

DSS

COVERS VOLUME 26

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

Images from the 2025-26 Season

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**“Laotian Beauty”
by VGM Nair
Competition topic: “Open”**



About the Front Cover: Our cover image for this month, from India's VGM Nair, was awarded “Best of Show” in the “Open” section of the 2025 Ohio International Stereo Exhibition. Our program for October will be the presentation of all of the accepted and awarded images from that exhibition. Here are some details VGM gives us about his image:

This lady was our model for photo sessions near the Buddhist temples in Luang Prabang, Laos during the first week of January 2025. This image was shot when we reached the hotel lobby after the shoot at temples.

The Camera used was a hand held Fujifilm FinePix REAL 3D W3 . I trimmed the image after auto alignment in SPM. Minor denoise correction was done using Topaz.

In addition to the Gold Medal in the Ohio International Stereo Exhibition, the image has received an Honorable mention (HM) in the 2025 Southern Cross International Exhibition (Open Section). It also appeared in the PSA Digital Dialogue in February, 2025 ([Dr V G Mohanan Nair - Group 68 - PSA Digital Dialogue](#)).

**“Flying Over the Edge”
by Rick Shomsky
Competition topic: “In the Air”**



About the Front Cover: This month's cover features a 1st Place image from our February 2022 “Action” competition by Rick Shomsky. This is one example of an image that would fit this month's “In the Air” competition topic. Here are some details Rick gave about his image:

“Flying Over the Edge” was taken on November 14, 2009 at Riley Skatepark in Farmington Hills. It was the last of five images for this composition that I saved, but there were some attempts that were deleted.

It was shot with a Canon PowerShot SX10 IS twin rig, shutter priority at 1/640 shutter speed and 200 ISO. This was shutter priority, because if there's motion blur then nothing else matters, it would have been a failed shot. The aperture was set by the cameras.

This was cropped a little at the bottom and even less at the top. I added a little color saturation since point-and-shoot cameras never have as much as what the eyes see.

This image has never been submitted to any other stereo competition or exhibition.

“The Grass Is Always Greener”
by Lawrence Kaufman
Competition topic: “Down on the Farm”



About the Front Cover:

This month's cover photo is from Lawrence Kaufman, a member of the LA3D Club and a well-known name to anyone who is a member of the NSA. Lawrence shared this about his image:

I shot "The Grass is Always Greener" at the 19th ISU World Congress held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2013. We visited a mountain top farm area, with lots of cows and wildlife. I shot the image with my W3, I was able to get very close to the cows. I increased the saturation on the image.

It has been accepted by all except one current PSA exhibitions. I entered it in the Hollywood Exhibition in 2022, which was judged on a 3D television, which had the colors pumped up. This made the image look way too saturated and it wasn't accepted. So the image has eight acceptances.

“Wood Atrium”
by David Smith
Competition topic: “Angles”



About the Front Cover: Our cover image comes from our own David Smith, a good example of one way to express this month's “Angles” theme. David gives us these details about his image:

I attended "ArtPrize" in Grand Rapids in September 2023. This unique art festival and competition has artworks displayed in public areas throughout the downtown area. As I wandered the city, I photographed not only artworks but anything else that looked to be of interest.

This photo I took inside an unknown upscale hotel lobby and I found the dark wood stairways and columns to be of interest. Instead of shooting in a normal horizontal format, I could see that an interesting composition could be had by shooting on an angle. The angled vertical pillar starts at the lower right foreground and draws you into the photo as you look up and into the frame.

The photo was taken with my 2013 twin Sony NEX-3N compact DSLR cameras on a homemade sliding mount. I like hyper 3D so the separation was at about 5 inches. I used the camera's "Superior Auto" feature (ISO3200, F3.5, 1/50) and enhanced it using StereoPhoto Maker and Fusion-HDR software.

“Tread Carefully”
by Jim Metcalfe
Competition topic: “Open”



About the Front Cover: Our cover image is from Jim Metcalfe. It was one of the accepted images in the “Creative” section of the recent Detroit exhibition. Here are the details from Jim about the creation of this image:

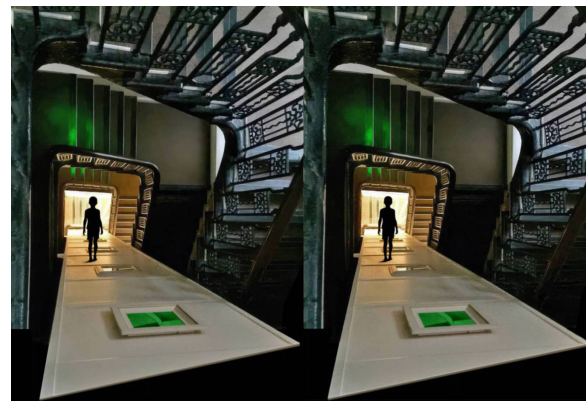
After searching through lists of English idioms for inspiration, I decided to create a literal interpretation of a simple concept: “walking on eggshells”.

Fortunately, while recently searching for an entry in an “Action” competition, I had rediscovered an old image of my daughter Louise balancing on a rocky ledge, captured many years earlier on a dual [Canon Digital] IXUS 70 rig. Perfect!

I constructed the eggshell part of the scene by spreading sand over a large tray, placing the eggshells in a line, and positioning my home made macro camera at an angle similar to the existing photo of Louise, and with a roughly equivalent spacing. The eggshells were quite close to the camera, so I captured several images and combined them in Helicon Focus to achieve good focus throughout.

I then combined the two images in Photoshop, and added a third image of sky (from a Fuji W3) to create an artificial horizon. The finishing touch was to add a shadow below Louise. The shadow is hard to see, but it makes a surprisingly strong improvement to overall realism.

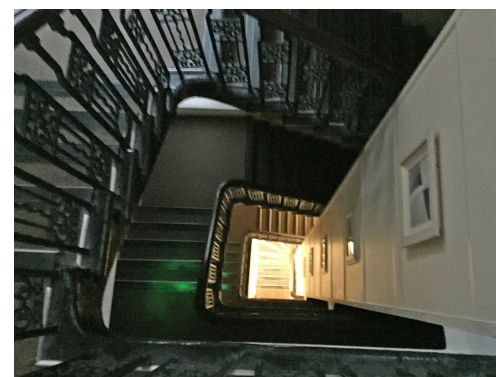
“Escher Hotel”
by Robert Bloomberg
Competition topic: “Altered Reality”



About the Front Cover: This month’s cover image is by Bob Bloomberg. This image won the “Best Unusual Perspective” award in the 2024 Detroit International Stereo Exhibition. Bob gives these details about this stereo image:

“The image originated in a stairwell of a London hotel whose name escapes me at the moment, although I could provide you with the GPS coordinates thanks to the EXIF information on the iPhone 6 I used to shoot the original cha cha back in 2015.

After brightening up the original left and right images in Photoshop I rotated them 90 degrees, then aligned them using Stereo Photo Maker. I then added the silhouette of the person and some green to the windows to compliment the green carpeting on the stairs. And that's it.



According to my meticulous records (I saw that eye roll, Dennis!) the Detroit exhibition is the only place it's been shown.

“The Imitation Game”
by Mark Brennan
Competition topic: “Begins with E”



About the Front Cover: The Sydney, Australia club's Mark Brennan had “The Imitation Game” accepted in the 2025 Ohio Exhibition in the “Animals” section, and it is one example for this month's “Begins with E” topic. Mark tells us this about his image:

It was taken at a nearby Zoo in Sydney, that I visited several times in response to needing some new animal images for the upcoming competitions. On this occasion, a pair of elephants spent some time interacting with each other, and I started taking photos. I think they were flirting. I liked this image because they appeared to be imitating each other playfully. (I have played the same game with my 6-year-old granddaughter, where I start imitating her, which initiates some strange behaviour).

I only entered this on one occasion in Ohio, where it was accepted.

“Black Skimmers on Crescent Beach”
by David Goings
Competition topic: “Stopped Motion”



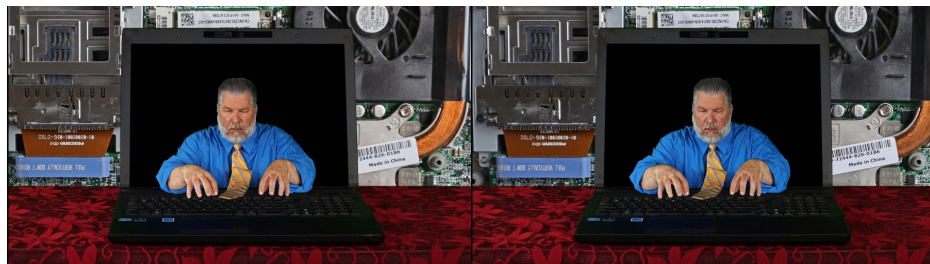
About the Front Cover: This month's stereo image was an award-winner in the May, 2021 “Open” competition from David Goings (1942-2026). It is a good example of one image that would do well for this month's “Stopped Motion” topic.

David was a member of the DSS for over 20 years. In an early club interview, He gave some of his history:

I came to photography through my interest in stereo. I got hooked first by the ‘Magic Eye’ single image stereographs & then by Stereoview cards after my wife bought me a Holmes Viewer & a few cards for Christmas one year. After collecting cards for a while I decided I wanted to try & make my own. I figured I would have to take a lot of pictures learning what I was doing, so, in the fall of 2000 I bought the cheapest digital camera I could find & began experimenting with sequential images. That first camera taught me what I wanted in a second, which taught me what I wanted in a third, twin Kodak DC290's that I am currently using.

He will be missed.

“Windows Update”
by John Bueche
Competition topic: “Open”



"Windows Update", inspired by waiting for an actual Windows 10 update, is a composite of three stereo pairs taken in April of 2022 that came together relatively easily. The laptop on the red tablecloth and the photo of me typing away were taken independently with paired Sony A5000 cameras in front of a green screen so that I could remove unwanted elements. I kept the cameras and table in the same place for both images to maintain the correct angles later in the composition. I used a softbox on each side of the table to get better lighting since my "studio" is in my basement.

Almost all of my images are post-processed using Photoshop Elements 5.0 or 14. After removing the unwanted portions from both images, I placed the image of me typing inside the frame of the laptop screen and adjusted the window to make it appear as though I was inside the laptop. To make an interesting background, I took a close-up cha-cha with a Canon EOS M6 of the inside of a broken laptop. Some have commented that the background is a little too busy, and they are probably correct.

I generally don't enter the various stereo exhibitions but I do support Ohio and Detroit as much as possible. I believe Detroit is the only Exhibition where I've entered "Windows Update" and I was pleased that it was accepted.

- John



“Fuji Guitar”
by Dennis Green
Last Year's Stereo Image of the Year



“Fuji Guitar” was inspired by the 2D images seen in ads for 3D monitors or TVs where the subject appears to be overlapping the frame of the display. Although that is not what you ever see when viewing a 3D device, it's the only way they can represent the effect of seeing depth in an image that has none.

I decided to use a 3D image that I took of my band's guitar player, Gary McMullen, taken in the studio during the recording of our latest CD. The background layer is a 2D version of Gary playing, which was slightly blurred to simulate a depth of field effect, as all of the focus would be on the camera display.

I then took a stereo picture of my Fuji W3 on a tripod using my Panasonic 3D1 camera. I brought that into Photoshop and removed the content of the display, replacing it with the sharp resized stereo image of Gary. I brought that image forward in the window created by the Fuji display until everything except the guitar neck was behind the window, but the neck itself was cut off by the edge of the display.

I then copied the guitar neck and placed it on a layer that was on top of the camera layer, which makes it appear to be closer to the viewer than the camera itself.