

# CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

## THE ART OF SEEING AND TRYING NEW THINGS

***ELLIOT ERWITT: Member and Past President of the Magnum Group***

***“To me, photography is an art of observation. It is about *finding something interesting in an ordinary place*...I have found it has little to do with the things you see...and everything to do with the way you see them.”***

***Antoine de St. Exupery: French author of The Little Prince:***

***See with your heart, not with your eyes.***

***Another thought: “Shoot for yourself, and.....”***

## **WE MUST KNOW OUR CAMERAS VERY WELL.**

- **We need the manual or a book written for our camera models. We can find great tutorials and courses at YouTube, Creative Live, and more as well.**

**We just might not know certain things that our camera can do.**

**And sometimes we just might need to know how to set our particular camera model when we want to try a new type of photography.**

**When we know our cameras very well, not only do we make better quality images, but also we have more options and are freer to be more creative.**

## THE ART OF SEEING

- **When on a photo shoot, take a good look at the environment, explore it, and give yourself some time to connect with it. Slow down.**
- **Explore your subject, taking several pictures: frame, isolate, try various POV's and angles, and the impact of the light. We have the power to delete!**
- **Sometimes we will fail, but that is part of the whole deal. Mistakes and failures make great teachers. Seeking for the sake of perfection can wreck both our technique and our creativity. Rather, let go and go with the flow.**
- **Afterwards in post, review your shots and metadata. Note what worked and what didn't and why.**
- **Photography involves a balance between our minds and our hearts. We construct the image with our brains and SEIZE the image via what we see and feel.**

# THE ART OF SEEING

**We approach shooting with a vision, posing 3 questions: What is jumping out at me? Why? What am I trying to do with this image?**



**We seek to see the extraordinary in the ordinary.**



**We seek things that we are truly passionate about.**



**We need to take risks, explore, and experiment. Curiosity leads us. We fearlessly venture into the unknown.**



## POST-PROCESSING

- Approach editing with a vision the same way you approach the making of the photograph.
- What are you looking for? What are you trying to do with this image? How should it feel? How should you edit it to bring out what you feel about it?

## PROJECTS

- Projects provide us with a focus and a deeper understanding of where we are in our photography and where we are going or would like to go. Projects can help us to grow and evolve through our photography.
- Projects give us a sense of accomplishment from having created a *product* with our photography that we can have always and/or share or give to others.
- Projects include self-challenges, photo books, exhibits, websites, slideshows, digital frames.

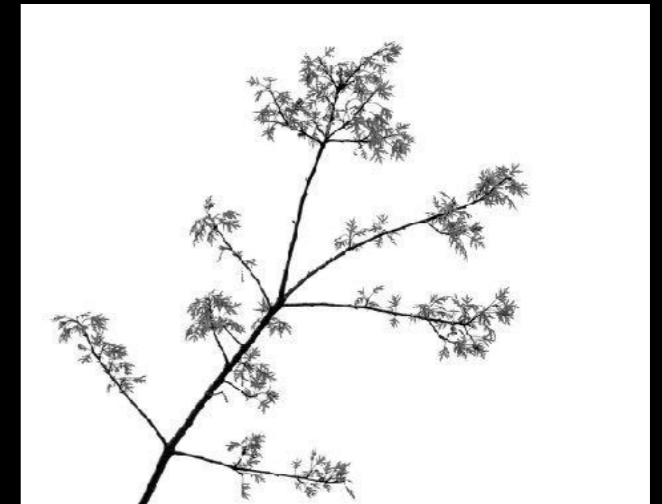
# **A 9 MONTHS/9 TOPICS PROJECT: A Self Challenge**

- **You will generate 9 photographic topics which interest you, i.e., a different topic for each month.**
- **Each month, you will photograph the topic for 4 weeks.**
- **Then you will choose one image per week that you like the best and post it for a total of 4 images for that month.**
- **At the end of 9 months you will have posted 36 images.**
- **This project just might focus you and give you insights about your own photography, where you are right now, and where you want to go next.**

## INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT



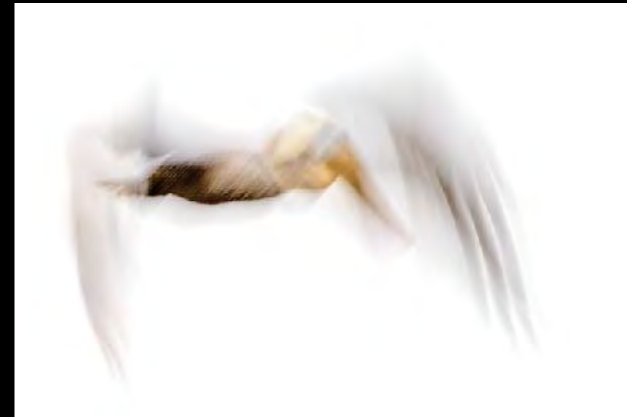
## MINIMALISM



## IMPRESSIONS OF TREES



# HIGH KEY



# BOTANICALS



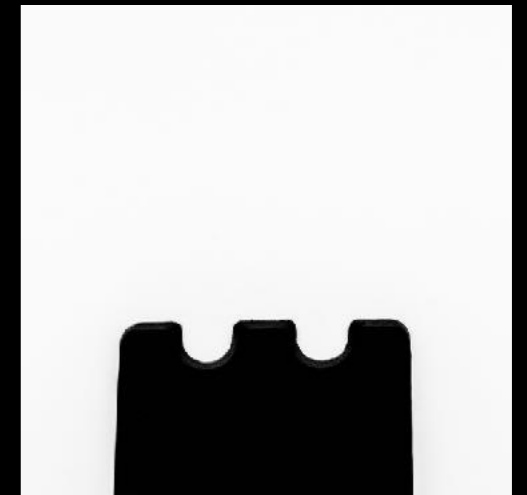
# DOUBLE EXPOSURES



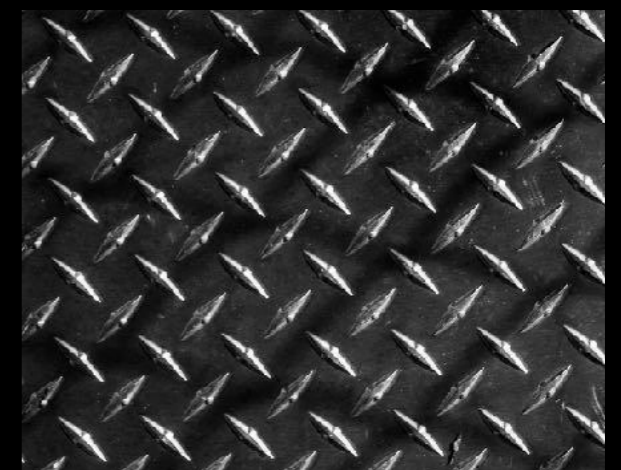
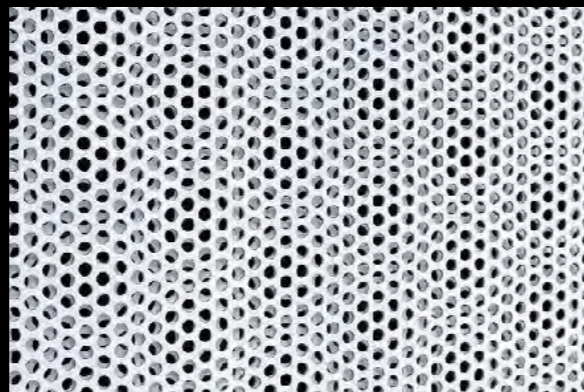
## FLOWERS



## FRAGMENTS



## PATTERNS



## PROJECT: IMPRESSIONISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY

**“Impressionism is a 19th-century art movement characterized.....by open composition, emphasis on accurate depiction of *LIGHT*..... ordinary subject matter, inclusion of *MOVEMENT* as a crucial element of human perception and experience, and unusual visual angles.” Wikipedia**

- **Impressionistic photography can be effected by employing slow shutter speeds along with intentional camera movement by the photographer.**
- **Shutter speeds range from 1/25th to 2 seconds. The movement of the camera results in an element of movement in the image as well as painterly effects. ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) involves horizontal, vertical, circular, diagonal, wavy, and slight shake movement of the camera by the photographer. Slower and faster movements can have varying results. Try**
- **several shutter speeds while photographing.**
- **Be conscious of the light at that moment.**
- **Double as well as multiple exposures are also often utilized.**

# **INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM)**

## **Horizontal Camera Movement**

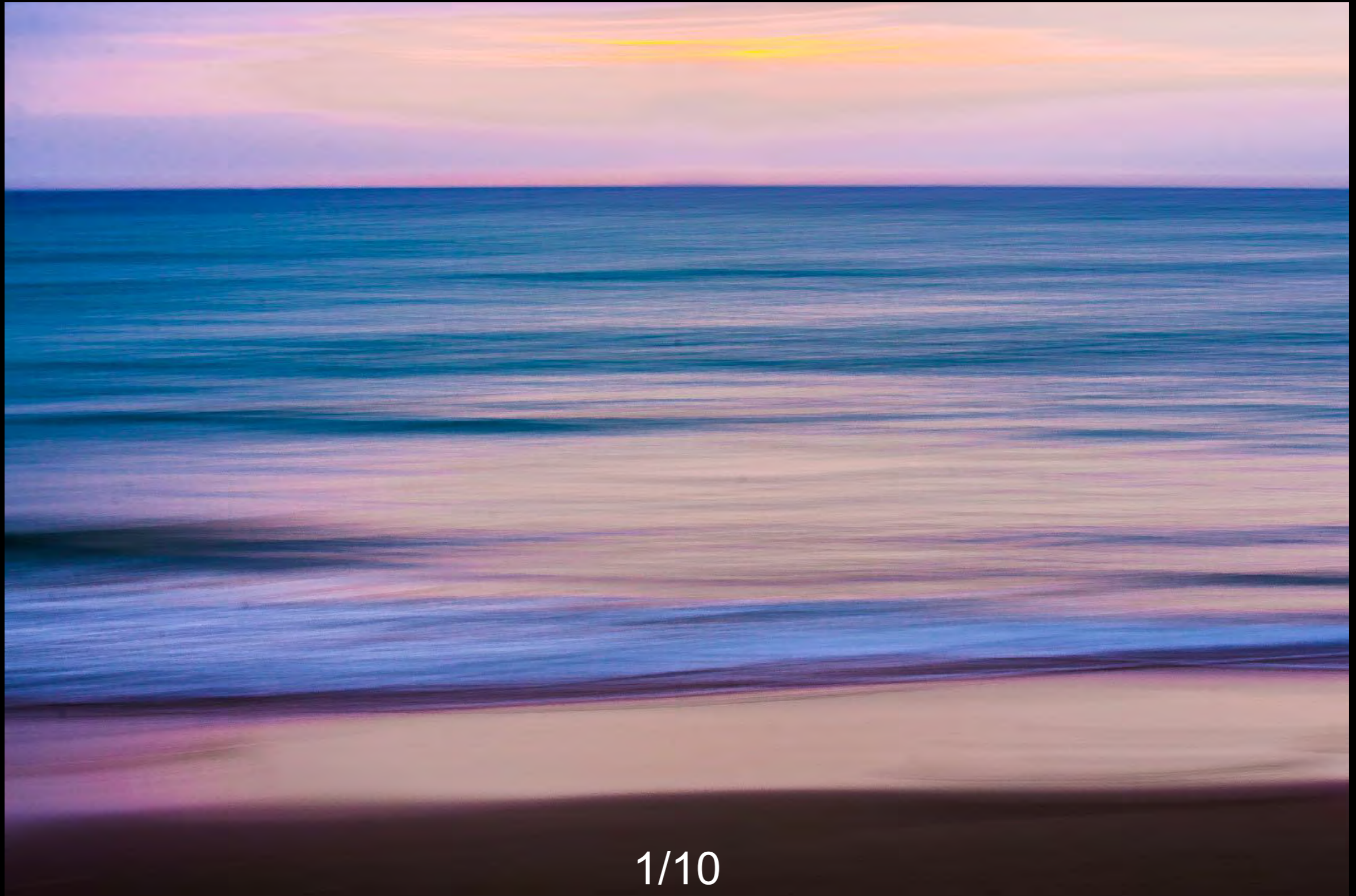
**Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move.**



**ICM**

**Horizontal Movement**

**Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move.**



**ICM**

**Vertical Movement**

**Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move.**



**ICM**  
**Vertical Movement**  
**Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move.**



**ICM**

**VERTICAL MOVEMENT**

**Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move.**



**ICM**

**ROTATING CAMERA ABOUT 1/4TH OF THE WAY TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT**

**Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move**



**ICM: SLIGHTLY WAVY MOVEMENT WHILE FOLLOWING THE BIRDS**  
**Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move.**



## ICM: WAVING MOTIONS

Start moving the camera and click, and continue the move.



ONE SECOND

**ICM: SLIGHT, SHAKING MOVEMENT  
FOCUS, SHAKE 'N CLICK**



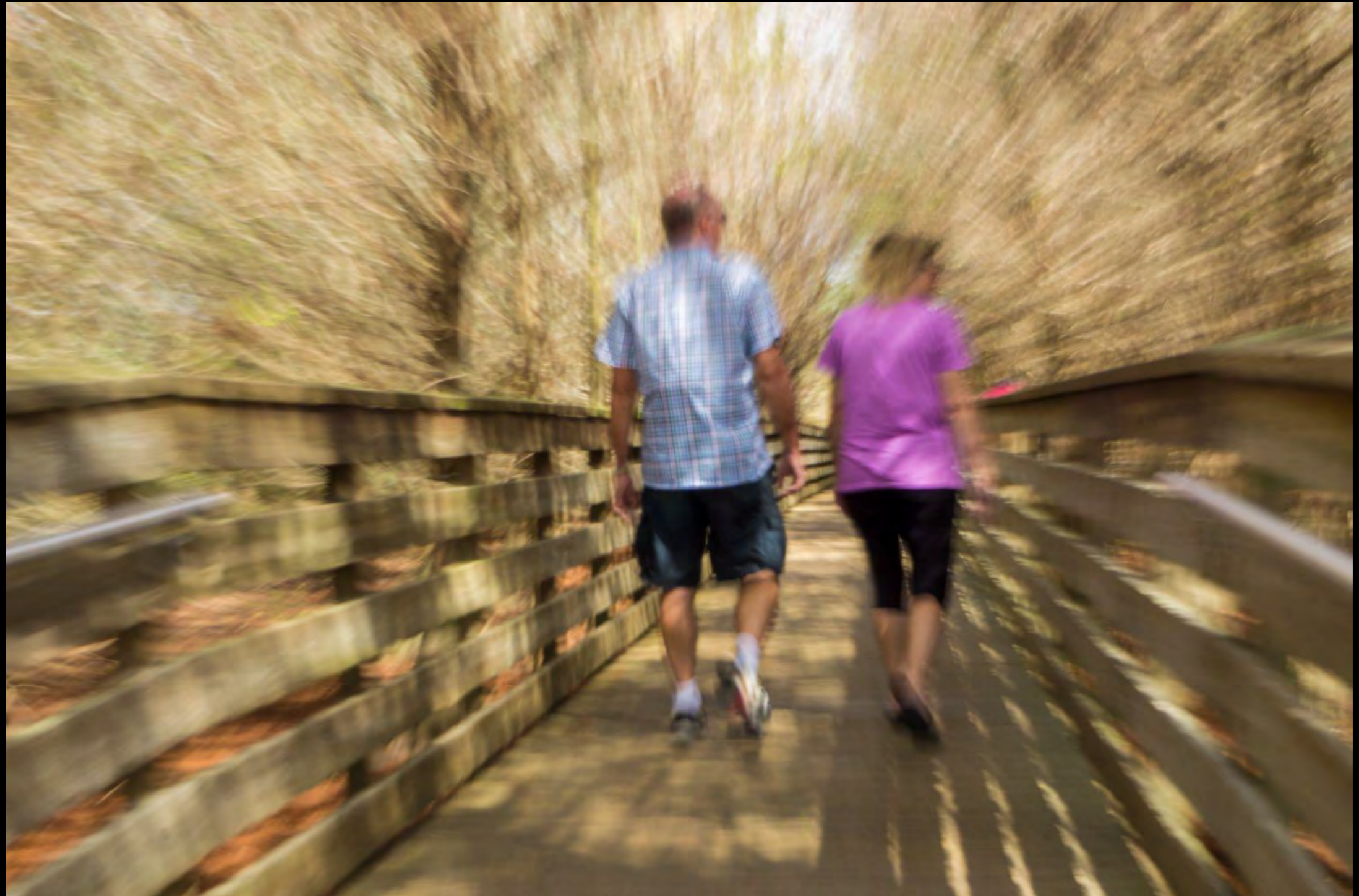
**ICM: SLIGHT, SHAKING MOVEMENT OF THE CAMERA  
FOCUS, SHAKE N'CLICK**



**Intentional Blurring with very slight camera movement:  
Blur lens all the way then go the opposite way  
until you can barely see the details of the scene. Then focus, shake n 'click.**



**ICM: ZOOMING THE LENS WHILE TRIPPING THE SHUTTER**  
**Start zooming the lens and click, and continue zooming.**



# ICM: ZOOMING THE LENS WHILE TRIPPING THE SHUTTER

Start zooming the lens, and click, continuing to zoom.



## **Intentional Blurring:**

**Blur lens all the way then go the opposite way until you can barely see the details of the scene.**



## **SUGGESTED WAYS FOR US TO CHALLENGE OURSELVES WHILE OUT SHOOTING**

**Try new things. Be courageous, let go of fear, be curious, commit, work, and feel your passion. One thing leads to another! You will become open to seeing more and more.**

- Chase the light: shadows, silhouettes, backlight, shooting into the sun.**
- Just one lens: wide angle, nifty fifty, fish eye, macro.**
- Intentional camera movement. Double exposures.**
- Try various focal lengths with a zoom lens when shooting a subject. Try various shutter speeds on shutter priority. New ideas spring up from there.**

## SOME FAVORITE RESOURCES

**Barbara Bender:**

[www.barbarabenderphotoart.com](http://www.barbarabenderphotoart.com)

**Brooks Jensen:**

[www.lenswork.com](http://www.lenswork.com)

**David DuChemin:**

The Soul of the Camera

[davidduchemin.com](http://davidduchemin.com)

**Bruce Barnbaum:**

The Art of Photography:

An Approach to Personal Expression

**Eva Polak:**

[www.evapolak.com](http://www.evapolak.com)

Internet courses of impressionistic photography

**Jay Maisel:**

It's Not About the F-Stop

Light, Gesture, and Color

**MAY WE ALL GROW, EVOLVE, AND  
SEE MORE AND MORE THROUGH OUR PHOTOGRAPHY!**