

A definition of creative photography

Creative photography is an extension of conventional photography into creative art. Its purpose is to stimulate creative thoughts and encourage experimentation with new ideas going beyond a simple photograph. There should be a significant photographic content, and inclusion of mixed media of any kind (*photocopy, paint, transfer, digital etc*) is welcome. It can be a collage or a montage. The final result must be all the photographer's own work including the original image.

Some ideas to get started

If you have a computer and photo manipulation software

- Combine two images, and then experiment with different blending modes and opacity. It is best to use very simple images to start with.
- Experiment with different filters.
- Photograph some interesting textures such as sandstone, tree bark, and blend them with another image.

If you are not using a computer and photo manipulation software

There are many other ways of being creative, for example:

- Using in-camera effects such as slow shutter speeds, multiple exposures, moving the camera while exposing the image.
- Cutting and pasting of printed images to make collages and montages.
- Painting on prints, hand colouring etc.

How to obtain assistance with Creative photography

- Look at the work of other creative photographers
- For those interested in digital manipulation there are a wide variety of new books on the market. Look in your local library, art shops and bookshops.
- Digital photography magazines.

With all competitions, check the rules regarding dimensions and presentation of the image.

Adapted from the Northside Creative Photography definition.