

DSS

COVERS VOLUME 25

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

Images from the 2024-25 Season

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“American Falls from Luna Island”
by Rick Shomsky
Competition topic: “Open”



The stereo photo "American Falls from Luna Island" was taken on July 31, 2023 during the excursion to Niagara Falls at the NSA 3D-Con in Buffalo, NY.

I used a pair of Canon G15 cameras on an aluminum Z-bar that I designed and had a machinist friend make from a solid block of aluminum. The cameras are synced with SDM and triggered with a twin cable release from Werner Bloos in Germany.

I shoot RAW data and purposely shot underexposed to preserve the details in the white water, then brightened the images to look natural before saving as a JPG. The exposure was 1/250" at F6.3, focal length 140mm and ISO 80. Lens separation was 193mm.

The cameras were on Manual mode, with all of the already mentioned settings being selected by me. I use ISO 80 whenever I'm able to. The lowest ISO setting on a digital camera will allow processing the light as it sees it. All other ISO settings will amplify the received light before processing. Obviously, the higher the number the more amplification takes place. The bad part of that is the digital noise is also amplified.

The sun was fortunately shining for this image, but much of the afternoon was cloudy and it rained for a while. The American Falls is 1,060 feet wide (320 meters), and almost all of it is included in the image.

“Going Around”
by Elizabeth Mitofsky
Competition topic: “Unusual Perspective”



About the Front Cover: This month's cover is from Liz Mitofsky with an image that was accepted in the 2023 Detroit International Stereo Exhibition.

Here are some details Liz gave about her image:

“Going Around” was taken with my Fuji at Lakeside Amusement Park in Denver at the 2016 NSA convention. I took a number of pictures while riding the ferris wheel. No special processing, except for a little cropping.

“Gegensätze (Opposites)”
by Dieter Siebert
Competition topic: “Contrasting”



About the Front Cover:

This month's cover photo is from Dieter Seibert, who is a member of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Stereoskopie* (DGS) or “German Society for Stereoscopy”. This image was included in a collection of DGS images in the recent issue of the ISU newsletter *Stereoscopy* (Issue #139). Dieter shared these details:

The picture was taken in August 2020, with a Sony RX100 III, tripod and macro slide (Cha - Cha) method. Nothing moved, 😊.

It shows the difference between analogue and digital technology.

Dieter says that the members of the DGS meet in regional groups to view and exchange images every two months. They do not have competitions, but their images may be included in a digital show or published in the DGS magazine or online.

“Botswana Leopard”
by Steve Hughes
Competition topic: “Live Animals”



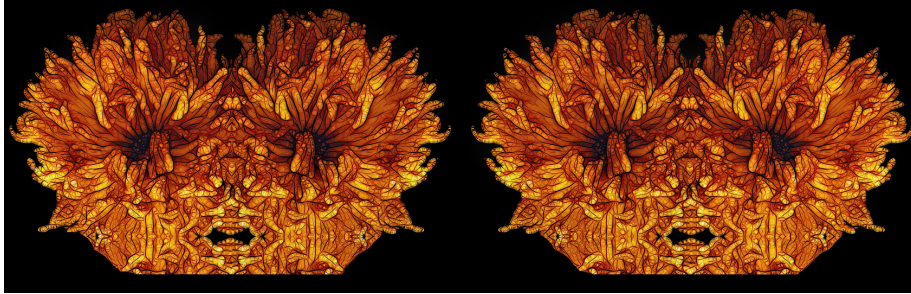
In 2020, just before the pandemic, we went on safari in central and western Africa. We went to Botswana mostly because I wanted to see a leopard in the wild and it's one of the best places to do that. We spent a few days in the Chobe National Park shooting elephants, giraffes, and all manner of other interesting animals but we didn't see a leopard. Finally, on the last day, we were coming back from a day shooting when our guide got a radio call that a leopard had been spotted outside the park in the jungle.

After a very exciting ride cross country in the jungle, not on a road, we came to a small stand of trees, and there, hiding in the branches, was a leopard. They sleep in the day, and this one was taking a nap. It was amazing, seeing the leopard! He looked so at home and was completely unconcerned with our being there only 20 or so feet from him. I started taking shots and was delighted when he woke up and looked directly at me. We only had a few minutes to get a photo, and I was very glad that I had my rig set up for shooting at the right distance.

I was carrying a custom-made twin rig consisting of Olympus OMD EM-5s with matched zoom lenses, electronically synced. The stereo base was about 120mm. I was close enough that the zooms were all the way in.

Of all the nature shots I've taken over the years, it is my favorite. I just love the look on the leopard's face.

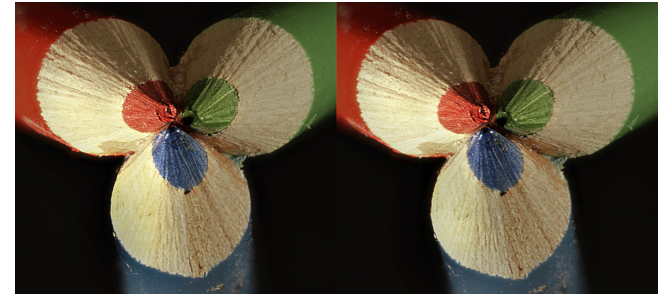
“Dahlia Demon”
by Greg Hjellen
Competition topic: “Open”



About the Front Cover: Our cover image is from Greg Hjellen, a regular contributor to the **Detroit International Stereo Exhibition**. It is a good cover image for this month, as it was one of the accepted images in the “Creative” section of the recent exhibition. Here are the details from Greg about the creation of this image:

This September, friends gave my wife a bouquet of dahlias from their yard, thus giving me a photo subject. For “Dahlia Demon”, photos were taken after the flower had partly dried out, using a Canon 100 mm macro lens adapted to a Sony A7Riv with slide bar. Processing included Photoshop manipulations and filters, in addition to various applications of StereoPhoto Maker's horizontal and vertical mirror effect tools.

“RGB”
by Kevin Harvey
Competition topic: “Close-up”



“This image was created for the Southern Cross exhibition in Australia. I have been entering the Southern Cross exhibition since 2020 and after 2021 they had settled on having a regular macro section. Flower close-ups are an excellent choice, but I wanted something different, which is where RGB came in.

The three pencils came from a large set of colouring pencils which I had had for a number of years and truth be told, they had never been used. I could see the completed image in my mind but creating it was a challenge until I noticed that the angle of the points was perfect if I stuck them together with wood glue! I have just looked at the original folder with all the shots I took and there were a few attempts before I arrived at the final arrangement and lighting. The pencils stood as a tripod on a black surface. The lighting was simply window light which I bounced with a piece of white card to lift any shadows.

The three colours, red, green and blue were chosen because of their use in colour image creation. I always enjoy through-the-window images and I pushed this one as far forward as it would safely go in post processing. The picture was taken with a Nikon D7100 DSLR mounted on a tripod mounted macro focussing head which allowed the camera to be racked backwards and forwards and left and right. I don't have any Nikon macro lenses so I used an enlarging lens on extension tubes instead. Not an obvious choice maybe, but it works well.

“Flags Galore”
by Michael Cosentino
Competition topic: “Holidays”



About the Front Cover: Minnesota’s Michael Cosentino had “Flags Galore” accepted in the 2023 DISE in the “Creative” section, and it is one example for this month’s “Holidays” topic, as we display the American flag on several patriotic holidays. Michael gives us these details about this image:

The image was taken in Appleton, MN with my Fuji W3. It was a Labor Day weekend. I used SPM to do a horizontal mirror image. Some people thought it was a reflection on water. I know it has had several acceptances, but no awards that I recall.

“Down By the Riverside”
by Dennis Green
Competition topic: “Architecture”



About the Front Cover: This month’s stereo image is from your editor. It was taken in August of 2019 in the River Lee Hotel in Cork, Ireland. Cork is the third largest city in Ireland (after Dublin and Belfast) and I thought the image illustrated a good view of the internal architecture of the glassed-in second story lounge as well as the multiple exterior styles of the buildings along the river. This was accepted in the Architecture section of the 2019 Detroit International Stereo Exhibition and is just one example of a possibility for this month’s topic.

The image was taken with a Panasonic 3D1, which allowed both the closer interior detail as well as the far distant buildings due to its small (30mm) stereo base.

“3D Printer”
by Ken Kovar
Competition topic: “Open”



About the Front Cover: This month’s cover image comes from Ken Kovar of the Chicago Stereo Camera Club. His “3D Printer” was a Creative section award winner in our most recent Detroit Exhibition. How did he create this? Ken gives us the details:

The photos were taken May 29, 2024 at Midway Village in Rockford, IL. The Village features a print shop and vintage printing presses as part of 26 historical structures designed to showcase Northern Illinois history at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. The young woman and young man were our tour guides.

The young man's photo was taken with a Lume Pad 1 Camera (15 mm separation) and the young woman's photo was taken with a Fuji W3.

In Photoshop, I adjusted levels, brightness, and contrast of the images and then used a shape layer as a mask to selectively reveal a portion of the "insert" photo. I worked on the left and right images separately and then used StereoPhoto Maker to combine the images and complete some finishing touches.

“Chicago Fireworks at the Lake”
by George Themelis
Last Year’s Stereo Image of the Year



About the Front Cover: Our cover image was last season’s Image of the Year, created by George Themelis. George gives us these details about both the location and his process for capturing the image:

“Our son, Tony, lives in Marina City in downtown Chicago in one of the two iconic Marina Tower buildings, nicknamed “Corn Cob Towers”. Tony's apartment is at the top (60th) floor and his balcony faces Lake Michigan on the east (see arrow).

Every Saturday night at 10pm they have fireworks from Navy Pier which can be seen from his balcony. I set my two Sony RX1RM2 cameras on separate tripods, separated as much as possible (the size of the balcony is the limiting factor). I knew from previous experience with phone hypers that the size of his balcony was a good choice for the stereo base.

The cameras have fixed 35mm lenses and were synchronized with direct wire connection. When the fireworks started, I took several pictures. I used Manual mode with a fixed ISO 100 and a fixed aperture (f11) and a shutter time of a few seconds.

