

5 Minutes with a ViewPoint Member

An Interview with Angela Creaser

by Eric Boutilier-Brown, March 2016

Eric: Can you tell us a little bit about how you came into photography?

Angela: *I've always been interested in photography; when I was younger I used point and shoot camera's, but was always just playing around. It wasn't until 2008 when I became really serious about photography and I purchased a digital SLR in preparation for a trip to Ireland.*

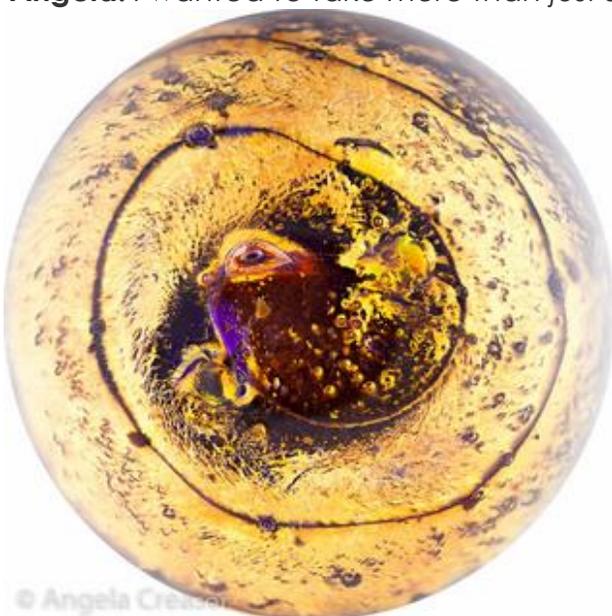
Eric: When you say "serious about photography", what would you say was the biggest different between how you approached it now and how you approached when you were younger?



Angela: *I wanted to take more than just snapshots, I wanted to create images that stood out on their own, I wanted to create art that I could hang on the wall. I was trying to take more interesting photographs.*

Eric: You are quite well known for your macro photography, is there any one element of photographing small things that appeals to you more than others?

Angela: *The ability to get really close to the tiny details and get them tact sharp. I find it frustrating to go up close to other people's macro photography and find that the image is out of focus. I like to pay close attention to what I'm making sharp and what I'm choosing to leave out of focus, so the unimportant parts fade away.*



Eric: So, what you are most attracted to is probably the biggest challenge with macro photography. How do you overcome that challenge?

Angela: *The right choice of equipment and technical tools/skills is how I overcome the challenge about what is in focus and how much. If I want more in focus I'll often use [focus stacking](#). I am know for going a little overboard, but I love when you can print an image really large and walk right up to it and see all the details. (Angie recently created an image that was a combination of 751 source files; it was printed 33 x 33 inches).*

Eric: Is there another area of photography other than macro photography that you find yourself drawn to?

Angela: *I wouldn't say architecture or landscape, but together they work for me. I travelled to Scotland in 2012 to photograph, and while the landscape was beautiful, a week in*



the [Outer Hebrides](#) was too much for me. I still haven't finished editing all the images from that trip because I'm overwhelmed by the number of landscape images that have the same sort of feeling. However, when there is a ruined building, or something man-made in the frame, and then you have the sweeping landscape in the background, those are the images I like to make.

Eric: When you start taking a photograph, what is your number one hope as a photographer? What is your goal or your dream when you start taking a photograph?

Angela: *My goal is to make something interesting, taken from a perspective that someone hasn't taken. That's what I strive for. If that is unattainable, then I want to execute it perfectly. But, really it's trying to take the image in a different way that I am really looking for.*



Eric: I've noticed from work, you've done a lot of traveling. Is there anything you always make sure you bring along as a photographer when you travel that might not be an obvious tool that other photographers use?

Angela: *Well, it's not an item that isn't obvious, but maybe one some photographers often don't take, is a tripod. I always take my tripod when I'm travelling with the intent to photograph. I know there are a lot of photographers that don't (who rely solely on hand-held), but for the type of images I am interested in taking, a tripod is essential.*

What sets “a trip to photograph” from a “trip where I’m visiting and taking photographs” is determined by my tripod being with me or not. If I didn’t take my tripod, the trip would be less about photography and more about being a tourist.

Eric: Do you take your tripod on the plane with you?

Angela: Not as carry-on, but it gets checked in with my luggage. I have a special bag that it gets packed in surrounded by clothes, with the head off, to reduce the chance of damage.

Eric: Is there any particular project that you are working on now that you can tell us about?

Angela: I have two projects percolating around in my head that I don’t want to talk too much about yet, but both are macro related. One involves [assemblage](#), creating a piece of art and then photographing it – I was inspired by [Roxanne Smith’s work](#); and while the images I plan to create will not look like hers, my idea definitely grew after talking to Roxanne about her work. I have the material for that project but haven’t started working on it yet. The other project idea came out of a [Creative Photography course](#) and is about combining images of flowers in two states (fresh and dried/withered). Those two ideas I have thought a lot about, but haven’t got in really deep with working through the ideas yet. My immediate project is updating my website to a new design and starting a blog – I want to do a retrospective blog, and start from 2008, to document where I started and how my photography has progressed. I suspect this project will take some time.



Eric: We always end on some quick questions; here they are...

Puppies or ice cream? Puppies (but I LOVE kittens)

A walk in the rain or mud between your toes? A walk in the rain.

Reading a book with a flashlight under a cover or sneaking a treat when no one knows you’ve got it? Sneaking a treat.

Walking with a camera in downtown Dublin or Edinburgh? That’s a tough choice. I’m going to say Dublin only because that’s where I’m going next.

Flip flops or bare feet on a beach? Bare feet unless the sand is sweltering.

For more information about [Angela Creaser](#)’s work, please visit her [website](#).