



# Abstract Workshop

Presented by  
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# Abstract definition for photography:

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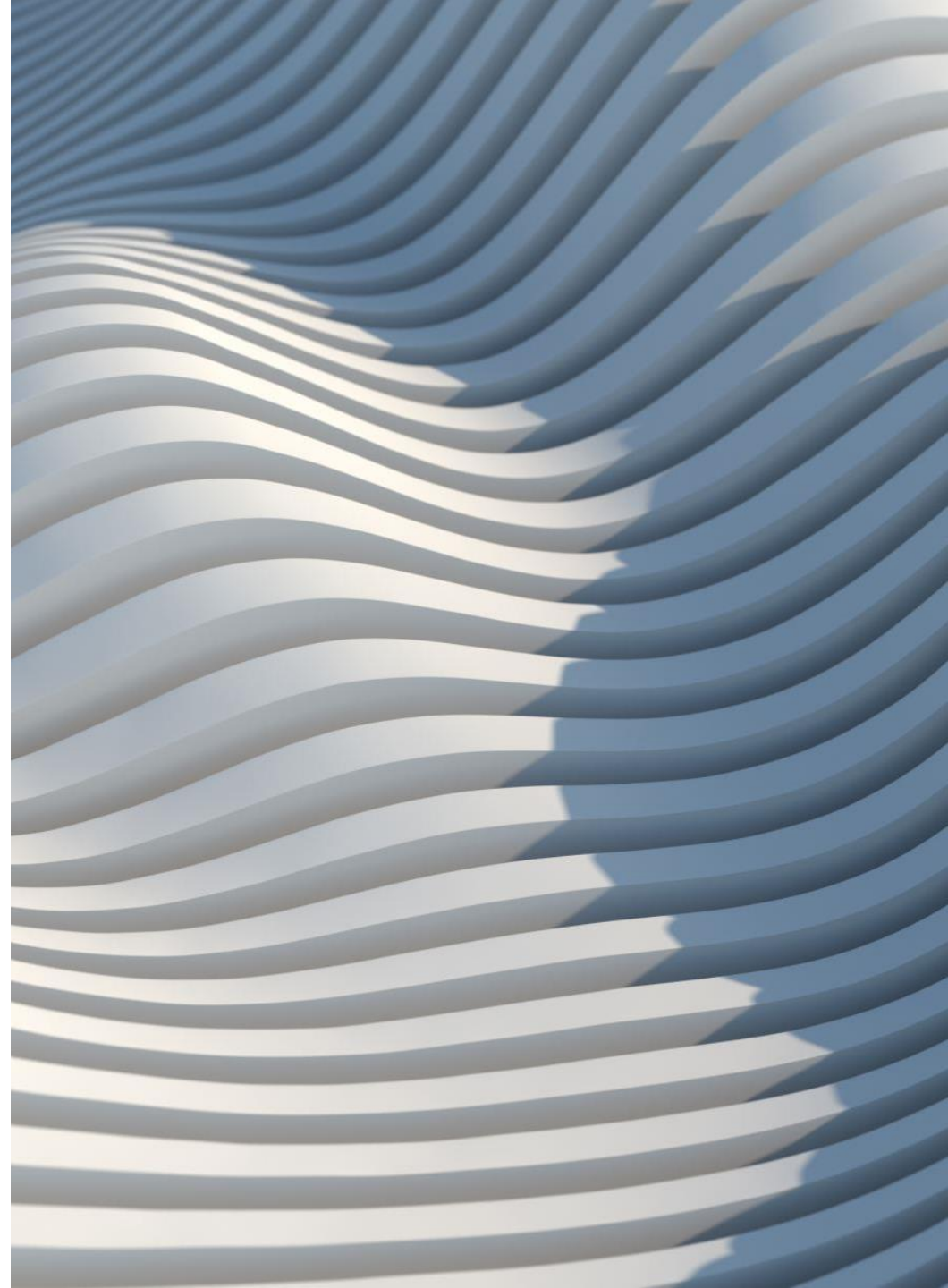
Abstraction is achieved once the subject is no longer recognizable as a person, tree, rock or flower.

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The most artistic form of expression, abstraction allows the photographer to take the viewer into a world outside of their normal, everyday experience.

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Abstract art usually refers to the creation of non-representational or non-objective digital artworks, which focus on colours, shapes, lines, and textures, rather than talking about visible objects or scenes.

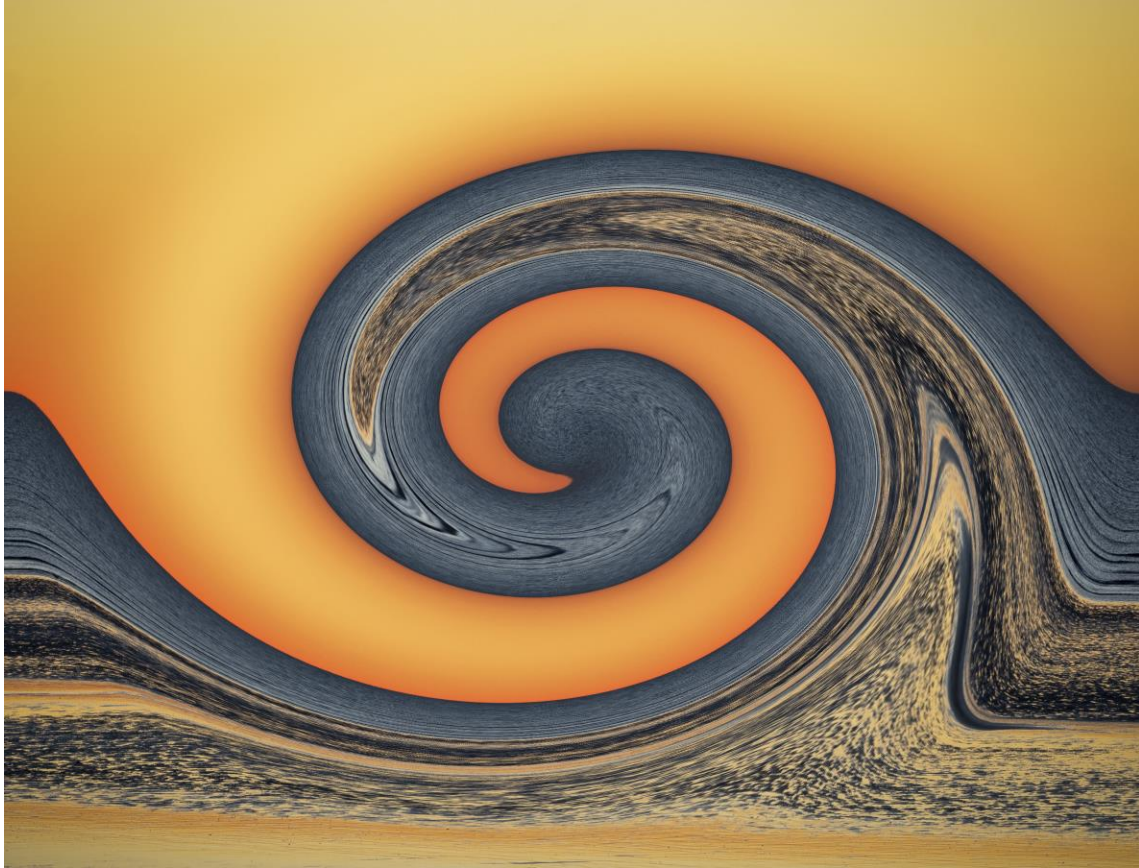


# Post Processing

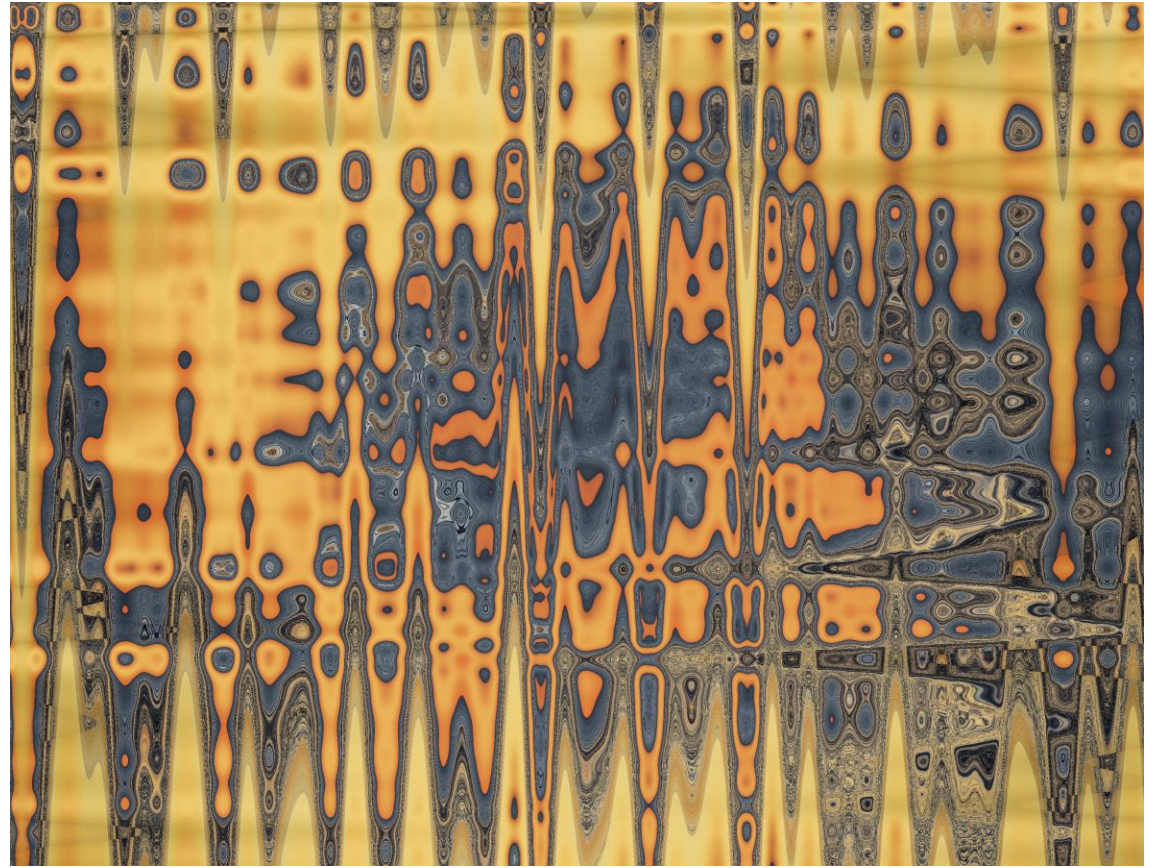
- In Photoshop (or similar software).
- Use Filters - liquify, twist, and other special effects.
- Try different blends, warp, overlays, diffuse or light to create images.
- Insert a Smart Object.
- More creativity can be done to master Kaleidoscopes, Mandalas, 3D and Twirls.



Before

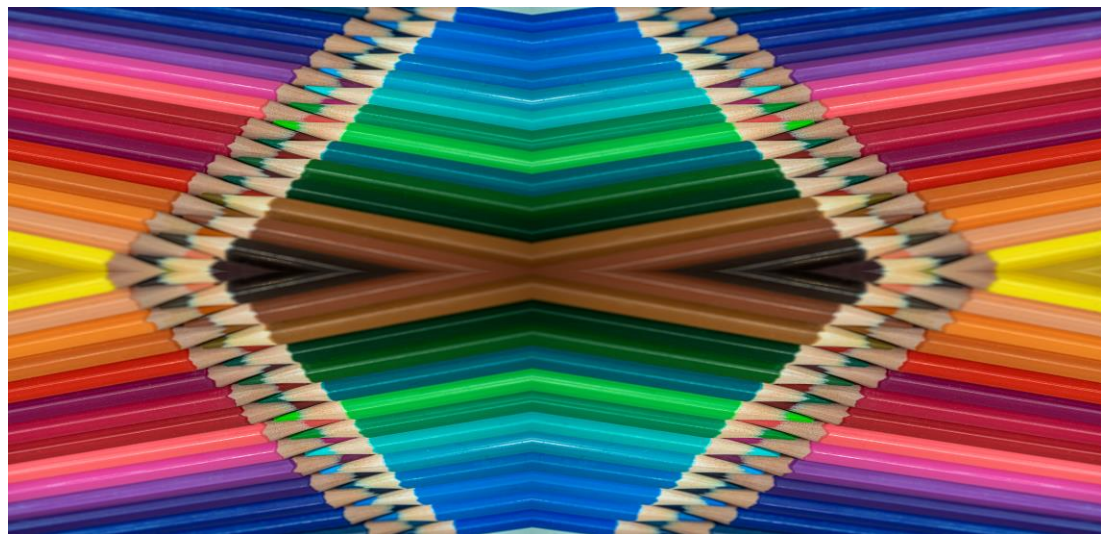


After





Before



After

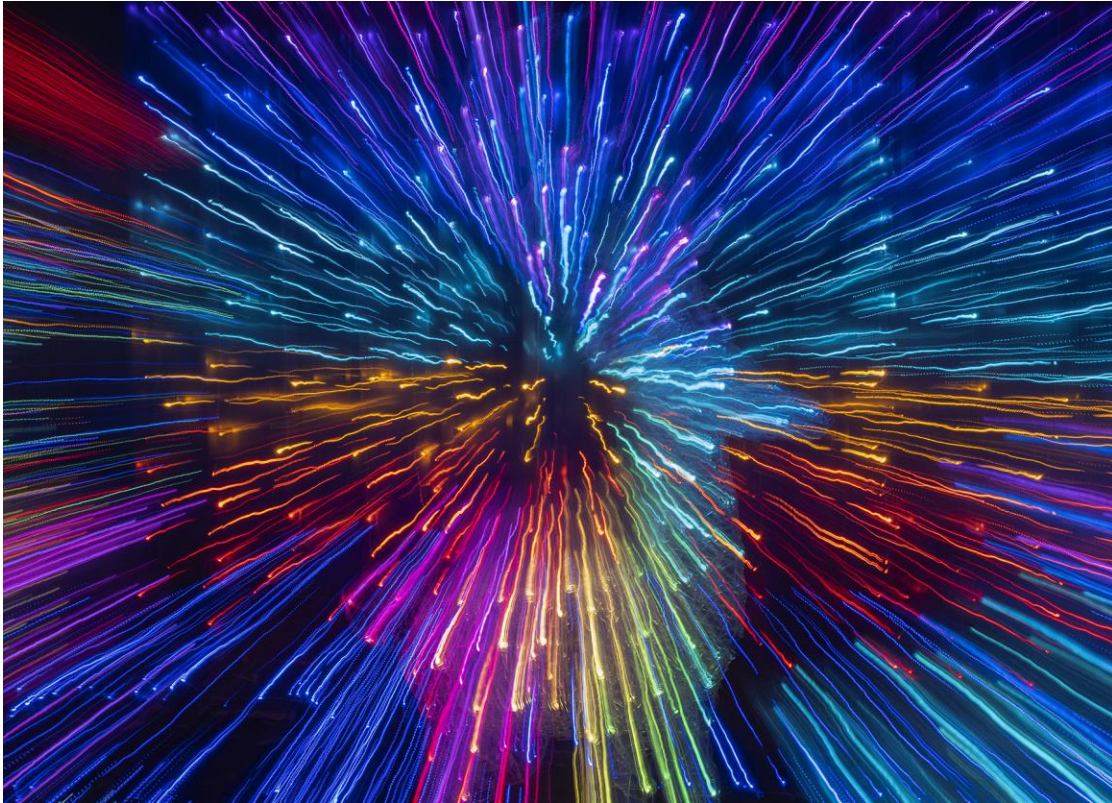




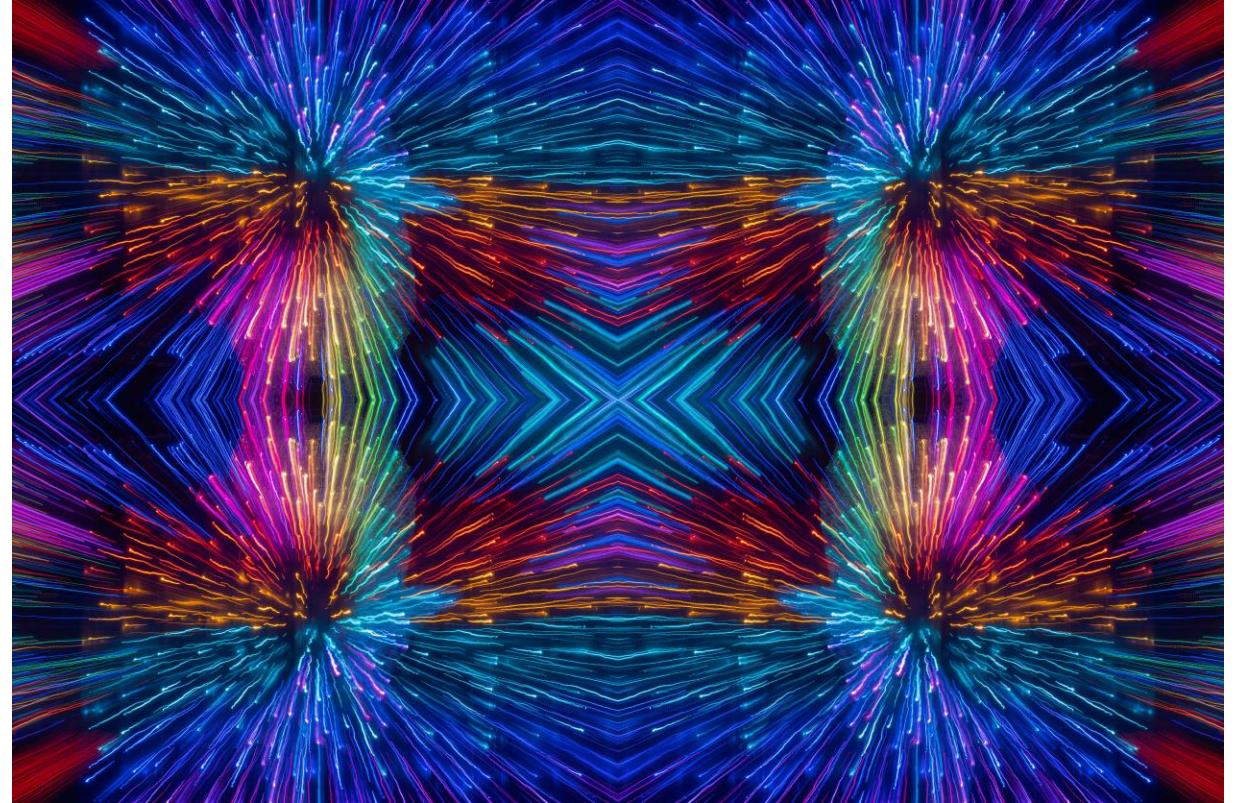
Duplicate original image by 2x2; 2 x4; 2x6; 2x8 etc. To create patterns by rotating or flipping image to match up patterns to form a different pattern. A 2x4, 2x8 or even larger 4x4, 4x8 sized image may make a beautiful panoramic image for your wall.

Add lines, shapes to image before using filters or add in different layers.

Before - Original



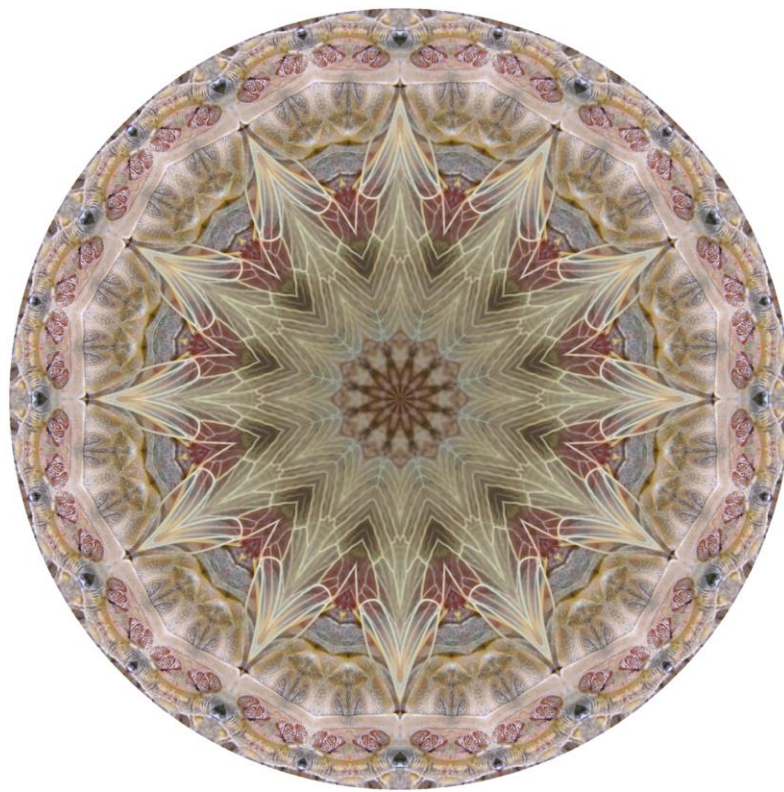
After – Duplicated image to create 2 x4





Mandalas – Used a Photoshop  
Action many years ago

Rainbow Lorikeet



Cicada

Sturt's Desert Pea





## Twirls

Before – created a 2x2 before the Twirl Action



After – Twirl Action

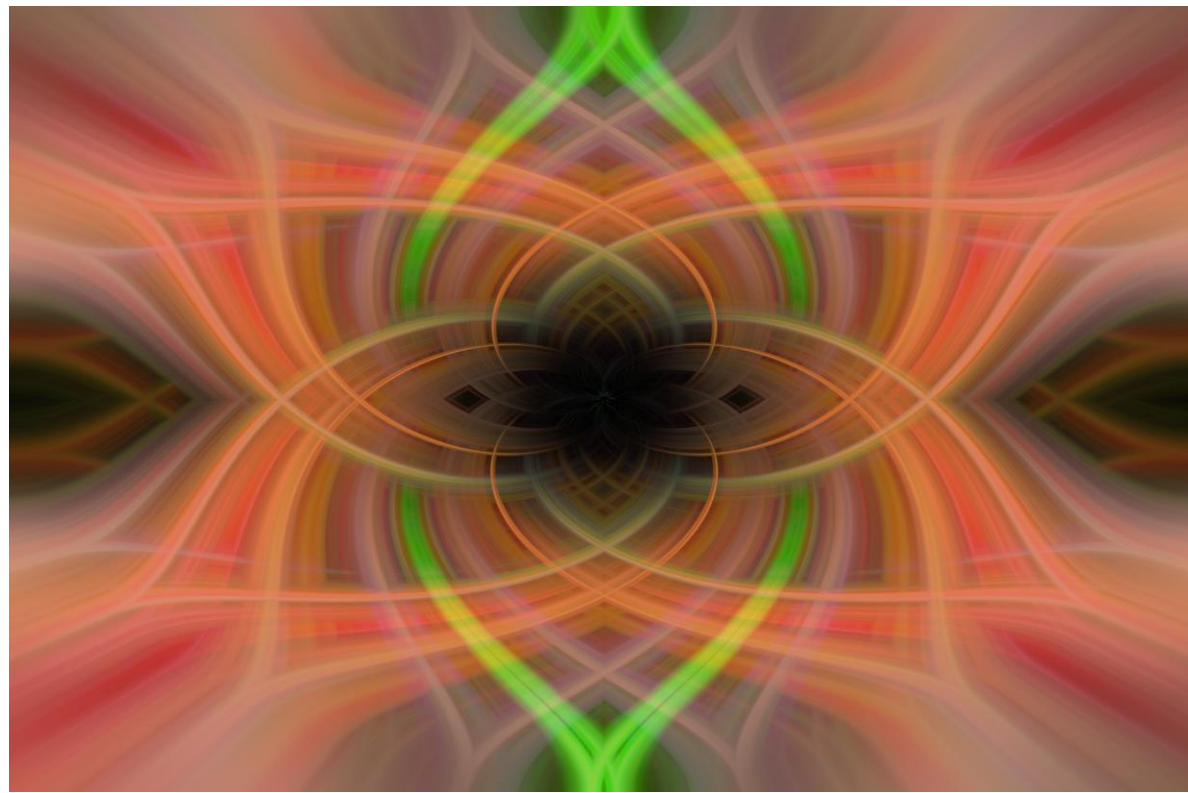




Before – image duplicated for 2x2



After - Twirl



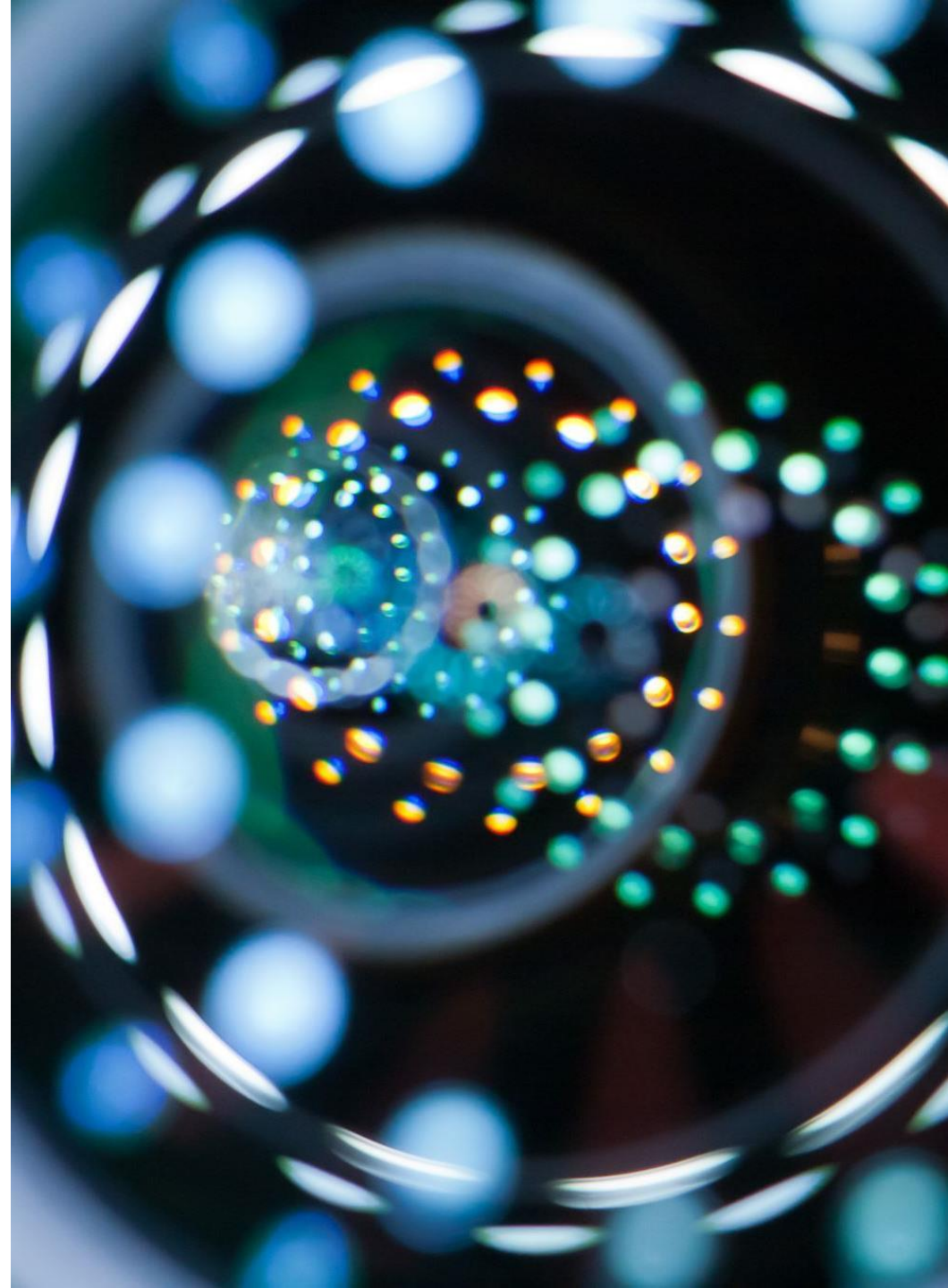
# In Camera

In-camera creative imagery can be done with :-

- Multi exposure,
- Intentional Camera Movement,
- Zooming lens in / out,
- if your camera has artistic filters, try them out.

## Types of art filters

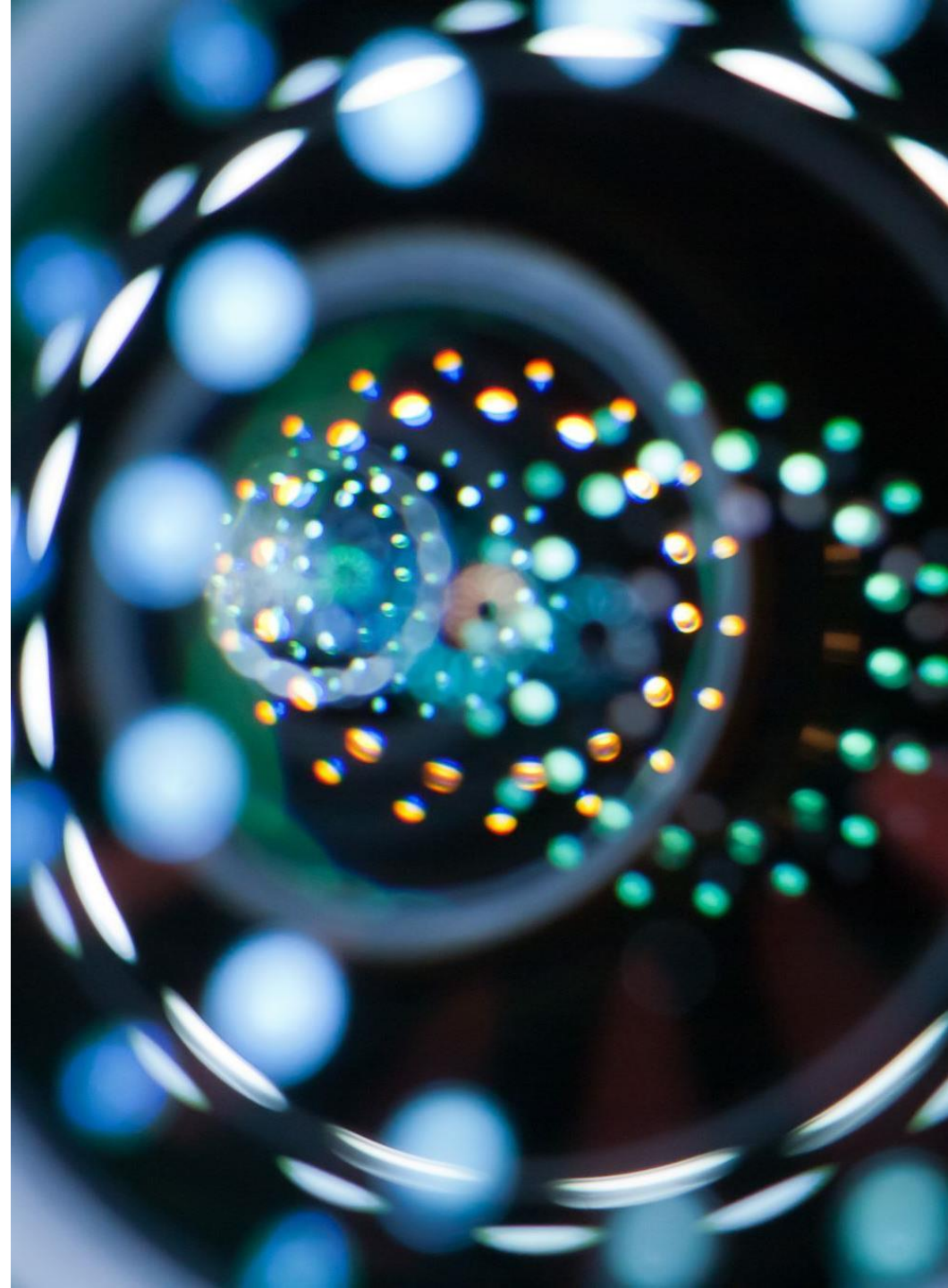
- **Pop Art** - Creates an image that emphasizes the beauty of color.
- **Soft Focus** - Creates an image that expresses a soft tone atmosphere.
- **Pale & Light Colour** - Creates an image that expresses warm light by scattering overall light and slightly overexposing the image.
- **Light Tone** - Creates a high-quality image by softening both shadows and highlights.
- **Grainy Film** - Creates an image that expresses the roughness of black and white images.
- **Pin Hole** - Creates an image that looks as if it was taken using an old or toy camera by dimming the image perimeter.
- **Diorama** - Creates a miniature-like image by emphasizing saturation and contrast, and blurring unfocused areas.





# In Camera continued

- **Cross Process** - Creates an image that expresses a surreal atmosphere. Cross Process II creates an image that emphasizes magenta.
- **Gentle Sepia** - Creates a high-quality image by drawing out shadows and softening the overall image.
- **Dramatic Tone** - Creates an image that emphasizes the difference between brightness and darkness by partially increasing contrast.
- **Key Line** - Creates an image that emphasizes edges and adds an illustrative style.
- **Watercolor** - Creates a soft, bright image by removing dark areas, blending pale colors on a white canvas, and further softening contours.
- **Vintage** - Expresses an everyday shot in a nostalgic, vintage tone using printed film discoloration and fading.
- **Partial Color** - Impressively expresses a subject by extracting colours you want to emphasize and keeping everything else monotone.
- **ART BKT (Art Filter Bracket)** Each time the shutter is released, the camera creates copies for all selected art filters.



## ABSTRACT ART TECHNIQUE - MICHAEL HOFFMAN - YouTube

1. Start with an image that has bright, vibrant colours and textures. This image does not need to be sharp. Try changing to a monochrome images once completed as a colour image.
2. Crop some of the background, to reduce blank areas of white or black. Resize if you wish.
3. Duplicate image
4. Click on 'Layers' on toolbar to create a 'Background Copy' layer
5. Click on 'Filter' on the toolbar, select 'Blur' then 'Gaussian Blur'. Slide the blurring slider to 75% pixels. Click OK.
6. Duplicate layer - turn off by clicking on 'eye', now Layer 1. Duplicate Layer 1 again so it will now be 'Layer 1 copy', turn off by clicking on 'eye'.
7. Click on Edit on the Toolbar, from the drop down menu click on 'Free Transform'.
8. Select the 'Warp' tool, now you will have a grid on your image. Using your mouse drag to wherever you want, making sure that none of the warping leaves the image below showing. Stretch and distort, for example, push/drag the centre to the left side of image. 'Check' mark to save changes on toolbar.



9. Click on Layer 1 copy to enable the layer.
10. Edit - Free transform - warp mode and push/drag image to the right or the opposite way from previous layer. Click 'check' mark to save.
11. Two layers with completed patterns.
12. We can now start mixing the layers together by the 'Blending' modes from the righthand panel. Many to choose from, so experiment with each. Best ones are the 'overlay' or 'soft light'.
13. Duplicate background layer copy again so that will move to the top of your layers.
14. Edit - Free Transform - Warp. Select 'Grid' by clicking the small arrow and this will now show you a small menu of 3x3, 4x4 or 5x5 grid pattern. Click on the preferred pattern. Now use the highlighted points and drag across image to bend points and curves. To use the 'Blend' mode from the right-hand side of the screen making sure that you have the 'eye' active on the new 'background layer copy' plus the 'layer 1 copy' so the two layers will be blended with your selections. Addition manipulation can also be done after the layers have been blended.
15. Using layers enables you to go back to alter, if necessary.
16. Replace one layer with another - delete via the (circle with slash through) by the 'check' mark on the toolbar. Add other images.
17. Introduce 3D shapes and Smart Objects - you will need to watch the YouTube for details.

18. To add more points within the warping process, click on the 'Grid' 3x3; 4x4; 5x5, etc.

There is also a 'shapes' menu, but I have not investigated this at this stage.

19. The dots at the end of each point can be moved to change the angles tighter or looser, shorten or lengthen.

**Note:** Leave a very narrow border without warped points touching image edge so that your image can be placed in a matt frame for competitions or for framing.

## References

Abstract Art Technique - Michael Hoffman (YouTube) - [tipsquirrel.com](http://tipsquirrel.com)

Photzy - Twirl Effect, free e-guide downloads available covering many different subjects - [Photzy.com.au](http://Photzy.com.au)

Adobe Photoshop - Free download actions and templates (Double check if Ai or not)

Auto - Abstract Art with Photoshop ACTIONS - Aaron Rutten