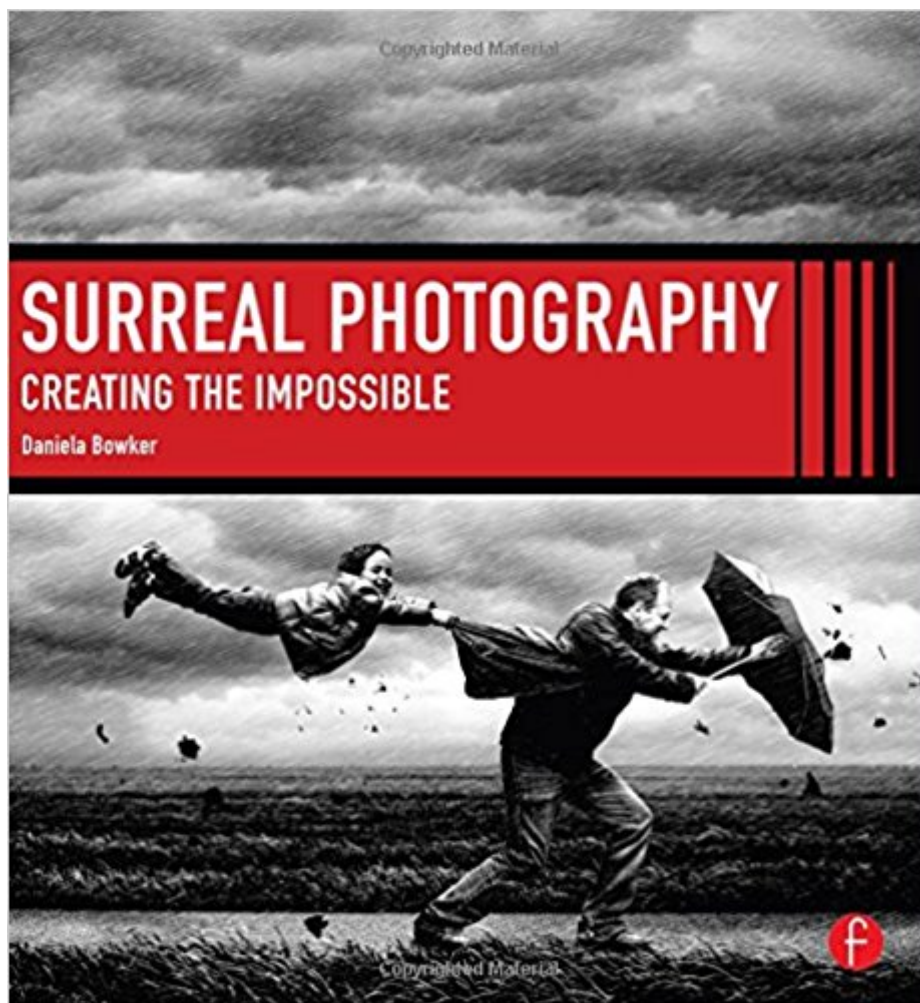## The book was found

Surreal Photography: Creating The Impossible

Synopsis

Surreal digital photography is not only an enjoyable extension of many enthusiastÃ¢ ¬â„¢s repertoire, but is has firmly established a foothold in the world of art. This book reveals the latest developments in the field and demystifies the techniques used by modern surreal photographers, whether they favor SOOC (straight out of the camera) or sophisticated digital manipulations. Breaking down the shooting and editing process for any reader to follow and emulate, this book provides step-by-step instructions for creating extraordinary scenes. With contributions from numerous artistsÃ¢ ¬â ¢including Natalie Dybisz, Jon Jacobsen and Dariusz KlimczakÃ¢ ¬â ¢ readers will be able to explore many different artistic styles from impossible landscapes to unsettling portraits.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Focal Press; 1 edition (June 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415662672

ISBN-13: 978-0415662673

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars   26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,052,214 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #85 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Darkroom & Processing   #1158 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Reference   #1396 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Visual Arts > Photography

Customer Reviews

N/A

Daniella Bowker, author and curator, is a noted photography journalist (and photographer) with a keen eye on digital art. She is co-author of Ilex PhotoÃ¢ ¬â„¢s Photo School: Composition and an expert on Pixiq.

This book tries to cover too much ground. I agree with some of the other reviews that talk about

these techniques being for more advanced photoshop users, which is true. And I was looking for an advanced book, but this is not it. The most interesting part of the book is the backwards-engineered photos of other artists. But even then, the steps given were so basic as to be almost not helpful for anyone with more than a working knowledge of photoshop. Some of the authors own examples do not stand out as good teaching examples at all. The photography techniques are lackluster. It might help trigger some creative thinking, but if you've already been working on some surreal/composite photography ideas, this book will fall flat.

I think that what any photographer needs is sometime a ray of light to generate more creative works.This book is really a joy to read. Though the cameras may be anyone you have , still the ideas are great.

This is a very nice illustrated book showing off some good compositing techniques. Unfortunately it is not a how-to manual. Anyone looking for instructions on how to become a better compositer should look elsewhere.

"Surreal Photography" is an odd book in the sense that it tries to cater towards beginners with little to no experience in photography or image manipulation, and yet covers a topic that is really best suited to people that already have a fair bit of knowledge and experience. As an advanced Photoshop user, I can tell you that many of the techniques shown in this book will be difficult if not impossible for a novice to pull off effectively (if they even really understand what's being described at all). Realistically, creating believable composites requires hundreds of hours of experience to understand the tools and techniques available, and a keen eye to be able to discern why certain things work and others do not. If you're really a beginner attempting these techniques, in all likelihood, you'll end up with badly 'cut out' looking composites that look unnatural (and even cheesy).In my opinion, if image manipulation is something you're interested in, you want to find dedicated training materials on Photoshop and carefully study these first. Then you will want to learn how people create composites with Photoshop's tools, and look carefully at why some composites don't work. You'll find there are a ton of subtleties in lighting, shadows, colour, masking, and other properties that make a huge difference in your end result. So, a book like this that shows you a final image and gives you "step by step" walk through of using X tool, then Y tool will do little more than give you an idea of what went on, but not come anywhere close to giving you enough detail to (a) reproduce this yourself, or (b) give you insights into why a particular technique was chosen (and just

a description of the step itself).The first five of six chapters of this book cover really basic info about image making and post-processing. There's basic stuff about different kinds of cameras, ranging from camera phones to DSLRs; information about lenses; descriptions of different apps for quicky and dirty image manipulation; and some specific photographic techniques like long exposures or using IR-adapter cameras/filters. While the author does tie these techniques to the theme of creating 'surreal' images, the material is really basic, and can be found virtually anywhere with a lot more depth.Chpater 4 tries to introduce you to key tools in Photoshop that you'll need to know. Realistically, a beginner has no hope of really understanding Photoshop in ~26 pages, and an experienced user will already know how these tools work. There's no way you can do PS justice in such a short chapter, so there's not a lot of point to this chapter. This chapter is followed by a short chapter on actions, filters, and presets (which again carries very little value).The final chapter has the real 'meat' of the book, where you'll see a selection of images with 'step-by-step' instructions on how it was created. One thing that's kind of alienating is that the first few images will use an odd assortment of different tools. Sometimes, a hodge podge of camera phone apps will be used, sometimes GIMP, and sometimes Photoshop. This is awkward to say the least, because flipping back and forth between tools means there's little depth or consistency in the information presented.Some of the photos in this section are pretty interesting, and well put together; some are tacky and over done. Among the better photos (including the cover image), the descriptions of the work performed really don't do the image justice. I think this book would have been far better if it targeted advanced Photoshop users, and spent a lot of time describing details of lighting, shadows, masking, and other techniques and show examples of the techniques. This kind of thing would be best accompanied by videos and sample images to hone the technique. The way this book is written--like a step-by-step primer for the beginner--neither the beginner nor the expert will be likely to benefit.In a lot of ways, reading this book is like having a professional magician show you how some complex magic trick is performed. They will show you the mechanics on the 'big things' that happened to pull the trick together, but as in magic, there's a ton of subtlety that surrounds the entire act that really makes it work. In the hands of a novice, the whole thing falls apart. Learning the mechanics is not how you learn the art. It takes way more time, effort, and dedication that a beginner can't really yet appreciate.So, because of the mismatch between what this book really is about, and who it tries to write for, I think it ends up failing to be of any use. Perhaps you can get some inspiration from the creative ideas in this book, but in terms of instruction, this book completely misses the mark.

Great tips and inspirations! Beautiful book. Would recommend highly to those photographers wanting to manipulate images in extraordinary ways.

cool and fun

This book is full of very cool ideas.

discibed

Surreal Photography: Creating The Impossible Photography: DSLR Photography Secrets and Tips to Taking Beautiful Digital Pictures (Photography, DSLR, cameras, digital photography, digital pictures, portrait photography, landscape photography) Photography Business: Sell That Photo!: 10 Simple Ways To Make Big Bucks Selling Your Photography Online (how to sell photography, freelance photography, ... to start on online photography business) Photography: Complete Guide to Taking Stunning,Beautiful Digital Pictures (photography, stunning digital, great pictures, digital photography, portrait ... landscape photography, good pictures) Photography: DSLR Photography Made Easy: Simple Tips on How You Can Get Visually Stunning Images Using Your DSLR (Photography, Digital Photography, Creativity, ... Digital, Portrait, Landscape, Photoshop) Photography Business: 4 Manuscripts - Adventure Sports Photography, Portrait Parties, Music Business Photography, Real Estate Photography Pop Manga Coloring Book: A Surreal Journey Through a Cute, Curious, Bizarre, and Beautiful World Color My Art: Surreal Fantasy: Grayscale & Underpainting Coloring Book Nothing Is True and Everything Is Possible: The Surreal Heart of the New Russia Surreal Numbers Love & Vodka: My Surreal Adventures in Ukraine Pink Floyd Coloring Book: Surreal Magical British Legendary Band with David Gilmour and Roger Waters Art Inspired Adult Coloring Book (Coloring Book for Adults) Photography: Portrait Photography: 9 Tips Your Camera Manual Never Told You About Portrait Photography DSLR Photography for Beginners: Take 10 Times Better Pictures in 48 Hours or Less! Best Way to Learn Digital Photography, Master Your DSLR Camera & Improve Your Digital SLR Photography Skills Stock Photography for Beginners: How to Make Money Online with Microstock Photography & Build Passive Income with Your Photography Business Photography: Photography Lighting: Top 10 Must-Know Photography Lighting Facts to Shoot Like a Pro in Your Home Studio Photography: Landscape Photography: 10 Essential Tips to Take Your Landscape Photography to The Next Level Photography Hacks: The Complete Extensive Guide on How to Become a Master Photographer in 7 Days or Less:

Photography Hacks and 7 Day Photography Photography: Darkroom Photography: The Complete Guide to Mastering the Basics of Darkroom Photography photography books for beginners: Advices, Understanding exposure triangle in Digital Photography - the most basic lession, and tips about portrait, Wedding photography and more