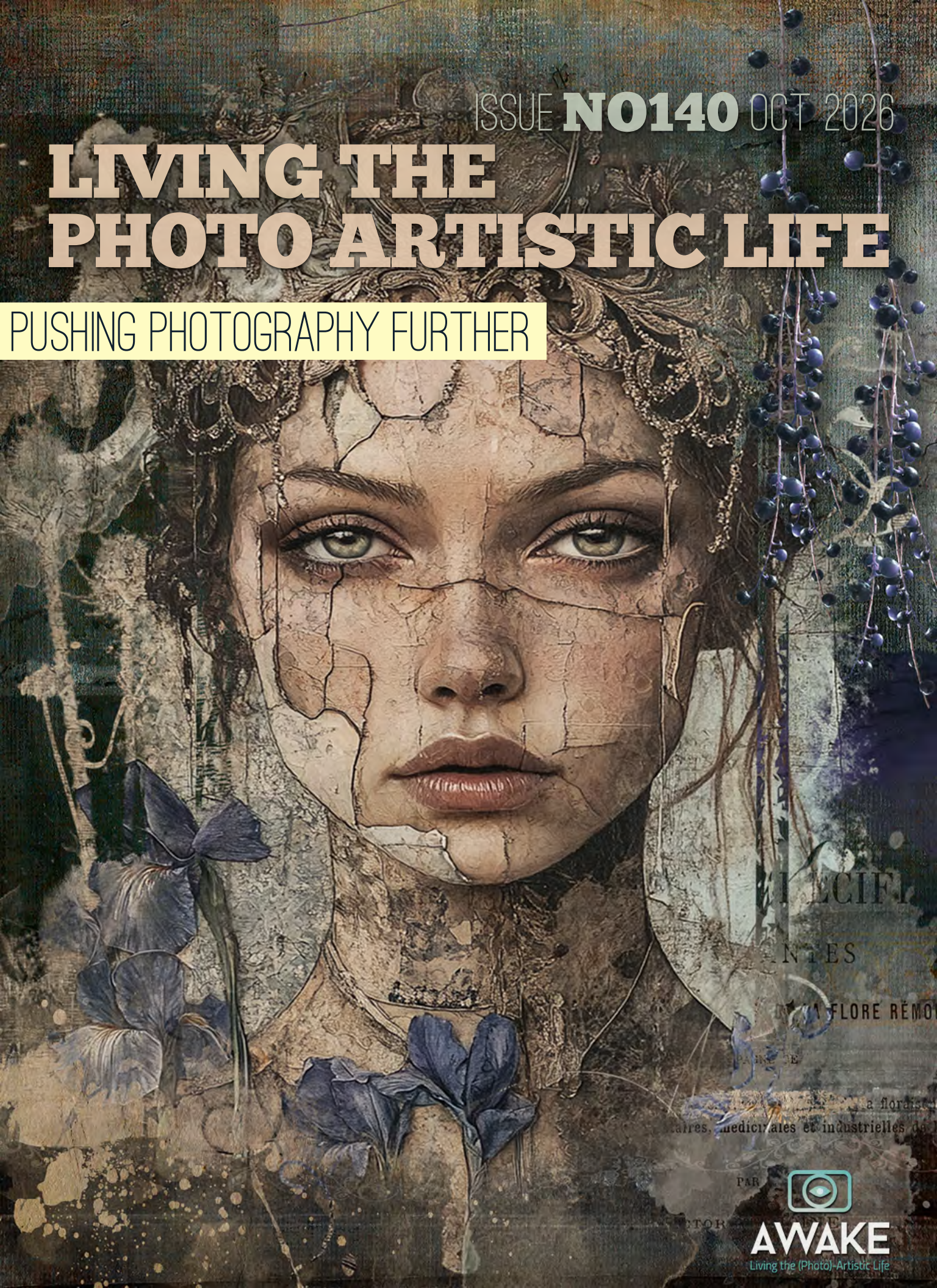
ISSUE NO140 OCT 2026

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MICHAELS

Autumn is rolling in on us here, and for me that's always the perfect time of year to tidy up my world and set some intentions for what I want to accomplish over the winter ahead.

Something you might not know about me: I am an inveterate re-organizer of books. It seems I am forever shuffling books from one bookshelf to another, one room to another, one floor of the house to another . . . And I have a *lot* of books.

One set of books, however, always needs to be nearby in my office, and that's my collection of photography books and art books, along with my print copies of this magazine. Those are my constant sources of creative inspiration. Those I need to be able to look up and *see*. And I need to be able to take one up whenever I need an artistic jolt.

Going through those shelves, cleaning up my desk (my real one and my computer desktop), reviewing my journals, refilling my pens — it's all part of my autumn ritual.

Sometimes while I sit here all freshly organized, I get to thinking about what the many artists of AWAKE have at their desks or what they surround themselves with when they create.

I've actually seen where some of our artists work. Some have beautiful studios, gorgeously decorated and immaculately maintained. Some are . . . well . . . more on the wild side. (And that seems to work for them, so who am I to judge?) There are artists who happily work away on their compositions while sitting at the kitchen table, and others who find their inspiration only awakens while seated at a busy coffee shop. With a little experimentation you soon find where you most readily slip into your creative flow with the least resistance.

The important thing is to find what works best for you. And I think this is the season to do it in. If you throw yourself into your craft and begin tweaking things, before long you'll land on the right environment that will keep your Muse fresh, alert, and responsive. In my case I need a tidy desk, journal at hand, some music playing, and like I said, a shelf of favorite art & photography books within view.

Your ideal environment might be entirely different. Part of your creative journey lies in discovering the surroundings that keep you happily producing art.

Make it your goal to figure out what kind of workspace brings you the greatest clarity and most joy. Then ask yourself what sorts of artistic endeavors you'll immerse yourself in over the months ahead.

Of two things you can be sure:

First— the artists of AWAKE will certainly be at *their* desks busily creating new art to share with you here.

Second — a comfy chair is almost always a good idea.

~ Sebastian

ISSUE NO140 OCT 2026

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

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

FRONT COVER & BACKGROUND IMAGE
JANA HOLDEN

AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life



Touch of Autumn

Merrilee Soberg
(Canada)



Fragments of Yesterday



Donna Elliot
(USA)

http://donnaelliot.slickpic.com/

The Moon Smiled



Time Keeps
On Slipping

Diane Eastham
(Canada)

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



Muses of the
Autumn Equinox



The Stuff of Nightmares

Dori Fleming
(UK)



Hallowed Howl

Barbara A Lane
(USA)

https://barbaraalane.com/

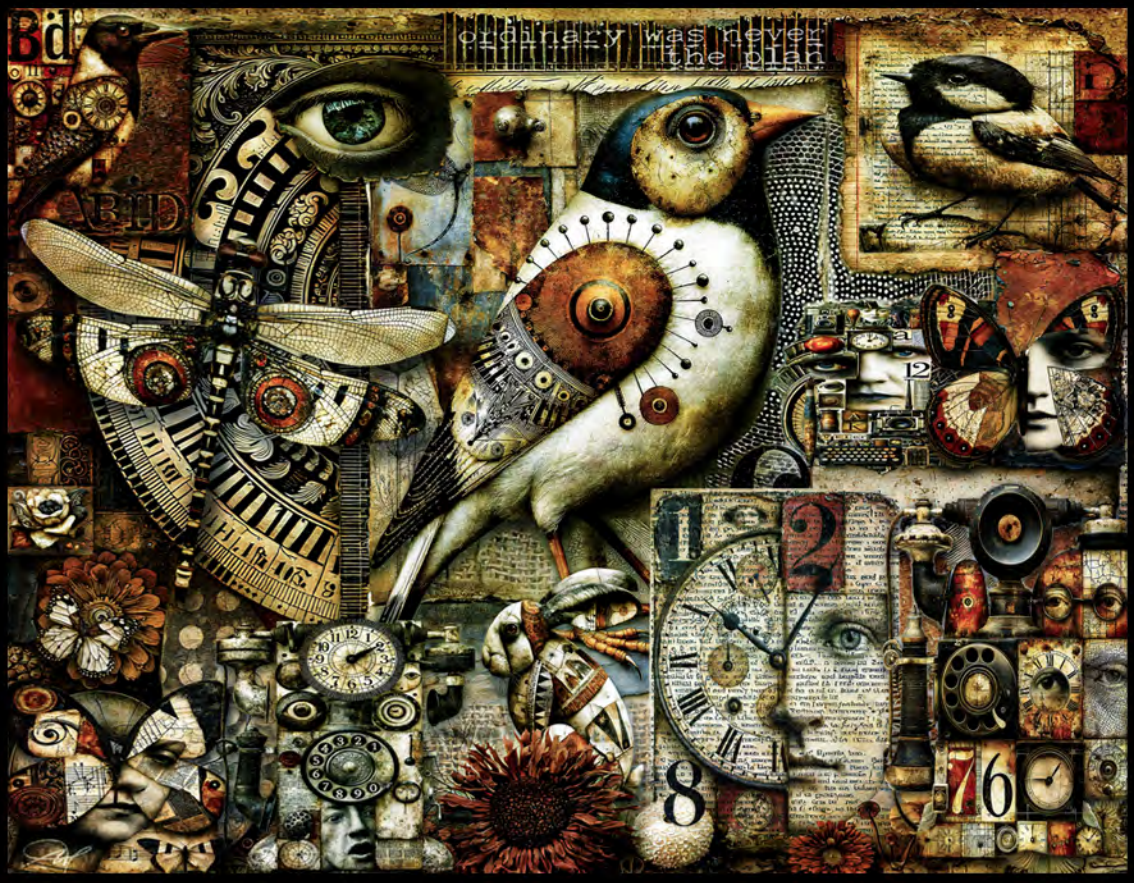


The Secret Tribunal Passes Judgement



Marie Farmer
(USA)

The Edge of October



Ordinary Was Never the Plan

Rachelle R. Vetter
(USA)

http://rachellerphotography.com/



Kaida



Autumn Mill

John Molino
(USA)



The Moth House Keeper

Pamela Walder
(UK)



Nevermore



Karen Sorrells
(USA)

Just Treats,
No Tricks



Off Duty

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

Kathleen Greenwood
(USA)



Halloween Prep Time



Follow Me, If You Dare

Marius Els
(UK)

https://mariuselsphotoartistry.com/



A New World

Don Schiffner
(USA)



The Astral Garden



Kristin Couch
(Sweden)

http://www.kcart.se/

The Alchemy
of Silence

Mr. Typewriter Man



Cathy Labudak
(USA)

Zipper World



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



Ready to Ride

Margo Reasner
(USA)



https://www.sandradimagery.com/

Sandra Dann
(Australia)

Regal Giraffes



She Became the Wind



Penny de Jong
(Australia)

http://www.cherylparris.com/

The Night I Left Home



The Omen

Dov Fuchs
(Israel)

http://www.dovfuchs.art/



Inside the Library
of Babylon



Two But
Not Two

Mark Lutnes
(USA)



Raven and the Rose

Nancy Brizendine
(USA)

https://www.facebook.com/nbrizphotoart



Midnight Lace



Jean Hutter
(USA)

@jeanhutter1

Drawing Down the Moon



Mystery Visitor

Bob Rude
(USA)



Walking Down the Lane



John Schultz
(USA)

Getting Ready for Halloween



The Forgotten Halloween Story

Rosa Perry
(Australia)

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



The Stroll



Autumn Hats

Anita Hubbard
(Canada)

https://digartography.pixels.com/

Autumn Barnyard



Maggy R.
Thorvaldsdottir Pease
(USA)

https://maggy.myportfolio.com/

Autumn's Quiet Watcher





On the Way Home

Laurie Baker
(USA)



Between Storms

Gitama Day
(Australia)



Spirits Fantasy



Ingrid Pomeroy
(USA)

Moonlight Dreams



Mistrust

Jill Johnson
(USA)



Self Reflection



Black and Gold

Beverly Everson
(USA)

http://www.eversonphotography.com/



All Hallows Eve

Peggy Gatto
(USA)



Halloween



Ann Lavin
(Australia)

Photographer

The Mysterious Ladies
of Blackwood Hall



Nancie Rowan
(USA)

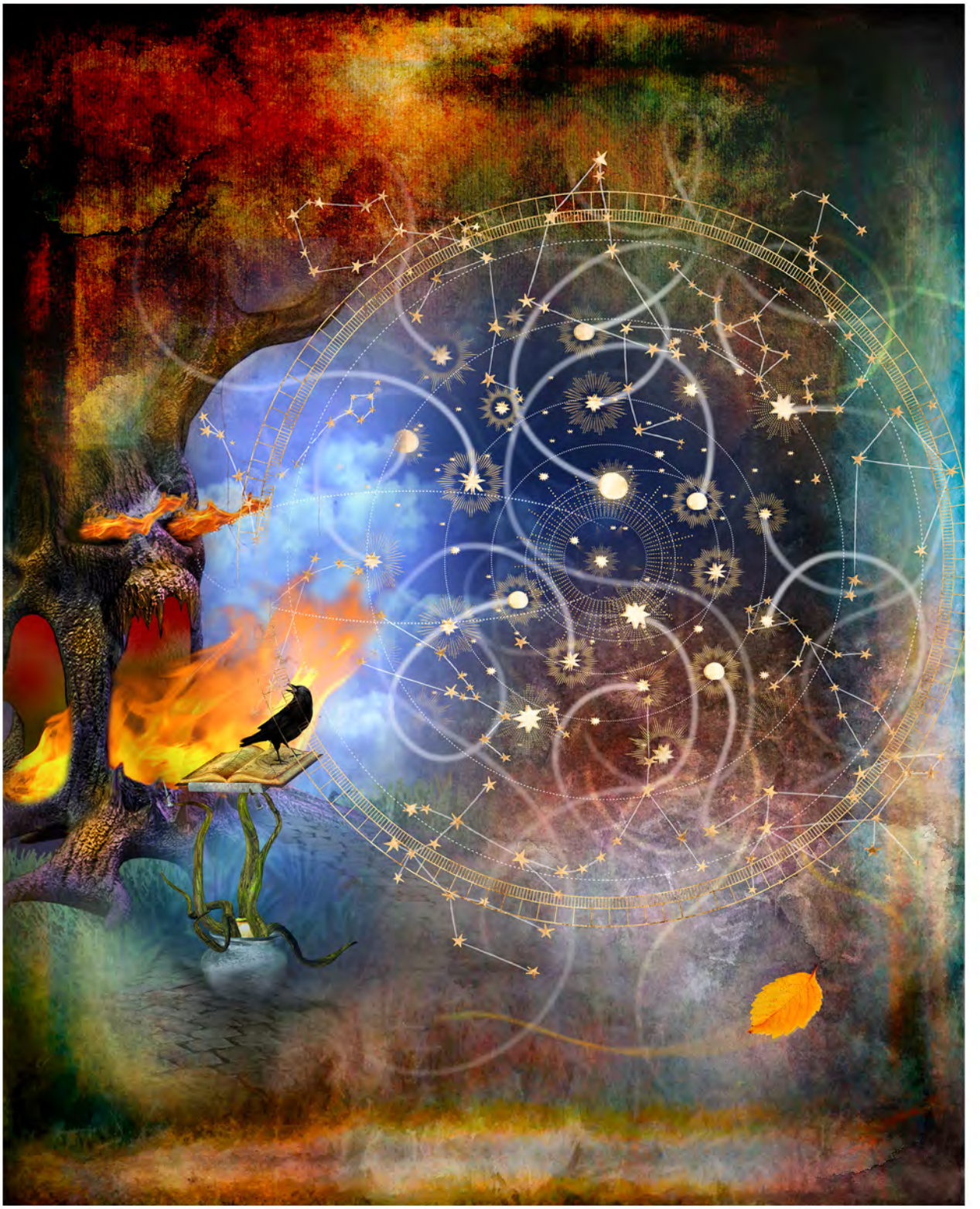
The Gravity
of Autumn





Life is a Puzzle

Donna Waterson
(USA)



The Spell

Linda Carruth
(USA)

https://linda-carruth.pixels.com/

FEATURED ARTIST

Jana Holden



Royal Fish Eye

"**Living the Photo Artistic Life** has taken me far beyond anything I could have imagined on my own! Through Sebastian's courses, I've learned how to take a photo or digital image to an artistic level and it has proven to be a great joy for me over the years."



A Quiet Moment



Arched Window



Boldly Framed

“ Being a part of the AWAKE group has made my Photoshop experience even more enjoyable. It’s an incredibly supportive and creative community where we share our work, encourage one another and celebrate our talents. ”



Eye of an Artist



Leap into Art

“I think we all look forward to this monthly magazine. I’m always inspired by the extraordinary images created by artists from around the world. I especially love seeing the incredible work of fellow **AWAKE** artists, many whom I have known through the years. I’m truly honored to be a part of this wonderful community.”



In Her Mind's Eye

Jana Holden

(USA)



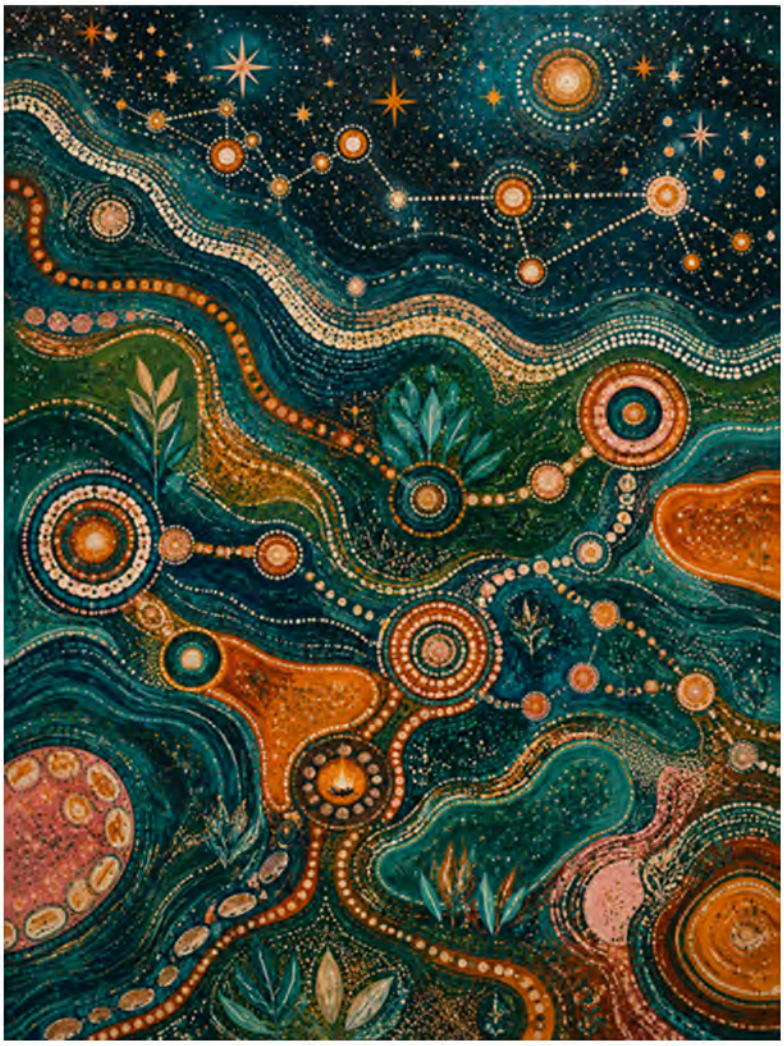
Perfectly Unreasonable

Robz Lipner
(South Africa)

http://www.robzartworx.com/



Venetian Masquerade



Ilona Abou-Zolof
(Australia)

https://gigglegallery.design/

Dream Trail



Harvest Moon

Nina Irvin
(USA)



Elephant Antics



Cloister Walk

Scott Clements
(USA)

http://clements-images.com/



Live With Love

August Naude
(South Africa)

https://www.augustnaudephotography.com/



Overnight, She Bloomed



Cheryl Parris
(USA)

http://www.cherylparris.com/

The Butterfly Boat



The Girl With the
Polka Dot Hat

Dan Lavery
(Canada)

http://danlaveryartist.ca/



Butterflies
and Lace



Starry Owl

Dave Hattori
(USA)

http://www.davehattoriphotoart.com/



Oh Canada

Esther Byrt
(Canada)

http://www.estherbyrt.ca/



The Knowing



Matthew Berberich
(USA)

http://matthewberberich.com/

Mystery In the Mist

Mix of This and That



Pierre Pevsner
(France)

http://pierrepevsner.com/

Hypnosis Session





Managing Chaos

Renee Phoenix
(USA)

http://www.reneephoenix.com/



Selkie

Margaret Weir
(Canada)

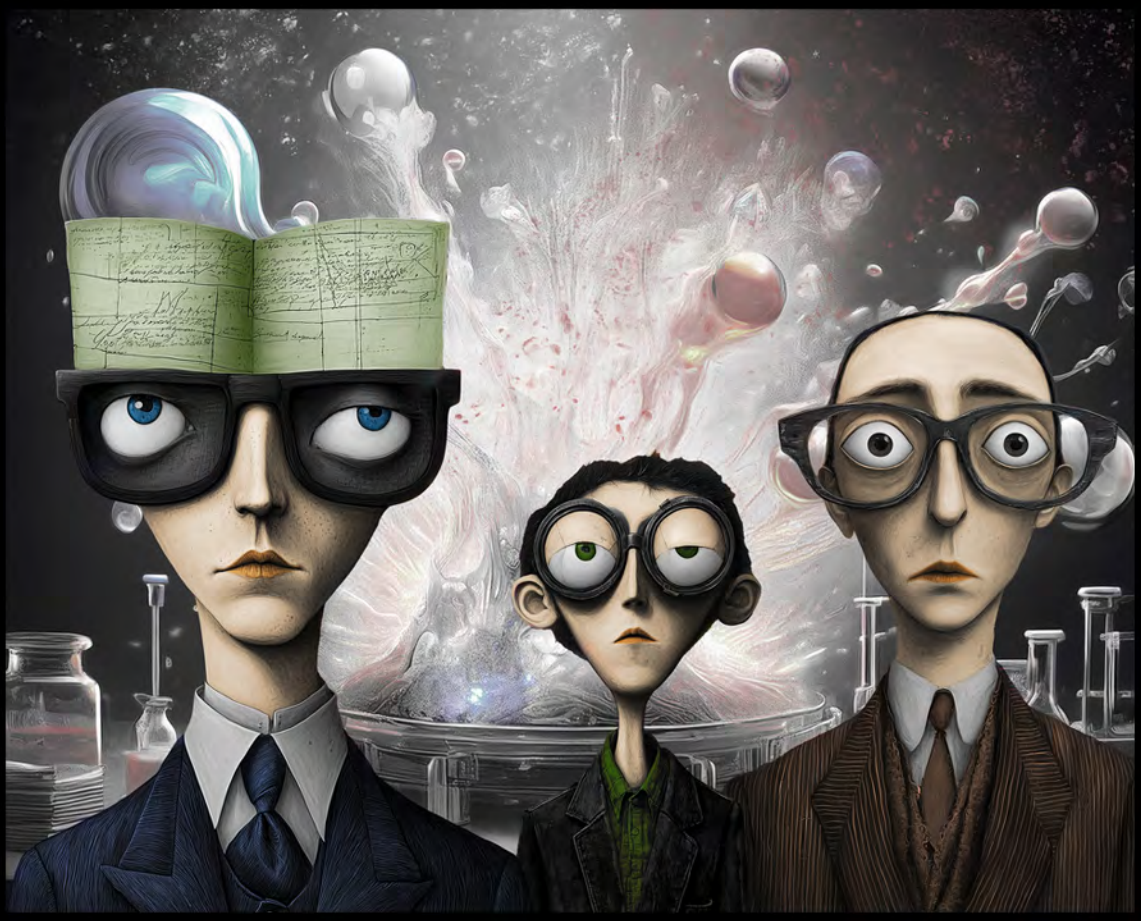
https://www.watertomysoul.com/



Pauline van der Spuy
(South Africa)

Power of the Mind





Experiment Gone Wrong

Deborah Morrison
(USA)

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



Butterfly Girl



Left Behind

CJ Shank
(USA)



Called By the Sea

Jo Crane - Just Josie Photography (UK)



https://justjosiephotography.myportfolio.com/



The Spirit of Autumn

Jane Tovey
(Australia)

https://janetoveyphotography.com/



Autumn and Tea



Helga Blanke
(The Netherlands)

https://www.helgablanke.com/

In the Light of the
Glowing Three



The Hollow Between

Bob Desilets
(USA)



Wanted: Trick or Treaters



I'm Not Ready

Maureen Maxwell
(Australia)



Halloween

Jan Robinson
(Australia)



Mary Miller
(USA)

Autumn Fairy on the Misty Morning Trail



North Star Watches Over Haunted Grant Ranch



Ghostly Encounter

S. H. Layre
(USA)



Cemetery Seance



A Stroll a Day . . .

Carla Mallens
(The Netherlands)



The Girl Behind the Glass

Joy Buckley Flynn
(Ireland)



The Night Visitor



Shelley Benjamin
(USA)

https://shelleybenjamin.com/

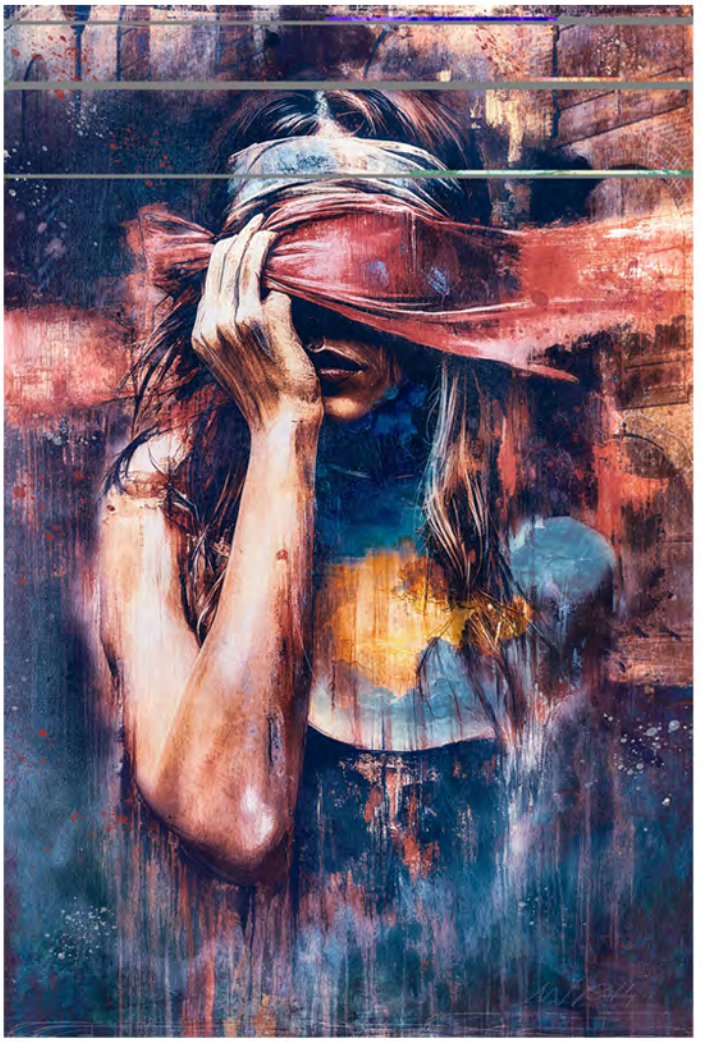
Welcome to the Other Side



Elegance

Larry Buckley
(USA)

http://www.bylarrywbuckleyphotography.com/



Hidden Truth



Bright Lights

Christina Brunton
(Australia)

https://chrisbrunton.com/



The Crows Know

Chris Harris
(USA)

@allshapeofartistry



http://www.dianasphotoart.com/

Halloween Night



Diana Haronis
(USA)

Halloween Cat



Fair Is Foul and
Foul Is Fair No. 1

Janice S. Batterbee
(Spain)

@janicebatterbee1695



Fair Is Foul and
Foul Is Fair No. 2



The Fortune Teller's Tent

Terri Butler
(USA)

https://www.pixelmixerart.com/



The Enchanted Flight

Sue Waterhouse
(England)



Muses



Keith G. Hawley
(Australia)

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

Enigmatic

Ravina



Maxi Balcer
(USA)

Spooky Seraphina





October Fantasy

Mary Ann Roesler
(USA)

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



A Child's Halloween

Catherine King
(USA)

http://www.ckingfineart.com/



Nightmare



Viv Buckley
(Ireland)

http://www.vivbuckley.com/

Calla Lillies



The Dark Familiar

Inge Klement
(Norway / Austria)



 Always By Your Side

https://www.deviantart.com/ingeklem



Red Cup Walk

Svein Ivar Ask
(Norway)

https://sveinivaraskphotography.myportfolio.com/



We're All Mad Here

Lou Ann Donahue
(USA)



The Immortals



Linda Lewis
(USA)

http://www.lindalewis.net/

Weary Thespian



Sanctuary
Accepted

Doreen Faiello
(USA)



Reading in
the Park



Vintage Girl

Keeley McCleave
(England)



Star Dancer

Susan Pulaski
(USA)

https://www.suepulaskiart.com/



Wisconsin Farm



Julie Mae Thies
(USA)

@teasingimages

The Sunken Voyage

Rest Stop



Rebecah Thompson
(USA)

http://www.rebecahthompson.com/

And So It Goes





Fall in New York

Barbara Mierau-Klein
(USA / Germany)

http://www.barbaramierauklein.com/



A Place to Stay

Karen Hanron
(USA)

https://www.karenhanron.com/



John T Jones
(USA)

Ceremonial Smoke



River's Edge



Halloween In H-Town

Paula D Powers
(USA)



H-Town Tram

http://www.pauladpowers.com/



Sweet Angel

Diane Pinsart
(USA)



The Witch is Back

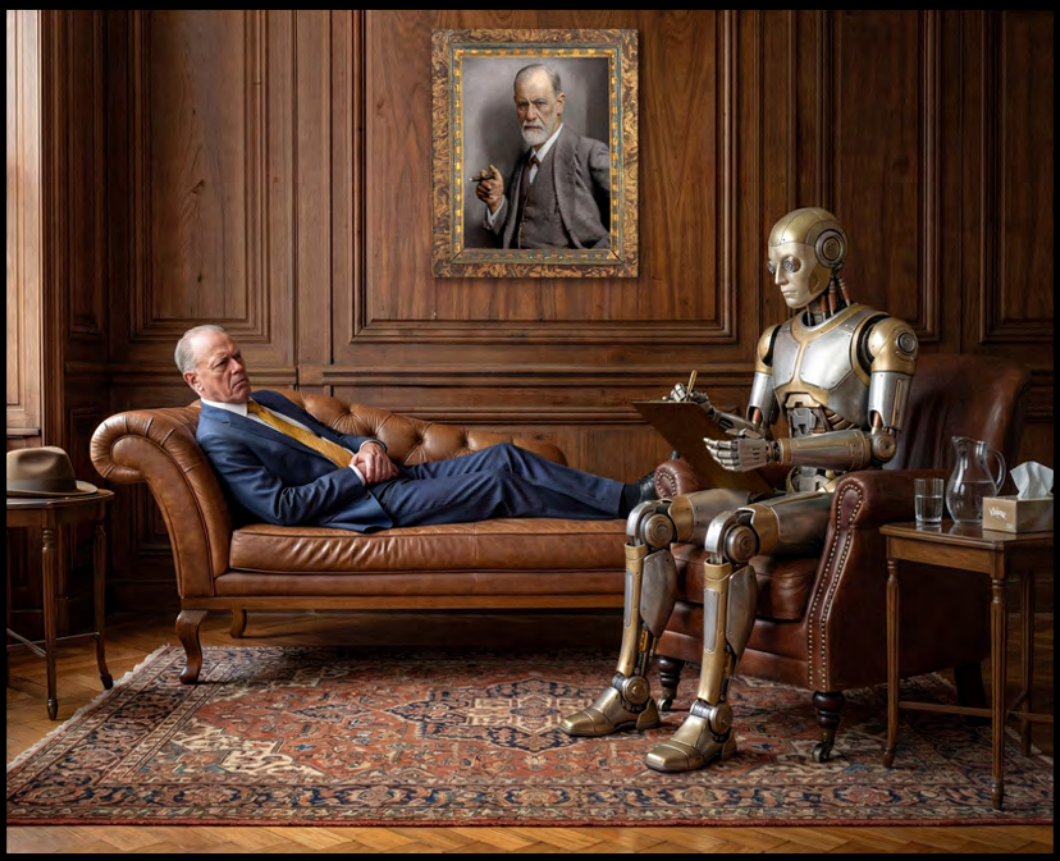
Marie Otero
(Australia)

http://www.marieotero.com/



Dan Borge
(USA)

Last Day



Tell Me About Your Childhood



Night Falls on All Hallows' Eve

David Walker
(UK)



The Bridge House

http://vista-foto.com/



Something Wicked . . .

Renée Keel
(USA)

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.

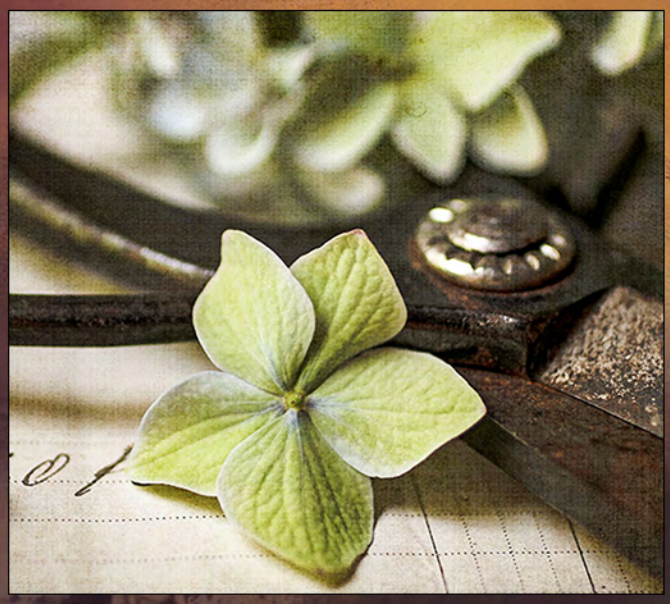
Caroline Julia Moore

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:
Jana Holden (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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