

DSS *COVERS*

VOLUME 18

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

Images from the 2017-18 season

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“Dancing Frog” Phantogram
by Dennis Green
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 was created in a few minutes to illustrate just how quick and easy it can be to create a Phantogram using SPM. The step-by-step instructions make up our SPM Quick Tip for this month, which can be found on the DSS website “How To...” page in Quick Tips Vol III.
http://detroit3d.org/how_to.html

Note that instead of the name “Phantogram” for these images, Masuji Suto refers to them by the name “Pop-up Anaglyphs”. Both names refer to the same type of images.

The full (more detailed) instructions for creating these images can be found on the SPM website at this location:
www.stereomaker.net/eng/stphmkr/popup/

“Double Day Lily”
by Larry Low
Competition topic “Flowers and Gardens”



This month’s cover is from our own member Larry Low, and is a good example of an image that would do well in this month’s competition topic “Flowers and Gardens”. Larry gives a few details on the image:

I took “Double Day Lily” in my backyard in Toledo using the cha-cha method with my Canon Digital Rebel. It was taken at night with a flash. I used a frame-making program to put the frame around each image, and then combined them in Photoshop. It got an HM in 2008 in the Annual Center for Nature Photography Contest in Secor Metropark in Toledo, and was shown in my 3-month long Exhibit in 2007 at the Mulford Library on the UTMC Campus in Toledo as an example of 3D photography.

“Hydrangea Close-up”

by Greg Hjellen

Competition topic: “Macro/Closeup”



This month's cover photo is from Greg Hjellen from Lynnwood, Washington, and it won the “Best of Show” award in the “Macro/Closeup” section of the Detroit International Stereo Exhibition in September, 2017. Greg gave us some details of how “Hydrangea Close-up” was created:

I try to find and monitor potential subjects in my yard, and get out my camera when conditions look right. This image of a hydrangea flower was captured with a Canon 6D and 100 mm macro lens on a slide bar. Exposure was f/32, 2 sec, ISO 100.

The Stereo Base Calculator program, using measured near/far distances in my set-up, gave my start value for stereo base - then I bracketed from there. The L/R images and pair were processed using Photoshop Elements and StereoPhoto Maker.

This image also won an HM at Hollywood, 2016.

“Taralga Rodeo”

by Mark Brennan

Competition topic: “Anything Fun”



This month's front cover photo is from Mark Brennan from Toongabbie, which is a suburb of Sydney, Australia. A rodeo is just one of the many ways people have fun. This month, our members will show images they have captures that show “Anything Fun”. Mark gave us some details about this image:

“Taralga Rodeo” was one of many images I took at several rodeos in Australia back in 2014-2015.

I use a pair of DSLR cameras, so sync is an issue with action. Typically, there are many good images that I cannot use, so it's a matter of taking plenty, and sorting them later.

This image received an HM award from Chicago Lighthouse in 2015, and the Action medal in the 2015 Southern Cross Exhibition. It also tied for Image of the year 2015 (with another of my Rodeo images) in the Sydney Stereo Camera Club.

“Limbs”
by Andrew Read
Competition Topic: “OPEN”



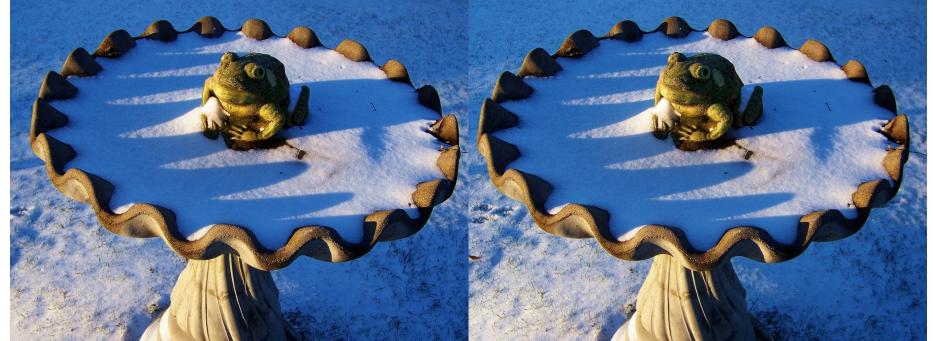
I was camping here for a week and seeing the sign every day had to do something with it.

My brother posed for the images. I used tripod and took several photos with him standing up with arms up, and then crouched with arm down. I took the images quickly, so other objects would not move much.

I placed the two left images in SPM and aligned them so that the background and body would be aligned, then, using the cloning tool in SPM, I copied background over his arm when standing and cloned the arms near the ground from the crouching image. I repeated this with the two right images, and then combined the new left and right images in to a stereo pair.

It did not take long and gave great results. It didn't take any fancy software just some thought a preparation in taking the couple of stereo images to put this together.

“Frozen Frog”
by David Smith
Competition topic: “Ten Minutes from Home”



This month's cover image is from our own David Smith. “Frozen Frog” was one of the ribbon winners in our March, 2012 competition, and is an excellent example of the type of image we might expect to see in this month's “Ten Minutes from Home” topic. The main concept this topic will illustrate is that you don't have to go far to find great subjects for stereo images. We will see a variety of ideas that could be captured any day of the week, not just on some exotic vacation requiring both time and money to access. Our winners will be local sites (and sights), possibly even in your own front or back yard!

David gives these details about this stereo image:

“Frozen Frog was taken in my back yard. I looked out my back window one winter after a heavy snow and noticed the frog sticking out of the birdbath, with the angle of the sun highlighting the frog, I thought this might make a fun 3D photo. So I picked up my dual rig Kodak Z712 IS cameras, put on my boots and took a few shots from different angles. I was shooting in auto mode, so I don't know the f-stop or shutter speed.”

“St. Louis Arch”
by David W. Allen
Competition topic: “Monuments”



This month's cover image is from David W. Allen of the Cascade Stereo Club in Portland, Oregon. David gives us these details about this image:

“There are basically 2 ways to get good 3D pictures. First way, put a lot of thought and planning into what you think will work good and then take the one good picture. Second way, take a lot of pictures and pick the best one when you can get home and evaluate what you got.

I have to say, I'm of the latter disposition. In this image, my W1 was held about 4" away from the corner of the arch looking right up the edge. Since the camera was so close, the top of the arch is rather separated, and I fixed that some in PhotoShop. I did watch the clouds for a while to get them overhead.”

“Collectable Coins”
by Rick Shomsky
Competition topic: “Collectables / Collections”



This month's stereo image is from our own Rick Shomsky, giving an excellent example of an image that would fit this month's competition topic very well. Rick gives us these details about shooting his image entitled “Collectible Coins”, which was a ribbon winner in our March, 2015 competition with the topic “Hobbies”:

I first set up the lighting a week earlier for a different image, the “1970's Beer Cans” shot that won 3rd place. A double lamp halogen light provided the main lighting. A sheet of translucent plastic in front of it softened and diffused the illumination. It was to the right side of the camera so the proof coins didn't reflect any light from the mirror-like flat areas. Smaller lights filled in some shadows. Everything was set on coin holding books, which come through the stereo window. The last thing that was needed was a background. When I finally thought about the sheet of \$2 bills, I knew it was perfect. A Canon 70D camera on a slide bar was used, at 100 ISO.

“Ruffin (FAL Roof E3-M)”
by Boris Starosta
Competition topic: “Open”



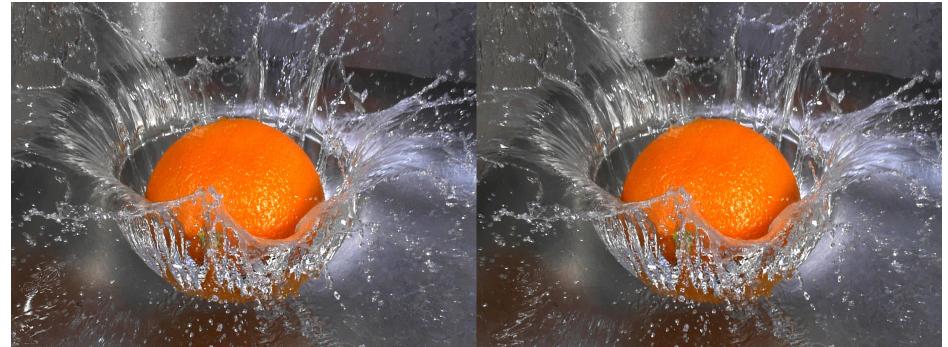
The image is a composite of half a dozen stereo pairs obtained during the 18 months construction of the building, thus enabling a 3d view back in time to the very foundation of the building, through intermediate layers of masonry, steelwork, and indeed the finished roof structures.

The creation of these “clear buildings” was the subject of my cover story article in Stereo World 37:6 in 2012. An anaglyph of the image graced the cover of said magazine. In short: multiple exposures were obtained using precisely repositioned cameras, then post processed in stereo to obtain the necessary perfect alignment. I’ve photographed numerous buildings this way starting in 2006, with this particular one finished in 2009.

Interesting challenges in this work included the problem of reference points in the building (i.e. steel beams or columns) shifting position as the construction progressed, due to the effects of weight and loading; and the wholesale disappearance of reference points, with anticipated and unanticipated site changes.

I’ve been continuing with the clear buildings work, with occasional updates on my blog. Currently working on a time-lapse 3d video of a hospital construction clear building.

“Splash!”
by George Themelis
Last Year’s Stereo Image of the Year



*George Themelis’ “Splash!”, this month’s cover stereo image, was last year’s winner in the *Image of the Year* competition as judged by the Sydney Stereo Camera Club in Australia. Here are some comments he made on its creation (from Photo-3D last June):*

“I wish I had a better story to tell, but I just dropped an orange in the kitchen sink full with water and took a picture.

“I used a Panasonic GX7 camera with a 3D lens modified with 0.5mm extension and two flashes. I dropped the orange with one hand and fired the shutter with the other, trying to capture the peak splash moment. I took several pictures (enough to make a sequence, from before the orange hit the water, until it was well under water) and this was my favorite.”