

When creative bubble bursts

Every creative endeavor has its pitfalls, its traps — even a room of private torment. It's difficult to keep the wave of creativity constantly rolling.

This applies to photography. Even with our modern cameras, lenses and knowledge of the craft, we all have those dark times of confusion and doubt when we seem to lose perspective of what we're doing.

Well, don't stow away the camera in favor of a long vacation in front of the television. The recognition of frustration and a tendency to be overly critical of your photography are part of creativity. After all, it often takes a setback to achieve further growth.

So at those times when you feel you're at the end of your creative rope and you're ready to pack up and beat the blues and get you back on the road to creativity.

Review your past work and begin to ask yourself some questions. Are there any particular trends or themes you may be overdoing? Is there a variation of your subject



photography
Monte Nagler

matter that will produce a fresh outlook?

Can you get a different perspective by another lens, camera angle or by shooting at a different time of day? Are there ways you can add more of your own individuality to your pictures? Knowing where you've been will help you chart a course to where you want to go.

Take another look at the world around you. There may be subject material you never considered photographing before that interests you. If you've always shot landscapes, perhaps now is the time to begin to photograph people. If you've always shot distant scenes, maybe now is the time to take an intimate look at textures, patterns, and close-up details.

If you've always been a realist, how about taking a look at some abstracts? A 180-degree turnabout may not ultimately be for you, but it will keep the creative juices flowing.

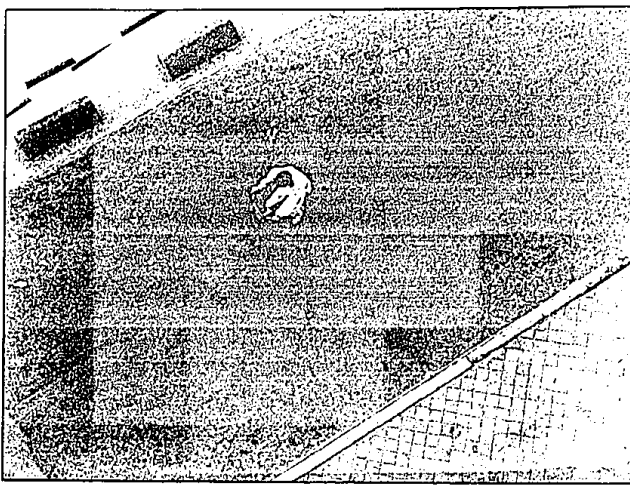
Start looking at more photographs. A trip to one of the local photography galleries or a leisurely browse through the photography books at your library or local bookstore will be rewarding and inspiring.

And keep some inspiring thoughts in mind, too. Remember, that you are making photographs, not just taking snapshots. Shift your photographic vision from the recording of a scene to an expression of mood.

Remember that when you are photographing, the two most important items are you and your subject and strive to really get to know your subject. And remember to use your imagination and spontaneity when you photograph.

So don't let your creative bubble burst. Rather, let it help you to soar to new heights.

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Diagonal composition and an unusual perspective give this Monte Nagler photograph of the lone cyclist in Zebruges, Belgium, an extraordinary configuration.

briefly speaking

Continued from Page 1

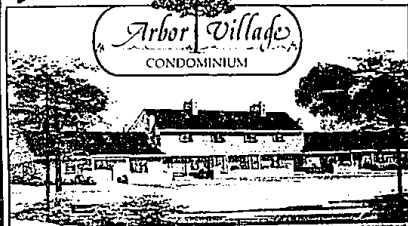
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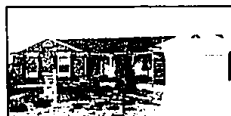


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