Two Suggestions

For Better 3D Pictures

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Notes at: drt3d.com/SUGGESTIONS.PDF

1. Use Better Lighting

Observation:

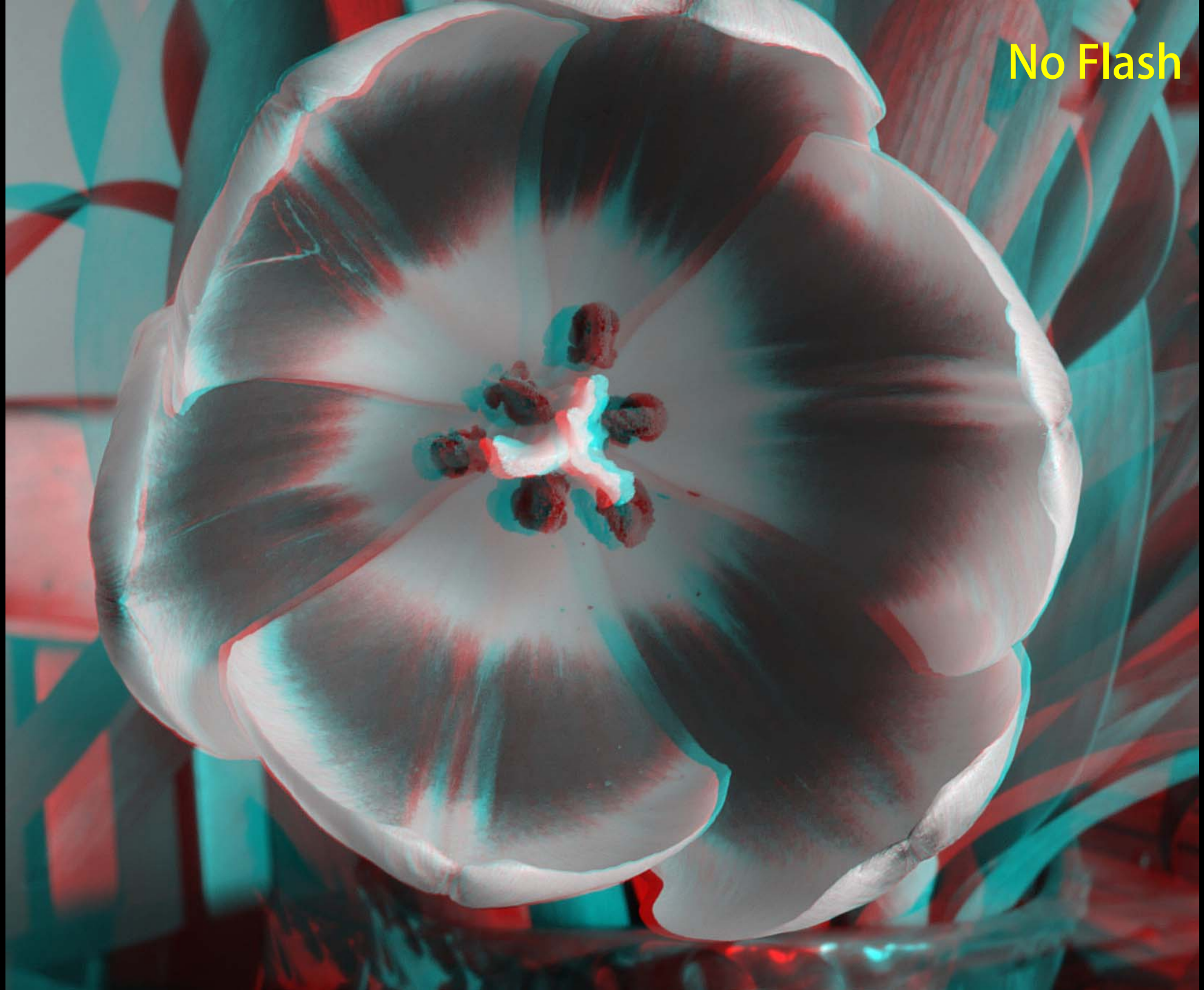
Close-ups/macros taken with the Panasonic 3D Lens had **flat lighting**

Suggestion:

Use Flash

- Darkens the background
- Increases contrast
- Can create shadows and amplify textures

LUMIX
3D
GX1
1.0
LUMIX
LUMIX


No Flash

Flash

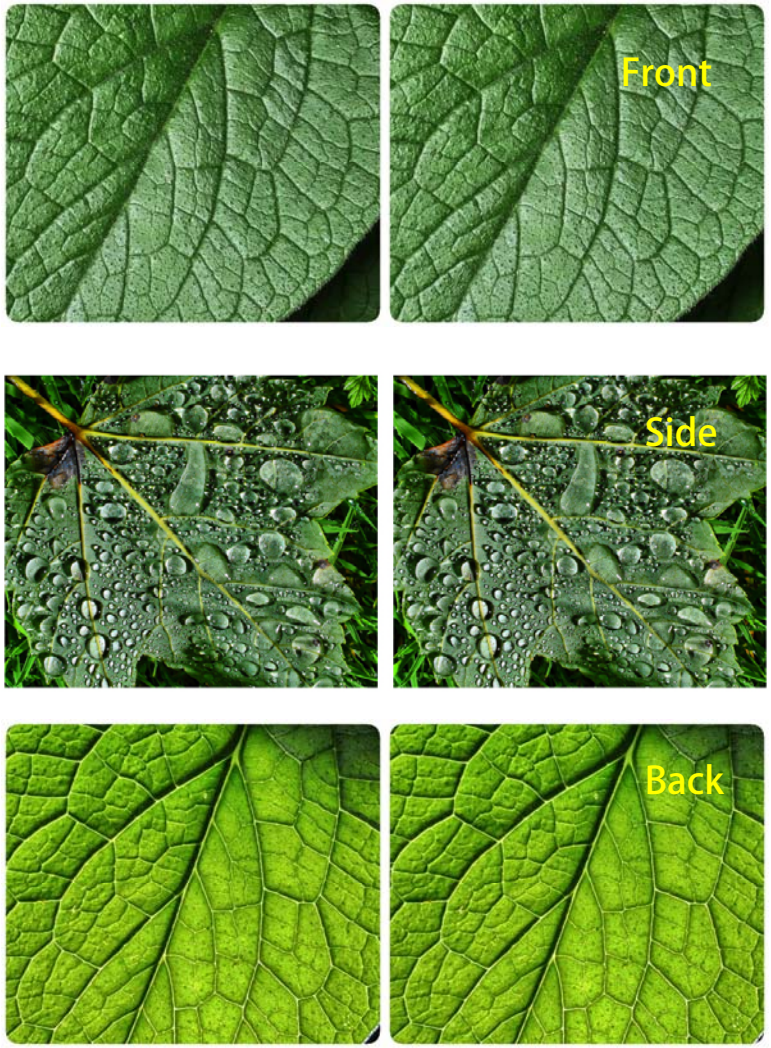
Position & Direction of Light

The position / direction of the light affects the character of the picture

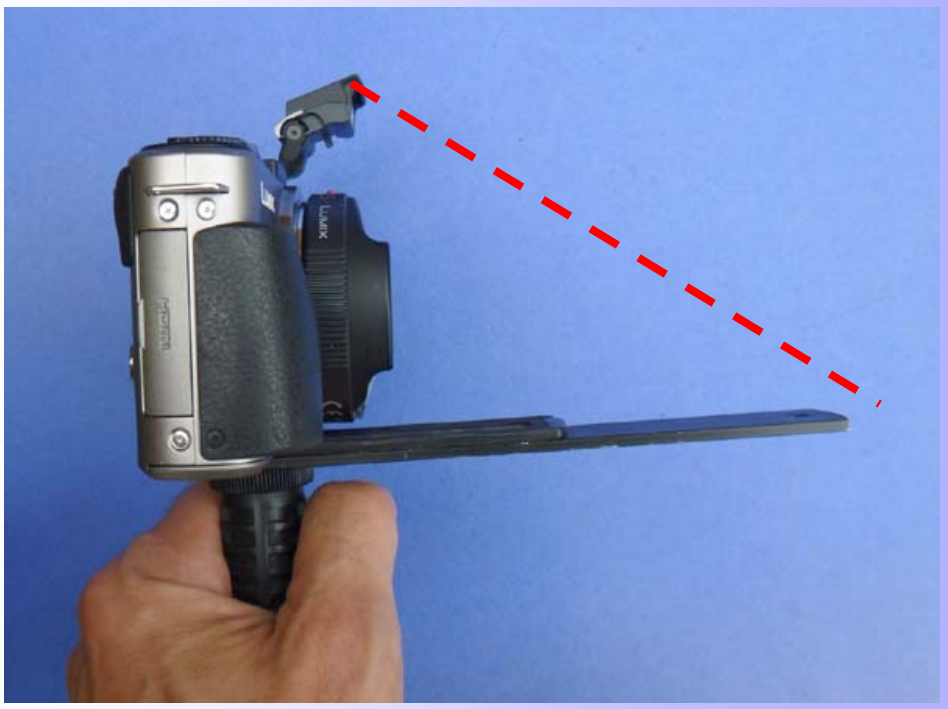
- **Front** lighting is the least exciting but it shows the most details, without distractions
- **Side** lighting create shadows and amplify textures, adding drama to the picture
- **Back** lighting can bring up interesting details that are missed with front lighting

Experiment with the position of the light

Different subjects work better with different directions of light. It is not a one size fits all.



On-Camera Flash



Because of the short distance to the subject, the flash is relatively high and large, compared to the subject, so it is **not too bad.**

Metz Macro Flash

Metz 15 MS-1 Macro flash with **two flash heads independently controlled** is better.

These solutions give **front lighting** at fixed angle

Flexible Twin Macro Flashes

Venus Optics KX-800
$250 at B&H

Bolt VM-260
Currently unavailable

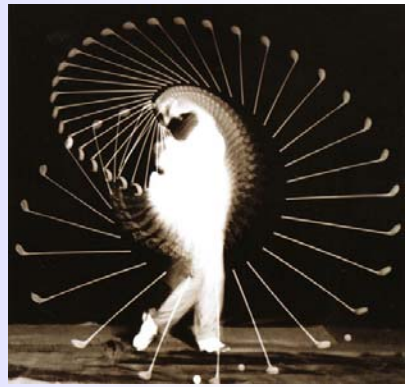
One could create a twin flash system by using **two flashes**, but these two units are more convenient for me.

Isn't Natural Light better than Flash?

In many cases, yes.

But in macro 3D photography often not.

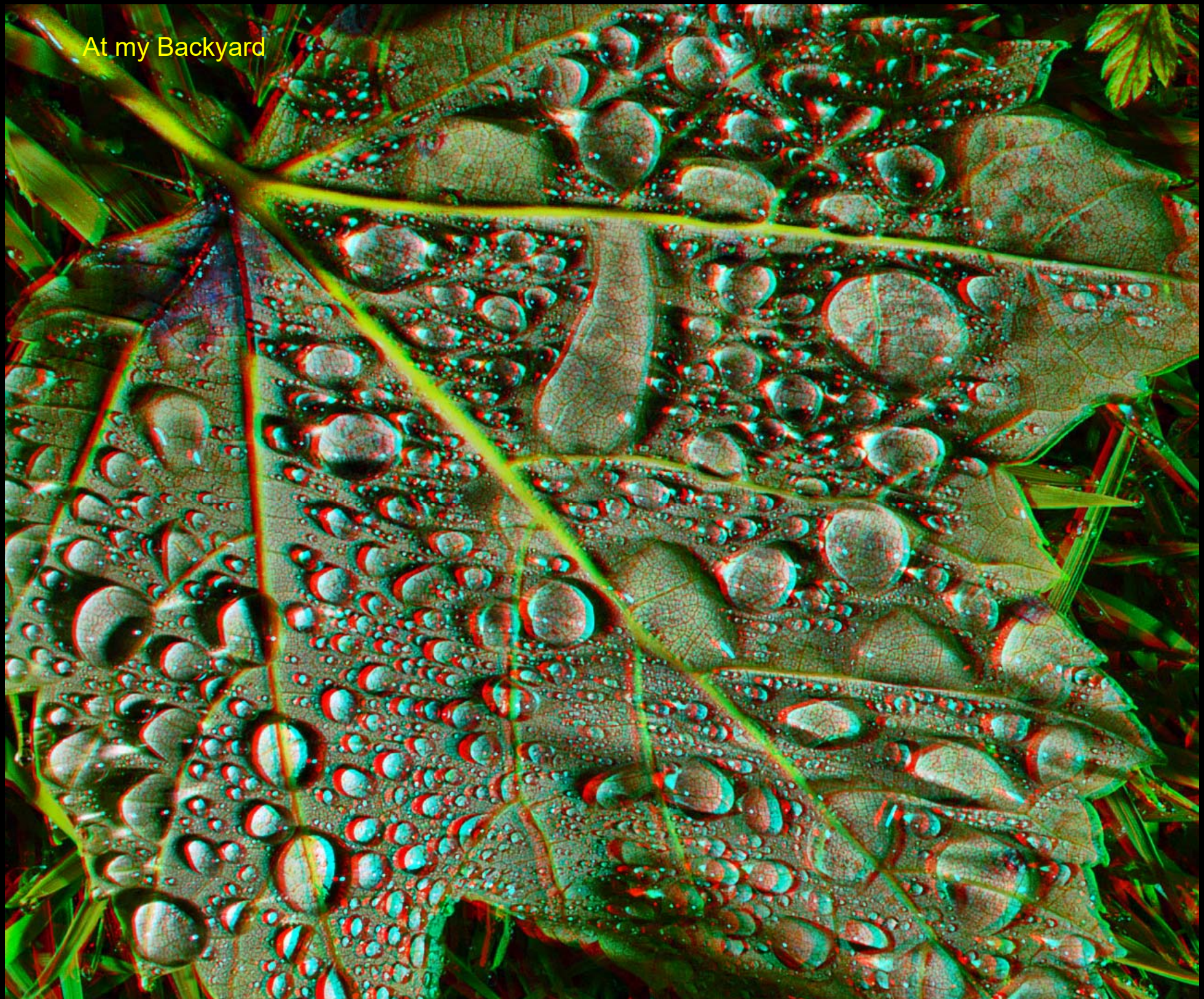
In regular photography flash can **enhance natural light** and **create interesting effects**

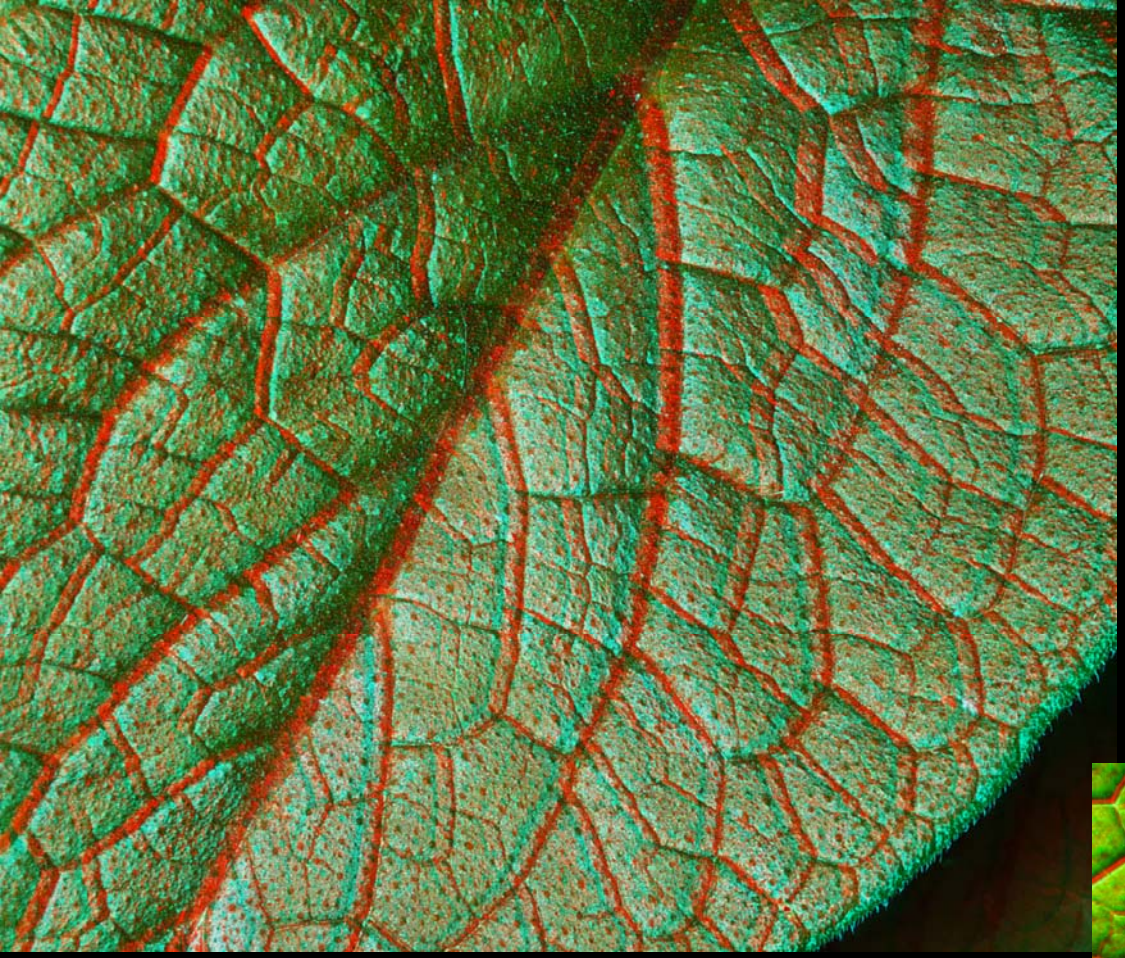


Doesn't flash causes harsh shadows?

For macro 3D photography, not necessarily, for two reasons:

- Flash size is large compared to the subject
- If you use two flashes, they can fill each other's shadows

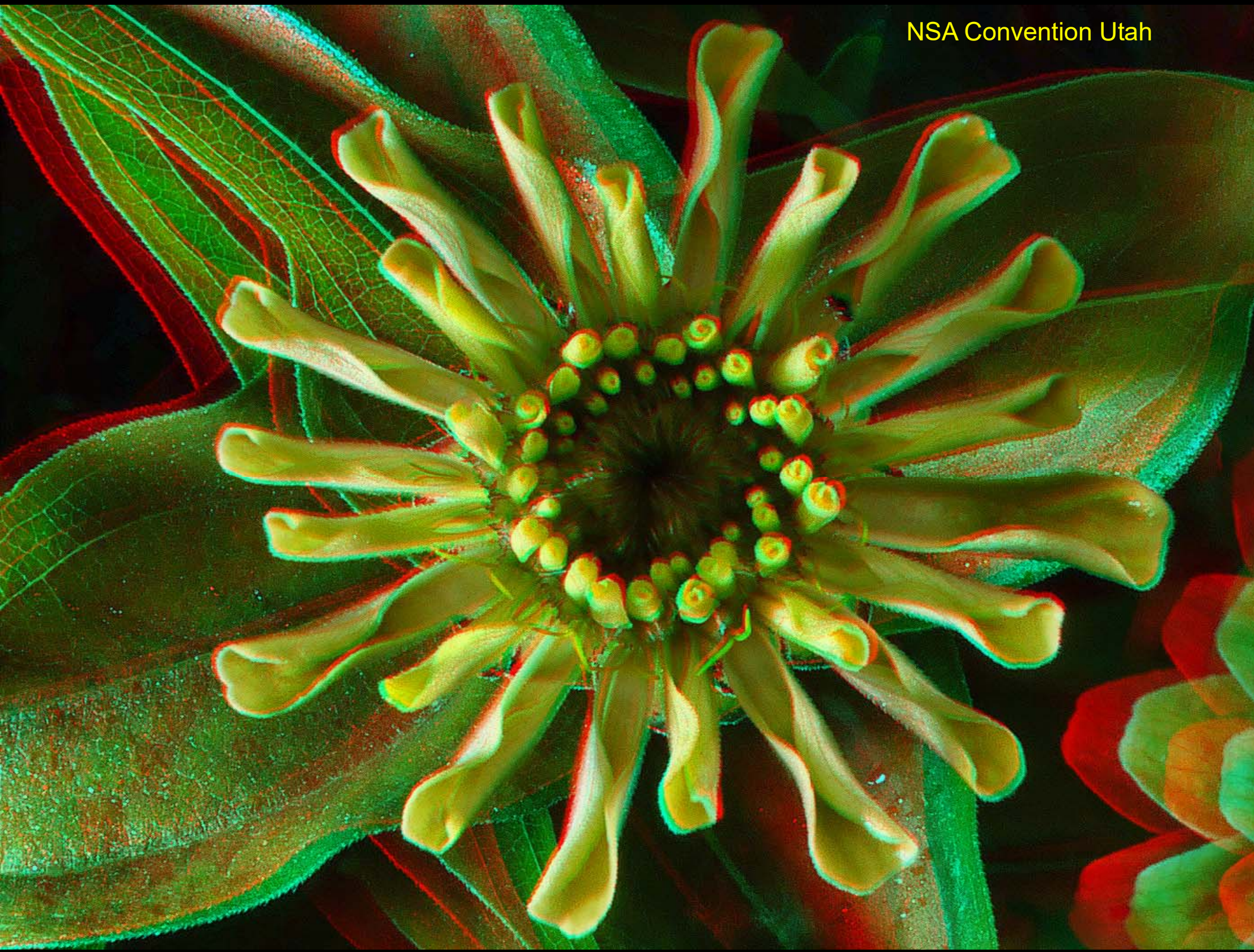

At my Backyard



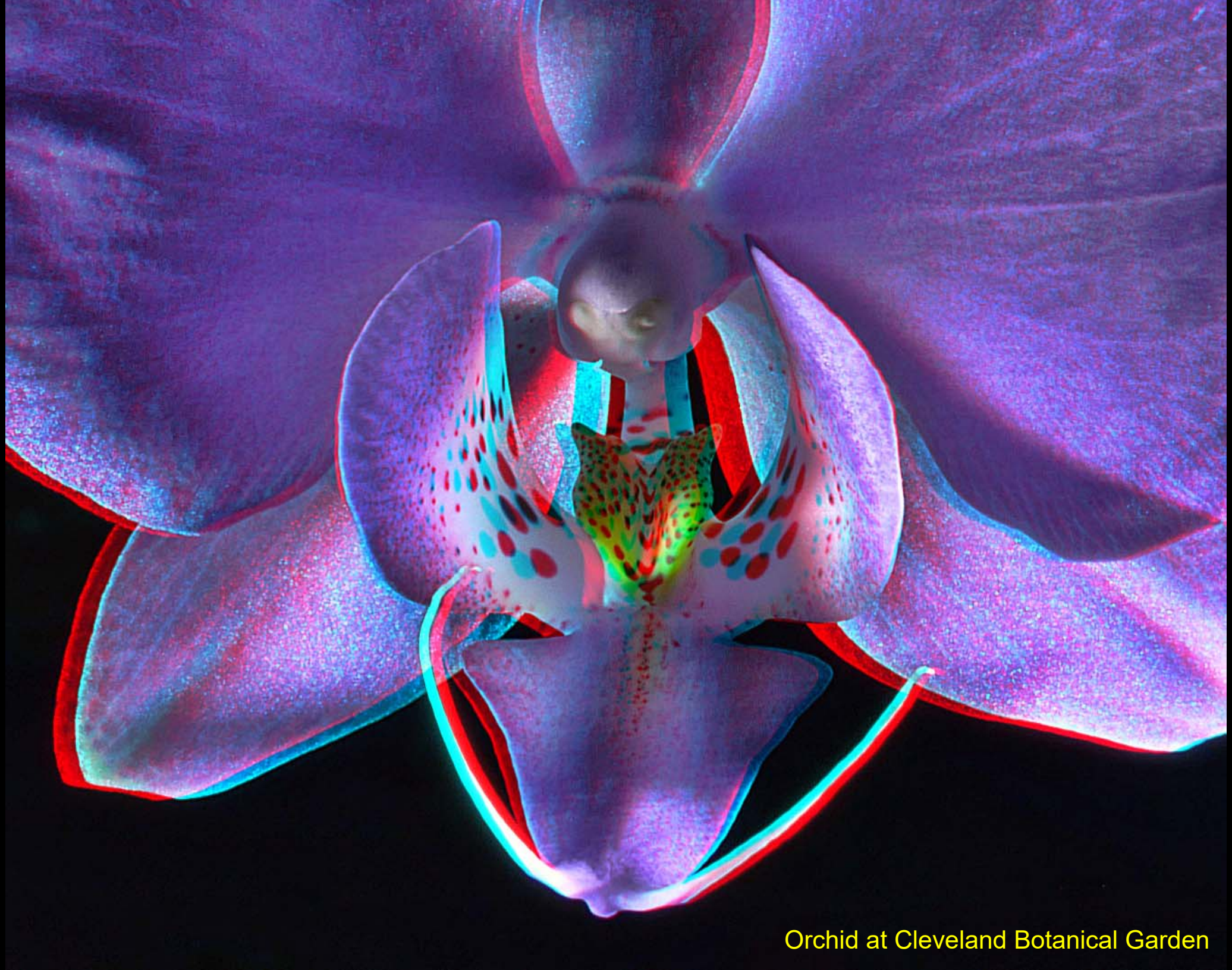
FRONT Lighting

BACK Lighting

Down the street from my house


NSA Convention Utah

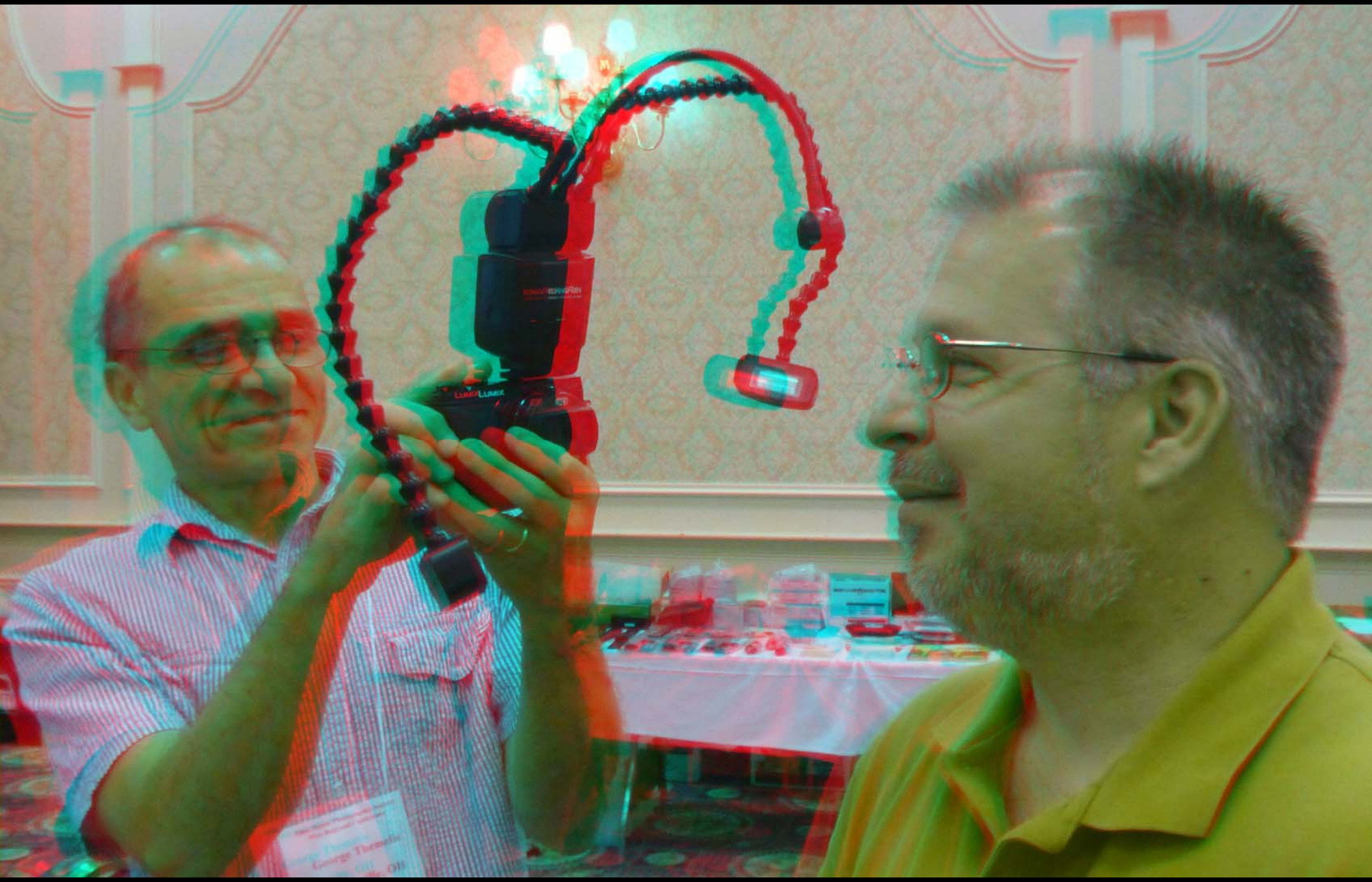
Lily photographed at my dinning table



Orchid at Cleveland Botanical Garden

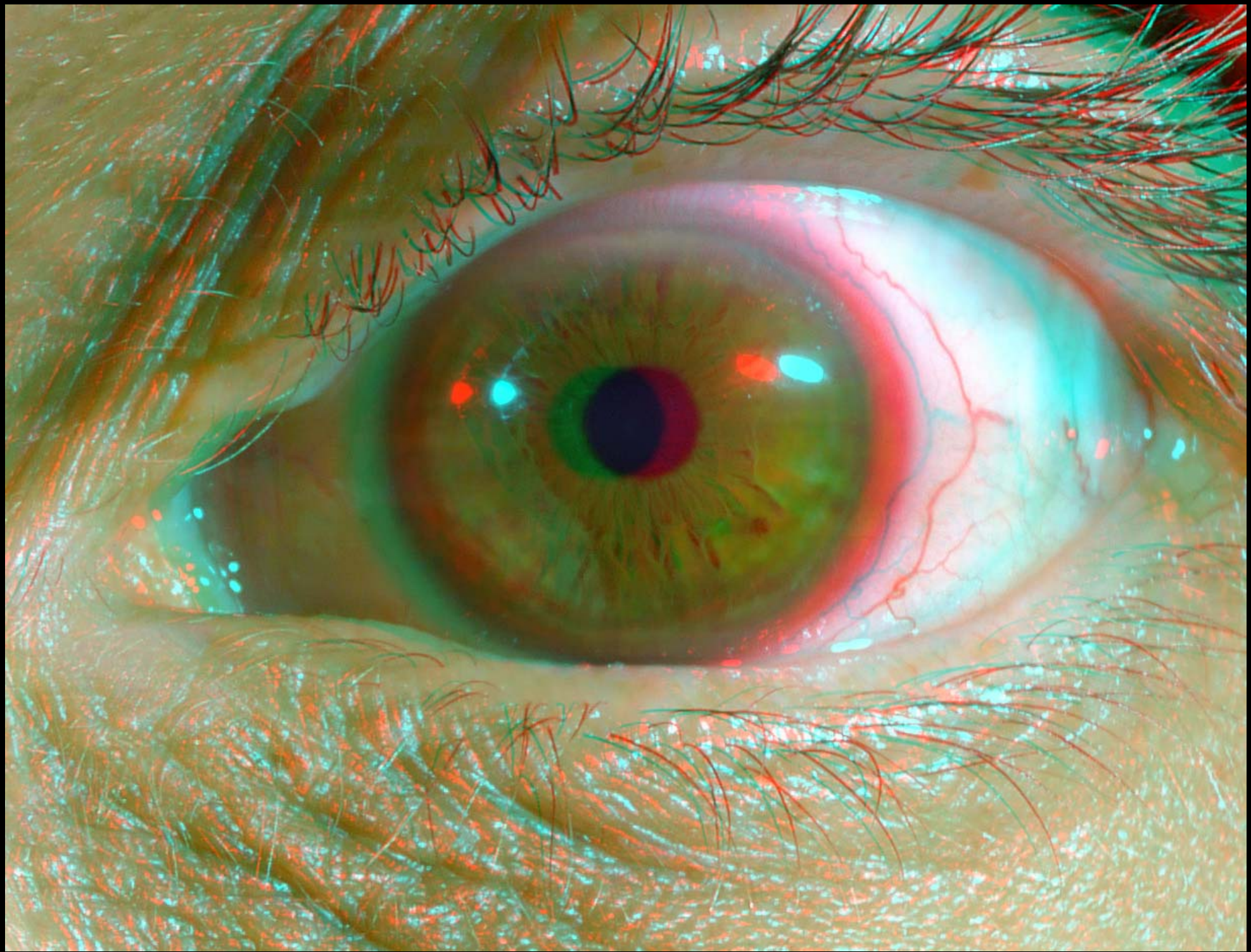
Rob Ellis at 3D Weekend

DrT in action at 3D Weekend



Brian May at NSA Convention Happy Hour

My eye photographed in the bathroom



Question: *"I use flash too, but my backgrounds are not dark like yours. Why?"*

How to Set Flash / Camera

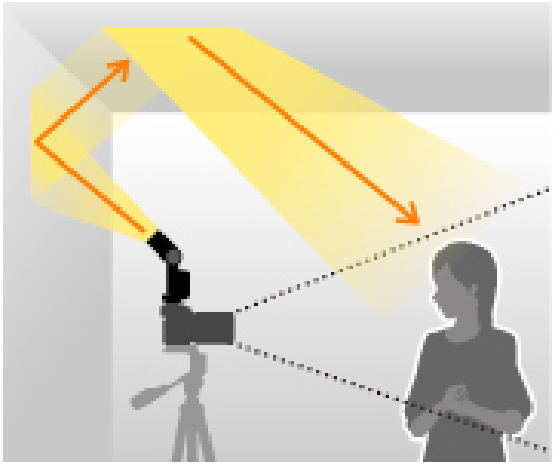
- **My goal is to eliminate ambient light and only have the light from the flash**
  - **Use Flash in Manual Mode**
  - **Use Camera in Manual mode**

- **How to set the camera in Manual Mode:**
  - **Smallest aperture** (largest number, f12 fixed for 3D lens)
  - **Fastest shutter speed** (1/100 older cameras, 1/600s for Panasonic GX8)
  - **Smallest ISO value** (ISO = 100 usually)

- **Adjust the intensity of the flash manually to get a good exposure**

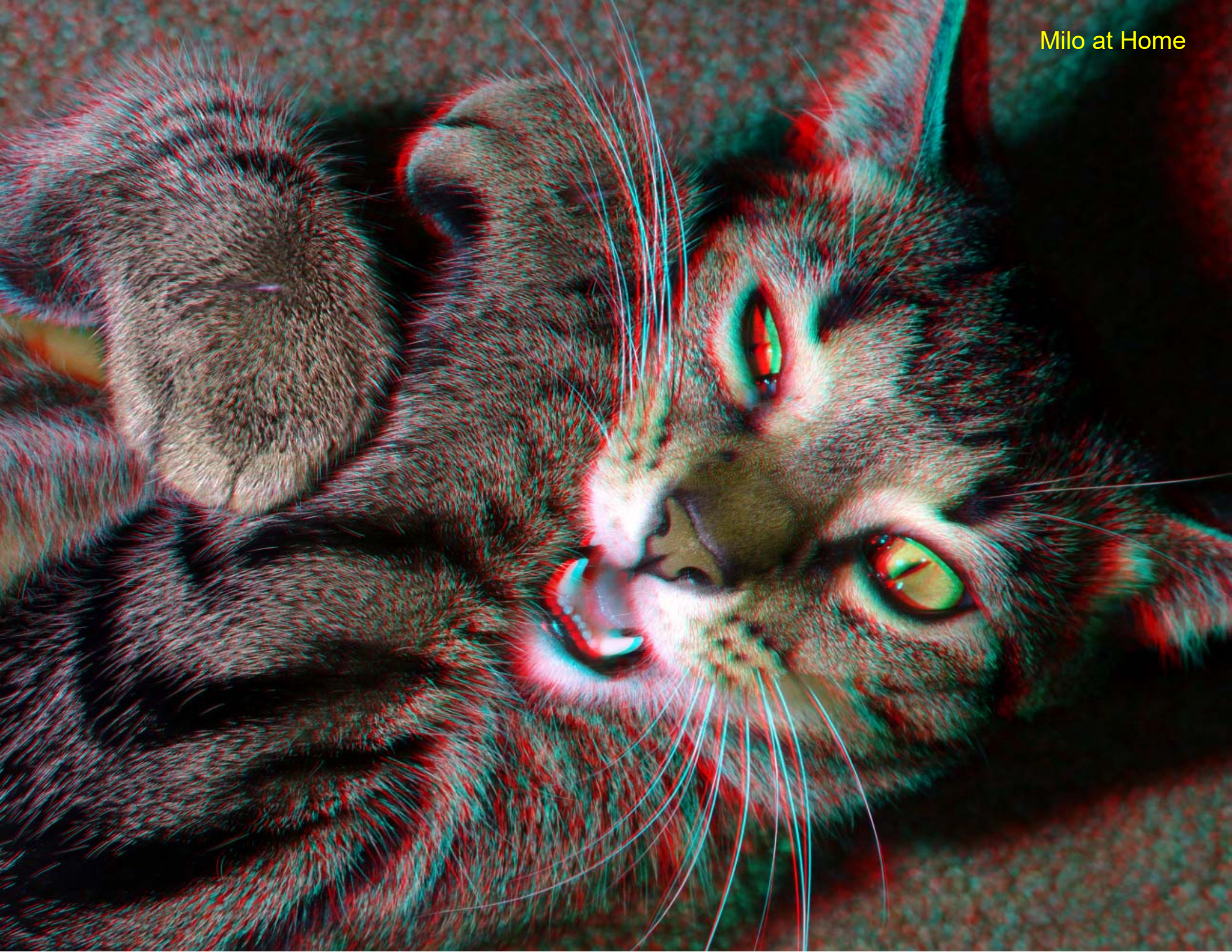
More Flash Uses/Techniques

- **Flash can be used with other cameras too:**
  - Single camera & shift (do not shift the flash!)
  - Fuji 3D (do not use the built in flash!)
  - Samsung NX1000 twin camera rig

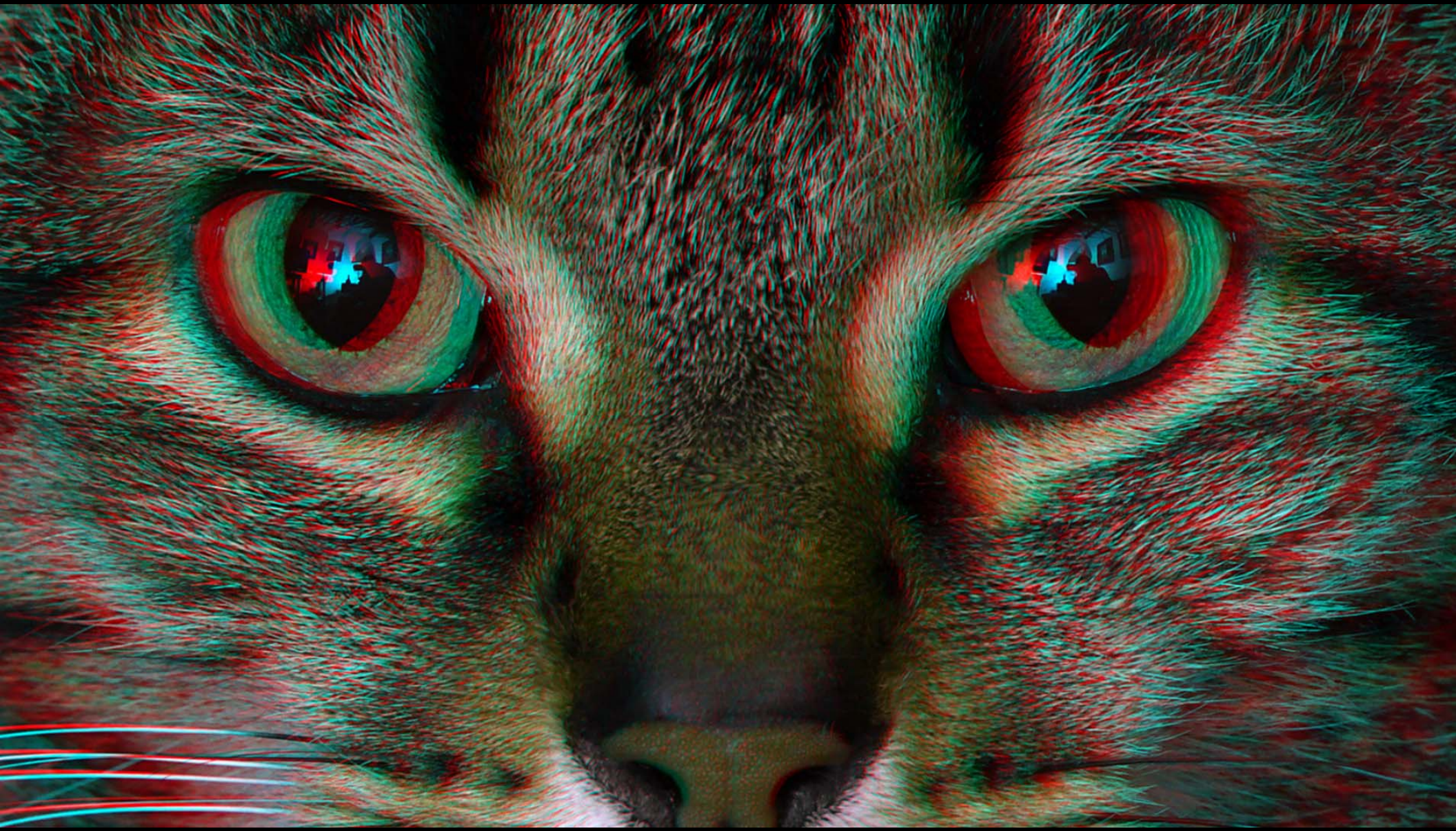


- **Useful flash techniques:**
  - Bounce Flash
  - Off Camera flash
  - Slave Flash

- **LED lights are an alternative to flash** have become popular for studio shots and have the advantage that you can see the effect before you take the picture


Milo at Home

Milo at Home - Samsung NX1000 w/Slave Flash



Samsung NX1000 & slave flash
At club meeting

Multiple LED Lights
At PSA Conference

If you cannot control the light

- **Shoot earlier/later in the day**
  when the sun is low

- **Don’t shoot always with the sun behind** but try at an angle or even against the sun

San Juan Cemetery
A
Ω
FAMILIA
SCHLÜTER

Costa Rica at Sunset

Great Salt Lake - Utah

2. Use Props

- Prop in photography is **an object added to create more interest**

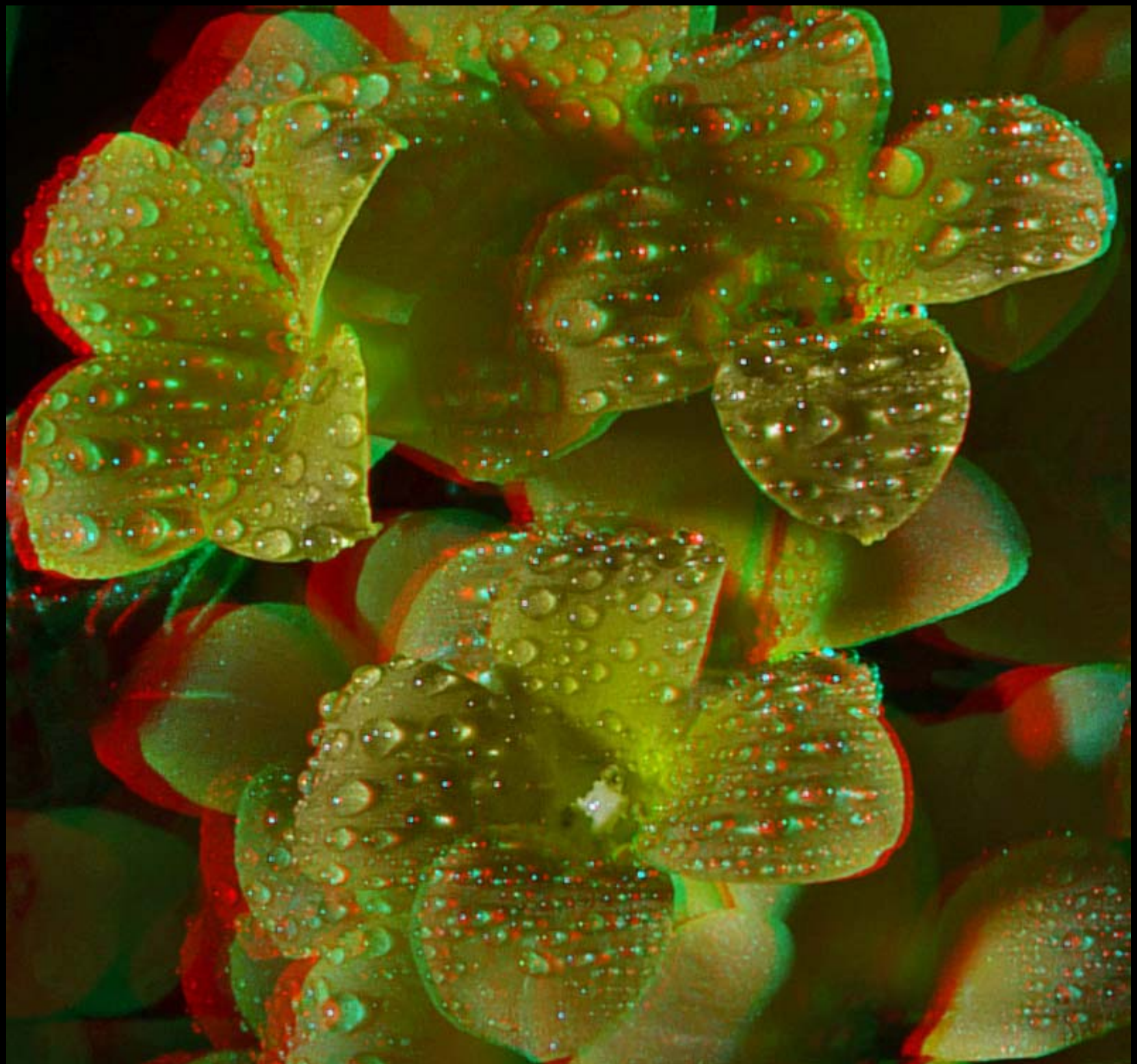
- Best use in tabletops but can also be used in portraits, people shots, travel/scenic photos

Here is a lemon

“Lemons” by John Bueche

“Adult Lemonade” by Ursula Drinko

Is there a “prop” used here?



RBT macro
by Dale Yingst
D ~ 1/40

Lady with Hat on the boat

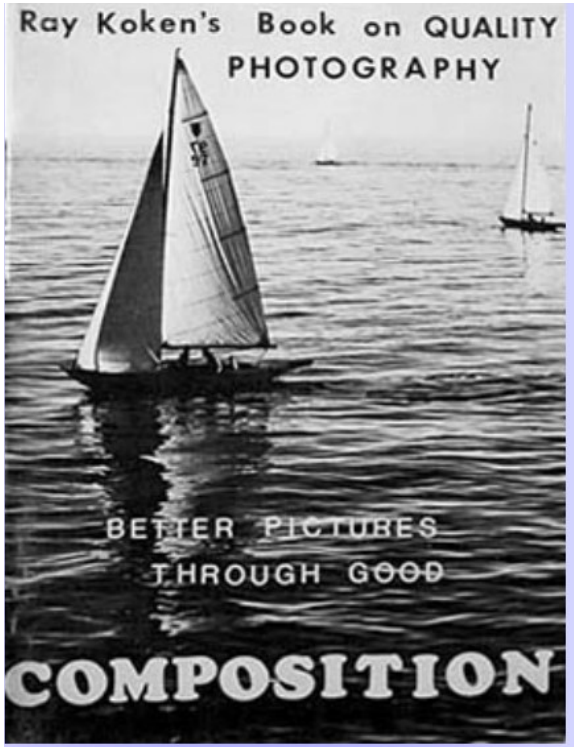
Smoking Lady

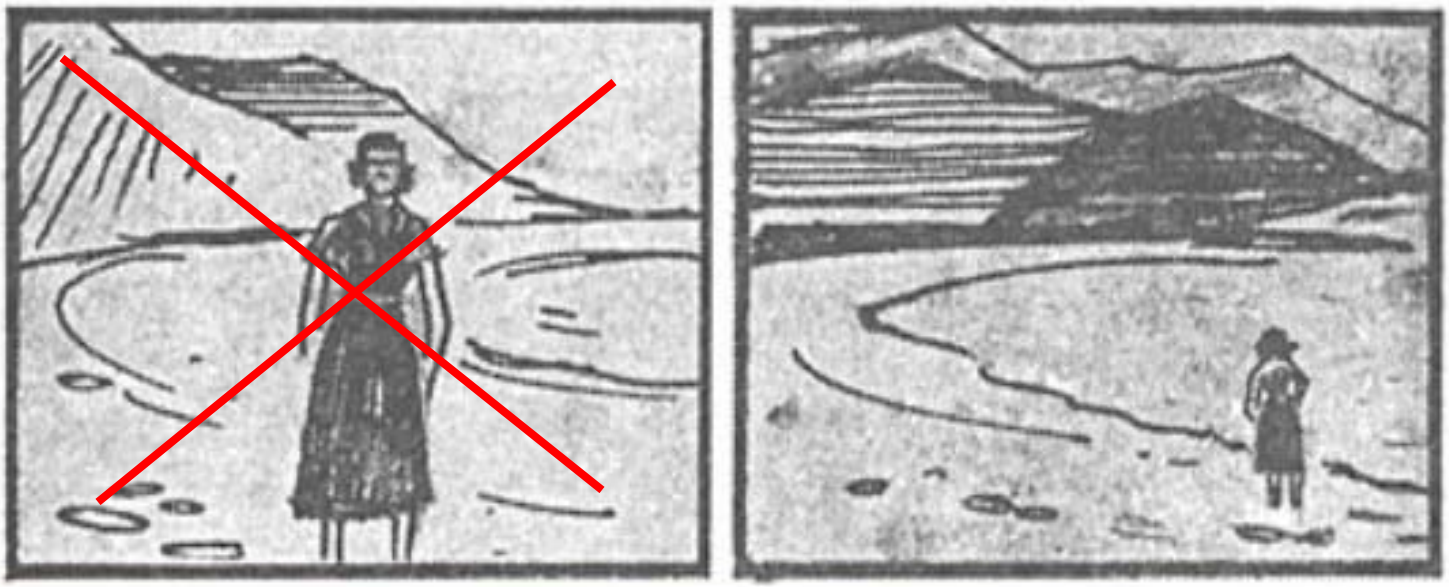
“Mr. Black”
At NSA Convention

People in travel shots
1. Provide a scale
2. Add interest
Liz at Sequoia National Park

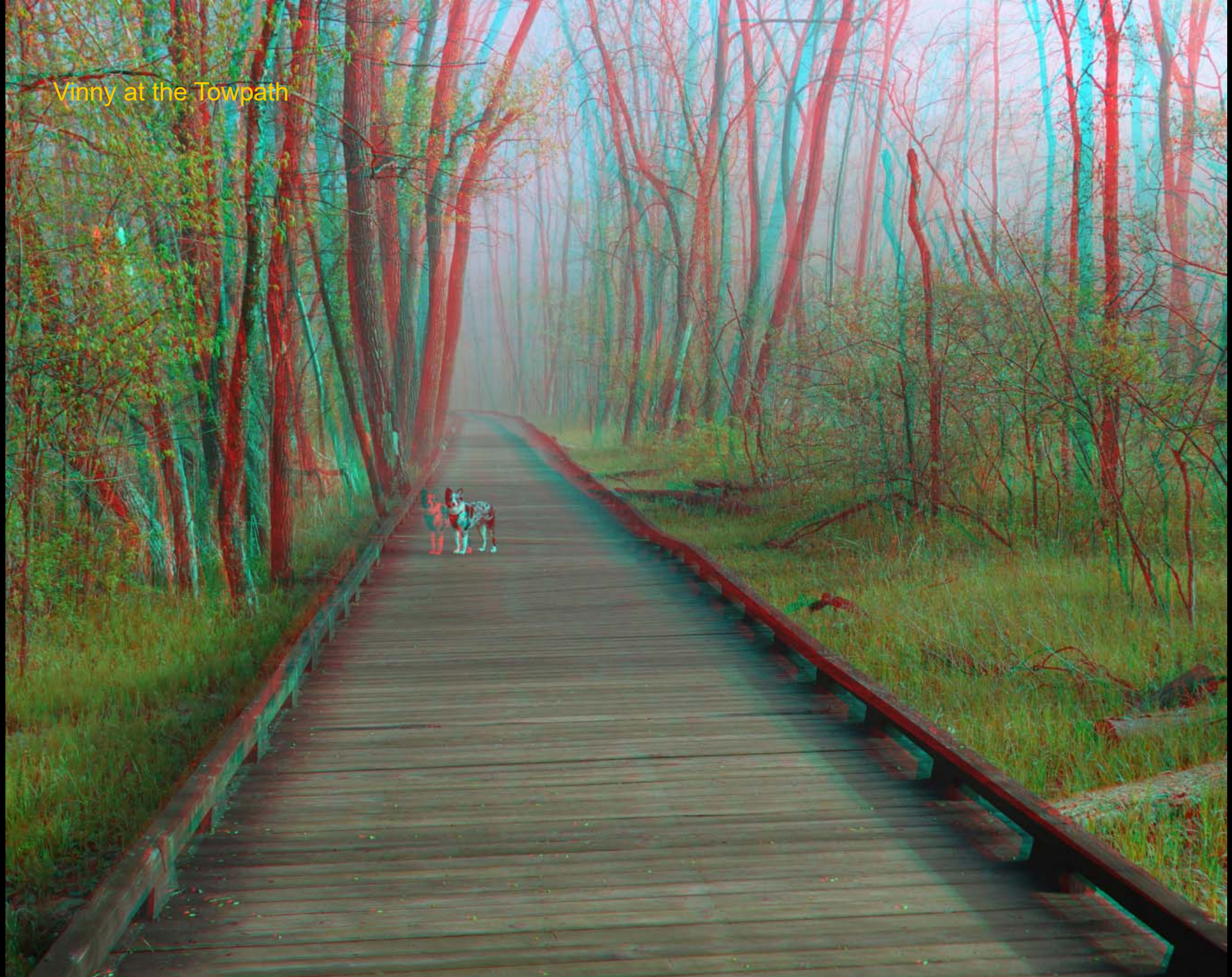
Rule #6 — People In Pictures

"Persons in a scenic picture should be so placed that they will be less than 1/4 the height of the frame and should be looking at the center of interest, not the camera."





Tourists - Washington DC


Vinny at the Towpath

Two Suggestions

For Better 3D Pictures

Use Better lighting. Say goodbye to boring flat lighting.

- Use flash / LED lights for close-ups
- Experiment with the position and direction of light
- Shoot early/late with sun on the side or even in the front

Use more props. Think “what can I put into the picture to add more interest?”

- For tabletops start with an idea and add more elements, re-arrange, etc., until you are happy
- Add people to scenic views for interest or when a scale is needed