

My right to expose... (images)



Presented like this, well, like freedom ... we all have the right to expose.

But this right could interfere with the rights of the others... not to their right to expose too... they have the same right, but the right to choose not to have to endure your exhibition.

This discussion does not exist when you are a good photographer, since when you expose we have the best of both worlds, it is a pleasure for the exhibitor and for the viewer.

But what happens when you are a mediocre photographer or even worst? Still we all have our little heart.

Can we deny ourselves for just once in our lifetime to show our 'masterpieces'?
Can we deny ourselves just one moment of glory?

I know you will tell me, "Well do it. Not too many people will come and all will be solved. The fewer people that come, the fewer criticisms you will suffer. And that is it.

OK, but at least let me to try it with all the strength of my heart, so my wish is fulfilled and the offence committed is as small as possible.

My idea would be to present what I believe is more representative of my work (it sounds good).

Some can even be good pictures and will not receive much criticism. If, in addition, I receive a pat on the back with a "Keep trying and soon we will have an artist"... well what else can I ask for?

You may think... I am sure you have thought of it... that I have selected my 'best' pictures... still if I do not apply some magic... well it will not work.

No ... don't even think of that... I said magic, not PhotoShop. I know that PS makes miracles, but my friends, I must tell you ... I have never retouched my pictures, I do not even know how to. I am hopeless.

But, have I told you that I really want to show you my pictures?

Then I am going to try to do two things... to show them and to try not to allow people to become too bored.

We must remember that to have great enthusiasm, does not change the quality of our pictures and we all know that the most usual criticisms are ... out of focus, not at level, noisy, not well centered, sensor or lens dirty, horrible frame... I stop.

All this simply means that if I exhibit my pictures in a marvellous place, like an Exhibition Centre or an Art Gallery where the images receive the best lighting (in my case to show their defects), then probably some people will come ... people whom I do not know and worse, people who do not know me, and they will criticise Well it is not the best place. It is obvious isn't it? I say that because in these places they tend to hang the frames perfectly aligned and very well illuminated.

But if...

... Its only an idea, I show the images in the worst possible conditions, where the exhibition is there of course. I mean there is a series of images, but they are not easy to see well, so that none of the typical possible criticisms can be applied...well I feel I am on the right path.

Let me go further just to see.

If besides this, and in order to have a minimum success, I mix the exhibition with another event in a way that the two events can complement each other... Well... lets be sincere for once, divert attention from the images (Maybe an aperitif or supper etc). Please remember that a success in an exhibit is the whole set, not only the pictures.



A couple... of things that can help

...this is going well... lets zero in.

This said I believe that to laminate the images with transparent plastic is a very good first step. Then there is already a good reason to justify that the image is not Top standard... and it is not your fault.

With the plastic lamination the image loose quality. For about three dollars each, you can get a perfectly mediocre job done. Don't go to a professional lab.

Still, if they can get too close to the images, we are going to have problems.

But wait, we have them laminated, which mean they will not get wet, and also we want them very far away, almost unreachable ...

Done. The ideal place is:



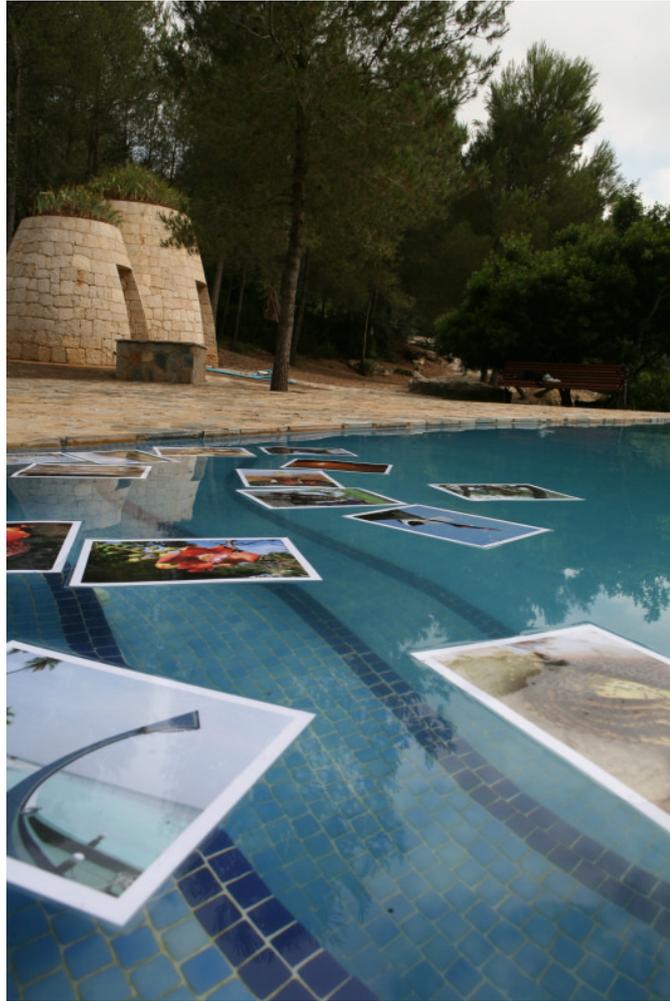
A pond, a lake... the municipal swimming pool. Let me dream... the City Lake in the park. They like these things. Good publicity for the town.

My God... with water lilies (Sorry no Lotus or Victoria Reggia this year)

... Is this the first hint that we may have to endure this on an annual basis!



Did I mention a swimming pool?
You can use the top, the bottom or the sides for the exhibition. There is always a friend who will lend you the pool.



In the swimming pool, the worst images to the bottom, it is easy, you put the good ones flat on the surface and the bad ones vertical, and that is it, the last one will go to the bottom of the pool in a elegant sinking movement. That does not mean that the visitors will not be able to see them, but they will have to get wet.



A small push and the worst ones to the bottom

Yes, this can be a good first idea, but the wind, the moving water of the pool and all type of animals makes that all the images get together or sink.



A frog jumping to see the image, well, nice but the image will end up sinking

Why all is so complicated?

And if... as I am more technical than artist, add a technological touch... I feel this is the good road.



This is not a good result, one in top of the other and all together in a corner, and some at the bottom. This is not what I wanted.

If you put the images flat with care on the surface, they will remain in this way until the wind spoils all. You can improve this by gluing at the rear of the image a piece of cork, they will not sink. **Do not use toxic glue.**

But science can help us even further.

A simple way could be to tie a string to the cork and a stone in the other extreme, it will limit the amount of movement the images can make, but this is not very elegant especially if you still want to swim

A much better solution, but more expensive is to use magnets. The longer the better, for me, 15 cm of length and 1 cm diameter works fine. Insert the magnets on the cork, the same magnetic pole touching the image on all images. The polarity will make that when the wind tries to put them all together they will repel. This make that all the images will be more or less equidistant on the surface of the pool.



Ideal cork to glue to the back of the image, its size will make the set to float regardless of the weight of the magnet



You can see how the magnets remain equidistant



This is a much better result



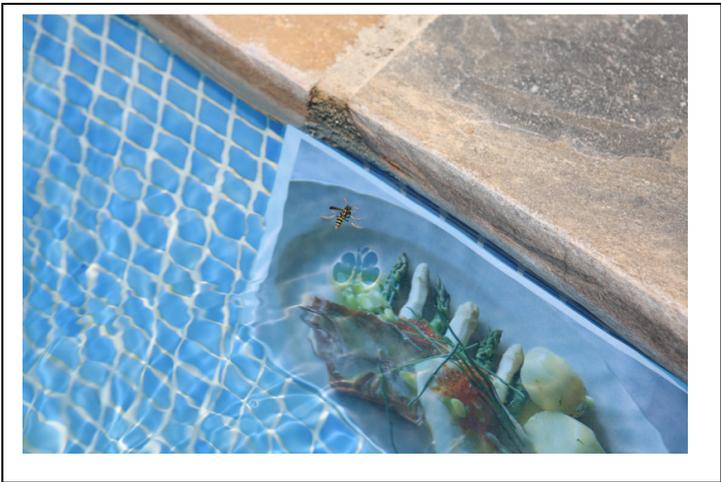
To be able to touch, move and see the images at our pace in the water makes the whole thing unforgettable



And this is the personal result I wanted to obtain, enjoying the pool and see my photos in a very casual way.

Un expected visitor but very welcome. Its shadow on the plate... a charm.

Shy visitors... actually they did not want to accept that they had come to THIS expo



Oh my my my... I am a genius (If I do not say it myself, nobody else will).

The pictures are in constant movement, far away, laminated, and with a lot of things to divert attention from... you know what. Oh wonderful papyrus, elegant water lilies. AND none too level.

What Rule of Thirds? You cannot even see the pictures. The lens is dirty... no way, it is the chlorine of the pool. This is perfect.

On the pool, the worst images to the bottom, or at least the more criticisable. It is easy. The good ones, you place flat on the surface, and the bad ones tilted ... and they slowly but precisely will go to the bottom, with an elegant gesture of pity, which does not mean that you cannot see them...but you will have to dive.

This reminds me ... (sorry for diverting from the subject), of a friend who called me when he wanted to prepare a barbecue and had to feed the people. I gave him my opinion on the amount of food he would need, and it was more or less what he had in mind.

He called me two days later, stating that they had eaten only one fifth of the food. He had made a great fire and asked everybody to cook for themselves the food they wanted to eat. Oh well...

Put the worst images below the water where very few people will go for them.

Think about how practical is this planning... it is a moving exhibition (please do not confuse with a travelling exhibition even if it is never at the same place). Besides, Mother Nature is very wise, the surface tension of the water, is so strong, that it holds the pictures glued to the water even in the presence of strong wind.

So, once the moral and technical problems have been resolved, and with the selfish desire to show four or five of my pictures (50 to be more exact) and being in the presence of ONLY the closest friends, from whom I expect love and a lot of understanding (buyers, art critics, gallery merchants, rich people, head hunters.... are NOT welcome)...

I Present:

The Aquatic photographic Exhibition (Floating or underwater but always in movement)

Subject: A lot of variety ... I say this so you do not think that this is an exhibition of aquatic subjects. The pictures are the ones that get wet... get it?

Place: Depends... sometimes at the bottom of pool, or in the hole of the skimmer, some on the pool stairs, or near a water lily.

When the exhibition is on a lake, a frog may jump onto a picture; the picture goes to the bottom, so the number of images presented can vary depending on the number and weight of batrachians. If it is windy all may be together in a corner. If I have just placed them, then they will be very well distributed. If a fish enjoys attacking them... not good at all.

Appropriate dress is mandatory: A bathing suit.

Of course there are other methods to obtain some success in the kingdom of photography, as in any other art, but these I will never be able to use.

***The Golden rule of Photography is...
The one that has the Gold makes the rules***

For me simply ... Photography is a mental disease

PS.

The results of the many exhibitions held so far, with large groups or small ones, have been much better than I ever thought possible.

The help to prepare the exhibit... immediate. The diving to see the most sunk images... touching even if that was not what I planned. To swim to see the next one... almost a ritual. To comment on the refreshing media aspect of the images... a delight. To be able to grab a few of them to compare or see them at our leisure... too much. People are surrounded by pictures... literally.

The criticism has been minimal or very kind

The sales of pictures... NIL

* * *

The End

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