



ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHY

By Graham Richards APSNZ

Abstract photography gives one the opportunity to move away from the norm. By the 1960's abstract art had become a reality. This is a development, which aims at a subjective emotional expression of an ideal rather than a picture of a physical object. Working with thought rather than matter. A concentrated essence of a larger whole. Abstract achieves its effect by grouping shapes and colours in satisfying patterns rather than by the recognisable representation of reality. Do not let the design or pattern just fall into the category of line or graphics.

Close-up images will usually give you the opportunity to distort by movement or manipulation of the focus, to create a particular style. The experimentation may go wrong but this could lead you to a satisfactory abstraction. Strong colour can be a good link to emphasise content. The selected colour can dominate and this could become your accent.

Looking through patterned glass or crystal, into a colourful background can give an exciting and meaningful abstract.

Digital manipulation of a print or slide is a favourable way to create an abstract. This, of course, is a completely new area of photography.

The annual North Shore National Salon of Photography has a special section for abstract photography.

Graham Richards APSNZ
18 Cannon Drive
Kerikeri
2009