

peer pres sure

This month's pick of the bunch show off some cool creative compositions

Peer 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. We always include your email and URL, so interested parties can get in touch.

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 15 x 15cm. Send us low-res versions to 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. We cannot provide individual image assessment.

Each issue we select one image to be 'Best in Show', and that lucky person will win a fantastic prize, courtesy of The Illustration Source (www.illustration-source.com), which is a great way to get your work seen. So, what are you waiting for?

Ultimately rewarding

NAME: Tyson Koerper
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Koerper has, in his own words, recently "made that bold step off the cliff" into the full-time freelance design world. "My ultimate goal is to work primarily for the sports and/or motor sports markets," he explains. "What inspires me the most in creating my art is human events, philosophy, nature... and the works by all the other amazing artists out there."

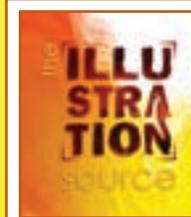
Koerper has his own attentive method of creation, usually starting with the application of traditional media – a pencil and some paper. "Once in Photoshop I trace each shape within the head individually. From there I make a selection out of the path, usually with a 1- or 2-pixel feather, and then switch to a texture layer." The Airbrush tool is another preferred creation tool of Koerper's when considering rendering his created forms.

"I also use my digital camera to go out and take pictures of things," things he will then place in or on his creations, such as the mechanical dragon (below). "For instance, the exhaust pipes emerging from his shoulder are from a shot I took of an 18-wheeler. The same goes for the gears used in his legs. I got those from www.sxc.hu, I believe. It's a lengthy process, but it's very rewarding.

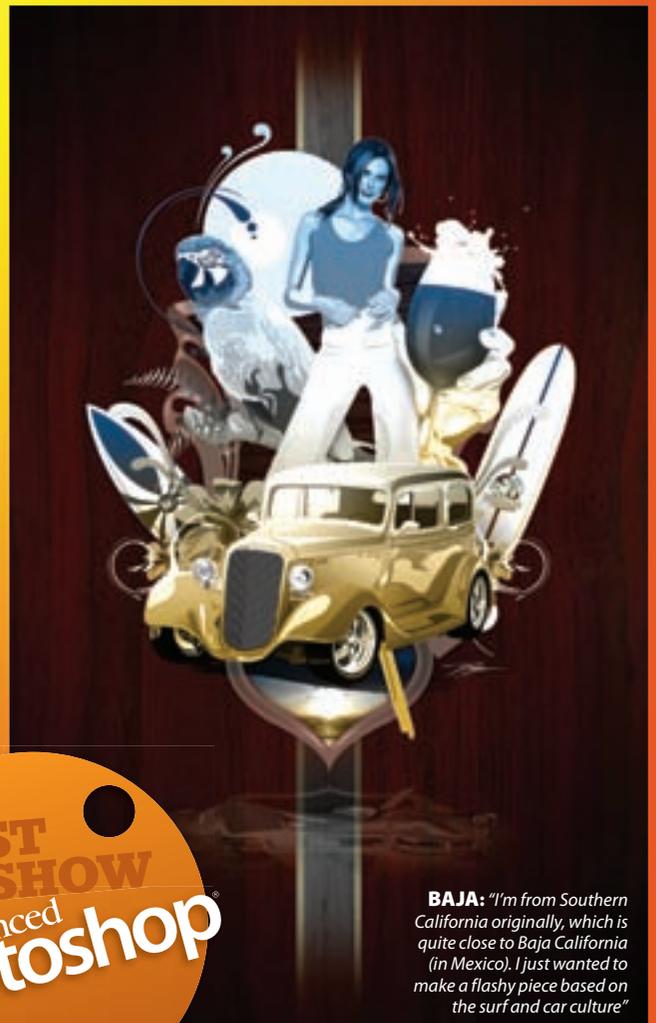
You can just be driving down the street and see something on the side of a building or whatever and say, 'Aha! That would look great on the dragon!' Pull the car over, take a digital photo of it and drop it in later."



MECHANICAL DRAGON:
"This is a personal work to illustrate an idea for a short story about a girl who builds her own dragon out of spare parts"



Not only is Tyson Koerper 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. Visit www.illustration-source.com for more information. If you'd like to stand a chance of winning an Illustration Source portfolio, send your images to advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk.



BAJA: "I'm from Southern California originally, which is quite close to Baja California (in Mexico). I just wanted to make a flashy piece based on the surf and car culture"

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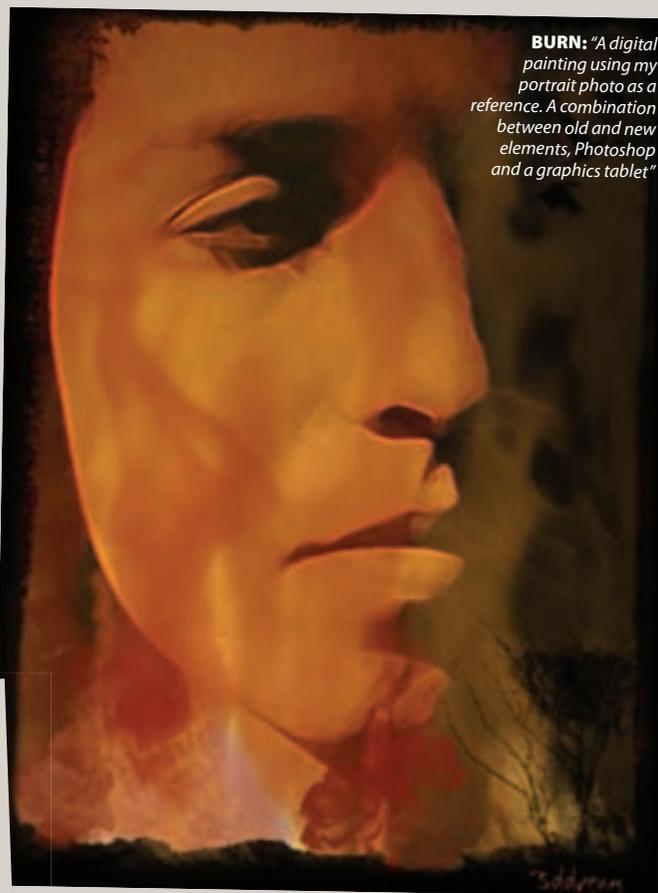
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Lampros Kalfuntzos is already well-versed in a creative capacity, completing a BA in Multimedia Graphics as well as obtaining a Masters degree in 3D Digital Design. His tendency towards choosing art as a viable profession came from being inspired by his big brother. "I have always been interested in art, but was first inclined to follow it as a career while browsing through my brother's portfolio, who was studying Fine Arts at the time."

It was then that Kalfuntzos first encountered the virtues of Photoshop. Since then, he has seemingly become a talented artist in his own right. Starting out using Photoshop 5 and 3D Studio Max 3, he began to create flyers, posters, 3D characters and animation shorts for various projects. This creative licence led Kalfuntzos to develop an appetite for experimentation, utilising other softwares such as Poser, Flash and, obviously, Photoshop CS. Traditional medias have also been embraced.

But his attention to creativity doesn't end there. "As an amateur digital artist, I've always been fascinated by digital and fantasy art. Lately I've been trying to combine my digital skills and passion for 3D graphics, in photo manipulation and digital painting." Watch this space.

SPRING BEAUTY: "A photo manipulation created for a contest on deviantART. The mood is both soothing and melancholy"



BURN: "A digital painting using my portrait photo as a reference. A combination between old and new elements, Photoshop and a graphics tablet"



DREAM GODDESS: Kalfuntzos is quite the contributor when it comes to art competitions. This photo manipulation, created for a contest on deviantART, was based on the theme of 'My Perfect World'

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 15 x 15cm minimum. Don't forget to include a small text file detailing how you created your work, too.

Foresight

NAME: Teodoru Badiu

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Teodoru Badiu, a Romanian-born artist living in the beautiful city of Vienna, Austria, admits that although he always had a budding interest in the arts, it wasn't until later in his life that he began his true artist journey. Upon attending the People's Art School in Vienna, he discovered the possibilities of computers and started to work with Photoshop. He also obtained his BA in Creative Media design. Not surprising, then, that he now works as a multimedia designer.

Badiu combines his job with a strong passion for producing freelance work. He provided us with a few samples of these, as well as insight into his working practices. Badiu explains, "Once I get an idea, I think for a few days until I have a clear vision of the way the image will look like in my mind. Then I start preparing the parts I need in order to create it. I use only digital photos that I shoot myself using my Nikon D70 and I create all the textures using Photoshop. Once I have all the parts that I need, I start working on the image using Photoshop."

He adds, "I love to experiment with different media because I can create images with a unique collage-like look, and it is always a challenge to combine different media in a way that they perfectly fit and harmonise together. So in the end the image benefits from this freedom and delivers the desired message to the viewer."

PEGASUS DIVIDED: "To have a better understanding about my creative process please visit the Tutorials section on my site, www.apocryph.net"

FLY TRY: "Like a lot of the work that I create for teodoru.com, this one is also a digital collage work made using digital photos and vector graphics"



PATHWAY OF SOULS: "I've been participating in contests on deviantART – I find them to be a great way to stimulate creativity. Lately I've been doing some freelance work as a book cover designer. I don't know where my future will lead me, but I know digital art and Photoshop will have something to do with it"



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The Three Ts

NAME: Ryan Gilly
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Gilly is a talented, enthusiastic artist who's already taken steps within the freelance arena, recently producing work as a book cover artist. While he is willing to accept his limitations, he never lets them hold him back. "I had always wanted to be an illustrator, but did not have the skill to back it up. I had the ideas, but not the talent to put them out on paper. One day I ran across the site deviantART.com, and instantly fell in love with the giant collection of digital art." This artistic community helped nurture Gilly's strong creative imagination.

He explains how Gradient Effects play an integral part in his visualisation: "I used a bunch of gradients on my image, a couple to create a blank sky and some others to colour the entire image. I will often find myself desaturating an image, after hours of work, to apply an overlay gradient to the image. I think colour is one of the most appealing parts of a picture. Custom brushes were also heavily used, the feet at the bottom and texture in the sky were all created using brushes."

An intelligent and self-taught creative, Gilly lives his artistic life by a set of three values, which he calls The Three Ts: "These stand for Techniques, Theories and The Basics. They all act on one another, and combined they make a good piece. You have to listen to an image and decide what tools to use to improve or alter it."

Emotive response

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Wheeler is an artist who finds it easier to explain himself through his artwork. "I often create images to reflect the mood I am in and love using a varied amount of media – ink, pencil, paint and photography – fusing them together in Photoshop."

Wheeler explains, "I also love exploring the different effects and textures that can be produced using the various overlay options." Passionate about his working process, he was only too keen to reveal some of his own methods. Talking about his image *Bliss*, he explains, "I started this by sketching a face and scanning it in. Then, using various different ink drips I have collected over the years, I created this image placing the drops in the shadows to slowly create the image. I added the slice of colour by scanning in watercolours to define the shape of the face."

Wheeler's work always lives vicariously through his emotions. Yet at times his method of creation can be far more technical. "Using one of my own photographs I started by desaturating the image (*Despair*, below) and using the Levels to darken. I then scanned in my discarded watercolour mixing palette, which I found had interesting texture and colours. This was added to the image on a separate layer and overlaid over the original image to add colour."

DESPAIR: "I brought in my stock of ink drops and sprays, masking them to fit in the image and reducing the majority of the sprays and drips to 70%, leaving a few at a 100% to give a sparkle effect"



Deliberate design

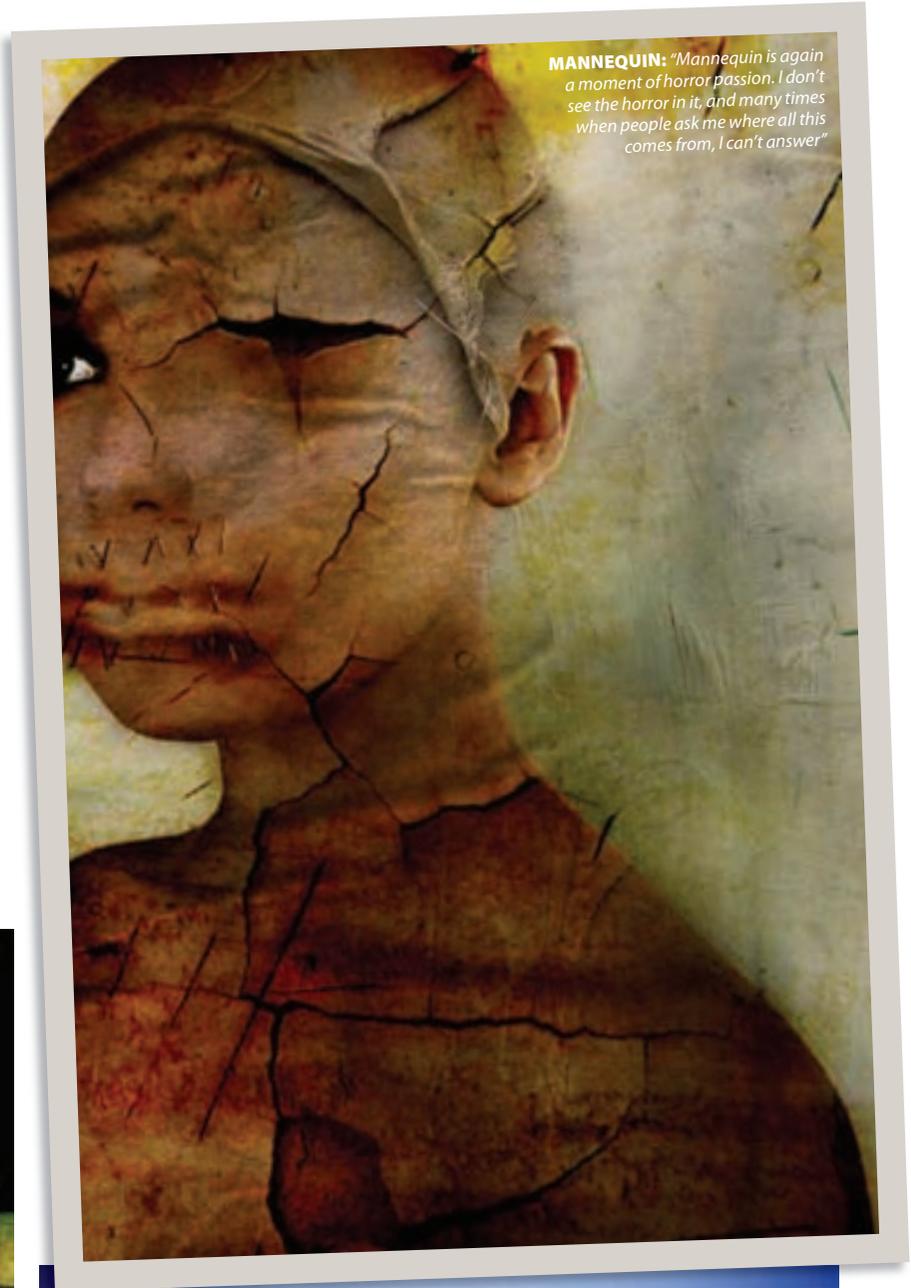
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Surprisingly, Kyulyumova-Petrova was never really fussed about art. Of course, that was until she discovered Photoshop and she instantly knew she'd found her niche. She loved it so much in fact that it is now her primary creation tool. "My very first tries were like five years ago," she explains. "It was all about making celebrity wallpapers. I wouldn't say it was big success, but it was fun. Later on I started visiting different Photoshop forums and sites and one by one ideas and inspirations were coming."

She reveals herself as an artist that is ever-evolving, experimenting and trying to define her creative persona, an artist who has an emotive connection to her composition. This is certainly expressed within her working practice. Discussing her image *Blue Sensation* (below) she says: "I was experimenting with the colours and textures. In general I have a weakness for eyes and in this picture I tried to focus on them. The black cover makes them endless and lonely. The red lips look vulnerable and generate strong feelings."

Despite this level of confidence, like many good artists she is never far from deliberation: "At the moment I'm pleased with many of my pictures, but as all artists, I think I'm little bit too critical to myself. I would love someday to find the real purpose of my skills and use them."

BLUE SENSATION: "The black cover makes them endless and lonely. The red lips look vulnerable and generate strong feelings. I leave the associations up to the viewers"



MANNEQUIN: "Mannequin is again a moment of horror passion. I don't see the horror in it, and many times when people ask me where all this comes from, I can't answer"



SPY: "I used mainly brushes (veins), Sponge tool, Healing Brush tool, Clone tool. I like to put a name to it and leave it to the viewer to associate it his/her own way"