

ISSUE **N039** MAY 2018

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



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Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

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**LIVING THE
PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE**

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CHERYL PARRIS



AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MICHAELS

I'm really quite lucky. Because while we all get to enjoy seeing the artwork celebrated here each month, I've gotten to *know* many of these artists. I've seen them grow. And I've heard from many over the years as they worked through whatever it was they needed to work through to end up here.

Because it's not always a comfortable ride.

Sure, many come to the artistic life out of simple joy, out of the pure delight in learning to create something amazing.

But others come to art for a reprieve from suffering, or for healing, or for catharsis.

More times than I can recall, I've received messages and emails from students thanking me for providing this world of "AWAKE," where they can make friends, get inspired, and share their art. Too often (from the sounds of it) they have precious little support from friends or family. And too often there is something painful in their day-to-day lives they come here to rest from awhile.

The camaraderie of the group we've formed is powerful. The support the artists give one another is incredible. And I'm sure I only see a small part of it all.

There's something extraordinary in the creative act — in tapping into your imagination and stepping outside of your daily problems, worries, and concerns — and that state of wonder and release frequently fuels the most powerful artwork you find here each month.

Not that you would ever know it.

But that impassioned reach for *meaning* and *freedom* and *importance* inspires more of the artwork here than you might think.

And often, it's an impassioned endeavor precisely because "real life" can be so damned hard.

We have artists here who are suffering from chronic illness, from depression, from crushing ailments of all kinds.

We have artists who are battling cancer. (And artists who have beat it back.)

We have artists who have lost loved ones — friends, parents, even children.

We have artists grieving over the loss of dear pets that felt like family to them and might as well have been.

We have artists who have lost their jobs, artists trapped in awful relationships, artists struggling with addictions, artists dealing with families that are falling apart.

Yet through *all of this* ... they CREATE.

They fight on.

They find something beautiful and important, a voice of their own, a voice defiant of suffering and loss ... And from that place, in spite of everything life throws at them, they create ART.

They create. And they leave their mark on this world.

And that both inspires and humbles me.

- Sebastian
<https://QuillAndCamera.com>



The Rain Never Bothered Me

Lauren Martin
(USA)

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



Balloon Race

Debra Jean Kelday
(UK)



After the Bath

TD Matthews
(USA)

<http://www.500px.com/tmphotoman>

The Alchemist





Queen Flora

Ali Oppy
(New Zealand)



Red Wind of
the Forest



Caroline Julia Moore
(UK)

Containment Of Panic

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



Air

Vibeke Alvestad Johansen
(Norway)

<http://www.imagocollectico.no/>
<https://artboja.com/art/1etkg2/>



Water



The Citadel

Janet Sipl
(USA)



Forever
Lost



Metamorphosis

Cathrine Blan
(UK)

<https://www.behance.net/dollycathy>
<https://artboja.com/art/316xid/>

Grace





Lady Antoinette

Evelyn Elwan
(USA)



Cabaret Backstage

Jim Laskowicz
(USA)

<http://artboja.com/art/kgghxj>

The
Visionary



Jean Hutter
(USA)

<http://www.jeanmhutter.com/>
<https://artboja.com/art/wh7jv6/>

Not Lost



Choices

Leanne M Williams
(Australia)





Solitude

Kathleen Greenwood
(USA)

<https://artboja.com/art/j55odc>



Heightened Awareness

Charlene Maginn
(Canada)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/138006169@N07/>



Meara



Johanna Goudsblom
(New Zealand)

<http://assetimagery.zenfolio.com/>
<http://artboja.com/art/13enw6/>

Trapped Soul



Alemka

Bila Bozem
(Germany)

<https://artboja.com/art/8rn7ir/>



Djella



Salena

Rochelle Marshall
(New Zealand)





<https://artboja.com/art/p41f0u/>

Mynas in Morning Light



Merrilee Soberg
(Canada)

Standing Tall



Carnivale #1

Julie Powell
(Australia)

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

Sulphur Crested
Cockatoo

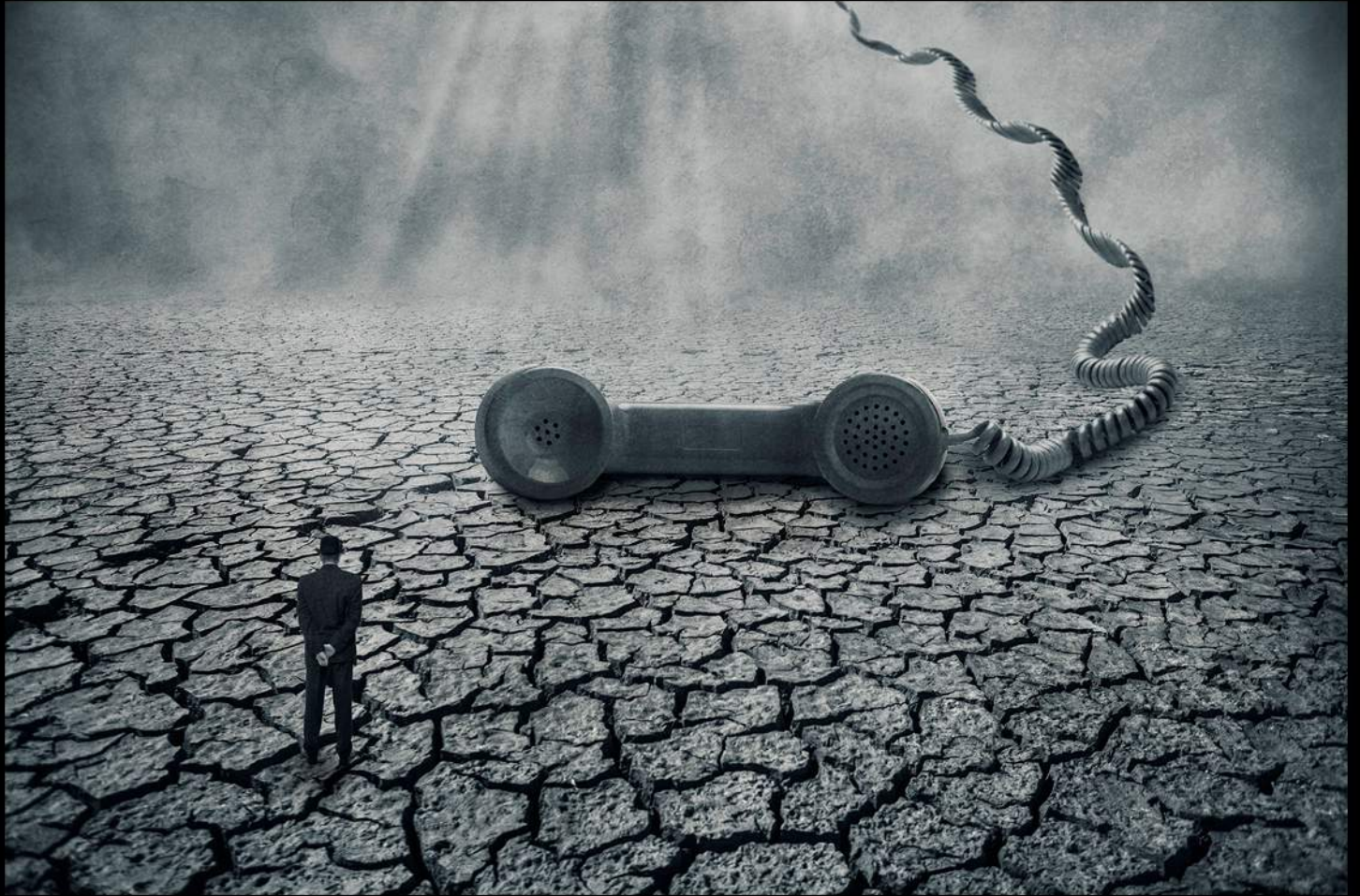




Welcome Spring

Clarissa Wilson
(USA)

<http://clarissawilson.com/>



It's For You

Nicole Wilde
(USA)

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



Think Happy Thoughts



Kathryn Vince
(USA)

Head Above
Water

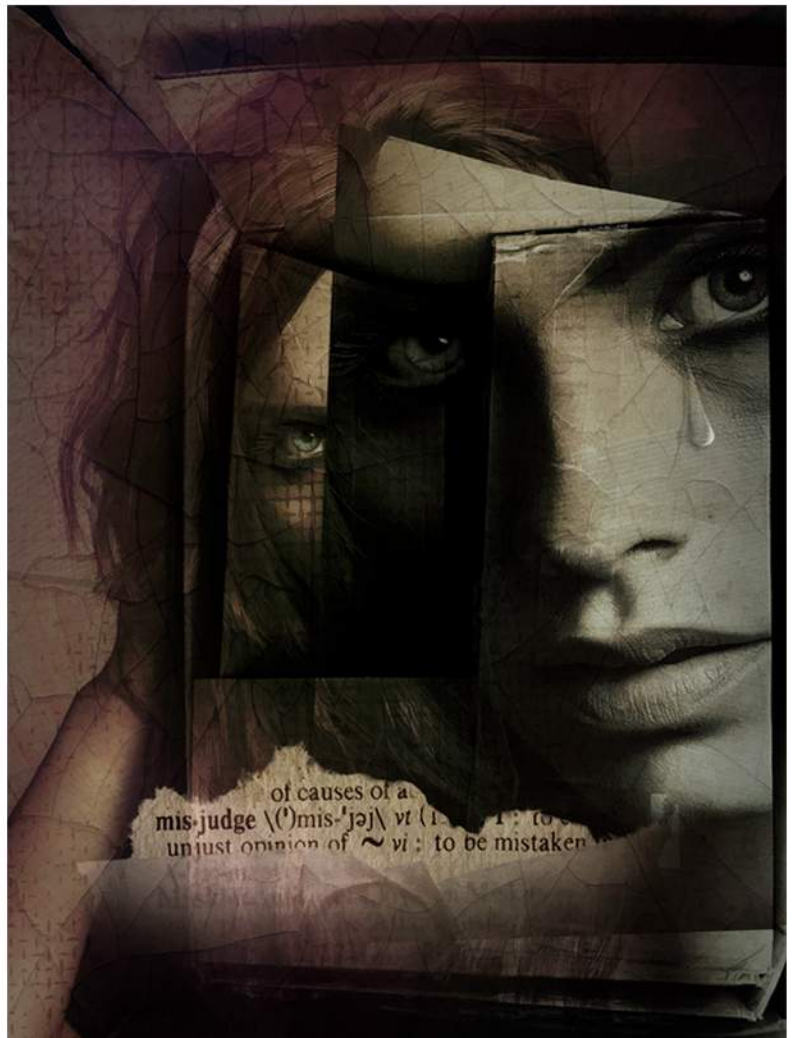


Companionable Silence

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

Beverly Everson
(USA)

The Whole Story





Still Life with Fractals

Janice S. Batterbee
(Spain)

<https://artboja.com/art/y1ogt4/>



My Heart Stays With You

Anne Herbert
(New Zealand)

FEATURED ARTIST

Cheryl
Parris



Stranded

“ Story telling - that is what it is all about for me. I enjoy experimenting with many different styles and techniques, but always try to create an image that brings the viewer into my world, engaging them visually and emotionally. For me that is the best part of creating art. ”



Dressed in Spring



“ Living the photo
artistic life means
working every day,
learning new things
and growing as
an artist. ”

Admit One



Fireworks

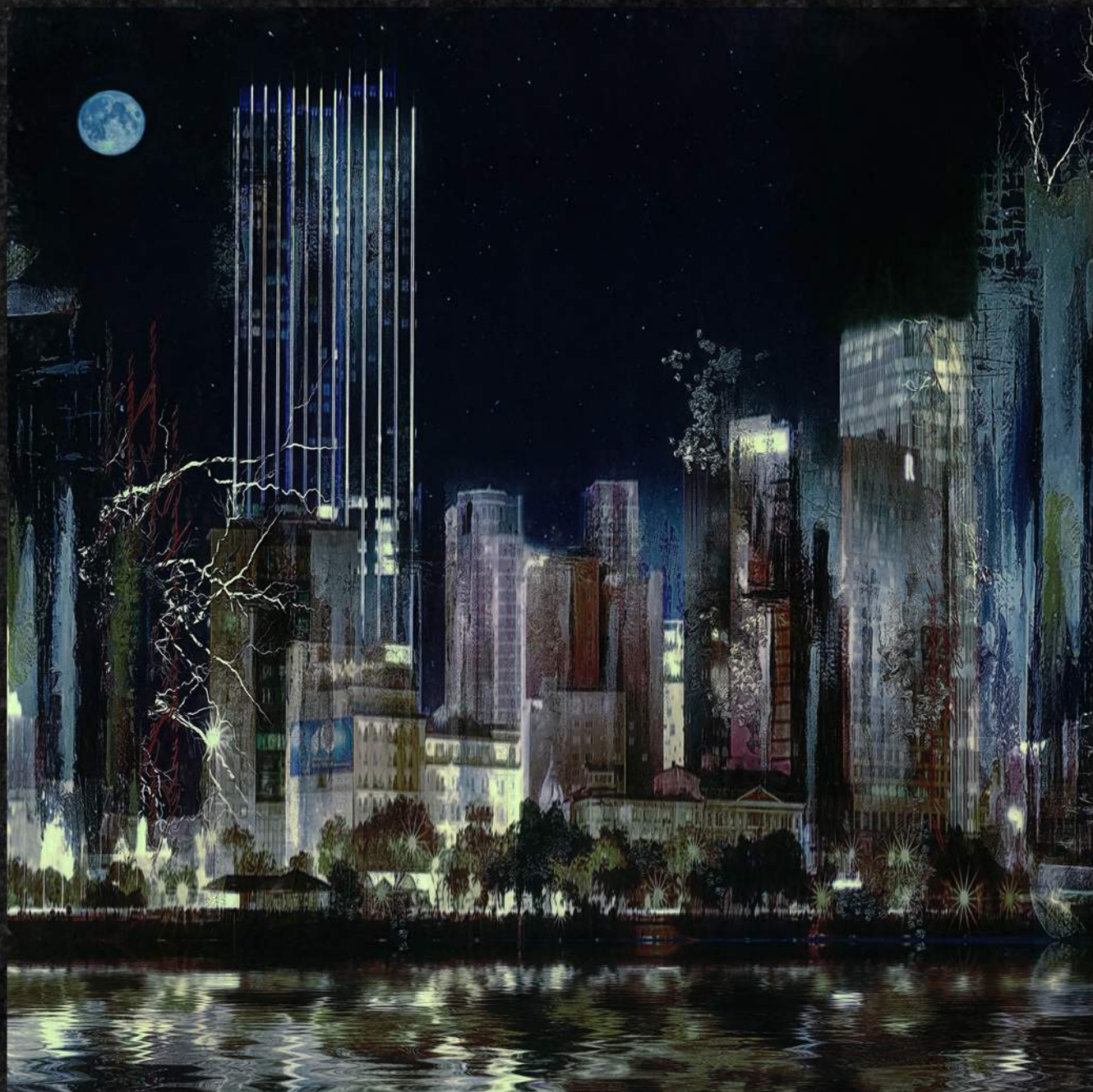


The Dog Goes with Me



Monday Monday

“ It is so exciting to wake up every morning, pull up a blank canvas, and see what happens. Inspiration can come from anywhere, an interesting background I see when scrolling through my photos, a texture, a color, a person or animal, but I always know when I find it, and become immersed in the creative process and just let it happen. ”



Night Reflections

Cheryl
Parris

(USA)

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



Lace

Nancy Lober
(USA)



<https://artboja.com/art/1vr8iu/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sheilatennes/>

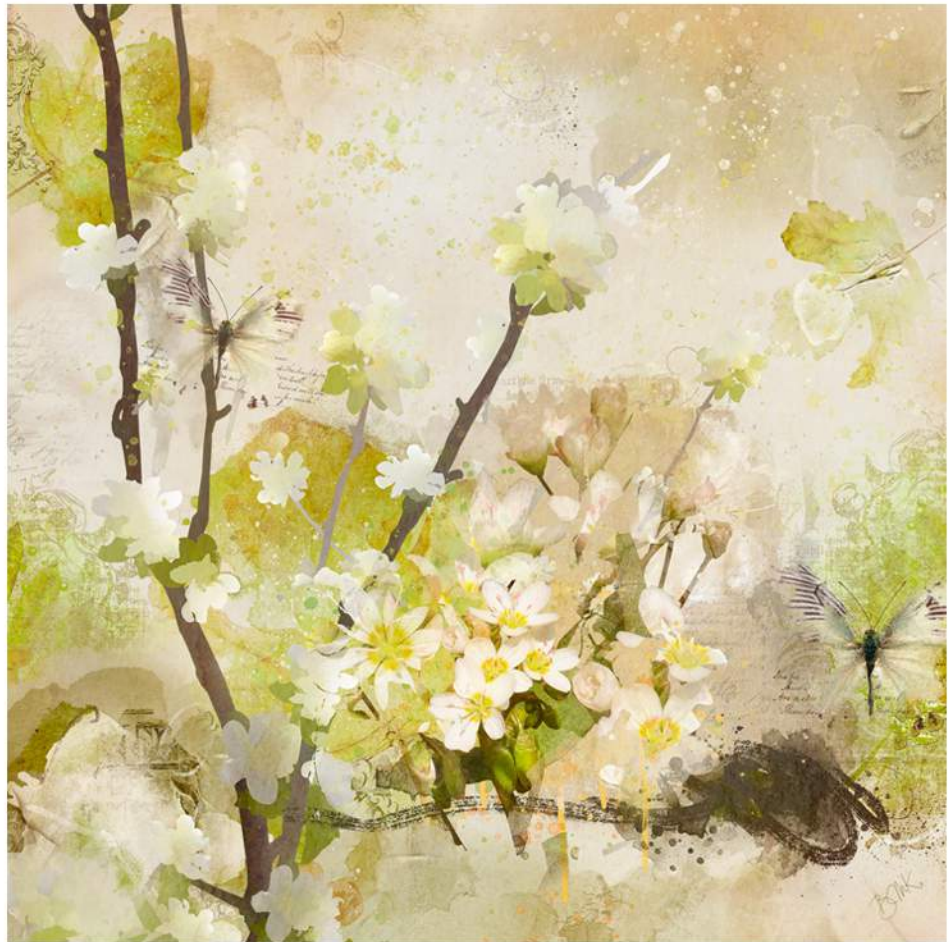
Snowy Egret Landing



Sheila Tennes
(USA)

Love Waits

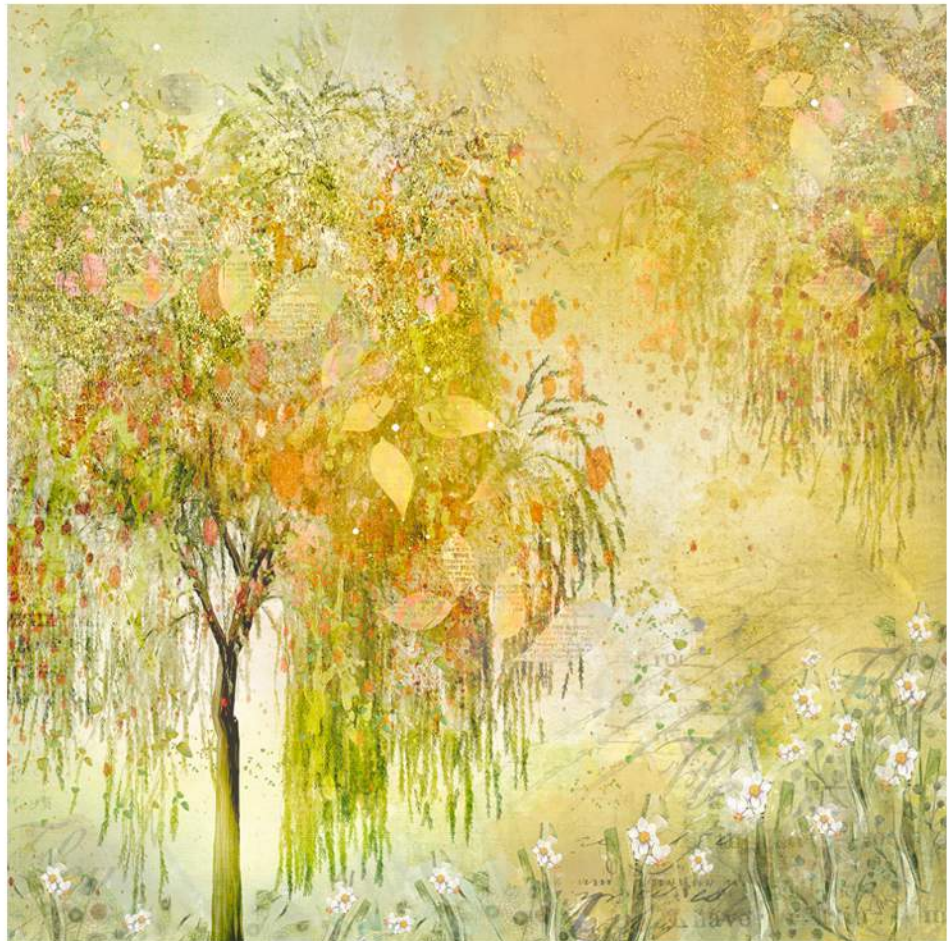
Spring has
Sprung



<http://www.barbaramierauklein.com/>
<https://artboja.com/art/0xmo9f/>

Barbara Mierau-Klein
(USA)

Spring Time





Childhood Remembered

Bernie Tuffs
(UK)

<https://artboja.com/art/utucc4/>



Radella

Gail Edwards
(Canada)

<https://artboja.com/art/gww704/>



Isle of Ambrose



At Midnight



Pam Henderson
(Australia)

<https://www.facebook.com/snapshootdesigns/>
<https://artboja.com/art/dmfi9d/>

Central Park

Shadow Self

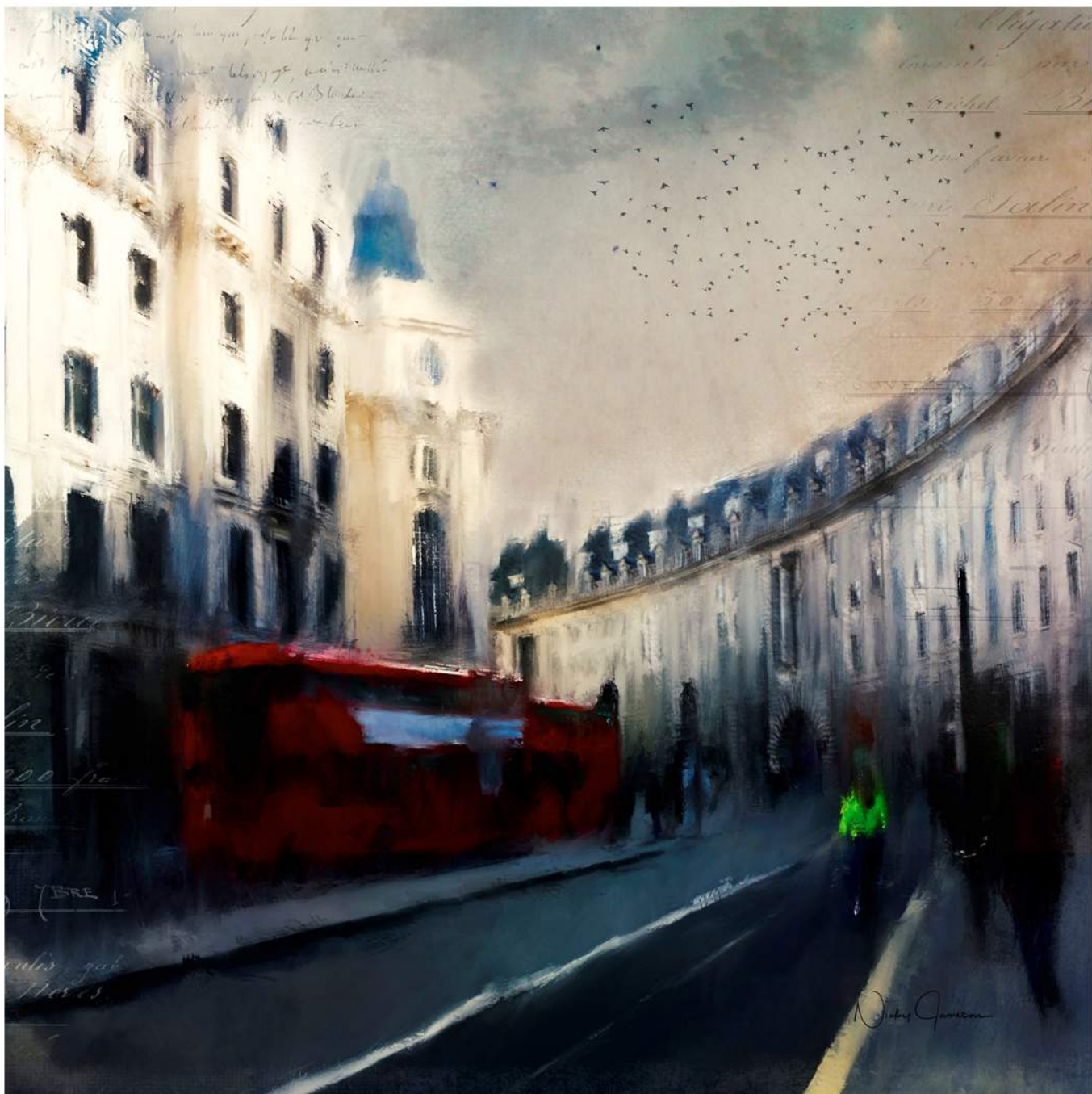


Phyllis Grannis
(USA)

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

Museum Tour





2 Buses on Regent Street

Nicky Jameson
(Canada)

<http://nickyjamesonphotography.com/>



Beloved

Renea Warnock
(USA)

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

Breaking Point





Waiting for the Train

Nancie Rowan
(USA)



Time Travel

<https://artboja.com/art/j98ilq/>



The End of All Things

Norma Slack
(UK)



Once Upon a Time in the Forest



Patricia Saldana
(USA)

Books are Magic



Jewel of the Garden

Donna Dean
(Canada)





Bridge Between

Jennifer Donohoe
(USA)

<https://artboja.com/art/xogv71/>



Raziel and
Seraph

Cindy Charles
(Canada)



Montréal en
Lumiere



Sharing Secrets

Diana Haronis
(USA)

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



Mary Lou

Francine Malo
(Canada)

<https://artboja.com/art/eqme8c/>



<http://artboja.com/art/pemm4v/>

Stage Coach in Tombstone



Jeff Valdez
(USA)

Spirit of
The Horse



The Folly of Youth

Nicholas Sweet-Rogers
(UK)

<https://artboja.com/art/f0j70z/>

Teddy Bear





Sir Duckworth –
Private Eye



Sonia Pusey
(Australia)

Shadows of
My Mind



Warring Angel

Myriam Kriel
(USA)

<https://500px.com/myriamkriel>
<https://artboja.com/art/xd2qor/>



The Tower



Catherine King
(USA)

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

Wendy



Synchronize ...

August Naude
(South Africa)



No Encore



Atropos



Aglaea

Amelia Blanco
(Cuba)

<http://www.ameliablanco.com/>
<http://www.ameliabdigitalartistry.com/>



Sue Masterson
(Australia)

Hatter's Cat



Escape from the Forest

Luana Laubscher
(South Africa)



Fences



Nesting



Chasing the Light

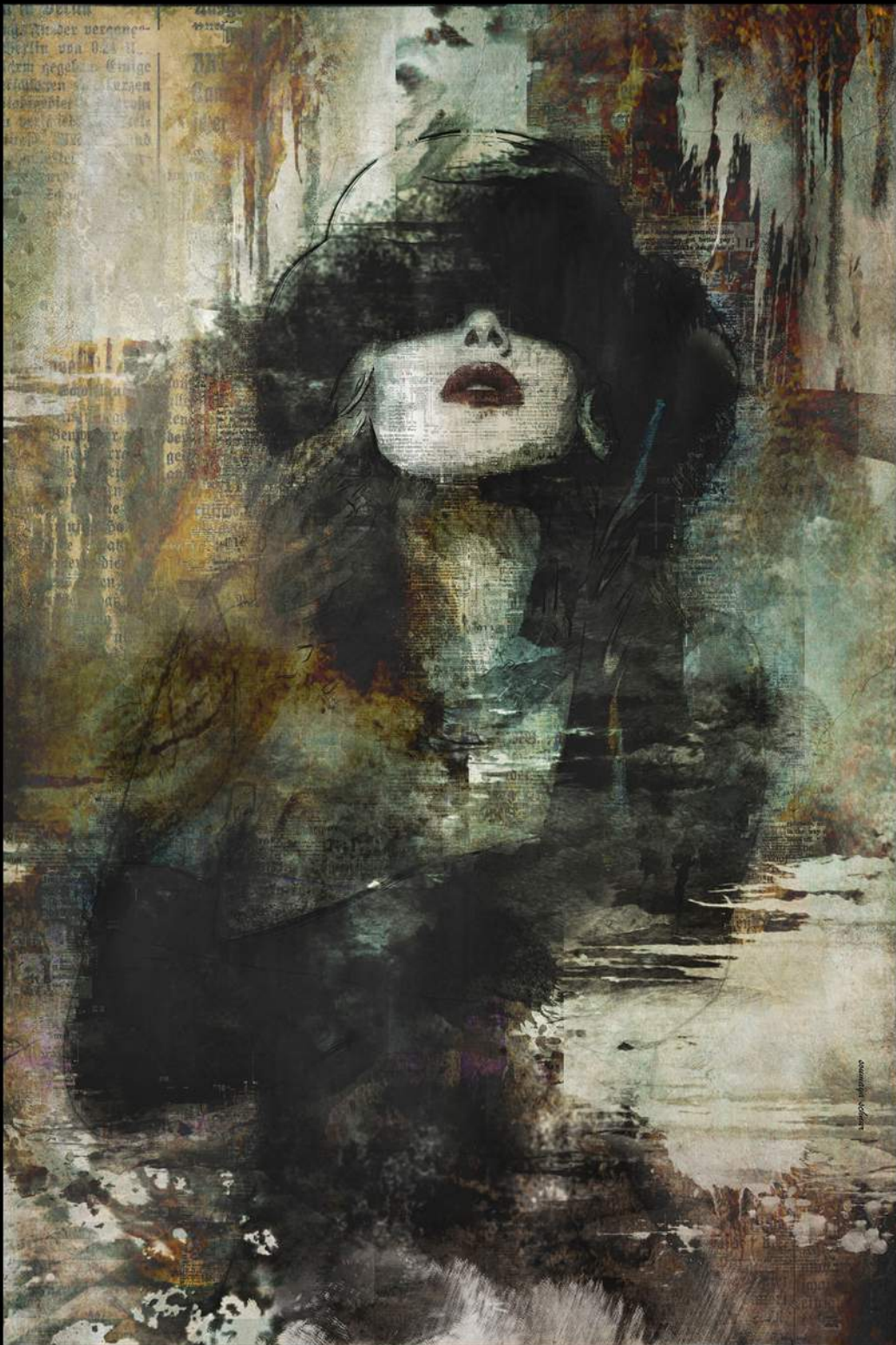




Laoise

Lou Ann Donahue
(USA)

<https://artboja.com/art/hcghtr/>



Being One with Your Work

Soumaya Schnur
(USA / Morocco)



Sea Stack



Philip McLoughlin
(Ireland)

The Daffodil



Dawn Spears
(England)

Apocalyptic Puppet



Rhino

Dan Lavery
(Canada)

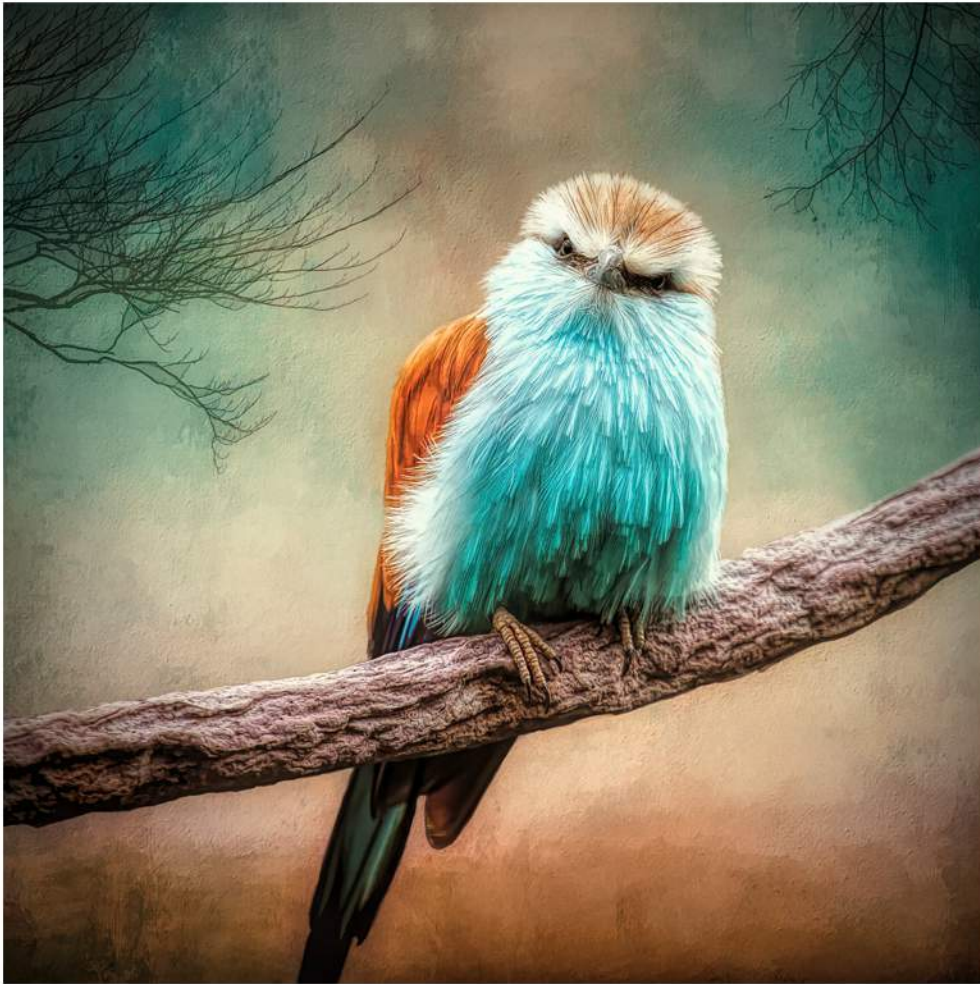
<https://artboja.com/art/gcjfzb/>



Barn on a Hill

Dale Botha
(Australia)

<https://artboja.com/art/x1el96/>



Serenity

Maggy R.
Thorvaldsdottir Pease
(USA)

<https://maggy.myportfolio.com/>
<https://artboja.com/art/3d2tlc/>



Curiosity

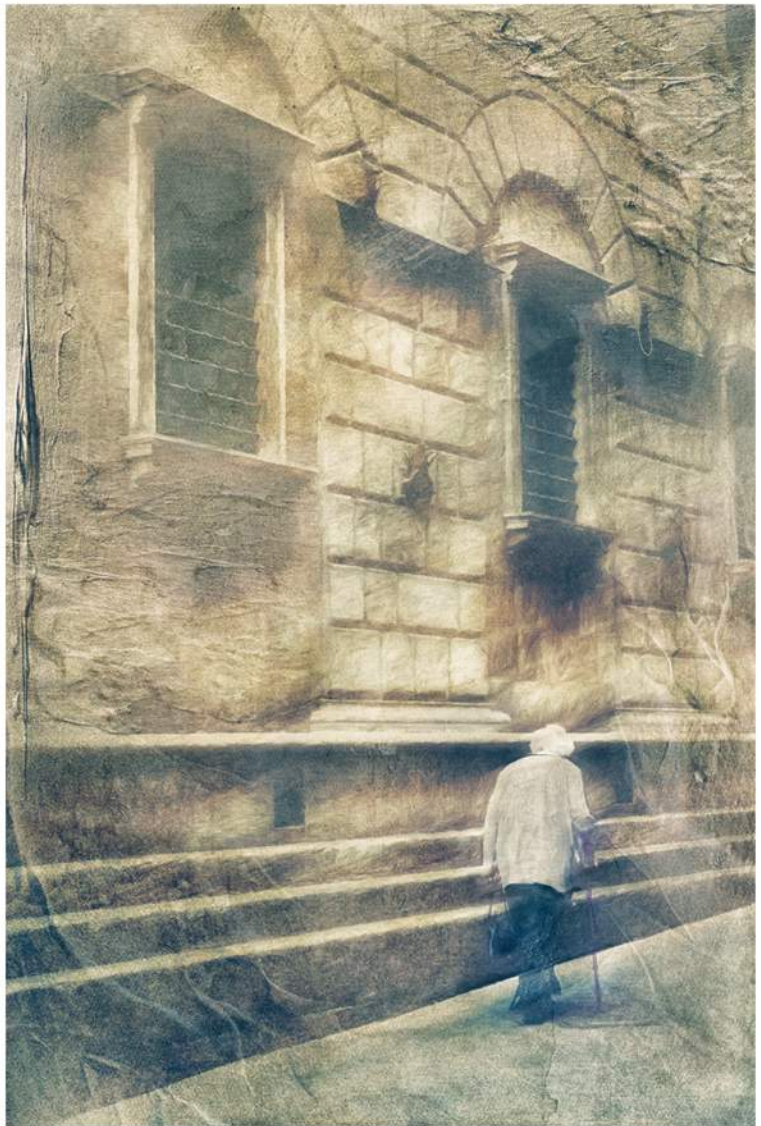


Inquiring Mind

Afternoon Stroll

Ray Kingsbury
(USA)

<http://www.rk2studio.com/>



Tuscan Ride





Full Moon

Bob Rude
(USA)



Sundown Meeting

Louise Campbell
(Australia)

<https://artboja.com/art/uaoyol/>
<http://www.facebook.com/DigitDesignStudio>



Sand Play



Rebecah Thompson
(USA)

<http://www.rebecahthompsondi.com/>
<https://www.artboja.com/art/qawqkh/>

Summertime Rain



Red Elephant
of Tsavo

Bernice Fergus
(Australia)



Zebra Fight



Underwater Library

Tina Wilson
(USA)

<http://www.flickr.com/photo/ditterbug>



Gloriana (Elizabeth I)

Deborah de Juan
(USA)

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



I Love You Truly



Tracy Cooper
(USA)

Self Portrait

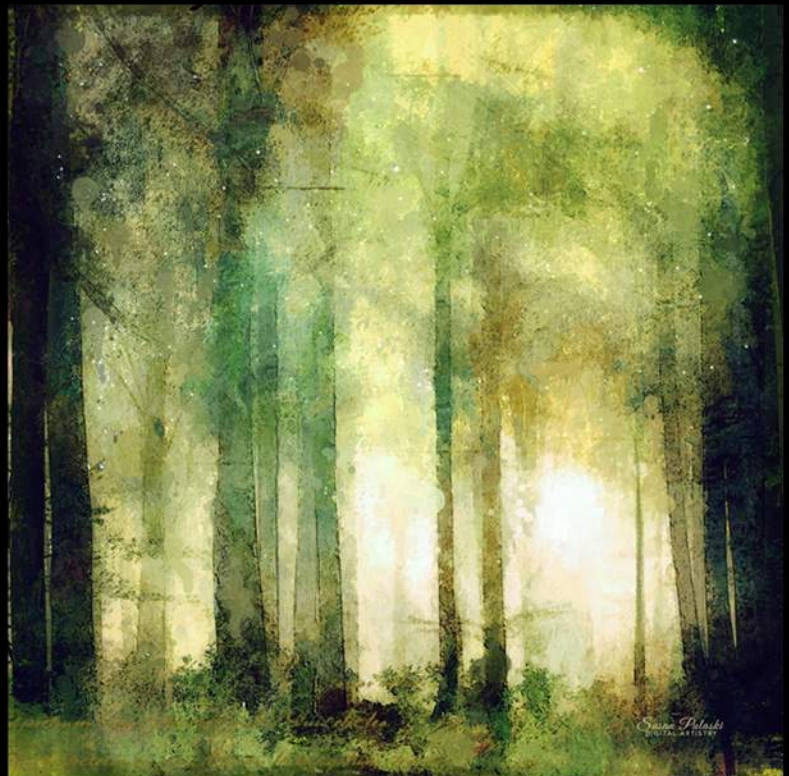


Belladonna

Susan Pulaski
(USA)

<http://susanpulaskiart.com/>
<http://artboja.com/art/6ejfke>

Spring Forest





Racing Home

Wanda Ann Kinnaman
(USA)

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



Parcel

Tiyana Marjanovic
(UK)

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



A Joyful Nature

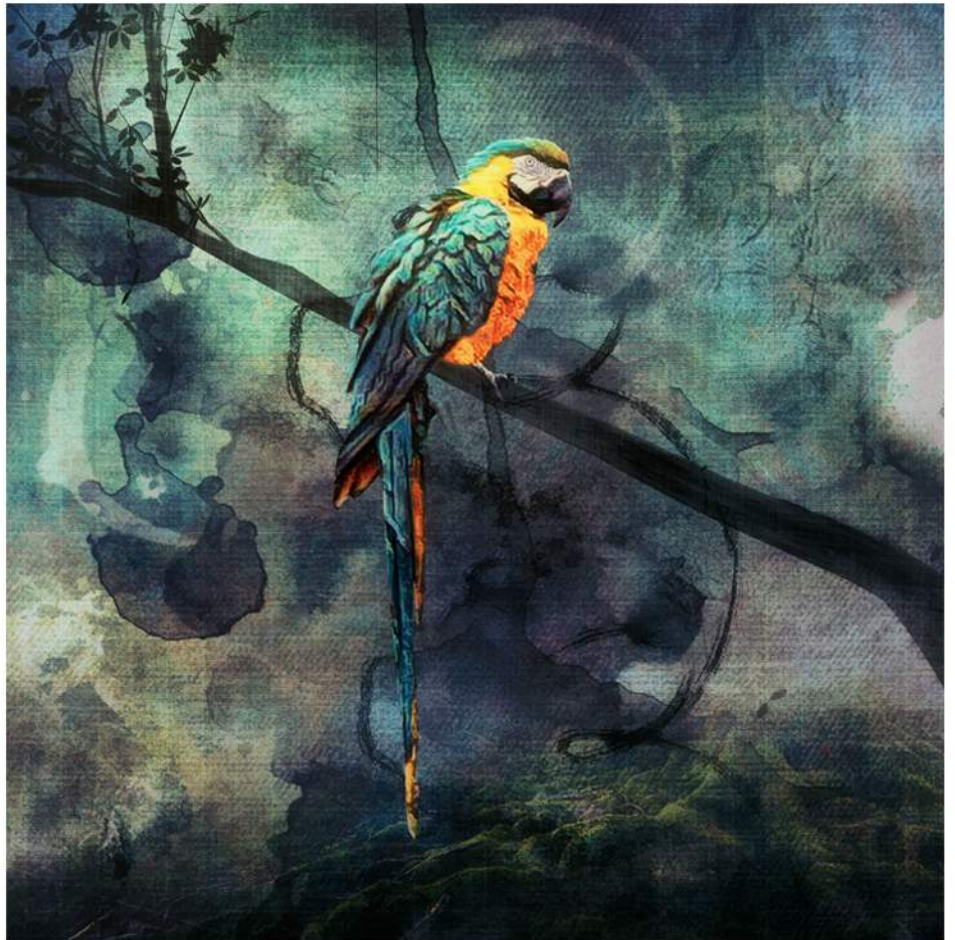
Tonnie Wolfe
(USA)

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



The Jester

Out on a Limb



Patricia K. Saizan
(USA)

Birds of a Feather





Liar's Bridge

Viv Buckley
(Ireland)

<http://www.artboja.com/art/xkk5gq/>
<http://www.vivbuckley.com/>



WayneToTheMax
(USA)

The Satin Lining of Shells

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



Private
Lesson



Phil Clark
(USA)

<https://artboja.com/art/63a1fk/>

Tide Pool



Husky Communication

Marjut Korhonen
(Finland)



Veiled

<https://artboja.com/art/ly66nh/>



Awakening of Spring

Sheri Emerson
(USA/Canada)

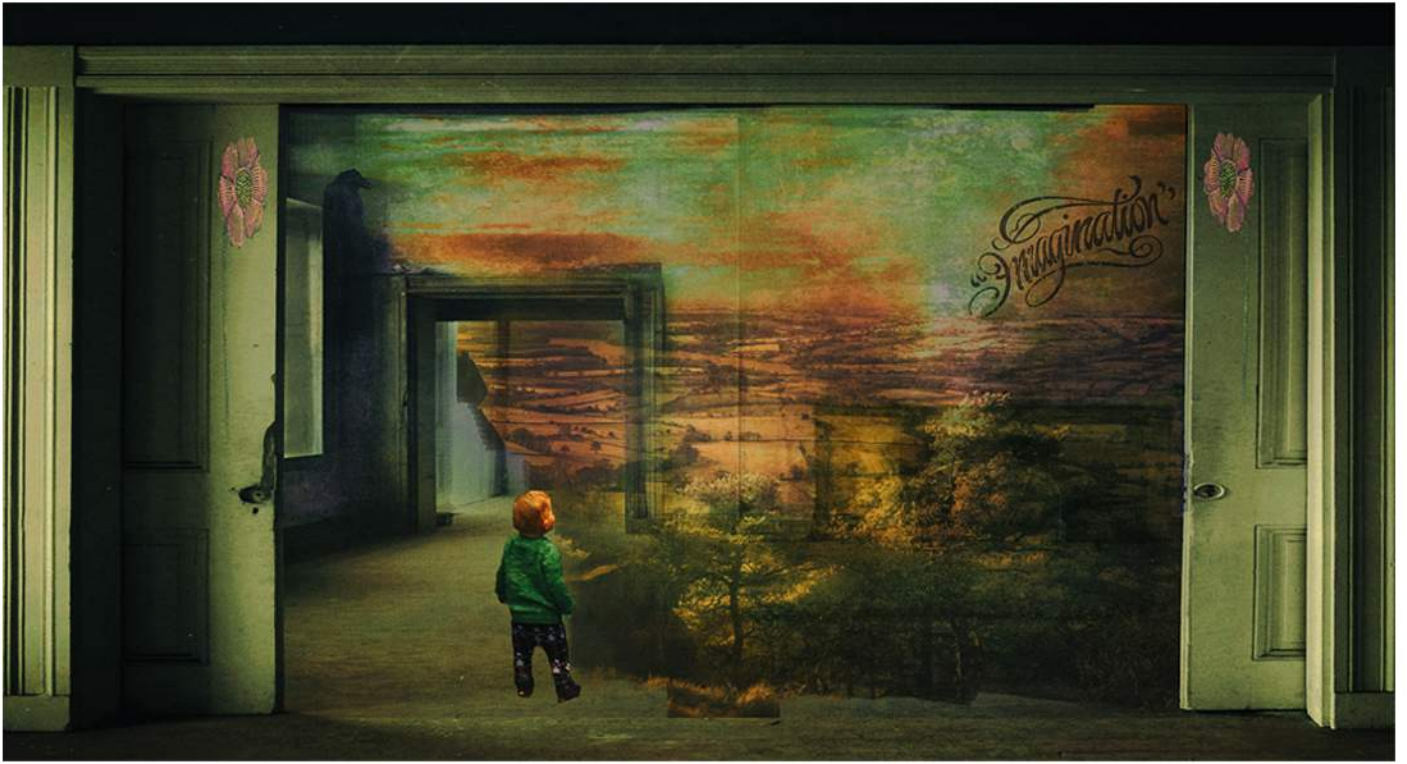
<http://www.photoartbysheri.ca/>
<http://www.sheriemerson.com/>



Migration

Bethany Perron
(USA)

<https://artboja.com/art/hcrvyv/>



The Imagination Room

Richard Strange
(England)



Child's Play



Sadness

Barbara Dudzinska
(Australia)



White Roses



Snip a Bit of Thread

Pamela Huntington
(USA)



Of this Earth

Trish Hoskin
(Australia)

<http://www.trishhphotography.com/>
<https://artboja.com/art/726rzm>



Bobcat Kittens
at Play

Lou Ann Goodrich
(USA)



<http://louanngoodrich-photoartist.com/>
<http://artboja.com/art/sheqeg>

Read and Dream



Bathed in Glory

Andy Dench
(Canada)



Where Fireflies Dance



Lamenting

Edwin Leung
(New Zealand)

<https://500px.com/elkynz>
<https://artboja.com/art/ola8i6/>



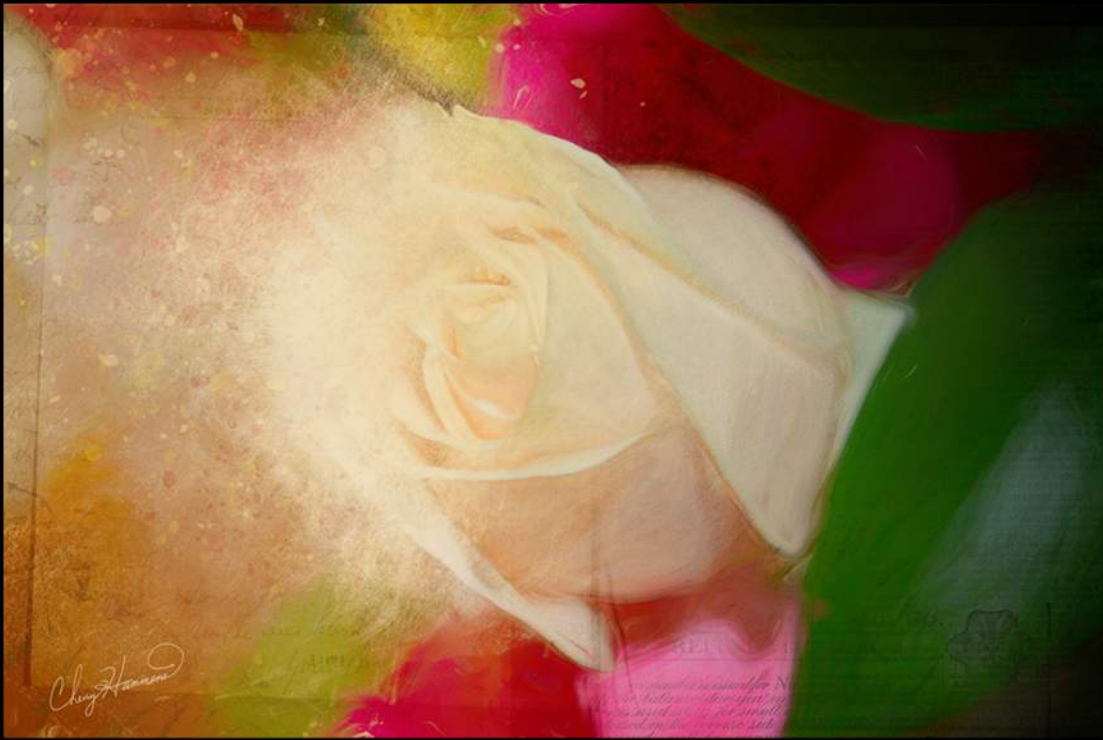
Woman in Red

Cindy Collier Harris
(USA)

<http://creativearts.artistwebsites.com/>
<http://artboja.com/art/gxi8c2>



Night Life



Rosebud



Cherry Hammons
(USA)

Saxy Music



Morgana

Nina Irvin
(USA)



Fast Food

<https://artboja.com/art/3whzmg/>



Archaic Mysteries

Barbara A Lane
(USA)

<http://www.barbaraalane.com/>
<https://artboja.com/art/y36pod/>



Ruins

Denise McDermott
(Australia)

<http://www.imagesbydenise.net/>
<http://www.artboja.com/art/vshjgn>



Dreaming of Spring

Nancy Brizendine
(USA)



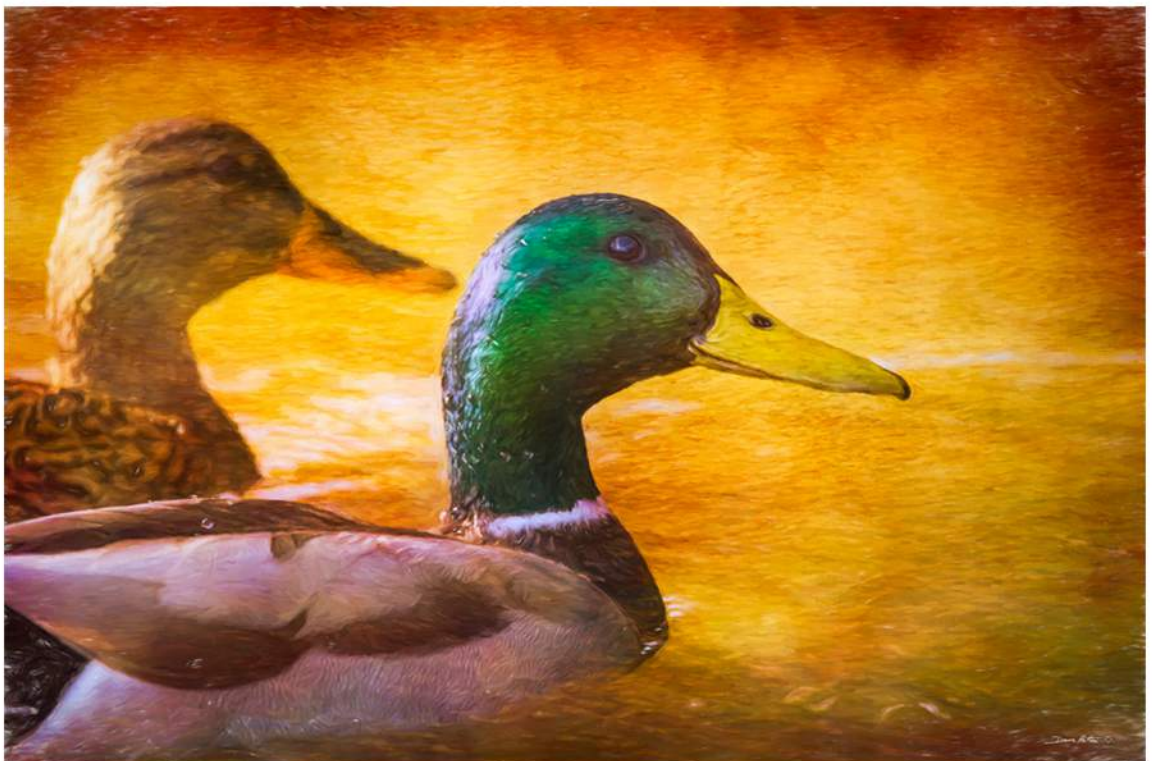
Columbine

<https://www.facebook.com/nbrizphotoart>
<https://artboja.com/art/wi7y8e/>



Great Wall

Dave Hattori
(USA)



Mallards

<http://www.davehattoriphoart.com/>
<https://artboja.com/art/fhfufs/>



The Frog Prince

Janet Rollins Donovan
(USA)

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Amanda Rockwell

<http://www.brushworkshop.com>

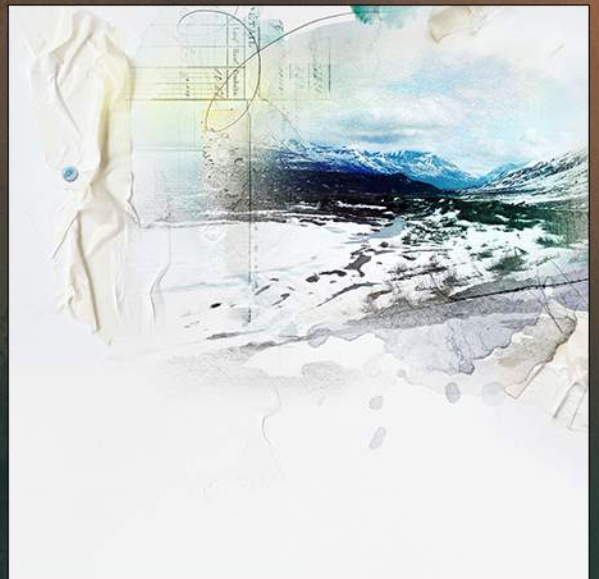
A professional designer with ScrapbookGraphics, Amanda Rockwell creates fantastic content for the AWAKE and KAIZEN groups. But I think her greatest contribution is in encouraging digital artists to get away from their screens and break out the art supplies now and then and actually have fun creating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

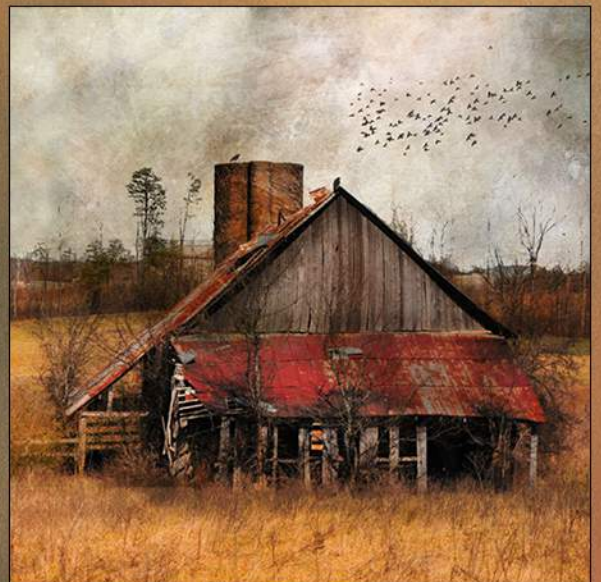
Over the past two years, I've watched as the immensely talented Caroline Julia Moore shifted from cognitive neuropsychologist to full-time self-employed artist and conceptual photographer ... all while also launching a successful content-design business. Her contributions to the group have been a delight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

<http://curiousandcultivated.com/>

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://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

Michelle Mondragon

<http://mondragonphotoanddesign.com/>

Recently we've brought on the talented photographer and artist Michelle Mondragon as part of our team (though she prefers to think of herself as a "creative"). She has been providing a steady stream of extraordinary content for our AWAKE artists to use in their compositions. We are beyond excited to have her with us.



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.



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