

ICM Exercise #4 - Total Abstract

Exercise and Feedback by Kaisa Sirén

The ICMPhotoMag Exercise will now transition from a beginners exercise to a task-oriented, or topic-based, exercise, open to all ICM enthusiasts. This will be an ongoing series, and I will 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 to start experimenting: you need a camera in which you can control the shutter speed, f-stop, and ISO rating...and of course the understanding of their relationship and how they correspond with one another.

With the ICM technique, you usually need to use a very low ISO rating (especially when photographing during daytime/bright sunlight). The shutter speed can be anything from 1/10th of a second to several seconds, and it depends on the amount of light, the effect desired, and length of the objective.

In order to use a long exposure, you need to use a small f-stop (big number!) and a small ISO value. If there is so much light that the smallest f-stop and lowest ISO value are not enough to allow the long exposure time, you can 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 ~ Rhapsody of Colour Total Abstract

This time the task is to deepen your own expression further and try to go fully abstract.

Find a subject that has a great colour palette, a real rhapsody of colours, along with interesting geometrical lines. Try to create an interesting result with a movement of your choice.

Remember that even if the image is fully abstract it still needs to have a hook that catches the viewer's eye and attention. Be aware of having enough contrast in the subject so that the images are interesting. With too little contrast, an ICM image can easily become just a boring surface.

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.). I 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 should be taken between 15 March 2021 and 5 May 2021.***

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 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_siren1_Hope).

Submission Deadline

Submissions must be received by **5 May 2021** in order to be considered.

**Hold the camera
this way.**



Not this way.



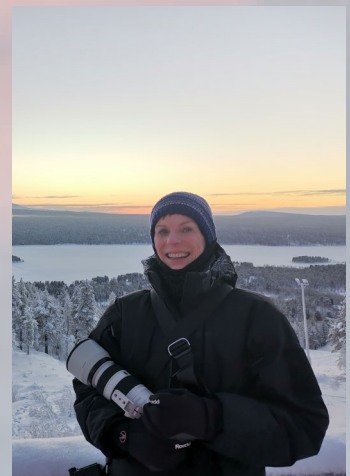
Kaisa Sirén is a photographer from Lapland, Finland, specializing in ICM images. Her work was featured in the inaugural issue of ICM Photography Magazine in June 2020.

www.kaisasiren.fi

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Background Photo Credit ~ Kaisa Sirén