

Creative Exercises

Create restrictions for a day of shooting. Create any restrictions that you think would help you to break some of the patterns you normally fall into when shooting; here are a few examples:

- *Use only one prime lens*
- *Shoot only in B&W*
- *Shoot only from 4-5 P.M.*
- *Shoot only while sitting/laying down*
- *Fill the entire frame with the subject*
- *Leave negative space in at least three quarters of the frame*

Choose a common object, and make a dozen unique abstract photos of that object.

- *Depending on the size of the object, you may need a macro lens or telephoto lens.*
- *Shoot it from above, below, the front, back, sides.*
- *Practicing shooting this way can result in your seeing angles everywhere you go.*

Choose a location and make photographs where the subject is:

- *Light / Shadow / Line / Form / Texture/ Depth / Color / Patterns*

Create emotion in your images that move your audience to feel something.

Double exposures

- Superimpose two images onto a single frame. Most DSLRs have a multiple exposure setting as a tool for creative photography

Diptych

- Place two images side by side so that they add context to each other and tell a complete story. Pay close attention to light, tones, and exposures. (diptychs may include a big picture image and a detail shot of an element of that image).

Shoot Through Objects

- Use very day objects like leaves, branches, fabric or glass to create some cool artistic effects in your images.

Creative Focusing

Make shots that are obviously out of focus.

Move your Camera

- **Pan**
- Rotate take a shot while you are whirling your body.
- Zoom

Shoot from your Boots

Put your camera on the ground and take shots of your subject from that low angle to introduce a completely new and often random point of view.

If you publish something everyday (365 in a year) — you are bound to have a few good ideas.

52 Week Challenges

Creative Bokeh

- Switch your lens to manual focus and use your widest aperture
- Find a scene with lots of lights, bigger the light source, the bigger the bokeh.
- Frame your image, manually turn the focusing ring until everything is blurred.

Creativity

Workshops camera, lighting, post processing, night photography, composition, etc.

- Scott: Try to copy, then improve
- Dan: Don't look at other's photos.
- Going to same place and getting a different shot.
- Picasso painted thousands of paintings, but only a few became memorable. Einstein went through thousands of ideas before he found 1-2 memorable ones. Beethoven composed thousands of songs, but only a few have stuck in our collective memory. The more quantity we output, the more likely we are to have a few quality ones.

Change perspective

- The next time you find yourself shooting the same subject the same way, take a step back and rethink your strategy. Are you a 100% vertical shooter like me? Then force yourself to take a horizontal frame. Are you always looking at details? Then use a wide-angle lens and force yourself to take in the big picture. Do you always [shoot at a narrow aperture](#) so as to get everything in focus? Then dial down your aperture and shoot at the widest possible setting (based on your lens) to focus in on one detail of the whole image.