Abstract Photography Project

Create abstract photos using your camera or cell phone. See the attached definition, guidelines and photo examples.

Submit up to 10 photos.

Due April 20, 2026.

Photos will be shown at the May 12, 2026 meeting.

Email the individual photos to: kristikolson@hotmail.com

Abstract Photography

Abstract Photography creates images that aren't immediately recognizable as real-world objects, focusing instead on shapes, colors, textures and patterns to evoke emotion or ideas, often isolating details, playing with perspective or distorting reality through camera techniques or post processing. It moves beyond literal representation to highlight visual elements, inviting the viewer to interpret the scene and find beauty in the abstract.

1. Focus on Shapes, Lines, and Patterns

- Strip away context so the viewer sees form rather than subject.
- Architectural details, shadows, and natural textures are great sources.
- Strong geometric compositions often feel bold and graphic.

2. Play With Perspective

- Shoot extremely close or from unusual angles.
- Rotate the camera or flip the final image to disorient the viewer.
- Use reflections (water, glass, metal) to distort reality.

3. Use Color as the Subject

- Bold color blocks, gradients, or contrasting hues can carry the entire image.
- Look for peeling paint, neon lights, or colored gels on lights.

4. Embrace Motion

- Intentional camera movement (ICM): pan, swirl, or shake the camera during long exposures.
- Subject motion blur: water, crowds, traffic, or fabric in the wind.
- Combine both for layered, painterly effects.

5. Macro and Extreme Close-Up Work

- Magnify textures, fibers, liquids, or everyday objects until they become unrecognizable.
- Oil on water, soap bubbles, frost, and rust are classic abstract subjects.

6. Light as a Creative Tool

- Backlighting to create silhouettes or glowing edges.
- Hard side light to emphasize texture.
- Light painting with LEDs or flashlights during long exposures.

7. Multiple Exposures

- Layer different scenes or textures in-camera or in post-processing.
- Blend sharp and blurred elements for dreamlike results.

8. Intentional Obscurity

- Shoot through translucent materials: frosted glass, plastic, fabric.
- Use prisms, crystals, or water droplets to distort the scene.
- Defocus the lens entirely to create soft, impressionistic images.

Examples:

Textured fabrics, weathered surfaces, food, bark, leaves, water, rocks, rusted metal, peeling paint, cracked pavement, kitchenware, morning dew or building angles.