

Total time:
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level: Very
challenging

Skill Points:

- Creating composition that invokes thought
- Using simple elements to convey a message
- Willingness to break rules

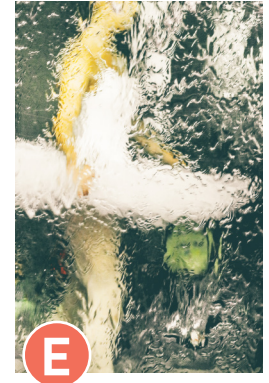
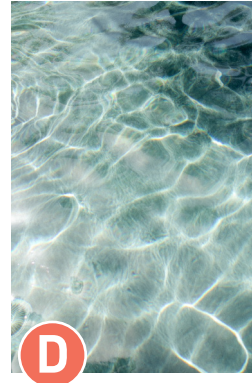
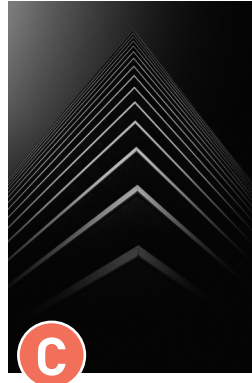
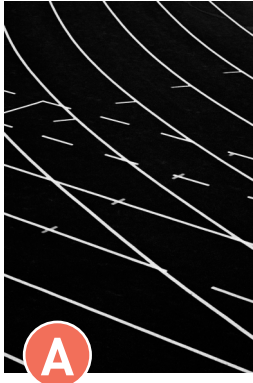
CREATING ARTISTIC ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHS



By definition, abstract artwork is: art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, lines, colors, and textures.

KEY LESSON: To create abstract photography, you need to adjust your thinking. Don't look at the world around you in its physical form. Imagine that you see it through blurry eyeglasses. You want to only see shapes, colors, lines, forms, and textures. Now, you must compose a meaningful shot, from that blurry vision, that a viewer will recognize with some effort.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



EQUIPMENT **Camera:** Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, compact or smartphone
Lens + Lens hood: Any lens (manual focusing is a benefit)



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs.
 - A- By eliminating details, and framing something simple -the photo becomes abstract- but still recognizable
 - B- Look past the obvious, to 'see' details that tell a smaller story about a bigger picture.
 - C- Shoot design elements in-camera, and use post-production to add abstraction to the resulting photo.
 - D- Abstract photography often depicts a familiar subject in an unfamiliar way.
 - E- There is a difference between abstract and 'semi-abstract' artwork. This image borders on being more semi-abstract.
- 2- Self-assign two shots
 - #1 For the first shot- pick an object and set about creating an abstract photo of the object (think of the tree bark or the water examples).
 - #2 For the second shot- go on a photo shoot and 'find' a subject that you will photograph in an abstract manner (think of the running track or the building examples).
- 3- Explore your chosen subjects carefully and from all angles.
- 4- Setup your camera: Due to the creative nature of abstract photography, there are no set rules on how to set up your camera.
- 5- The key to this Action Assignment is to change your visual perception of objects that you photograph.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Does your shot have a pleasing composition? Do viewers need to contemplate what they are looking?
- Can a viewer ultimately discern what they are looking at?
- Does your shot generate visual excitement?
- Did you simplify to the basic elements of shapes, forms, lines, colors, and textures?