

10 Creative Camera Techniques without post exposure editing

Tips and tricks that may help:

- If you do not have a tripod, use a bag of rice in a pillow case on a firm and stable object to support the camera
- If you do not have a shutter release – see if your camera has a timer? Set the timer and press the shutter button, you will not have the same control and it will take a bit of practice but it can be done

You will need to shoot in Aperture, Shutter Priority or full manual modes and you will need know how to adjust your ISO to get the most benefit from the techniques below:

Shutter Priority (TV or Time Value):

1. Move your camera during the exposure – choose a slow shutter speed say 1/10 second or slower in Shutter Priority mode and move your camera up and down or right to left or in a circle during the exposure. This will take a bit of practice depending on the subject and the light or time of the day. Outside in the sunlight it will be difficult to get the slow shutter speed so use early morning or late afternoon light. Also night opportunities with the subject outside and lit by the house lights from a window or photograph the house.
2. Zoom your lens during exposure (zoom lens required) – with the camera on a tripod or firm base – zoom in or out during the exposure in Shutter Priority mode. You will need an exposure of around 1/10 sec or longer for the best results. Once again use low light levels and this will take some practice to get the desired effect.
3. Life and limb – with the camera on a tripod or on a bag of rice on the table, use a long exposure and move an object in front of the lens in different places and speeds to blur some of the image. Once again practice is the key to experimentation. You could even light part of the subject that you pass in front of the camera.
4. Use a filter in front of the lens – if you do not have any filters and filter holder, try some items that are readily available – coloured cellophane, glad wrap over the lens (be careful not to impede the auto focus mechanism or use a small piece of Perspex in front of the lens. Add Vaseline to give the Perspex to give a soft focus effect, apply a transparent paint to the Perspex to give another effect.
5. Paint with light- torches are not just torches any more as they are now also light painters. Use your LED torch during a long exposure to paint something (or multiple things) with light. Ideally with your camera on a tripod or fixed on a table, choose “bulb” if it is available, open the shutter and keep your finger on it, paint with light during the exposure. Alternately, light a sparkler at night and wave it around. Set up a still life and use a long exposure and illuminate with different torches (LED has a blue light and old style torcher is a tungsten bulb). Lay your camera on the ground and set a torch up on a stick (or the clothes line) and swing it around.
6. Move and groove - with the camera fixed on a tripod or something firm, photograph someone of something that is moving while the shutter is open. If you have a separate flash trigger a flash on one of more occasions during the exposure.

Aperture Priority (AV or Aperture Value)

7. Sharp and blurry – if your camera has a macro setting use it to shoot something other than a macro subject – part of the image will be sharp and the rest will be blurry. You can also shoot using the smallest aperture. Shallow focus means you use the widest aperture (smallest number i.e. F2.8, F4 or F5.6).

Other

8. Out of focus – with you camera on manual focus, choose any mode on the camera and take an image deliberately not focused. Focus on the subject and make it deliberately out of focus by adjusting the focus.
9. Out of place – photograph items that are out of place i.e. – set a table setting on the grass in a paddock with cows in the background? Set a place on the table and use a garden fork and hand spade as the eating utensils.
10. Use props in your image – i.e. add a picture frame around your subject when taking a portrait. This does not have to be a new picture frame as there are lots of frames for sale in op shops. Just carefully remove the glass and pins/nail and keep the timber frame to place in a scene/portrait.

For more information and examples see:

Digital Photography School - <http://digital-photography-school.com/adding-randomness-to-your-photos>

Digital Camera World - <http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2014/02/01/9-creative-photo-ideas-to-try-in-february-2014>

Online book - http://photoextremist.com/book/Top_5_Creative_Photo_Techniques_-_PhotoExtremist.com