

DSS *COVERS*

VOLUME 22

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

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“Alice in Muir Woods”
by Robert Bloomberg
Competition topic: Open



This month's cover image was created by Robert Bloomberg, and it won an HM award in our recent Detroit exhibition in the Creative section. Bob gives us these details about how he created this image:

“The original background image was taken as a cha cha using my single Sony A6000 mirrorless (how ironic) camera (18-200 zoom at the widest setting.)

Muir Woods has always felt like a fairy tale setting to me, so when I thought of mirroring the image, I immediately thought of Lewis Carroll's "Alice Through The Looking Glass." Both Alice and the Rabbit were cobbled together from various images, then converted to 3D using layers in Photoshop. I thought Mr. Carroll would approve of my putting Alice and the Rabbit on opposite sides of the mirror, about to run into each other in the middle.

In addition to its HM in the Detroit exhibition, "Alice" has been accepted in the following exhibitions:

*Cascade
Chicago Lighthouse (Cards)
Ohio
PSA International
Southern Cross
Third Dimension Society (Gold Medal / Best Use of Stereo)*

“Beam Split Steamer”
by Kevin Harvey
Competition topic “Begins With T”



The image is obviously a composite and consists of three images. The background image of the train was actually taken with the camera combination in the foreground which is a Nikon D7100 DSLR fitted with a 35mm Nikon lens and a Pentax Beam Splitter attachment. The stereo image on the camera screen was a second image taken at the same time as the background. The camera and tripod foreground image was taken in our back yard sequentially using another Nikon, and yes that is my hand!, (It was fun taking that one!) The foreground image was then selected and layered onto the background. There was a great deal of resizing and experimentation to make it look 'right'. I then selected the camera rear screen and inserted the other train image. Initially the camera screen image was inside the screen but adjusting the stereo window and pushing the train forward and out seemed to link the various layers together better and also added another 3D element to the finished composition.

“Desert Rails”
by Bob Karambelas
Competition topic: “Hyper-stereo”



This month's cover photo is from Florida's Bob Karambelas. It is a good example of an image that would do well for this month's topic of "Hyper-stereo". The image won the "Best of Show" award in the "Transportation" section of the 2018 Detroit Exhibition, and HMs in the 2018 Cascade and 2017 Ohio Exhibition. Bob shared these details about it:

This was taken at "Gray's Hill", a popular photo location in Victorville, CA, where the BNSF railroad crosses over itself, there is a clean foreground for 3D composition, and 60-100 trains pass daily. Cameras were Canon T4i, 15-85mm lenses @35mm, ISO 200, 1/250, f11. The left camera was mounted on a tripod and the right camera was handheld about 15-20 feet away. Cameras were triggered with Yongnuo RF triggers, one transmitter triggered both receivers. Both cameras were aimed at the same point on the horizon. I kept the cameras as level as possible, used lens markings to match the zoom. Stereo Photo Maker took care of minor adjustments to zoom and rotation, and I used Lightroom to tweak the exposure.

The location is currently being altered by highway construction, and the location will probably become inaccessible in the coming months or years.

“Rust in Peace”
by Mark Brennan
Competition topic: “Not What It Once Was”



This month's front cover photo is from Mark Brennan, who scored a "hat trick" at the recent Detroit Exhibition (DISE) by being awarded the "Best of Show" for all three sections! Mark is also #1 in the world in this year's PSA Who's Who listings. "Rust in Peace" is a good example of an image for this month's topic of "Not What It Once Was".

I have entered the "Rust in Peace" image on several occasions in the past. It's received a Creative award, and 3 HM's. It is not a truck but a car, probably from around the 1950's, and most probably from the US. Maybe one of your members can identify it?

It is in a very large Wrecking Yard, (not sure if that's the term you use where you are) in a rural town called Cooma, in NSW, and has acres of old vehicles lying about. Cooma is on the way to the snowfields. This can be seen from Google maps, 2 miles south from the town.

This Image was taken with my trusty old Pentax digital K5 cameras, and I liked the way the colors of the scene and the car work with each other, and the bark on the tree captures you eye. I have selectively applied oil paint and a few other tweaks in Photoshop and what you see is the end result.

The Pentax cameras have been very reliable, only the added wiring and triggers, etc., cause any problem, and not that often.

“Down at Station Road”
by Ursula Drinko
Competition Topic: “OPEN”



This month's front cover photo is from DSS Member Ursula Drinko, an image that received a Judge's Choice award in our most recent Detroit International Stereo Exhibition. Ursula was our “Best Premiere” award winner last season, as well.

Here are some details from Ursula on the making of this image:

I took it with an Infra-Red modified Samsung NX 30, cha-cha and then an IR filter and some processing in lightroom.

It has been accepted in the following exhibitions:

- * Hollywood
- * Third Dimension Society
- * Detroit
- * Cascade

“Flying Acrobats”
by Josep Barbera
Competition topic: “Action!!”



This month's cover image is from Josep Barbera from Elche, Spain. His “Flying Acrobats” was accepted in our Detroit International Stereo Exhibition “Open” section for 2021, and is also a great example of a contender for this month’s “Action!!” topic. Josep gives these details about this stereo image:

““Flying Acrobats”, was taken at the “Elx al Carrer” festival in 2018. It is a street arts festival that takes place over several days on the urban streets of Elche, using the city's squares.

I usually shoot urban or nature scapes. A few months ago, I got my fourth star from the PSA and almost all the accepted photos were of landscapes, therefore very static. But in the spring of 2018 my wife and I were able to verify in a megastore in Elche that all the recent Sony cameras (having MultiPort) had perfect synchronization. Our purpose of course was to shoot stereo photos. I was able to measure the synchronization in 3 recently purchased Sony stereo rigs that we had at home, and the result: the mis-sync was always less than half a millisecond. That prompted me to look for fast-moving subjects to confirm the wonderful timing from the Sony cameras.

In 2018 we shot a lot of fast moving street photos, one of which was “Flying Acrobats”. Three years later, during the pandemic lockdown I rediscovered the photos from 2018 and sent “Flying Acrobats” to Detroit and Cascade. It was accepted in both exhibitions.”

“Delicate Balance”
by George Themelis
Competition topic: “On the Water”



This month's cover image is from DSS member George Themelis. His “Delicate Balance” earned a second place ribbon in our April 2021 competition on “Entertainment”, and it is one example for our “On the Water” topic. George gives us these details about this image:

*“I took this picture at a local lake here in Barberton Ohio, during their Mum Festival in 2020. There is a ski show at the lake:
<http://cityofbarberton.com/246/Mum-Festival>*

I used my twin Sony RX10, in the top-to-top configuration shown so I can view in 3D through the viewfinders. Stereo base was around 5 inches. The action was far away from my location (I was on the shore and this was happening across the lake) so I zoomed at 200mm equivalent FL and cropped later. EXIF data shows f5, 1/500, ISO 100.



I took a lot of good pictures (several award-winning) that day from the same event, using the same setup!”

“Nighty Night”
by Lluís Dubreuil
Competition topic: “Night / After Dark”



This month's stereo image is from by Lluís Dubreuil, from Sabadell, Spain (near Barcelona). His image won the “Best Night Scene” award in the 2016 Detroit Stereo Exhibition. He tells us this about his image:

The award received in your 2016 Detroit Exhibition is one of the best moments I remember in my stereoscopic career from the time I was participating in most of the 3D International Exhibitions. Thank you very much again for it.

The picture has a big value for me. It was taken in 2008, at the very beginning of my hobby, in cha cha mode, with a Canon EOS350, with ISO100, f/22, 47mm and 4s at 21h30 PM in my native city of Sabadell (Catalonia, Spain) in front of the town hall. At that time I could never imagine it would be awarded by one of the most important stereo societies of the 3D world.

Later on it was accepted (but not awarded) at the 2017 Oakland International Stereo Exhibition.

“Jump Into Heaven”
by Jim Metcalfe
Competition topic: “Open”



The image was originally created for one of our local club's monthly competition in 2019, and was entered and accepted into Detroit and Chicago PSA exhibitions in 2021.

The 'M&M's portion was created using Photoshop to "auto-blend" two sets of 'focus stacked' images - one set of four images for the left view and another set for the right. Each set was captured with a iPhone set to a different focus depth.

It's important to do the left and right focus stacks separately, and then combine into a pair later. If you align into pairs first, and then focus stack, Photoshop doesn't do such a good job - it seems to have trouble at the alignment stage, which makes sense because the image size changes slightly at different focal lengths.

I used an 'old' S6 iPhone. To set the focus depth I simply touched the iPhone screen at the depth I wanted and quickly captured the image. (If you wait too long, it defaults back to an average focus.) The exact depth is not important for this kind of image, as long as you capture the closest and furthest points plus one or two more somewhere in between.

The children and the sky were extracted from an old Fuji W3 image, and then composited with the M&Ms image in Photoshop. The spacing of the children was adjusted to make the depth look natural, and part of the sky was cloned to match the aspect ratio of the foreground.

“Orchid”
by George Themelis
Last Year's Stereo Image of the Year



*George Themelis' "Orchid", 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. Here are some details about the making of this image:*

"This was at an Orchid display at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. It was in the middle of a well-lit room with other people around. I used my Panasonic GX8 camera with the 3D lens and the Venus Optics KX-800 twin head flash. My goal was to eliminate all ambient exposure. I did this by setting the camera in manual mode with the lowest ISO value (100) and highest shutter speed (1/600s). I used the Panasonic Macro 3D lens with extension of 0.5mm. I might have used a close up lens, maybe +3 for this one. The lens has a fixed aperture of f12. I arranged the two flash heads and intensity to get a good exposure. The ambient light was eliminated using these settings. It looks like a studio shot but it was in a well lit busy room. I only did minor photo editing. I did not eliminate or change the background, it was recorded dark like this because of the low ISO, small aperture and high shutter speed."