

# Mastering Photographic Composition, Creativity, and Personal Style

Alain Briot

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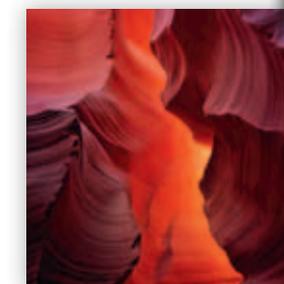
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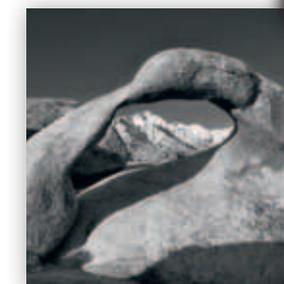
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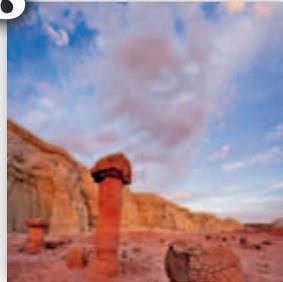
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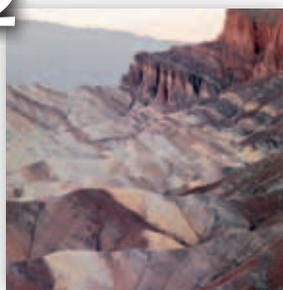
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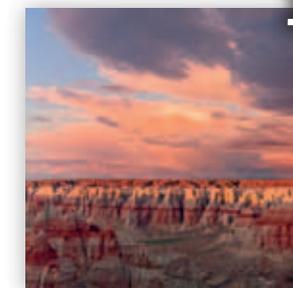
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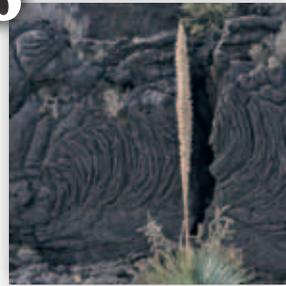
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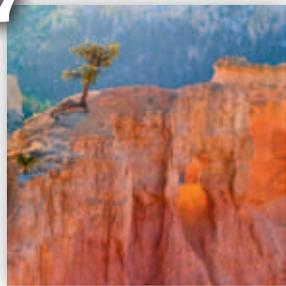
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# Foreword

After a decade of leapfrogging technological advances and increasingly expensive high-end digital cameras, we have reached a plateau of sorts. Of course, there will continue to be advances in digital cameras, but the large leaps will be replaced with finer and more precise upgrades. Professional quality DSLRs can produce top quality files for any use, from stock images to fine art prints. But, just having the right equipment and software does not an artist make. Many photographers are great at getting compelling imagery and are marginal at software optimization. Conversely, some average photographers are practically software gurus, relying on their software expertise to create and output outstanding final images. I know only a handful of photographers who are as equally skilled at making great images as they are in bringing the image to fruition through software expertise.

Alain Briot is a masterful landscape photographer as well as an expert in using Photoshop to optimize his fine art prints. Alain lives in the moment, creating consistently compelling landscape imagery. He also has an astronomer's knowledge of the skies, a mathematician's ability to determine where and when the

sun/moon will appear based on sophisticated calculation tables, a graphic artist's computer/software/design skills, and an artist's detailed eye for composition and color: a rare combination indeed.

The care and expertise applied to every aspect of Alain's work—from planning for the picture, to the final software optimization, and to the final print—is apparent upon viewing his work. Every image is bold, compelling, simple, capturing a moment, and perfectly optimized.

Teaching with Alain made me aware of his humility and generosity in sharing knowledge with students. This book is an extension of that propensity for sharing. Like all of you, I look forward to delving into the wealth of information that is contained herein.

Tony Sweet

June 2009