



Le Parapluie de Chine

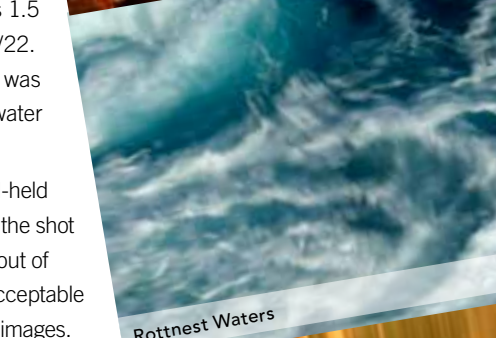
# Forget about sharpness and have fun



Monkey in Motion



Karijini Waterfall



Rottnest Waters

**Most articles on photography emphasise the importance of capturing sharp images.**

However, every now and then it is fun to forget about striving for pin-point sharpness and instead intentionally shoot for a “milky” look on water, an “abstract” forest or the creation of an “artistic” or “painterly” image. Knowing a few simple techniques will convey a sense of the fleeting moment whilst becoming a digital impressionist artist.

The fundamental method to achieve these affects is to deliberately introduce motion blur when photographing; this can be done in several ways.

Here a few stress-free ways to begin:

- 1 Use a long exposure with a tripod-mounted camera (see ‘Rottnest Waters’ and ‘Karijini Waterfall’ images),
- 2 Move the camera downwards whilst taking the shot (see ‘Karri Forest’ image),
- 3 Move the camera slightly at an angle when shooting (see ‘Le Parapluie de Chine’ image) or
- 4 Rotate a zoom lens whilst photographing (see ‘Monkey in Motion’ image)

Here is the basic technique I used to create each of these ‘different’ images.

**Rottnest Waters:** Camera was mounted on a tripod and set to a long exposure of 1/10 second, giving the ‘milky’ water effect. I used the lowest ISO setting (ISO 100), an aperture of f/16 and fitted a polarizer filter to reduce the glare from the water.

**Karijini Waterfall:** Camera mounted on tripod, set to a longer exposure of 2.5 seconds; ISO 100 and aperture of f/20. I took several shots until I was satisfied with what I saw on the LCD screen on the back of the camera.

**Karri Forest:** Camera was hand-held and moved downwards as the shot was taken. Good settings to start with are a shutter speed of around ¼ second, ISO 100 and aperture of f/8,

(those I used for this image). This technique can be a bit ‘hit-and-miss’ but with a little practice and not taking life too seriously, you will get the hang of it. Don’t be afraid to experiment.

**Le Parapluie de Chine:** Camera was hand-held and moved ever so slightly at an angle from top right to bottom left when taking the shot. Exposure was 1.5 seconds, ISO 100 and aperture of f/22. It was raining heavily when the shot was taken giving nice reflections in the water on the street.

**Monkey in Motion:** Camera was hand-held and the zoom lens was rotated whilst the shot was taken, throwing the background out of focus whilst keeping the monkey in acceptable sharpness – a variation on the earlier images. The shutter speed setting of 1/250 second for this image is faster than those used in the other images as the effect is entirely created by the zoom lens setting being changed.

Other ways to create abstract/impressionist effects are swirling (moving the camera in a semi-circle around the subject) and really long exposures (e.g. 30 minutes plus to capture the circular motion of stars in night skies).

When using low ISOs, long exposures and small apertures, at first you won’t be able to predict what is going to happen. Luckily, the ability to instantly review your images on a digital camera can tell you right away if your ‘experiment’ worked, or whether you need to continue having fun. ▀

Karri Forest