

Deborah Sandidge is a professional photographer specializing in travel and freelance work. She enjoys sharing her insights and creative ideas through workshops, seminars, and writing. Deborah is highly respected for her ability to simplify challenging technical issues for her students and workshop/seminar attendees. Frequently requested as a guest speaker, Deborah has the unique ability to blend both the technical and artistic elements of photography, and to enthusiastically share her passion with others. She is the author of *Digital Infrared Photography*, by Wiley Publishing Inc. Deborah teaches online courses including Long Exposure Creativity, Infrared Photography, and Artistic Imagery.

Deborah has been a guest instructor for NiK software, and Topaz Labs, and has collaborated with the Nikon Learn and Explore site, demonstrating star and star trail photography, in addition to long exposure photography. Her images are used internationally by Nikon and various advertising agencies in brochures, product guides, and websites.

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Creative Techniques for the Passionate Photographer with Deborah Sandidge

The ultimate goal of a good photographer is to be a great story-teller. To do this well one must have the ability to construct a visual narrative through various creative techniques. For example, you can take double or multiple exposures to create visual

and emotional depth with a photograph; or stack stars or clouds for a unique vision. Even a short video clip can become a fascinating narration as a cinemagraph--a still photo with motion. Time-lapse can tell a story in several seconds that otherwise would take hours to capture. You can create surreal photos during the brightness of day with the use of neutral density filters, calm the crashing waves of an ocean, and softly blur clouds across the sky. Simple post-processing such as filters or plug-ins can alter the reality of an image. Creative techniques in-camera, and in post-processing, can change the reality, the mood, and the drama of a composition, allowing the photographer to create expressive, fine art imagery.



A Good photographer equals a great storyteller.

- Create a narrative through visualization
- What story/idea/concept do you wish to communicate
- Be creative in capture and post processing
- Use all options, still photos, time-lapse and video

Video

- Short clip of the experience of a composition
- Think about stories, context, specific emphasis
- Can be short, but shoot more than you need
- Look for subject movement, gesture, activity
- Shoot collective ideas for a storyline, like chapters

- Good story, beginning, end, and an interesting plot of story, various events that add to visual narrative
- Create Cinemagraphs, from Flixel Cinemagraph Pro

Time-lapse Stacked

- Wind painted clouds
- Time-lapse imagery stacked into a single photo
- Conveys motion, or a sense of time passing
- Creative, beautiful, unique, fascinating patterns
- Time-lapse stacks can be any subject that is complementary to the composition, something moving through the scene, traffic, people, clouds



Reflections

- Be aware of right conditions, bright sunny day
- Find a good angle to capture reflections
- Look for highly reflective surfaces, such as glossy cars, or shiny window
- Look for the unexpected, puddles, glasses, mirrors



The Blue Hour

- Blue hour, twilight occurs about 30 minutes before sunrise or after sunset
- Light is very balanced, not too bright or dark
- Twilight lasts only a short time before you lose the light
- TPE, The Photographer's Ephemeris - app for smartphone/desktop to locate moon, VelaClock, LightTrac



Twilight Tips

- Tripod for long exposure (Induro CGT114 or CT113)
- Remote release & mirror lockup, or self timer
- Narrow aperture for starbursts, and use of FL-W at sunset, twilight and beyond, low ISO, WB 4000-5000K
- Shoot in Raw format for most flexibility in post processing
- Use in-camera noise reduction, or noise reduction in post processing

Blue Hour Creativity

- Capture streaks of light from passing cars and buses
- Try a shutter speed 8 seconds or more depending on traffic flow.
- Stop down for longer exposures or use ND filter, or polarizer (polarizer will slightly extend exposure)
- Time exposure so cars enter the composition before pressing shutter, and exit after the exposure is finished



Photograph the Moon

- Photograph the moon during or near twilight for the most detail (avoid day or night)

- May need to make two different exposures for subject and moon
- Wide angle lens for inclusion in a composition
- Full moon night shots can look like day

Camera Settings for Stars

- Use ISO needed for exposure, wide open, 25-30 seconds
- Turn off vibration reduction, or image stabilization
- RAW format for most flexibility in post processing
- White Balance, between 3000 - 5000 K
- Noise Reduction, choose on or off (depending on shot type)
- Histogram - expose to the right to prevent underexposure, best image quality, and less noise in shadow area.
- Use of HDR if needed, additional exposures can help
- Make test shot, alter settings for best exposure
- <http://www.nikonusa.com/en/Learn-And-Explore/Article/h20zblit/Photographing-the-Night-Sky.html>

Star Trail Photography

- Locate North by using a compass or compass app
- Turn off long exposure noise reduction and high ISO noise reduction for star trail images
- Set intervalometer for consecutive 30 second exposures
- Use Adobe Photoshop Extended Script Statistics to create star trails using a stack mode of Maximum, or...
- Use Star Circle Academy or StarStax or other application to create star trails
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- Lighten blend mode can work for stacking several sets of star trails (also works for car trails).
- <http://www.nikonusa.com/en/Learn-And-Explore/Article/h0ndzhvw/photo-graphing-the-night-sky-star-trails.html>



Star Tips

- Wide angle presents a story telling view of the composition
- 30 seconds or less shutter speed star trails
- 20-25 seconds for pinpoint stars,
- Wide aperture
- Set Aperture & Shutter speed, adjust ISO for proper exposure
- Tripod, Induro CGT114, CT113
- Cable or Remote Release
- Flashlight (Fenix LD22) for focus or light painting
- Compass or Compass app
- Extra camera batteries
- Gaffers tape (for just about anything)
- Lens hood (prevents unwanted light sources from hitting lens)



Long Exposure Creativity

- Encompasses low light, twilight, night and daytime
- Color Enhancing Filters, Polarizers
- Variable Neutral Density Filter
- 10 Stop Neutral Density Filter
- Additional Stacked Filters

Variable Neutral Density Filter

- Control light by varying density from 2 - 8 stops
- Works similar to rotating a polarizer
- Use low ISO, stop down to a small aperture
- Purpose is to extend the exposure time
- Capture creative effects in blur, water, clouds, cars

10 Stop ND Filters

- Singh-Ray Mor-Slo
- Lee Big Stopper
- Little Big Stopper (Seven 5)
- B+W
- Hi-Tech/Formatt/Lucroit



Texture Blending and Composites

- Use Blend Mode of Soft Light, Overlay, Multiply
- Use purchased textures or your own photographs
- Creates depth, drama and dimension in an image
- Suggest a film look, with character of grain
- Flypaper Textures, Totally Rad Dirty Pictures
- <http://www.debsandidge.com/photo-artistry-tips>
- <http://www.debsandidge.com/plug-in-savings>