

# peer pres sure

## Our pick of the best reader submissions sent to us this month

**P**eer Pressure has once again been inundated with a volume of great artworks. The chosen entries this month offer an array of insights into the creative mind, sharing and revealing individual approaches and skills. Read on, enjoy, and if you feel that you have what it takes to showcase your work and join the ranks of your Peer Pressure fellows, then don't hesitate to send us your entries.

We always include your email and web address, so anyone interested in your designs can get hold of you. All you have to do is send us high-quality TIFFs or JPEGs (RGB or CMYK) at 300dpi minimum, which can be printed at a minimum size of 15cm x 15cm.

Send us low-res versions to [advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk](mailto:advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk) – we'll get back to you for higher resolution work if needed. Alternatively, log on to our forum at [www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk/forum](http://www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk/forum). Unfortunately, we cannot provide individual image criticisms.

### Lonely times

NAME: Simon A. Rudd

EMAIL: [simonrudd@pompetsworst.co.uk](mailto:simonrudd@pompetsworst.co.uk)

WEB: [www.pompeysworst.co.uk](http://www.pompeysworst.co.uk)

CREDITS: Lonely times; Water and rock (<http://rev-jesse-c-stock.deviantart.com>)

Girl (Rammkitty-stock.deviantart.com)

Clouds (fune-stock.deviantart.com)

Night swinging; Brushes (fantasybrushes.deviantart.com)

Girl: sitara-leotastock.deviantart.com

Simon has always had a great love of both photography and art, and has aimed to develop these interests into a successful skill.

A keen Photoshop artist since 2002, Simon is best known for his horror, macabre and fantasy work, and has recently written tutorials for *Surreal Digital Photography 2* by Ilex Press. For his image 'Lonely times' Simon admits he seems to have developed "a bit of an obsession for making girls sitting on rocks". 'Night swinging' was inspired by a background recently discovered in an old *Advanced Photoshop* magazine.

**NIGHT SWINGING:** I found this brilliant stock picture of a girl sitting on a tree swing on sitara-leotastock's deviantArt account. I noticed it had been used many times before in some great pictures



**LONELY TIMES:** With this picture I started with a shot of a stone in the sea I took on Southsea beach. The girl came from the rammkitty-stock







**TOXIC CORPORATION:** Many of David's images start off using the same technique. The vector style of this image was created using the Live Trace Tool in Illustrator

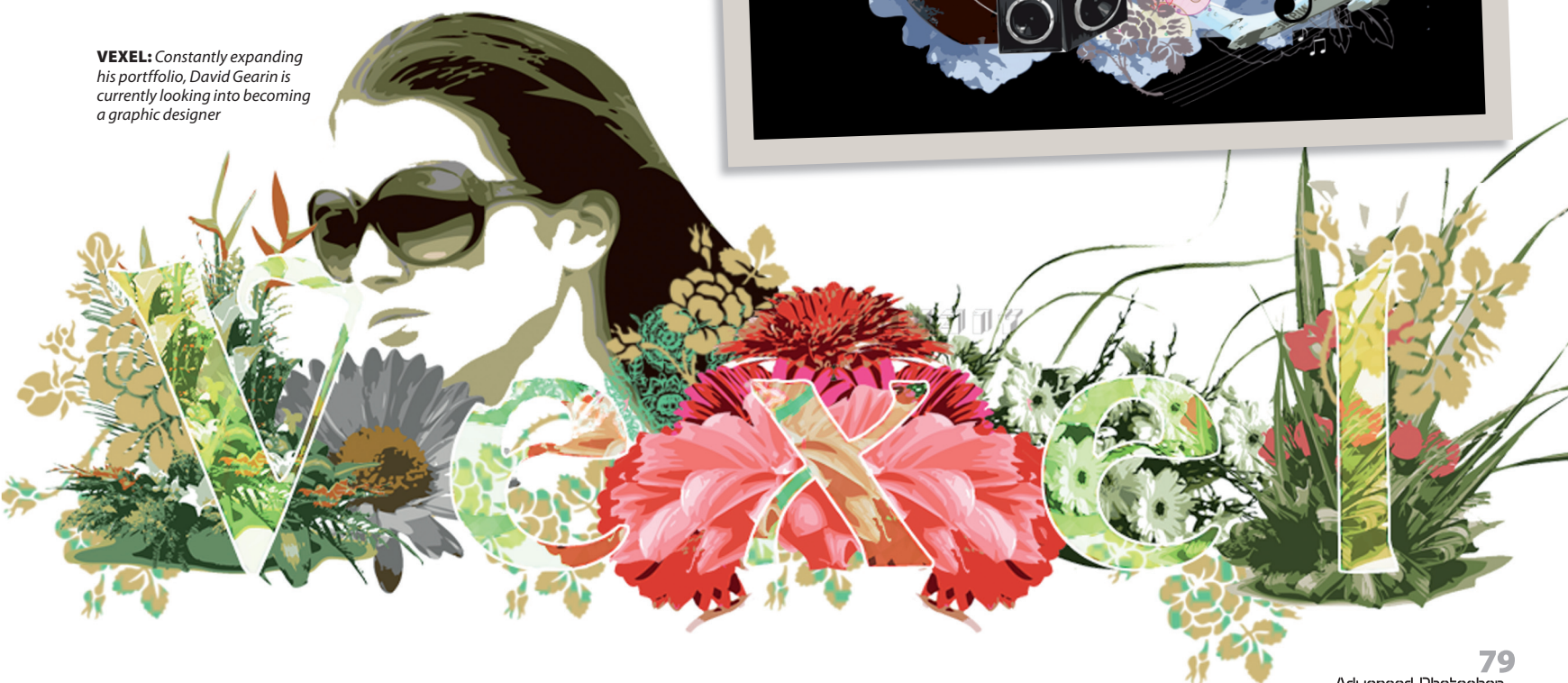
## Hope

NAME: David Gearin

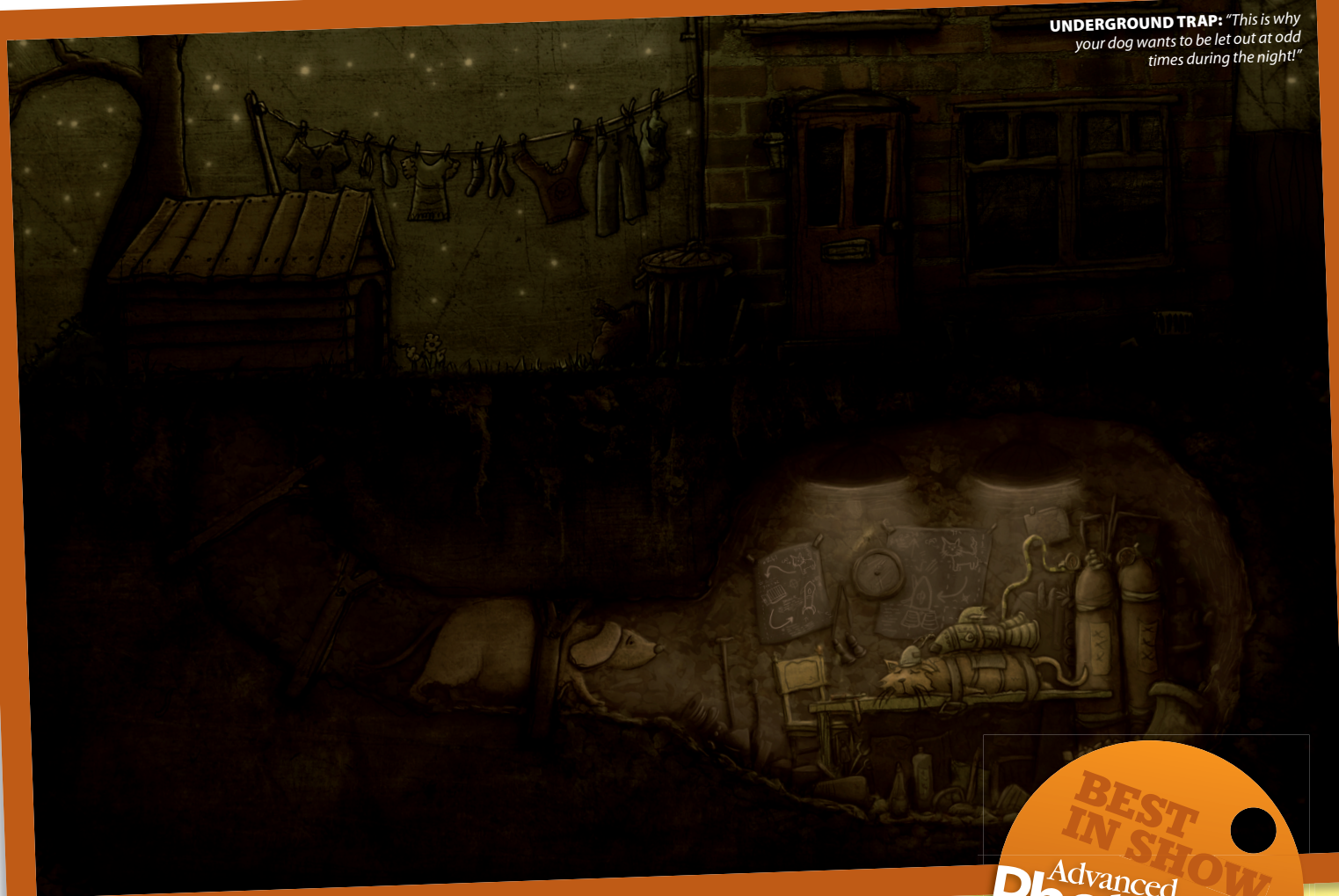
EMAIL: david.gearin@gmail.com

Using Photoshop and Illustrator, David Gearin from Boston, USA (known on the *Advanced Photoshop* forum as 'Frosty') created these three images using very similar techniques. Using the Live Trace Tool in Illustrator as a base, David vectored his images in Illustrator, piecing them all together in Photoshop. "I am a sophomore in College looking to become a graphic designer," says David. "I picked up Photoshop and just started teaching myself over a period of about two years."

**VESEL:** Constantly expanding his portfolio, David Gearin is currently looking into becoming a graphic designer







**UNDERGROUND TRAP:** "This is why your dog wants to be let out at odd times during the night!"

**BEST  
IN SHOW**  
Advanced  
**Photoshop**

## The underground trap

NAME: Sam Garton

EMAIL: samuelgarton@hotmail.com

WEB: www.samuel123.deviantart.com

Sam seems to recall finding Photoshop just about the most annoying program he had ever used when he first discovered it. "I hadn't a clue how to use it, to be honest. Although I don't know exactly when the turning point was, I grew to love it and nowadays I don't know what I'd do without it."

Despite the fact that Sam often gets asked exactly how he comes up with his ideas, he doesn't really know. "The images I create stem from strange scenes that pop into my head," he explains. "It frustrated me no end making my way through art school, being forced to come up with long-winded explanations of why I had done something. Artwork should mean whatever the viewer wants it to mean to them, and will obviously bring about different emotions and feelings in people – there's no right or wrong."

Sam tells us that he has quite a relaxed way of working during the initial stages of a piece. After sitting and sketching with a pencil, he then takes photos of the sketch, loads it into Photoshop and applies levels and contrast settings to get a black and white image to work with. "This is the point where I become completely engrossed in the work. I often start working at around 8pm and sit absorbed in what I'm doing, until I come to and realise that it's 2 or 3am, and I have to get up for work soon!"

Sam has been told on several occasions that he has quite a dark, sinister style. "This isn't wholly intentional, but it seems to be something that happens naturally. I'm not so much into the macabre or horror genre. Give me a fluffy animal any day!"

**WORLD:** "The clouds in this one are in fact cotton wool that I photographed. I use a normal desk lamp to get interesting lighting effects when I take photos of 3D objects to use in my pieces"







Not only is Sam Garton this month's Best in Show, he has also won a year's full option 3 membership to the Illustration Source, worth £150 and Featured Artist slot for November. The Illustration Source Ltd is the newest source of original art, freelance illustrators, photographers, artists and designers on the net. Visit [www.illustration-source.com](http://www.illustration-source.com) for more information. If you'd like to stand a chance of winning an Illustration Source portfolio, send your images over to [advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk](mailto:advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk)



**ATTACK:** "I was trying to conjure up the atmosphere you get while watching a horror film alone at night. The wallpaper in the background is a wallpaper sample from Homebase"

**DIGITAL BATH:** "A sad robot sitting in a bath feeling sorry for himself. What more can I say? Something along the lines of 'electricity and water don't mix' "



## Queen

NAME: Hannah Bear

EMAIL: [thesillykoneko@gmail.com](mailto:thesillykoneko@gmail.com)

Twenty-year-old Hannah Bear has lived in Texas for most of her life. She became interested in art at the age of 12 after going to an art class in middle school. "Photoshop was a pretty big monster to me at first, and I really didn't even want to touch it until late 2005," says Hannah. "I finally got used to it the next year, around the time I got a tablet." Hannah currently works as a freelance worker "wherever I can find it".

Generally using similar techniques and usually starting with a large brush, Hannah tends to begin with a low opacity and flow, and builds up lights and darks. "Early drafts tend to be layer intensive. I start with a really rough sketch, then lower the layer opacity and make a new layer to sketch on. If I use colour to sketch, I start with a medium background colour and paint over that." Hannah admits that she tends to do things by intuition and explore what works and what doesn't. "Outside of the actual painting part, I practise a lot," she explains. "I find a lot of stock images and practise from the human form. I try to find images with good lighting that don't flatten the form and hide the planes of the body."

**QUEEN:** "After I have the picture planned out, I go through a number of blending layers. This is where I refine how I want the picture to look in the end"



By submitting images to Advanced Photoshop's Peer Pressure, you hereby grant Imagine Publishing and, if relevant, clients to whom the relevant work has been provided, an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free licence to use such intellectual property in relation to work similar or equivalent to the work. This includes the right to showcase work on multimedia formats. By submitting work you also confirm that your images do not infringe any copyright regulations should they be published.





## Vision of things

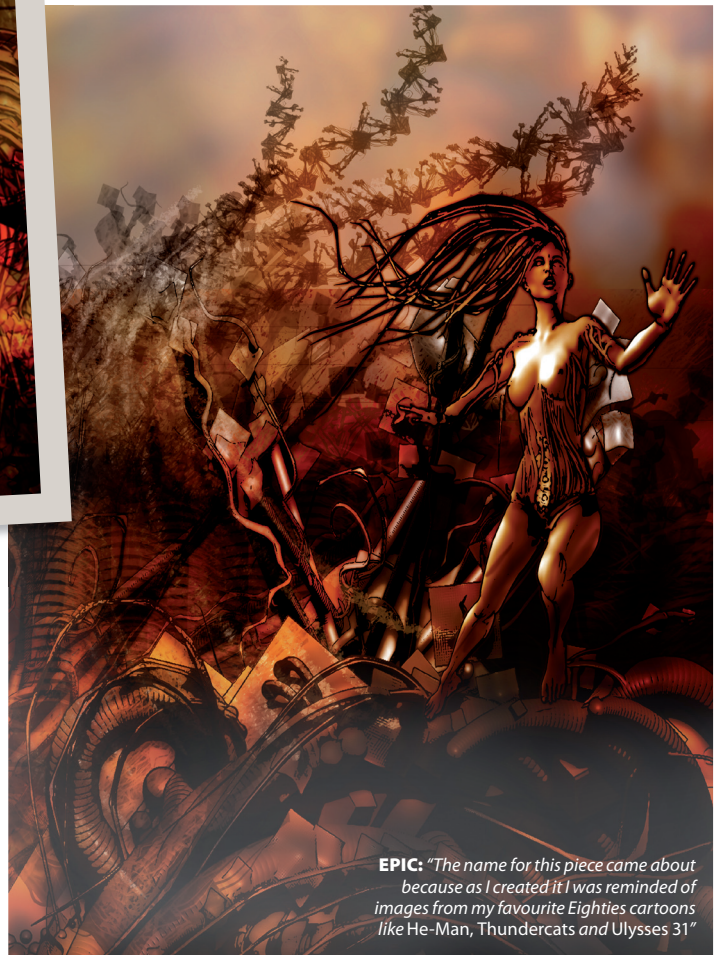
NAME: Ken Coleman

EMAIL: kenartcorp@gmail.com

WEB: www.kenartcorp.com

Spending most of his time creating artwork in Photoshop, Ken Coleman, a freelance photographer and graphic artist in Limerick City, Ireland is primarily interested in creating fantasy-style scenes inspired by childhood memories, shapes and textures. "I find I become inspired to create a piece of work as I create it," says Ken. "A simple shape will lead to creating a vision and spawn the rest of the piece." Adept in working with Photoshop, Poser and ZBrush among others, Ken's recent commissions have included work for a local band.

You'll stand a better chance of seeing your work in print if you adhere to the following criteria: make sure that your images are high-quality TIFFs or JPEGs (RGB or CMYK), 300dpi minimum, and can be printed at 15cm x 15cm minimum. Don't forget to include a small text file detailing how you created your work.



**EPIC:** "The name for this piece came about because as I created it I was reminded of images from my favourite Eighties cartoons like He-Man, Thundercats and Ulysses 31"



**DEAD MAN'S HAND:** "The name made me think of a bleak future, decayed, with nothing left alive but our cities"