

peer pressure

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

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 web address, 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, 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?

Contemporary tribal

NAME: Anthony Hammond
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Anthony Hammond has always been fascinated by image manipulation and the excitement of pushing an idea to the limits visually. "I started out drawing and painting, but this would always create conflict, as I wanted to concentrate on photography at the same time. Before Photoshop I would manipulate transparencies and subject them to all manner of chemicals and treatments to go beyond the accepted limitations of the medium. Photoshop was an amazing discovery ten years ago – it was the only reason I bought a computer."

Before this, he spent years freelancing for the photographic press while holding down a regular job as a craft bookbinder. Most of his work is now held by the picture agency Rex Interstock: "Commissioned work is not very abundant, but the work that sells through Rex is very satisfying because I have created all of the images simply to express my own passion."

He describes his work as: "Shamanic, capturing a vision, which can go in any direction without limitation. Currently I am combining tribal art influences into my contemporary technological art. Painting glowing cave walls by burning torchlight may have been replaced by glowing screens and burning CDs, but for me the impulse is just as irresistible to my spirit."



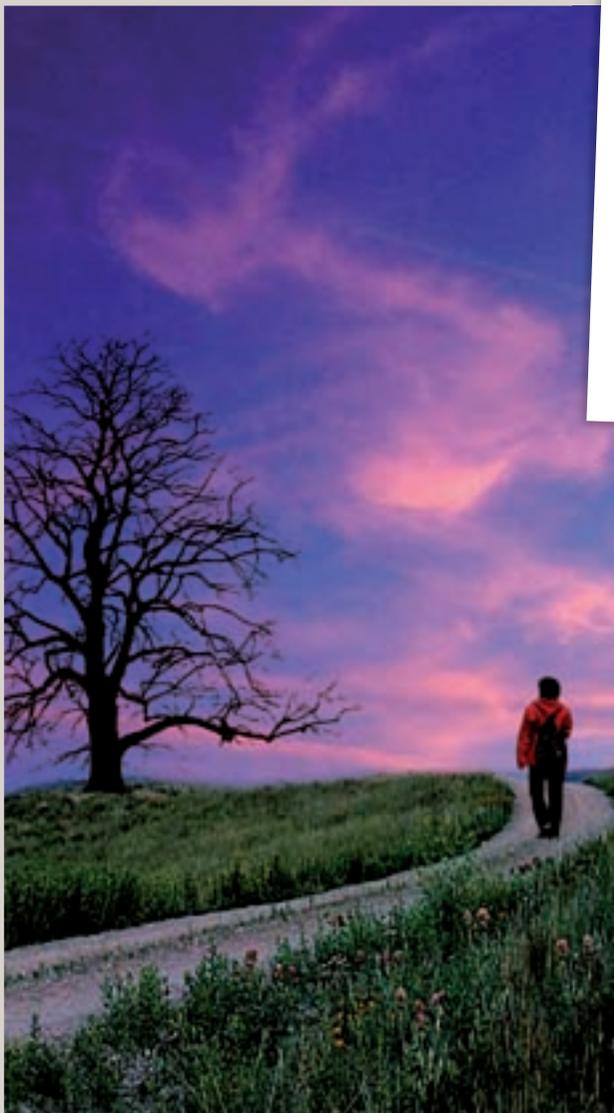
A COMPLEX CHORD: "This quirky image took ages to cut out with the Pen tool. I was interested in the sculptural arrangement of the fingers and the contrast of flesh and bone with ebony and ivory"

ENDGAME: "A dangerous board game with a devastating ending. Often my work will start out completely abstract and end up suggesting its own direction toward fruition. I love to be a participant in this alchemical process"

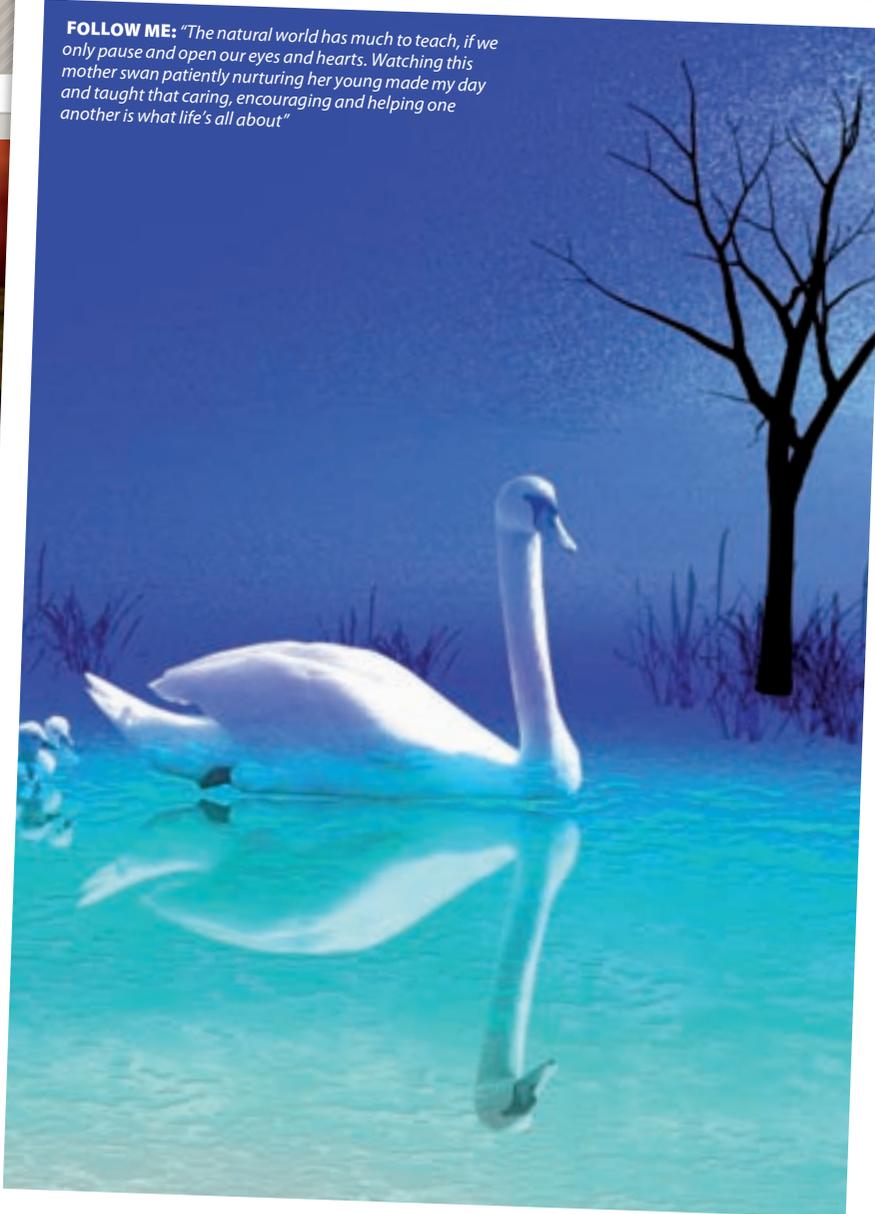


JOURNEY BEGIN: "I combined several photographs to create imagery illustrating something of my own story. Life is a journey toward an unknown destination, this mystery is what keeps it both interesting and challenging"

I AM NOT ALONE: "Here's another image created by overlaying several photographs. The natural world soothes and refreshes my spirit. Whenever I'm feeling alone or depressed, I commune with nature"



FOLLOW ME: "The natural world has much to teach, if we only pause and open our eyes and hearts. Watching this mother swan patiently nurturing her young made my day and taught that caring, encouraging and helping one another is what life's all about"



Colourful manipulations

NAME: Ata Alishahi

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Ata Alishahi is a photographer and digital artist. His interest in photography began at a young age, with people and mountainous rural landscapes being of particular interest. Ever since then he's been in love with the camera, focusing on learning, then adapting technique and design to suit his inner vision.

When digital technology was introduced to the world, Alishahi saw unlimited creative possibility and set about educating himself in computer design and software application. Eventually this expertise combined with his innate creativity and he began designing websites. In the process he taught himself to use a variety of software and this naturally led to expanding his photographic endeavours into the new field of digital art.

The photographer is self-taught, learning through many years of study, research, experimentation and experience not only the technical aspects of photography and computer, but the creative side: design and presentation. He enjoys exhibiting his work and talking with other creative people. Most importantly, he recreates what is beautiful and precious to him, sharing this vision of peace and serenity with others of a similar vision.



**BEST
IN SHOW**
Advanced
Photoshop

REJUVENATED (RED): "When you are painting the whole environment within Photoshop, each paint stroke on a different layer, your control over the picture is endless. While this can be a great advantage it's easy to get lost and work for hours with no end in sight"

Primary concerns

NAME: Justin Van Genderen

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Justin Van Genderen is currently a freelance designer in Chicago. He works a full-time design job for a real estate company, but it is the freelance work that he enjoys most: "There is something much more rewarding about being in full control of a project from start to finish. I have collected a few loyal clients that keep coming back to me. While I find the work very rewarding, most of the jobs I get don't allow me to totally open up in Photoshop. That's what leads me to pieces such as these."

Van Genderen has been using Photoshop for a while now - "I think the first version I played with was 2.5" - and since then he's stayed pretty close to it, learning new techniques, figuring out new tools, growing with it all the way up to version CS3. However, he says: "I often think that some of my favorite pieces could have been done within the simplicity of version 2.5. Most of my work is just a simple combination of cutting, painting, masking and layering. Although one of the simplest concepts, understanding and learning the potential in layers can also be one of the most important."



REJUVENATED (BLUE): "With a lot of help from the brush engine I layered, masked and distorted all different kinds of painted layers. I played for hours on each piece trying different layer styles, opacity levels, filters etc, following the Bert Monroy mantra: 'The best way to learn is play'"

Twisted realities

NAME: Olli-Pekka Jauhiainen

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Olli-Pekka Jauhiainen is a 26-year-old student living in Helsinki, Finland who is due to graduate in this upcoming summer. It's his fourth year studying Digital Media at Tampere University of Applied Sciences. He has always been interested in the arts since a young age: "I have always loved drawing and that's what I did a lot when I was younger. But unfortunately, my interest in traditional drawing faded away at the age of 15. I got myself back into arts at the end of 2005, this time into digital arts/designing. I started by doing some small graphics (signature tags) on some forums, but in 2006 I remember I had to do some larger graphics for one of my school projects and suddenly I realised I was hooked."

Since then he's been doing small web designs for some clients and friends and lots of personal stuff for himself or for the art groups he belongs to (www.evokeone.com and www.slashthree.com). Even though he is studying Digital Media, his skills in Photoshop are mainly self-taught. He has tried a lot of different styles, but lately he is creating semi-realistic photomanipulations and mixing some painting techniques and 3D into them: "I'm always trying to learn different techniques and ways that I can make good use of when producing a new art piece."

GUARDIANS OF REVOLUTION: "I made this piece for Evokeone art group. I started by making the hands in Cinema 4D and getting the right angles for the concept I had in my mind. I rendered the hands with some nice concrete texture and imported them to Photoshop"



Sponsored by...

Not only is Justin Van Genderen 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 June. 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 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.

Image requirements

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. And don't forget to include a small text file detailing how you created your work.

Terms and conditions

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THE PRIZE: Check out *The Illustration Source's* website to see the portfolios of previous winners of Best in Show