

DSS *COVERS*

VOLUME 17

Ten featured images from the covers of
“The Stereo Window” newsletter of
The Detroit Stereographic Society.

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“Nashville Neon”
by David Kuntz
Competition topic: Open



Since the competition topic for September is always “Open” (with no specific subject or technique required), I like to feature unusual images on the cover at the start of each year. This month’s cover image by David Kuntz was the Best Creative winner in this year’s Ohio International Stereo Exhibition. David tells us this about the creation of this image:

Seven independently photographed images were put together using layers and masks in Photoshop. The key was to use the "screen" blend mode, which simulates the effect of an in camera multiple exposure.

In addition to the Ohio medal, the image was accepted in the Cascade, Southern Cross and Detroit exhibitions, and was commended in the Stereoscopic Society (of UK).

“The Smoke of War”
by Harold Jacobsohn
Competition topic “Historical”



This month’s cover has a great example of a “historical” image, which is the theme of this month’s competition. Harold Jacobsohn’s image earned an Honorable Mention award in this year’s Stereoscopic Society of America print exhibition. Harold gives these details about his image “The Smoke of War”:

The image was originally part of a 12 stereocard series in color that won the Tex Treadwell award about ten years ago. This image was converted to monochrome in StereoPhoto Maker. The scene was photographed at a Civil War battle re-enactment at the Wade House in southern Wisconsin.

The rig I used at that time was was twin Sony P 200 cameras with sync cable. Have not used this setup since the W3 became available.

“Rocky Mountains”

by Chris Reynolds

Competition topic: “Monochrome”



The image is a cha-cha; an airline hyper going over the southern Rockies on a flight between Charlotte & LA, probably around Durango. The camera was a Fuji S100, with the hot mirror removed (so that it records full spectrum) and an infra-red filter (720nm) was used. These are ideal for high altitude, as it eliminates most of the blue-end haze / water vapor from the atmosphere and can compensate a little for window smears. This shot was taken at wide angle (~ 35mm equivalent on 135).

Timing for the correct hyper separation is important, this can range from 1 to 10 ‘elephants’ depending on altitude and how much you zoom in. The way I do it is to have a grid showing in the viewfinder, and waiting until the foreground has moved enough to give appropriate deviation prior to the 2nd click.

The clarity from foreground to infinity you can get on a good day means that vertical landscapes should be considered (shooting a landscape scene in portrait format). I do a lot of these, often printing as anaglyphs, but the trend to ever wider letterbox displays for 3D will limit general presentation for these type of images.

“On the Temple’s Corner”

by Maciek Samulski

Competition topic: “Through the Window”



This month's front cover photo is from Maciek Samulski, a resident of Scotland. This is a good example of a “Through the Window” image, as it not only is forward of the plane of the screen (or stereo card surface), but he has created a stereo card style “window” that the image also comes through, emphasizing the effect. Maciek has this to say about this image:

The original picture was taken in December 2008 in India, at the Temple of the Sun near Konark (Orissa). Later I was looking for an image that would work well when creating a digital frame. I edited it using GIMP to create the stereo card style arches and to erase the parts of the image that would have been hidden by those arches.

This was created more with digital images in mind, as making stereo cards is a relatively new interest for me. Using the arched windows, however, was a clear choice for me as a lover of traditional stereo cards. I don't recall submitting this to any other exhibitions, as I have been investigating what works best, rather than playing the same “good card”. I keep experimenting to learn more, sometimes just learning from my mistakes.

“Freedom of Expression”
by Faramarz Ghahremanifar
Competition topic: “Open”



This image is actually the inside cover image of the January 2017 issue of the Stereo Window. It's from Iranian stereographer Faramarz Ghahremanifar who passed away in early December 2016 from brain cancer at the age of 50. Faramaz won the Best of Show award in the Digital Section of the 2015 Hollywood Exhibition for 3D Photography with this haunting image entitled "Freedom of Expression".

We had featured his image "My Girl" on the cover of the March, 2009 newsletter.

“Guitar Solo”
by René Kraakman
Competition topic: “Musical”



“Guitar Solo” is an image from René Kraakman from Holland, a member of the NvvS (Dutch stereo club). This image is of the band “Bloody Hammers” taken at the 2014 Beekestijnpop Festival in Amsterdam. René gave these tips about taking this type of stereo image:

“Most of the time you need ear protection !

Be aware that you are in the way of the (paying) fans.

Ask people if you may stand in front of them for a short moment to make some pictures. Most of the time this is no problem.

Do not use flash, unless you know the band, and they are OK with it. Visitors usually have no problem with flash.

Keep in mind that there are microphones and speakers in front of the band members. With 2D photos it can be annoying - in 3D it's a big problem. Most of the time those objects are also the closest ones in the picture.

Anticipate the movement of band members, smoke and the way the lighting effects work. Most of the time there is some kind of repeating cycle.

Some poses have less movement than others or have a "still" moment you can use when working with low shutter speeds.

Be sure to enjoy the music from time to time!”

“Flash Memory Displaces Slides”
by Greg Duncan
Competition topic - “Technology”



This month's cover image is from Dr. Greg Duncan of the UK, who holds the distinction of MPSA, which indicates he has had over 1,500 images accepted in exhibitions. His image illustrates very well how our digital technology has reduced the storage space needed for thousands of images to a thumbnail-sized memory card.

Greg gives us these details about this image:

“In the beginning, I was purely a 2d slide worker using a standard film camera. I swapped over to digital around 2005, but kept my old slides in their boxes. In 2014, I looked again at my slides and scanned a few with a 4000 DPI scanner. The results were so disappointing that I decided to throw away all my old slides, since the quality was not up to the standard I required. My wife made the same decision, so we dumped all our slides on the floor in a big heap - over 30,000 slides.

Having just begun the 3d venture and not wanting to miss the opportunity, I photographed the heap with my Fuji W3 mounted on a ladder. Since I was throwing the slides out, it seemed appropriate to do an image with me in my boots with a brush 'sweeping away the old'. Since it was digital storage which was displacing the slides, I then made a separate image of me holding a magnifying glass and a flash memory card. I then merged the two images together in Photoshop to produce the required 3d displacement.”

“Well Done”
by Dr. John A. Hart
Competition topic - “Ooops!”



This month's stereo image is from Dr. John A. Hart, who is the current president of the LA3D club in California. He is often referred to as “California John Hart” to distinguish him from the Dr. John A. Hart who lives in Colorado (and also is well known for his 3D activities). John gives us these details about his image:

The business known as “The Backdoor Bakery” opened originally as a small bakery. The building in the image was a Popeye's Chicken, but that closed and the building sat vacant for a while. The Backdoor Bakery then acquired the property and expanded their offerings to include fast food.

No one knows how or why, but shortly afterward, the building exploded in flames. Fortunately, none of the other buildings in this small plaza were affected. After the fire, the Backdoor Bakery opened a new restaurant up the street. Little by little, the burned out shell is being replaced by a new restaurant building.

I shot the burned shell with my Fuji W3.

“Surreal Ceiling”
by Michael Cosentino
Competition topic: “Open”



This month's stereo image was a Silver Medal winner for Michael Cosentino in the recent 2016 Cascade Stereo Exhibition in the “Altered Reality” theme of the digital section. This would be a great entry in this month's “Open” competition where any subject and technique is allowed. Mike says this about the image:

“The image was taken at a church in Montreal. Not 3D, a single digital camera was used. I used Photoshop CS5 with the Droste filter. The Droste filter is part of the Pixel Benders collection of Photoshop filters that can be downloaded at Adobe.com. I took the original image, made a duplicate, and placed them side by side. I was able to shift the centers of the left and right images to set my window and create the depth. This technique works well with images that are circular.”

“Surreal Ceiling” was also accepted as a digital image in the 2016 Third Dimension Society (Altered Reality) and the 2016 Detroit Exhibition, as well as being accepted as a stereo print in the 2016 PSA Exhibition (Open) and the SSA Exhibition.

“Birds in Nest”
by George Themelis
Last Year's Stereo Image of the Year



George Themelis' “Birds in Nest”, this month's cover stereo image, was last year's winner in the *Image of the Year* competition as judged by the Cascade stereo club in Oregon. Our meeting this month will show all of the award winning images in our competitions this year. These fine images make a great wrap-up for the season, as well as giving attending members the chance to see images that won awards at meetings they may have missed.

This is a great meeting to bring people who might be interested in do-it-yourself 3D images, as well as friends who would enjoy seeing some of the best results of our unique hobby. There are many people out there who do not know that they can create the strikingly real images that we enjoy every month. Make plans to share our June 14th meeting with someone new to the club.