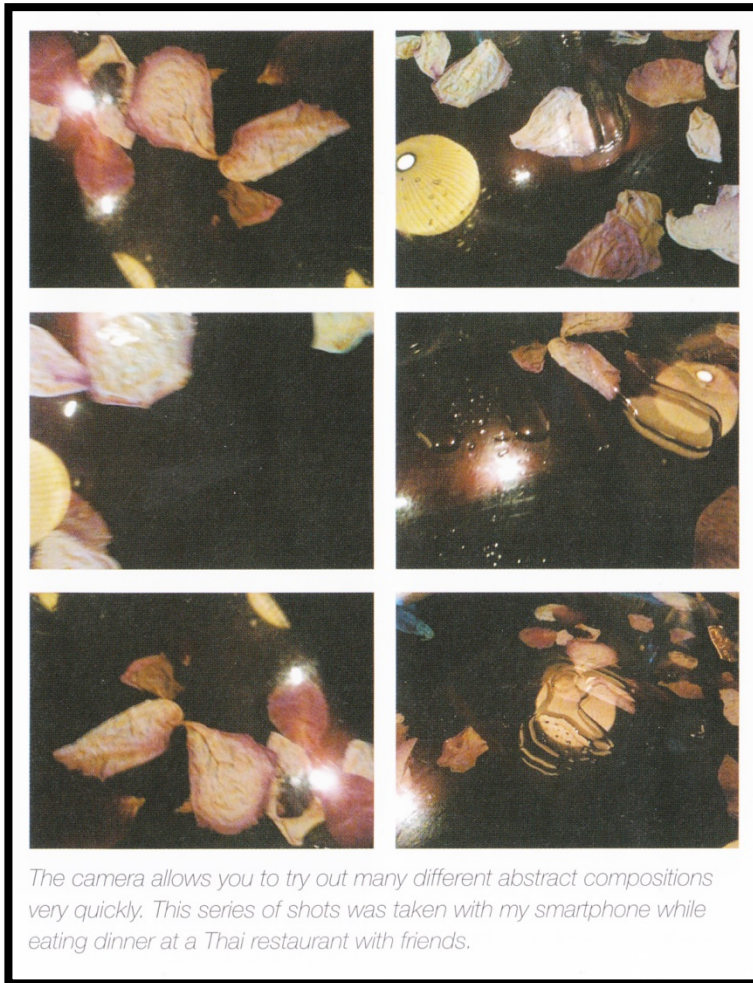


"Abstract painting is abstract. It confronts you. There was a reviewer a while back who wrote that my pictures didn't have any beginning or any end. He didn't mean it as a compliment, but it was."  
~ Jackson Pollock ~

I've always envied abstract painters, especially those able to create abstract imagery completely from their imaginations. I've tried, but I just can't seem to crack that nut. So when playing around with abstraction, I turn to my photographs to help me out.

**PLEASE NOTE:** you are responsible for purchasing your own materials.



## MATERIALS

- digital photographs
- painting media of your choice

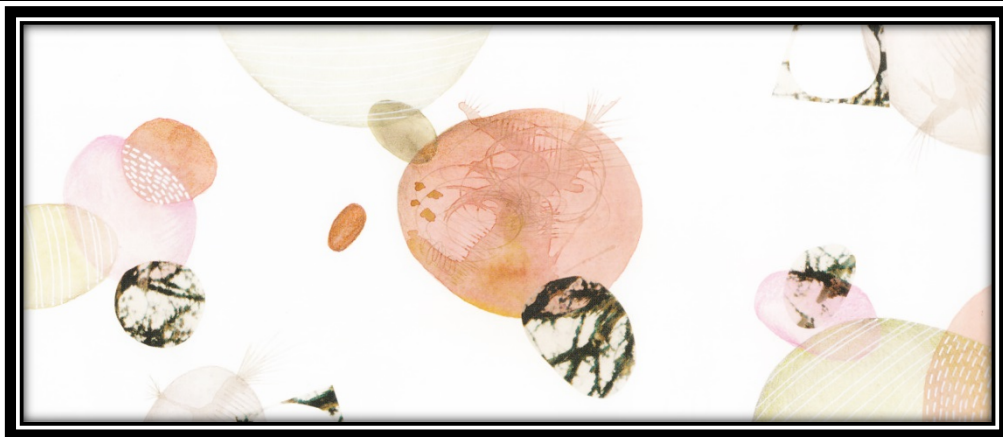
## LET'S GO!

1. Keep a digital-inspiration folder. Go through your photo files and put any that might be inspiration for abstract paintings in a folder. If your impulse says to put something in the folder that isn't strictly abstract in nature, do it anyway. The more the better!
2. Keep your eyes wide open. When out and about with your camera, look for abstract photo opportunities to add to your ongoing file folder.
3. Refer to your folder often. Spend time really looking at each file, asking yourself questions: Why do I like this particular shot? Would I like this one better if I took out this line?
4. Move things around. If desired, play around in your photo editing program and try obscuring, adding, or moving elements in the photos to improve the composition.
5. Make a series of quick, small sketches from your photographs, trying out different compositional variations. Sometimes the act of physically drawing the image can help determine if they work.
6. Begin a painting with a photo or thumbnail sketch in mind, but always be ready to abandon the original if that is where the painting takes you.

IF PAINTING IS NOT YOUR FORTE' – TRY DOING AN ABSTRACT COLLAGE OF PHOTOS IN PHOTOSHOP – ask me how.

## HAND IN ASSIGNMENT

1. Hand in painting or your Photoshop collage.
2. Write about your experience doing this assignment.



Rose Petals in Thai Restaurant, watercolour and collage on paper by Carla Sonheim