



Flower Photography

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Flower Photography is a subject that is quite accessible. Flowers can be found easily in many places.

- Botanic gardens
- Your garden
- From your neighbour's garden (wear camo)
- Local bushland (except don't pick them)
- Buy a bunch from the local florist, market or supermarket.

Styles

There are many styles in flower photography

- For records (photographic record of diversity in a natural site)
- Macro
- Photographing flowers in the wild
- Still Life
- High Key/Low Key
- Black and White
- Abstract

Outdoor Flower Photography



Web Image



Web Image



Web Image

Check the weather and look at your background

- A bright overcast day is favourable.
- The soft light of an overcast day helps to minimise shadows and harsh bright spots, so you can get a nice, even exposure.
- Windy days mean movement in the subject which can lead to blurry images.
- Stop, get down and check out the background. A wider aperture (smaller f-numbers) will give you a nice bokeh and if you shift left or right you might get some beautiful colours in the background.
- Carefully remove bright coloured dead gum leaves or sticks.
- Pick a flower where any background objects are far away.



Flying Duck Orchid by Felicity Johnson

Depth of field and focus points

- A wider aperture (smaller f-number) will give you a shallow depth of field. I often use f6.5 to get a nice soft background.
- You can take advantage of this and make the most interesting part of the plant the focus point
- You can sacrifice the out of focus background and use a smaller aperture to increase your depth of view (this is okay if the background is not close and cluttered). You may need to fiddle with settings to avoid a dark image (ISO, shutter speed and exposure compensation).
- Move your camera to take advantage of the focal plane.
- You can do focus stacking
- Use a diffuser with flash. My set up allows for an aperture of F11 and ISO 200.



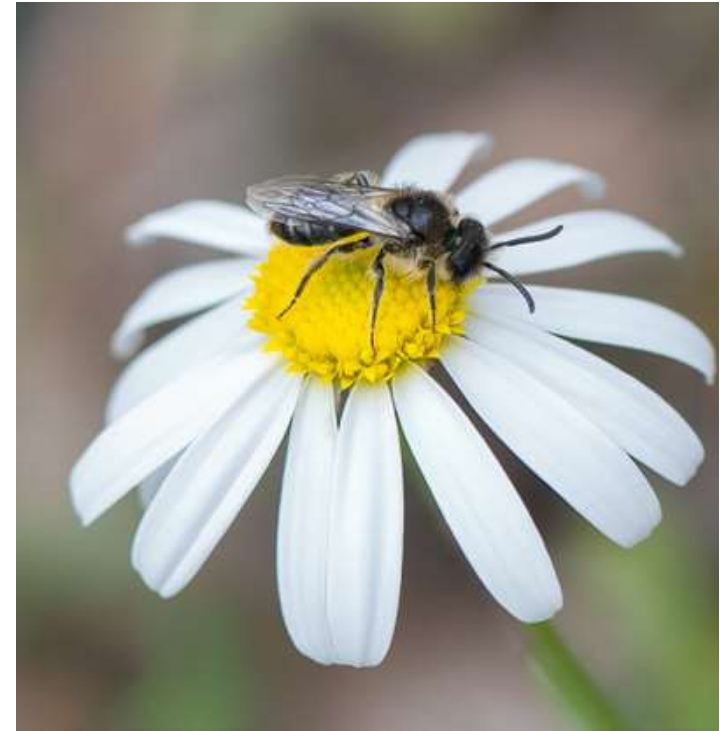


Get Closer

- You will be amazed by the detail you will see in flowers.
- Use a macro lens to get close up or if you don't have one, even a zoom lens can work. However, a dedicated macro lens creates amazing results.
- Get as close as you can. In other words, don't just settle for a nice frame from a few feet away. Instead, endeavor to fill the frame with your subject!
- Remember that depth of view can be an issue in macro so consider your focus point or do some stacking.

Be creative while outdoors!

- Change your point of view. Snap a flower looking down or looking up the flower stem.
- Use back lighting to make the blossoms glow
- Try intentional camera movement for flower abstracts
- Focus through another flower
- Photograph after a frost or after rain
- Go wide and include the surrounding habitat
- Include mini beasts
- Photograph dead flowers





All images by Felicity Johnson

Still Life - lighting

- If you don't have lighting equipment, use a window and a good trick is to tape tracing or baking paper on the window to diffuse and soften the light.
- Consider how hard light helps to create strong, crisp shadows and exaggerate contrast while diffused light helps create soft and dreamy images.
- The direction and intensity of lighting matters too. Lighting from the side, for example, throws long shadows and enhances rough textures. If you have a translucent subject or one with a strong graphic shape you may want to backlight it.



Web Image

Backgrounds and props

- The background is important and keeping it simple is best. Use sheets, table cloths, sheets of paper attached under and behind the subject.
- Experiment with white backgrounds and using white flowers, vases and props. Try this as a way of creating high key images.
- Use black backgrounds for an amazing black and white photo.
- Use props such as simple vases, wooden trays, branches and rocks.
- Sprinkle petals around the vase

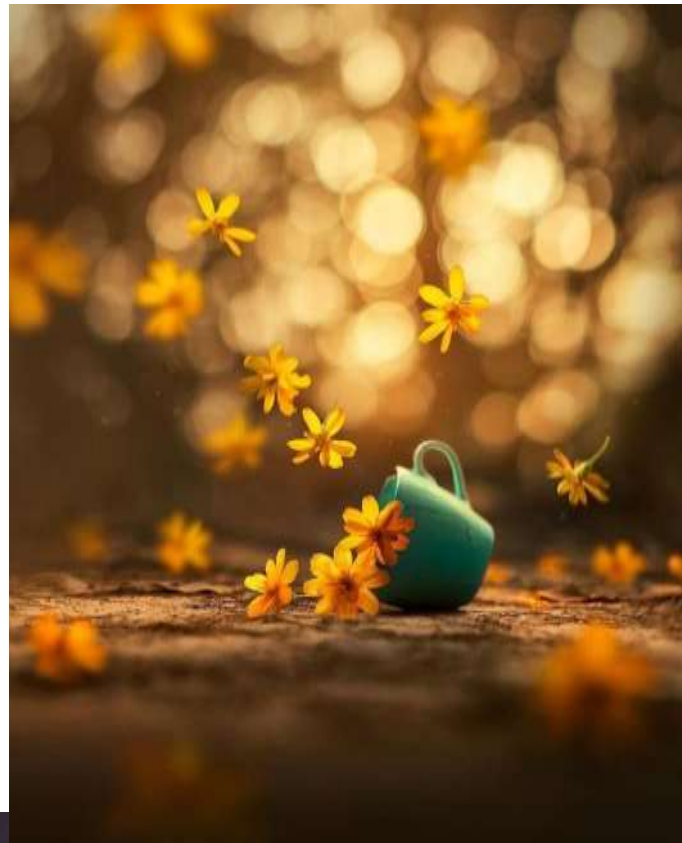


Web Images



Be creative

- Choose your focal point
- Spray petals with water
- Go mono
- Use post-processing affects
- Freeze the flowers in blocks of water
- Set up lights for bokeh



Web Images