

"There is no abstract art. You must always start with something.
Afterward you can remove all traces of reality."
~ Pablo Picasso ~

Creating abstract photographs can be challenging because it is the very nature of photography to be representational and capture reality. You have already created some abstract images with "Squiggle Drawing" or "Blur". Because every image is a series of decisions, intentionally creating abstract photos is an important part of understanding the expressive nature of photography.



SETTINGS

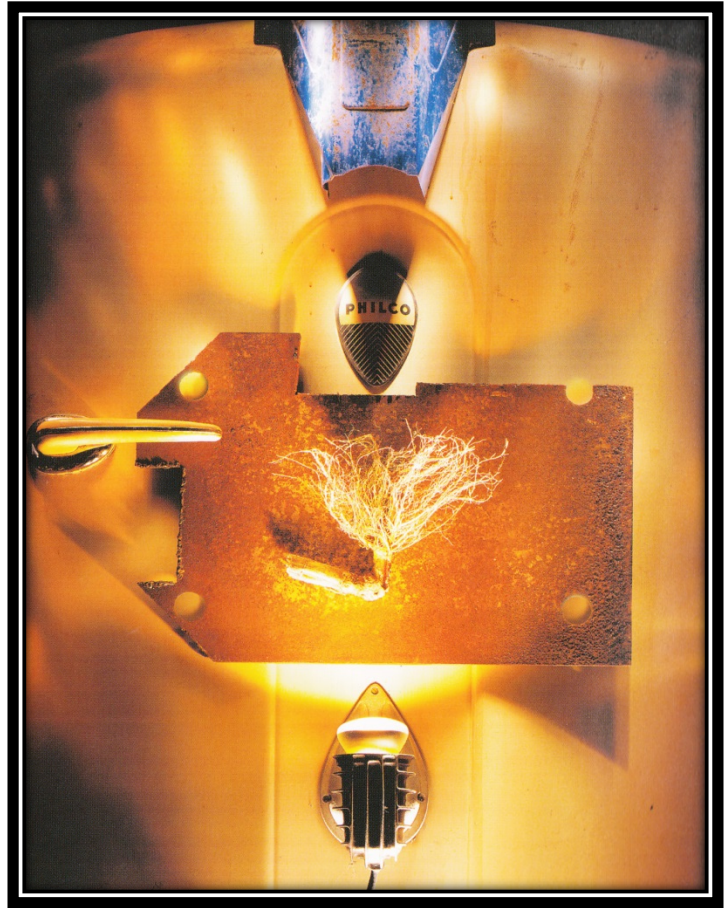
- PAS: Pick a mode that fits your situation.
- DSLR: Use full manual mode and allow yourself to go beyond what the camera tells you. Exposure mistakes can often result in abstraction.
- Smartphone: Try a black-and-white app for this lab.



LET'S GO!

Create an image that is made purely of line, form, and color in one of the following ways:

1. Build an abstract image by gathering a collection of objects that hold visual interest for you. Assemble them in a design by doing whatever feels right, as if you are making a sculpture. Look for interesting intersections, contrasts, line, and form. To help remove the representational clues, shoot straight down, use motion-blur, or shot out of focus. You can also use multiple hard-light sources from low angles to create deep shadows.
2. Find an abstract image by looking at the world around you only in terms of line, shape, color, texture, and contrast. Design your images based on making visual sense. Look for places with hard, contrasting light; sunset is a good time. Backlighting is a useful tool, or shooting directly into the light source and creating lens flare can be interesting. Moving in very close or looking at things from a great distance is a good way to see abstract pattern in everyday objects. Remember, you are making an image that is essentially about nothing and is just beautiful itself.



HAND IN ASSIGNMENT

1. Hand in an identifiable (before) and abstract (after) photo of the subject you chose. Do this for 5 different subjects.
2. Create an interactive "Guess What This Is?" poster for your bulletin board that will allow viewers to guess what it is then see the answer.
3. Write about your experience doing this assignment.