

BNML Photog Group

January 9th, 2024

You can take snaps, and you can create art!

Today's Topics

- Photographers to Follow: Rui Palha & Steve McCurry
- Shooting Falling Snow
- Making Art with Photos: Photomontage Illustrations

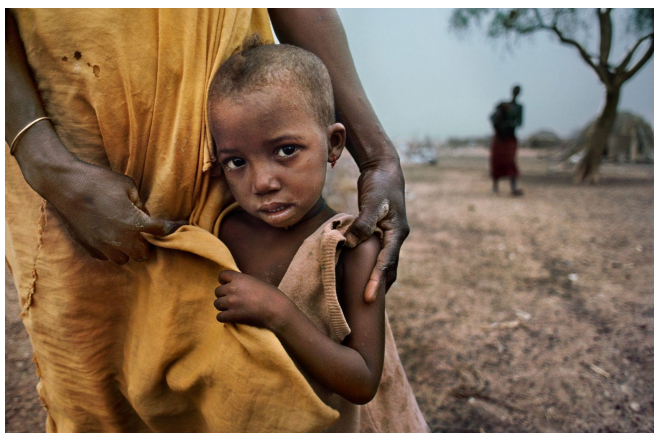
Photographers to Follow:

Viewing the work of talented photographers can help inspire your own photography.

Rui Palha: <https://www.ruipalha.com/>



Steve McCurry: <https://www.stevemccurry.com/>



Shooting Falling Snow



Photographing snow can be challenging.

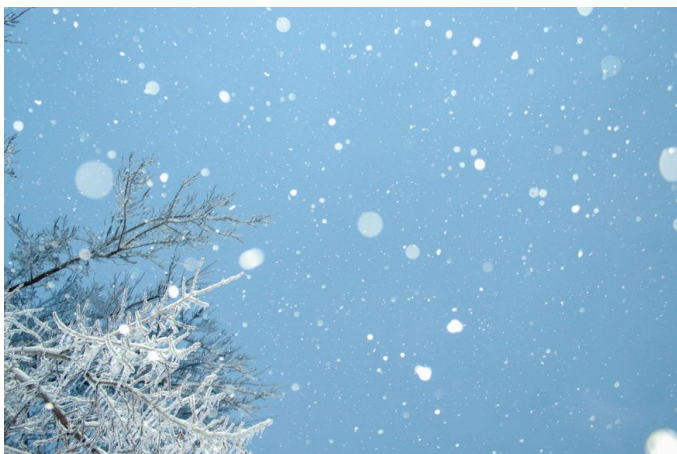


- Snow only shows against a **dark or dark colored background**, like dark trees, a barn, a horse. Snow in front of a snowy field or snow covered trees is invisible!
- In Editing, make sure blacks are full black, and same for whites, to get full contrast.

- If you use a **slow shutter speed** (using aperture priority mode), like 1/15, you'll get nice streaks of snow. (Might need a tripod!) To get distinct flakes, use a faster shutter speed.
- A lot of snow needs to be falling to be able to see it. And the flakes should be big.
- Falling snow is more interesting when there's an interesting object in the photo, whether people, animals or structures. Colored objects add more interest and contrast.
- Take **sequential shots** from the same spot (use a tripod) to show the snow accumulating.
- If shooting outside, use a **lens hood** to keep the snow off the lens. A rain or snow cover, or even just a clear plastic bag, will keep the camera dry. And **point the camera down** until you are ready to shoot.
- Shooting in auto mode, the snow might look kind of gray. Use the **compensation dial** to make the snow whiter looking.

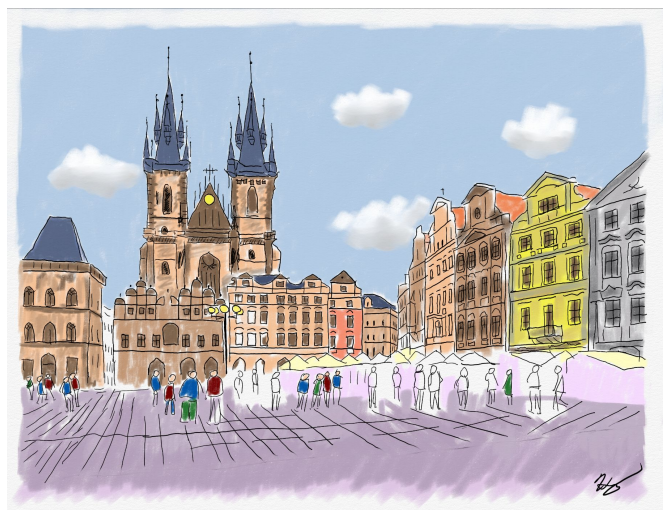


- Use a flash to light up the flakes closest to you. Only works on overcast days, or at dusk or night.



Russ Rowland's snowfalls: <https://www.rrsnapshop.com/wonderland>

How to Photograph Falling snow: <https://www.howtophotographyourlife.com/how-to-photograph-falling-snow-russ-rowland/>
Making Art With Photos







What is this art? Let's call it a **photomontage illustration**. First, of course, I have an idea for a photo, but of course I cannot find it online, and I haven't taken it before. So I look for the elements, either in my own photos, or online, and build a photomontage. And then I trace and color it, and then hide the original photomontage, and voila, a photomontage illustration!

The beauty of this method is that I can subtract any parts of the image I don't want to include, like an ugly building or telephone pole or electric wires or...

For this image, I had a picture in my mind of a band playing, a couple dancing to the music, in an old European square. I chose Old Town Square in Prague, which I had visited about 25 years ago, although I didn't photograph it at the time. The band is a group I photographed in Paris near Notre Dame. And the dancers are a pair of swing dancers I found online.

First I made the montage, pasting the elements onto the background, with each group on a separate layer. This way I could easily move them around, enlarge or shrink them, or whatever. Then I loosely traced the background on one layer, and colored it with digital pastels on a second layer. Then I somewhat more accurately traced the dancers and band members, and colored them, and added shadows on another layer to give them some depth. When I was done I realized the band was too wide, taking up too much of the space. So I cut out the bass player from the band layers and moved him behind the other players. And there we have it.

You can do this with your own photos, or anyone else's, without fear of copyright infringement. I use this technique for my blog, *Angels in Medicine*, when I don't have the rights to use a photo.



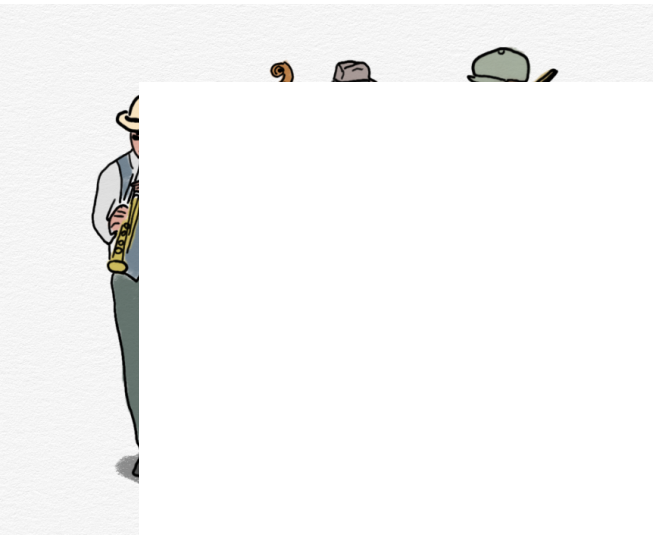


Figure 2:
chapters