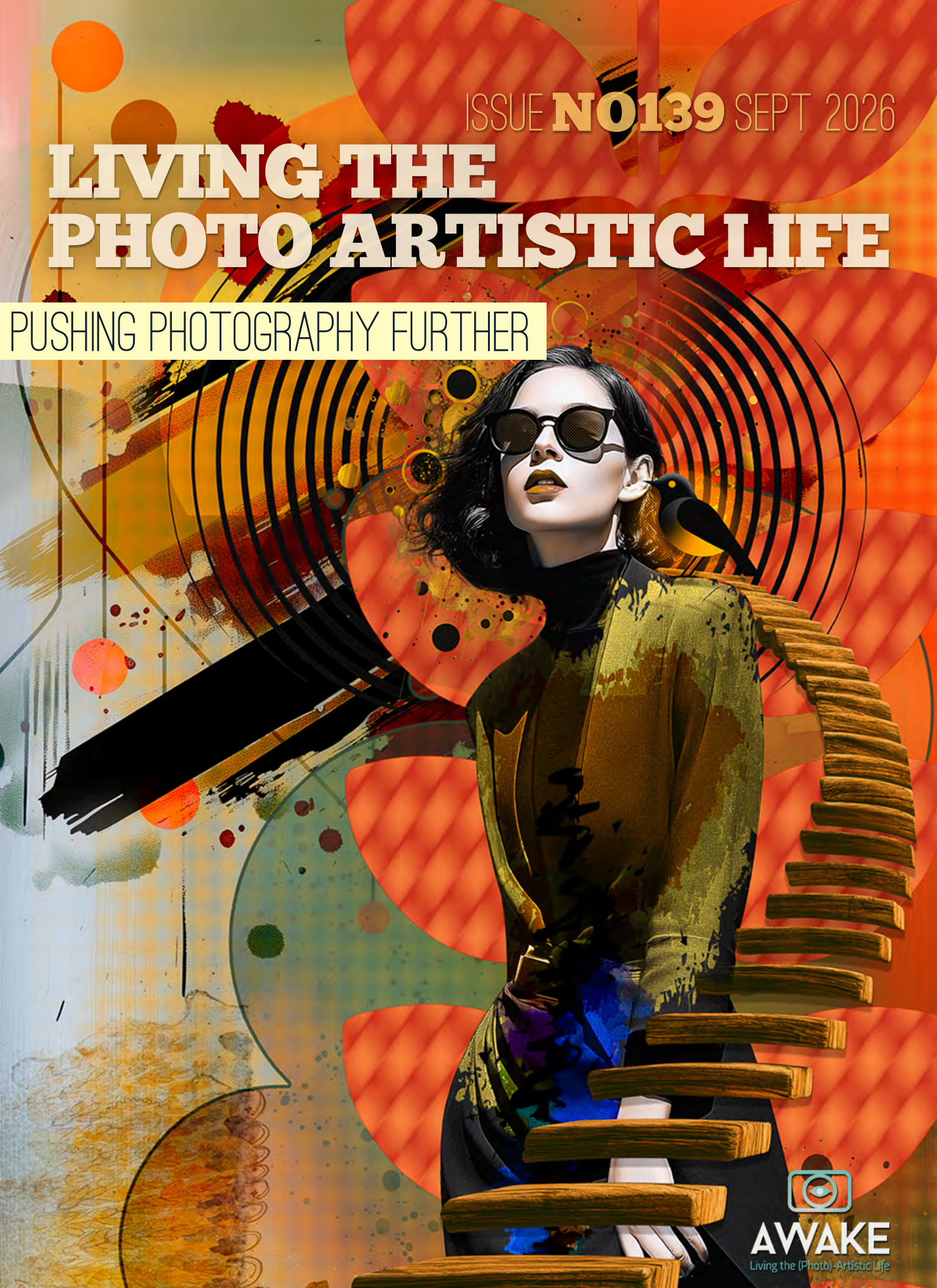
ISSUE NO139 SEPT 2026

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MICHAELS

Digital is great and all. But I sure do love that these magazines can be printed. That's something I love about photographs in general and of all works of photo artistry. It requires a little extra bother, but you can can actually hold the results in your hands. And because you can hold it, you can give it to other hands in turn.

I've been thinking about this more so lately because earlier this month my father passed away. And what we are realizing is just how valuable are the things of his we can actually touch and hold. It was the same I remember when my mother passed. In my Dad's case I was particularly moved to hold photographs of him, his favorite CDs, his acoustic guitar, his favorite custom pool cue . . . With my Mom, it was her books, her *art* books especially, her paint supplies and her paintings.

And artwork . . . that really *is* special. Because when it's something we have *made* — something we have worked on, something we have invested with our creativity and passion — it seems to carry even more of us with it.

Not everyone is an artist, of course. But for those who are . . . what a treasure it is you are able to share with those you love. And ultimately leave behind for them to remember you by.

Could be a song recorded, a poem or letter written, a photograph or a painting or a printed work of photo artistry. And it needn't even be all that fantastic either. The important thing is that it came from *you* and was something that brought you joy in the making of it.

I know that it was especially meaningful when I was able to share a physical copy of this magazine with each of my parents. Seeing everything online was nice, but for them the weight of just how wonderful all of this is only came to them when I was able to sit and share the actual magazines and we were able to flip through the pages together.

It's the same with something as simple as common photographs. We all have thousands of them on our phones. But how meaningful is a photo shared on a phone? It's very different when you choose the truly important ones and actually have them printed. You can then hold them in your hands, put them into cards or send them along with letters, frame them, even hang them on the refrigerator.

And if the photo was creatively or artistically captured, printed, presented . . . if it ended up an actual work of art on canvas . . . it becomes all the more meaningful.

It's just something I've been thinking about a lot this past week. The things connected to us most carry a special sort of magic . . . and they feel all the more precious when they can be held in our hands.

- Sebastian

ISSUE NO139 SEPT 2026

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

004 KAREN SORRELLS
005 PAMELA WALDER
006 MARGARET WEIR
007 JO CRANE
008 VIV BUCKLEY
009 BARBARA A LANE
010 KRISTIN COUCH
011 JOYCE SIMPSON
012 ANN LAVIN
013 JILL JOHNSON
014 BOB DESILETS
015 MERRILEE SOBERG
016 MARIUS ELS
017 JOY BUCKLEY FLYNN
018 DON SCHIFFNER
019 NINA IRVIN
020 SHARON JENKINS
021 MAGGY R. THORVALDSDOTTIR PEASE
022 GITAMA DAY
023 HEIKE LINDNER
024 PEGGY GATTO
025 CATHY LABUDAK
026 RACHELLE R. VETTER
027 INGRID POMEROY
028 SANDRA DANN
029 CHERYL PARRIS
030 ROBZ LIPNER
031 ROSA PERRY
032 DORI FLEMING
033 MARIE FARMER
034 DONNA ELLIOT
035 KATHLEEN GREENWOOD
036 MARK LUTNES
037 CHRISTINA BRUNTON
038 REBECAH THOMPSON
039 MARIETJIE DU TOIT
040 CJ SHANK
041-045 FEATURED ARTIST: MARILYN SUMNER
046 BARBARA MIERAU-KLEIN
047 DONNA WATERSON
048 JANICE S. BATTERBEE
049 MARGO REASNER
050 TINA CHRISTENSEN
051 DAVID WALKER
052 HELGA BLANKE
053 DIANE PINSART
054 ASHBY PRESLEY
055 RENEE PHOENIX
056 DAN BORGE
057 VICKI ARDOIN
058 SUE WATERHOUSE
059 PENNY DE JONG
060 BOB RUDE
061 ANITA HUBBARD
062-063 DAN LAVERY
064 MARY MILLER
065 DOV FUCHS
066 JOHN MOLINO
067 JANE TOVEY
068 DENISE HUNTER LOGAN
069 KEITH G. HAWLEY
070 BEVERLY EVERSON
071 DEE ADAMS
072 SCOTT CLEMENTS
073 CHRIS HARRIS
074 PAULINE VAN DER SPUY
075 INGE KLEMENT
076 MAXI BALCER
077 ILONA ABOU-ZOLOF
078 NANCIE ROWAN
079 MARY ANN ROESLER
080 CLARISSA WILSON
081 DEBORAH MORRISON
082 AUGUST NAUDE
083 JOHN SCHULTZ
084 DOREEN FAIELLO
085 LARRY BUCKLEY
086 DAVE HATTORI
087 SUSAN BAILEY
088 LAURIE BAKER
089 MATTHEW BERBERICH
090 DIANE EASTHAM
091 TERRI BUTLER
092 DENISE MCDERMOTT
093 NANCY BRIZENDINE
094 LINDA LEWIS
095 PAULA D POWERS
096 DIANA HARONIS
097 JOHN T JONES
098 JEAN HUTTER
099 JULIE MAE THIES
100 MAUREEN MAXWELL
101 LOU ANN DONAHUE
102 S. H. LAYRE
103 SHELLEY BENJAMIN
104-111 CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS SPOTLIGHT

FRONT COVER & BACKGROUND IMAGE
MARILYN SUMNER

AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life



Autumn Bliss

Karen Sorrells
(USA)



The Curator as Subject



Pamela Walder
(UK)

The Little Shop of
Tarnished Treasures

Call to Action



Margaret Weir
(Canada)

https://www.watertomysoul.com/

Carry the Memories





Loss of Transmission

Jo Crane
(Just Josie Photography)
(UK)

https://justjosiephotography.myportfolio.com/



Agapanthus

Viv Buckley
(Ireland)

http://www.vivbuckley.com/



Lollipop Lace



Barbara A Lane
(USA)

https://barbaraalane.com/

Ornaments of Splendor

Velvet Reviere

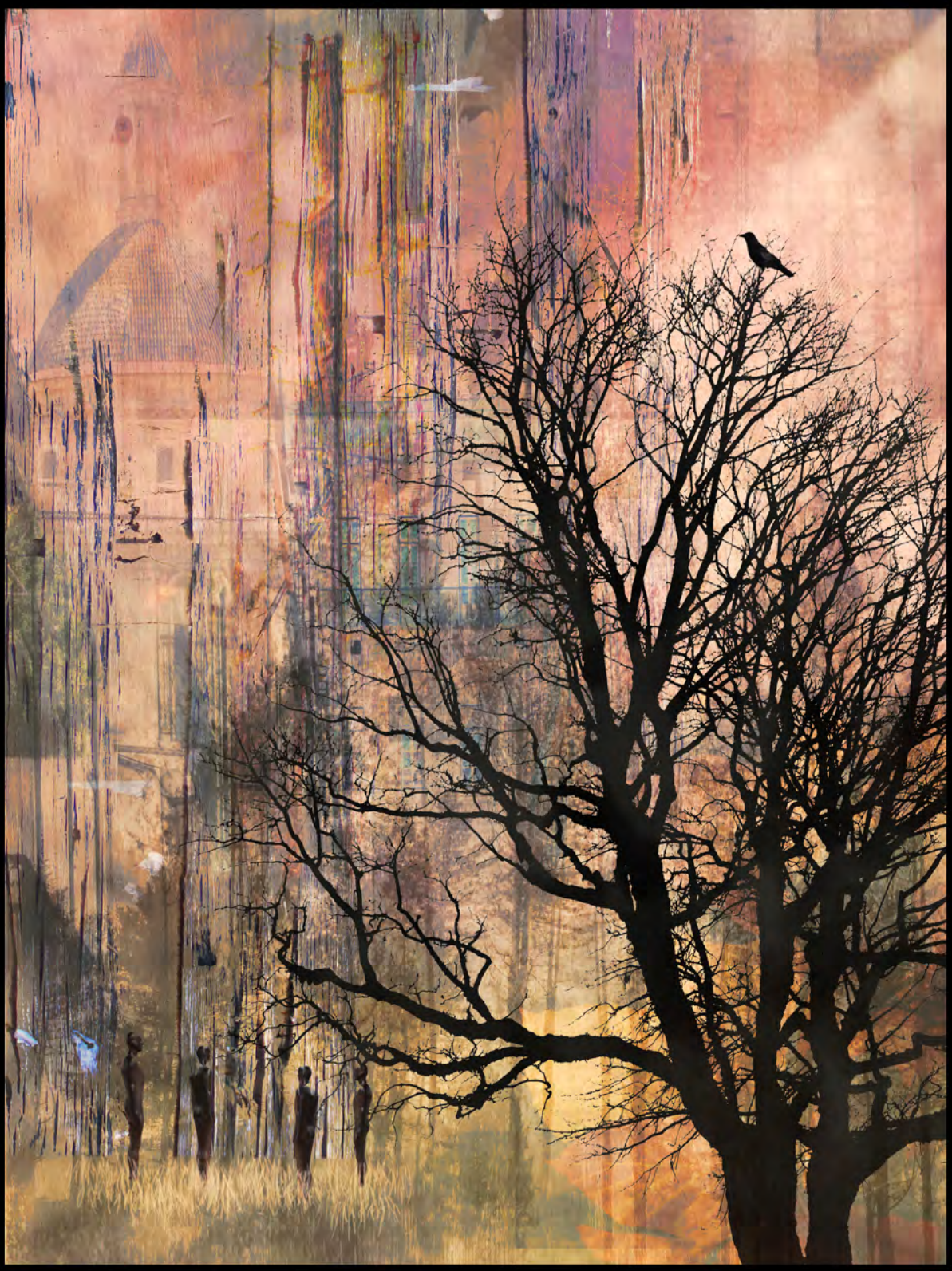


Kristin Couch
(Sweden)

http://www.kcart.se/

What She
Carries Within





The Silent Assembly

Joyce Simpson
(UK)

https://joycesimpson.myportfolio.com/



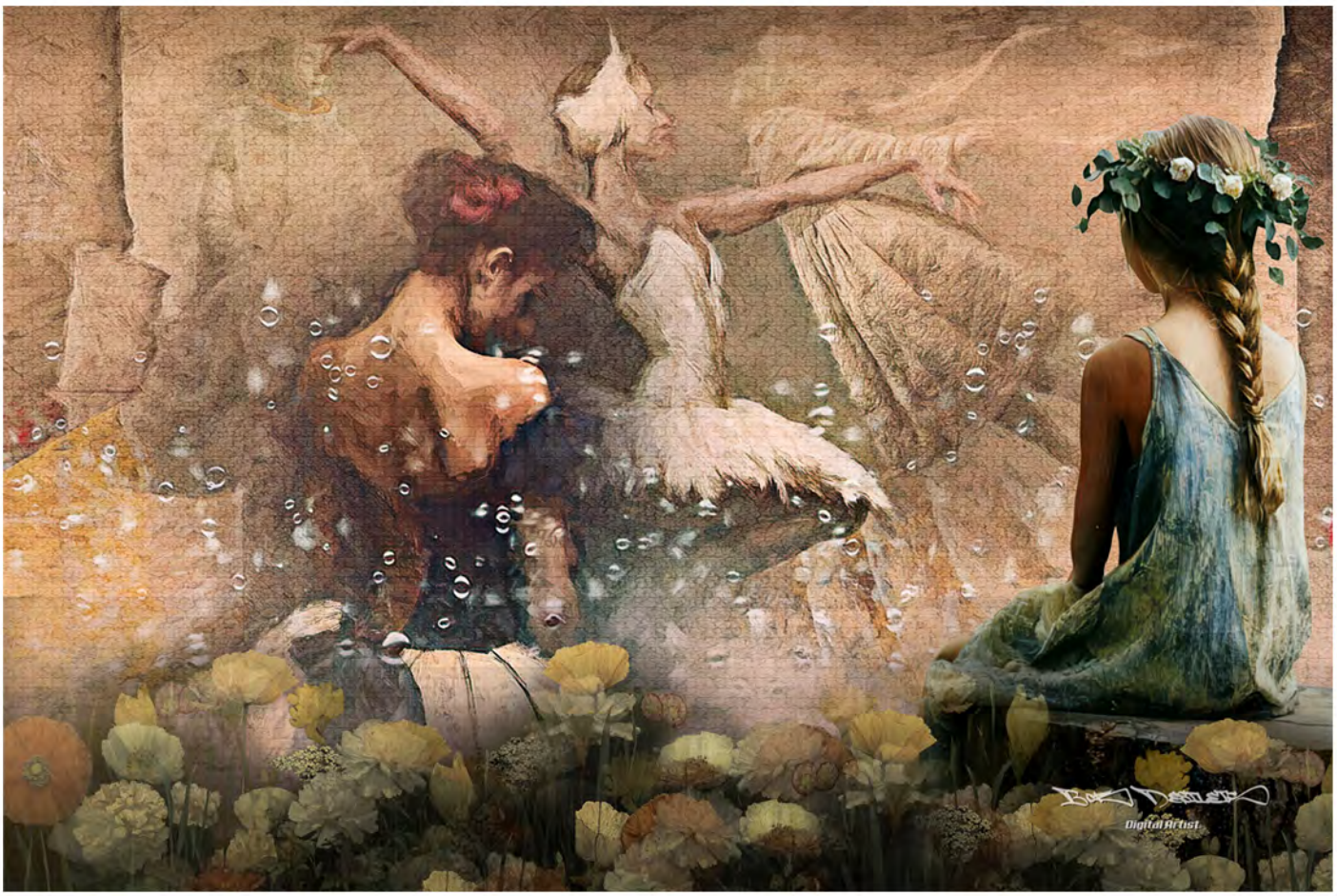
Nature

Ann Lavin
(Australia)



Venus Flytrap

Jill Johnson
(USA)



Where Memories Learn to Dance

Bob Desilets
(USA)



Keeping the Past Alive

Merrilee Soberg
(Canada)



Red Lotus

Marius Els
(UK)

https://mariuselsphotoartistry.com/



Symphony in Gold



Joy Buckley Flynn
(Ireland)

Deep Blue



Sailboats in Harbor

Don Schiffner
(USA)



Woman in the Garden



Nina Irvin
(USA)

At the Edge



Fragile

Sharon Jenkins
(Canada)

https://soulfulphotoartistry.myportfolio.com/



Masked Lapwing



Maggy R. Thorvaldsdottir Pease
(USA)

https://maggy.myportfolio.com/

The Lantern Bearer

Precious



Gitama Day
(Australia)

A Safe Place





Inner Dialogue

Heike Lindner
(Germany)



Now and Then

Peggy Gatto
(USA)



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

Dilemma



Cathy Labudak
(USA)

Troublemakers

Fragmented Time



Rachelle R. Vetter
(USA)

Uprising



http://rachellerphotography.com/



Armored Angel

Ingrid Pomeroy
(USA)



https://www.sandradimagery.com/

Sandra Dann
(Australia)

The Long Awaited Journey



A Quiet Departure



Cheryl Parris
(USA)

http://www.cherylparris.com/

Where the Line Ends



Where the
Air Sings

Robz Lipner
(South Africa)

http://www.robzartworx.com/



Arrived in
Strength



The Past Has No Key

Rosa Perry
(Australia)

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



Reflecting

Dori Fleming
(UK)



A Moment
of Reverie



Marie Farmer
(USA)

Captain Nemo’s
Curiosities



Light Divided, Grace United

http://donnaelliot.slickpic.com/

Donna Elliot
(USA)



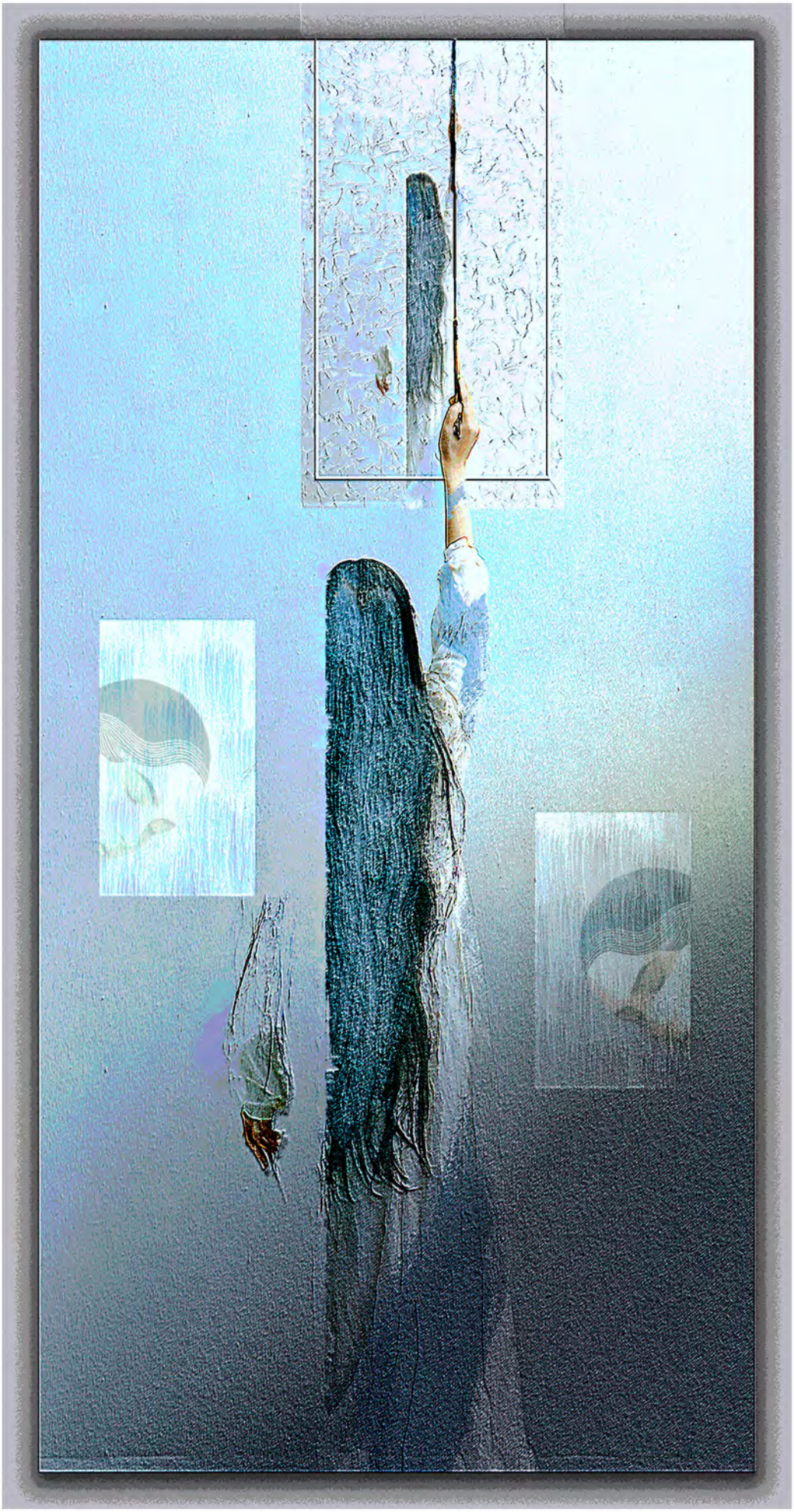
Golden
Metamorphosis



A Writer's World

Kathleen Greenwood
(USA)

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



The Sleeping Painter

Mark Lutnes
(USA)



Rabbit



Christina Brunton
(Australia)

https://chrisbrunton.com/

Old Technology



Slurp

Rebecah Thompson
(USA)

http://www.rebecahthompson.com/



Before the Answer



Becoming the Ocean

Marietjie du Toit
(South Africa)

https://marietjiedutoit.myportfolio.com/



Do You Remember

CJ Shank
(USA)

http://tothetopcj.myportfolio.com/

FEATURED ARTIST

Marilyn Sumner



The Answers Are Out There

"**Living the Photo Artistic Life** is far more than a creative outlet for me—it is a personal sanctuary . . . a quiet escape from the outside world where it is just me, my computer, and limitless imagination."



Sad News Day



Forest Friends



Day by Day

“ My creative process is entirely intuitive; I usually begin a with a vague plan, then I immerse myself in the joy of discovery—gathering fragments of photographs and elements from my curated "stash," letting the artwork organically reveal its own direction. ”



Going Home



Autumn is in
the Air

“ Each month, I find fresh inspiration in the new tutorials and designer content in KAIZEN, and I am always amazed by the incredible talent showcased in every new edition of this magazine. ”



Eternity

Marilyn Sumner

(USA)

http://www.marilynsphotoart.com/



Autumn Hills

Barbara Mierau-Klein
(USA / Germany)

http://www.barbaramierauklein.com/



Autumn's Harvest



Donna Waterson
(USA)

Hint of Autumn



Wooing the Princess

Janice S. Batterbee
(Spain)

@janicebatterbee1695



Lady in a Window

(Hand-painted portrait dedicated with thanks to the photographer, Isabelle Gossart.)



Night Gardening

Margo Reasner
(USA)



Two Souls Growing Old Together

Tina Christensen
(USA)



Litchfield's Secret Garden



David Walker
(UK)

http://vista-foto.com/

The World Beyond
the Prison Walls



On Its Way to the Big Magnolia

https://www.helgablanke.com/

Helga Blanke
(The Netherlands)



Man On Its Way To



Morning Glory

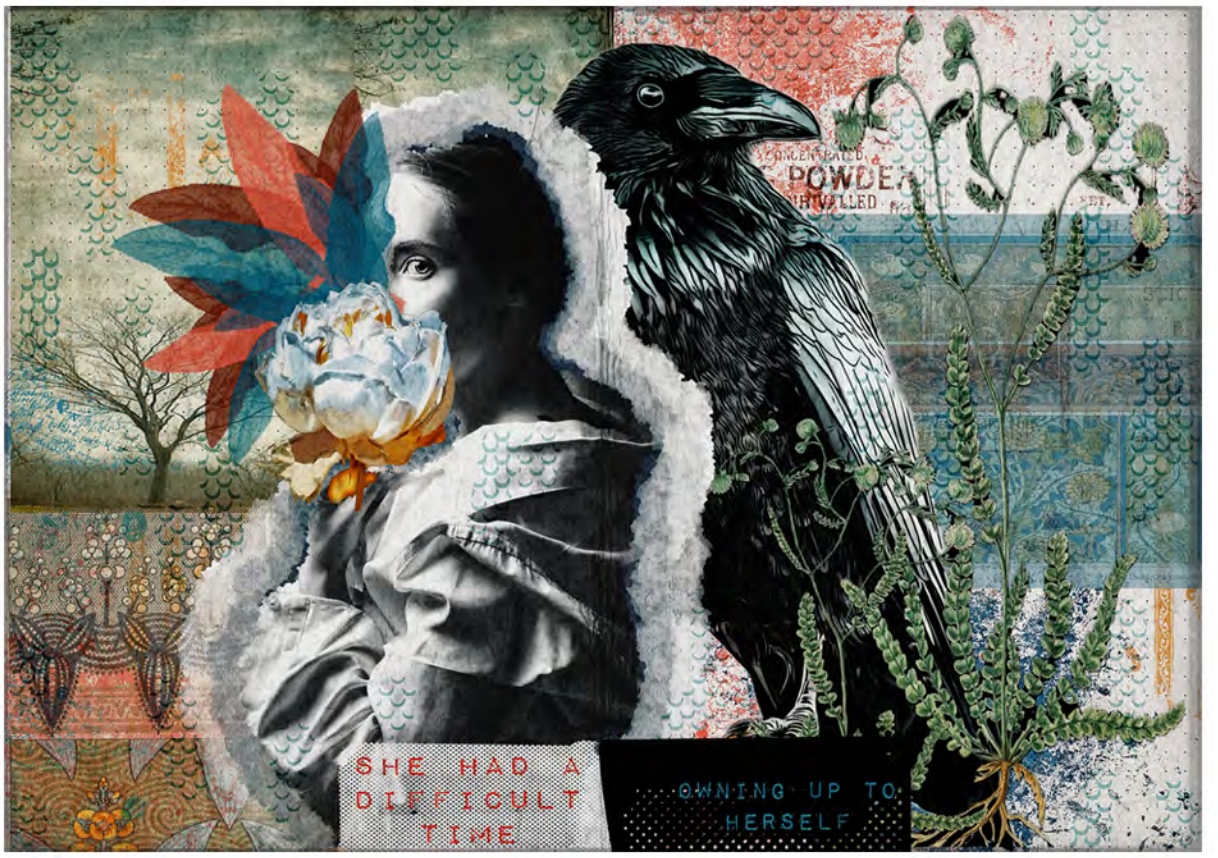
Diane Pinsart
(USA)



http://www.ash3photography.com/

Ashby Presley
(USA)

Let's Fly



Shadow Work



Renee Phoenix
(USA)

http://www.reneephoenix.com/

Memoir



Manet Visits
His Painting

Dan Borge
(USA)



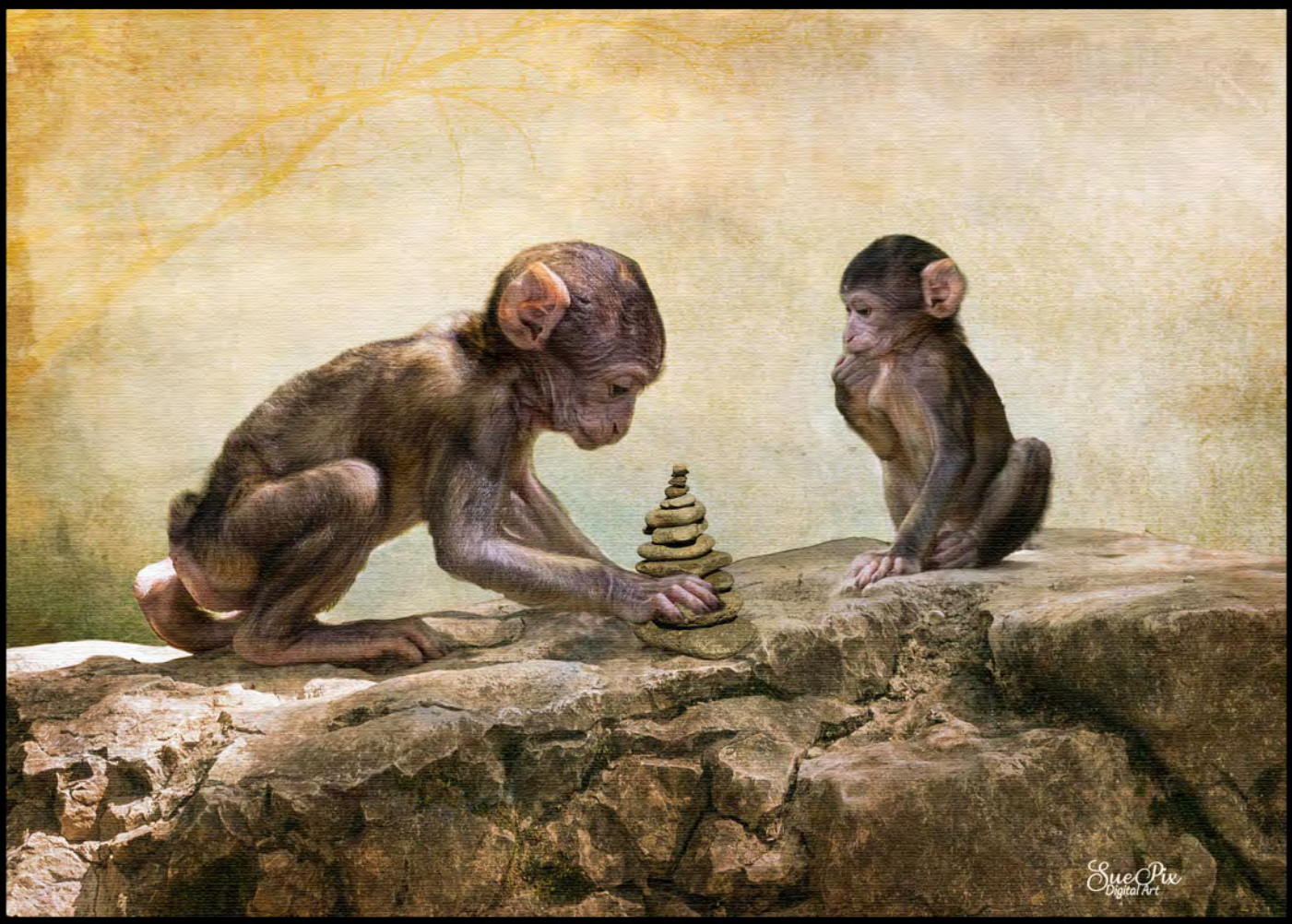
Regnault Visits
His Painting



Autumn Enchantment

Vicki Ardoin
(USA)

https://vickiardoinfineart.com/



Brothers at Play

Sue Waterhouse
(England)



The Tenderness of Friendship



Penny de Jong
(Australia)

Time Reclaims the Earth



State Fair One NIght

Bob Rude
(USA)



Love Bug



Coat of Many Colors

Anita Hubbard
(Canada)

https://digartography.pixels.com/



At Intermission Dan Lavery (Canada)


Artist



Paddington Travels to New York City

Mary Miller
(USA)



A Stroll Down
Memory Lane



Dov Fuchs
(Israel)

https://www.dovfuchs.art/

Open Your Heart



Evening Stroll

John Molino
(USA)



Crossing Guard



Secret Butterfly Business

Jane Tovey
(Australia)

https://janetoveyphotography.com/



Diversity Enriches Us

Denise Hunter Logan
(Australia)



Rosey



Keith G. Hawley
(Australia)

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

Futurity



Center Stage

Beverly Everson
(USA)

http://www.eversonphotography.com/



Remember I Love You



Whispering Grasslands

Dee Adams
(South Africa)



Down the Alley

Scott Clements
(USA)

https://clements-images.com/



Dance where the Flowers Dream



Chris Harris
(USA)

@allshapeofartistry

Fly Away



Twilight Owls

Pauline
van der Spuy
(South Africa)



You Cannot Erase Your Past



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Inge Klement
(Norway / Austria)

https://www.deviantart.com/ingeklem



Lady Flora

Maxi Balcer
(USA)



Hydrangea Memories



Golden Grace

Ilona Abou-Zolof
(Australia)

https://gigglegallery.design/

Even in Darkness
the Soul Sees



Nancie Rowan
(USA)

Autumn's Hour





Cattails and Fall Colors Surround

Mary Ann Roesler
(USA)

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



Going Home

Clarissa Wilson
(USA)

http://clarissawilson.com/



Coffee in the Fall

Deborah Morrison
(USA)

Facebook: Deb Penland Photography



https://www.augustnaudephotography.com/

August Naude
(South Africa)

The Light IS There



Steampunk Crow

John Schultz
(USA)



Coming and Going

Doreen Faiello
(USA)



Her Day Complete Her Path Her Own



http://www.bylarrywbuckleyphotography.com/

Night Moves



Larry Buckley
(USA)

Mystic



The Gift

http://www.davehattoriphotoart.com/

Dave Hattori
(USA)



Taking a Break



Vintage Dahlia

Susan Bailey
(USA)

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



Walking in the Rain

Laurie Baker
(USA)



http://matthewberberich.com/

Final Rest



Matthew
Berberich
(USA)

The Hypnotist

Slightly Baroque



Diane Eastham
(Canada)

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

It's All In the Telling





Nuuchahnulth Whaler

Terri Butler
(USA)

https://www.pixelmixerart.com/



Into the Light

Denise McDermott
(Australia)



Nancy Brizendine
(USA)

Lady of the Leaves



https://www.facebook.com/nbrizphotoart

You Could Worry or You Could Dance

The Art of
Self Expression



Linda Lewis
(USA)

http://www.lindalewis.net/

Camouflage





Different Mindset

Paula D Powers
(USA)

http://www.pauladpowers.com/



Elijah and the Raven

Diana Haronis
(USA)

http://www.dianasphotoart.com/



John T Jones
(USA)

Cowboy Evolution



Watching You



Dare to be Different

Maureen Maxwell
(Australiaa)



My Queen,
I have returned



The Royal Couple

Lou Ann Donahue
(USA)



Want But Don't Need

Jean Hutter
(USA)

@jeanhutter1



Rainy Day



Julie Mae Thies
(USA)

@teasingimages

Precious Moments



Riders In the Sky

S. H. Layre
(USA)





Last Call

Shelley Benjamin
(USA)

https://shelleybenjamin.com/

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.

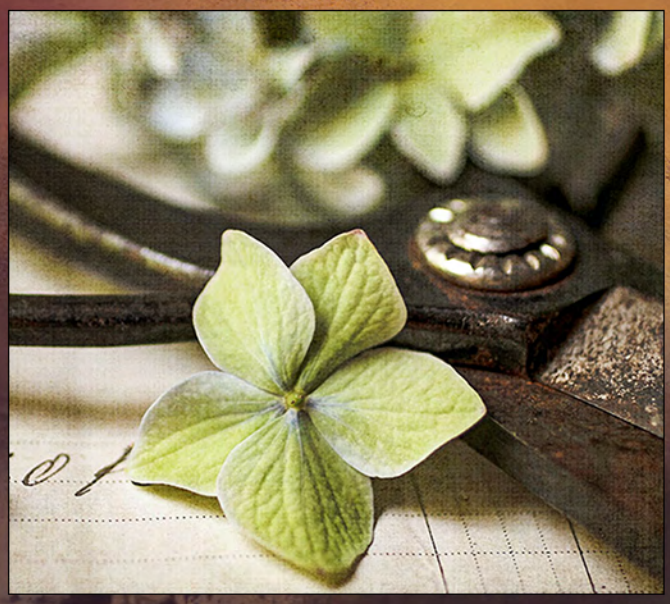
Caroline Julia Moore

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.

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.



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 creativesuccess 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.

Miles Beyond The Moon

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



Mary Baileyis 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 artiststo 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




l 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:
Susan Crosby (USA)

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



INTERESTED IN CREATING PHOTO ART OF YOUR OWN?
GET STARTED HERE:
HTTP://PROPHOTOSHOPARTISTRY.COM

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