



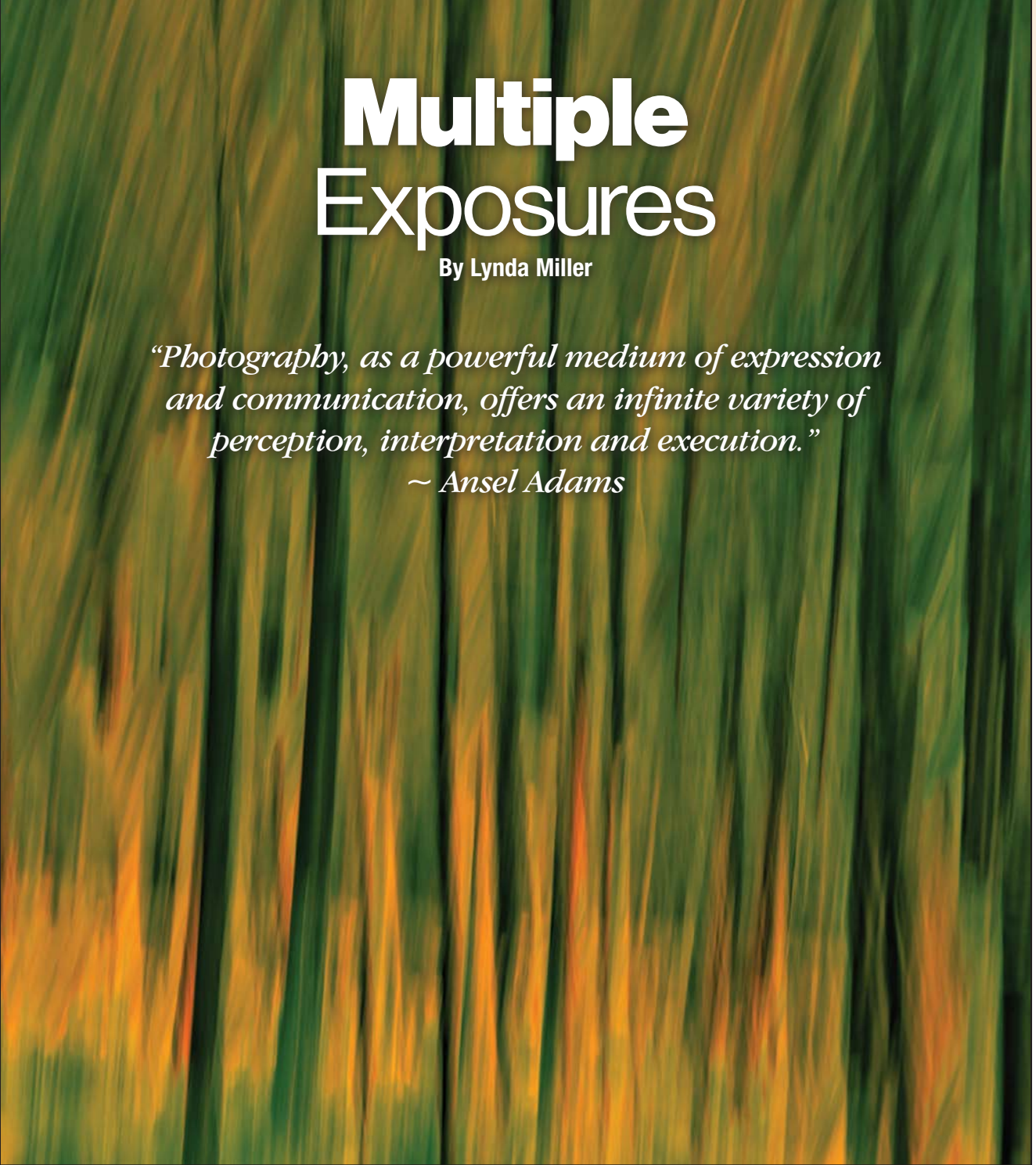
CANADIAN CAMERA

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- ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY • MULTIPLE EXPOSURES



Multiple Exposures

By Lynda Miller

“Photography, as a powerful medium of expression and communication, offers an infinite variety of perception, interpretation and execution.”

~ Ansel Adams

Putting brushes and paint to canvas has never enabled me to be artistic.

However, creating a composite image on my computer with my digital photographs, software and imagination has always intrigued me. I wanted to learn more, dig deeper and create with my camera.

Encouraged by a friend at our camera club, in June 2018 I travelled to Bella

Coola, B.C., to join nine other photographers in the Develop Your Creative Vision workshop run by Chris Harris and Dennis Ducklow.

If you can imagine the excitement of a duckling that has just been shown water, you will understand how I felt.

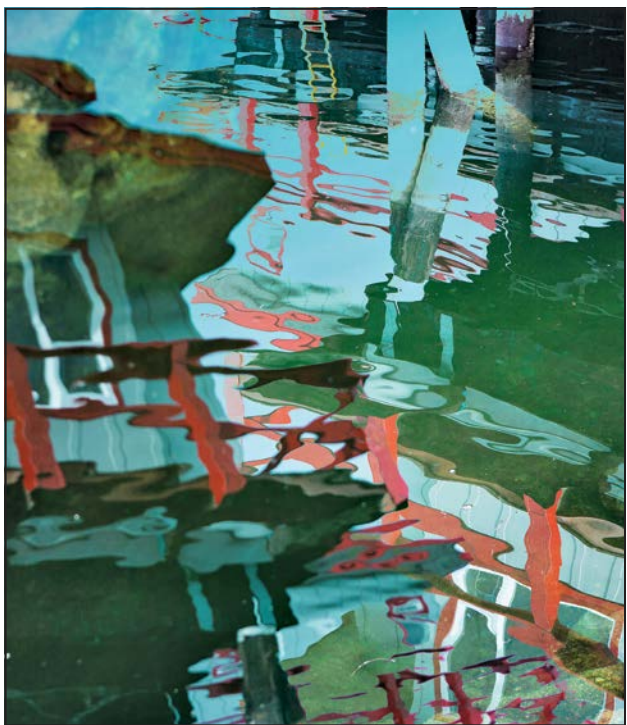
The experience of the environment, its beauty, colour, sounds, smells and feelings influence me when I start to make these images. I don't look at them intellectually, that is, for things, centre of interest, etc.,

but I do check my emotional response.

Do I see something that makes me feel cold, warm, happy or confused? Regardless of technique, the concepts of line, shape, texture, colour and balance still contribute to a great image.

When someone views my photographs, I hope to convey a sense of what I felt, maybe stir a memory or invite questions.

Many modern digital cameras have the ability to shoot multiple exposures.



Check your camera's manual or do a Google search if you don't know whether your camera has multiple exposure ability.

Some will allow just one frame to be overlaid on top of another (double exposure), while others will allow up to 10 frames to be combined. Some Nikon, Canon and other camera bodies have multiple exposure ability. These cameras have the added bonus of four blend modes that make the pixels in

each frame directly beneath them interact differently.

I often use Live View to see where the next image is sitting over the previous one. The new capabilities of the Canon and Nikon mirrorless cameras enable you to view how the blend mode looks as you keep adding images to your frame.

This type of photography is experimental. Persistence pays, as it might take 50 or more experiments before an image works. Many of the variables I use might

include motion blur in one or more of my exposures, changing white balance to shift colours between exposures, slight camera movement to give an impressionist look, rotating the camera and/or zooming in or out while taking multiple exposures and an in-camera Orton effect using the dark blend mode.

In fact, I can start with an image already on my SD card. It might even be an already completed ME image in one mode and I could start again using



another mode for even different effects. The options make my head swirl and life with my camera becomes full of possibilities!

What I choose to try is limited only by my imagination and what my camera can do. I am constantly experimenting with different ideas. There are so many techniques and ideas waiting to be tried.

What if you don't have a camera that makes ME photographs? I have found a marvelous app for my Android phone and tablet. The "Multiple Exposure Camera" is available from the App store. I suspect there would be a similar app for iPhones. The possibilities of ME on my mobile device amaze me.

Even with my newly discovered options for creative photography, I still return to Photoshop, digging up old files and blending them using the program's blend mode options.

Photo files can be dragged into one document creating layers. There are two methods you can use to create a multiple exposure with each layer:

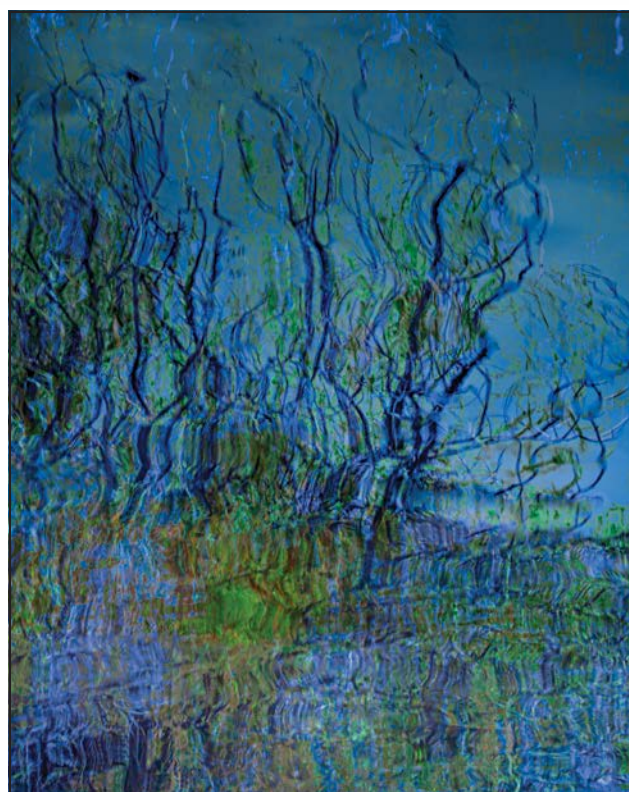
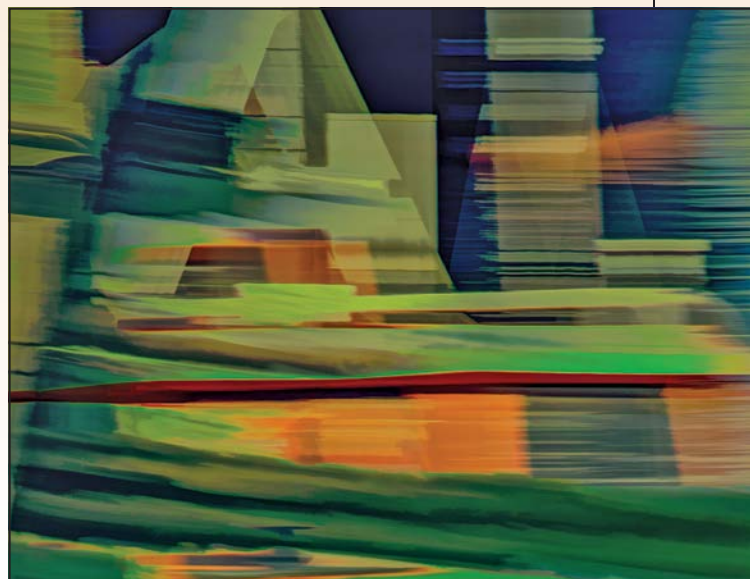
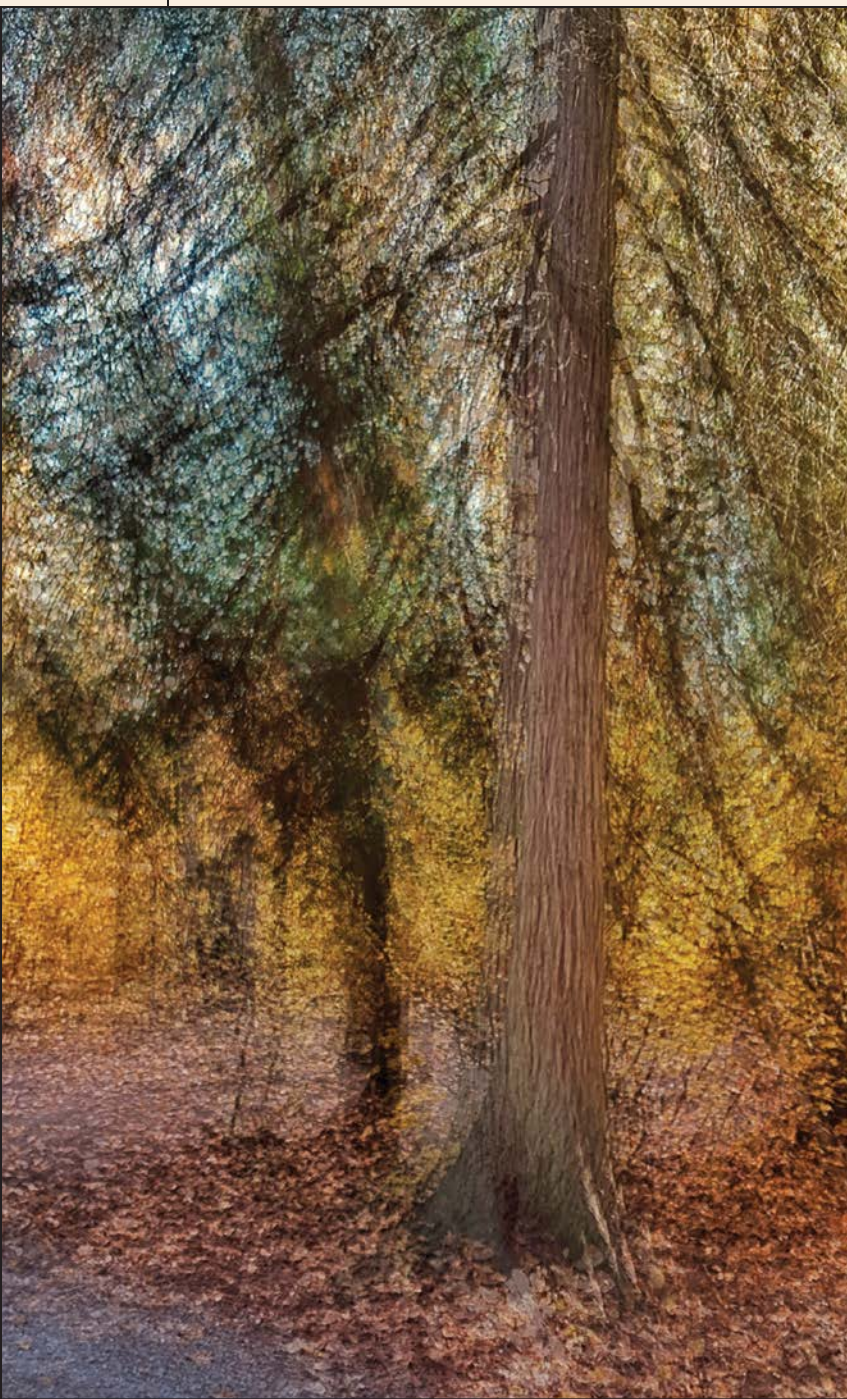
- Changing the opacity of each layer, making the top layer lowest and each lower layer a bit higher opacity;



- Changing the blend mode of each layer. The two modes that are similar to our cameras are: Darken or Darker Colour, or Lighten or Lighter Colour. You can also try other blend modes such as Multiply, Overlay, Soft Light or others. Experiment with Blend modes,

the Layer Opacity or Fill Opacity (Photoshop only) of your added layers to get different effects of one layer blending with the next.

There are many paths in a photographer's creative journey. Here I have shared some of the ideas and experiences



of mine, and hope I have encouraged you to become engaged with your creative life through your camera's lens.

If you are looking to expand your creative vision give Multiple Exposure photography a try.

"With increasing skill and artistry came a vision to not only share the wilderness for enjoyment and adventure, but to embark

on a path of intention and consciousness and of sharing that vision through the art of photography."

– Chris Harris

There are many photographers making creative images in their cameras and there are examples in their books, workshops and images on line. Here are a few: Chris Harris, www.chrisharris.com

and www.developyourcreativevision.ca, Dennis Ducklow, doubleexposure-photography.ca, Valada Bailey, www.valadabailey.com and Doug Chinnery, www.dougchinnery.com, and Stephanie Jung, www.stephaniejung-photography.com. ✨

Lynda Miller resides in Kelowna, B.C., and is CAPA Pacific Zone Director.