

ICM Exercise #12 - Silence

Exercise and Feedback by Kaisa Sirén

The ICMPhotoMag Exercise is a task-oriented, or topic-based, exercise open to all ICM enthusiasts. This is an ongoing series, and I would be happy to hear if there is a subject you would like to be included as a future exercise.

For those of you who are new to ICM, here are a few hints about what you need in order to start experimenting:

- A camera in which you can control shutter speed, f-stop, and ISO rating—and of course the understanding of how they correspond with one another.
- Use a very low ISO rating, especially when photographing during daytime/bright sunlight.
- Use slow shutter speeds (anything from 1/10 of a second to several seconds, depending on the amount of light, the desired effect, and the length of the objective).
- Adjust your f-stop according to shutter speed and ISO.
- If very bright, use a neutral density filter to cut down the amount of light reaching the sensor.

Experiment with various shutter speeds to learn how longer and shorter exposure times will affect the outcome. Depending on your movement, shorter exposures oftentimes will produce less abstract images than longer exposures will. Find the combination of movement and exposure time that works for you to create the effects you are looking for.

Assignment ~ Silence

This time, the task is to use ICM to create an image that conveys silence, stillness, or calmness.

As ICM often is full of movement, busyness, and action, it can be a great challenge to try to achieve a completely different mood. For this exercise, it will be important to think about two aspects in your choices: what is your subject and what is your movement? You may want to be very careful when choosing your subject to make sure there are not too many distracting elements in the frame. You might also want to experiment with longer shutter speeds and slower movements to calm things down. This is a great opportunity to really plan your photoshoot ahead of time and not just go out to see what might come up and photograph randomly. Think carefully about which factors create the impression of silence, stillness, or calmness. How do the geometrical shapes and lines need to be placed? How does the light, color, and contrast create energy or calm things down? Do identifiable subjects increase the stillness or bring more movement to the image? What kind of composition increases the mood of silence? I look forward to seeing your images and your interpretations of the topic.

Submit Images for Feedback

Please send your images for evaluation and feedback from Kaisa Sirén through the Google Form on the website, which can be found at this link:

[Exercise with Kaisa Submission Form](#)

*****Images must be captured in-camera. No Photoshop-created ICMs allowed (i.e., motion blur or textural filters, etc.). We do, however, encourage you to post-process your images carefully otherwise.*****

The image size must be 2000 pixels on the long side, at 300dpi. A maximum of 3 images per participant, and ***images must have been taken between 15 March 2023 and 5 May 2023.***

Submissions should also include the technical details for each image, including ISO, focal length, shutter speed, and aperture. This will assist you in the exercise by keeping you aware of these technical aspects of creating ICMs.

Kaisa will select 3-5 images from all submissions for commentary and feedback, and these 3-5 images will be published in the June 2023 issue, along with Kaisa's feedback.

Make sure to title your images with your own name and, if desired, with the image title (for example, Kaisa_Siren_Winter1).

Submission Deadline

Submissions must be received by **5 May 2023** in order to be considered.

Hold the camera
this way.



Not this way.



Kaisa Sirén is a photographer from Lapland, Finland, specializing in ICM images. Her work was featured in the inaugural issue of ICM Photography Magazine in June 2020.

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Background Photo Credit ~ Kaisa Sirén