

## FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

# Your simple shots can KISS and tell



MONTE NAGLER

As my photography students all know, I like to promote the idea of the KISS theory in my classes. No, it doesn't mean smooching with the student next to you! KISS means to "keep it smartly simple," to be smart and to maintain a simplicity in your photographs.

Good writers, for example, don't clutter up their work with superfluous words. They get right to the heart of the matter, which makes their writing easier to understand. You'll also find a simplicity of style and content in many of the great paintings that we all enjoy.

Similarly with our photography, keeping things simple will often result in impact shots that will capture our attention.

One of the best ways to apply the KISS theory in photography is simply to move in close and express a single idea.

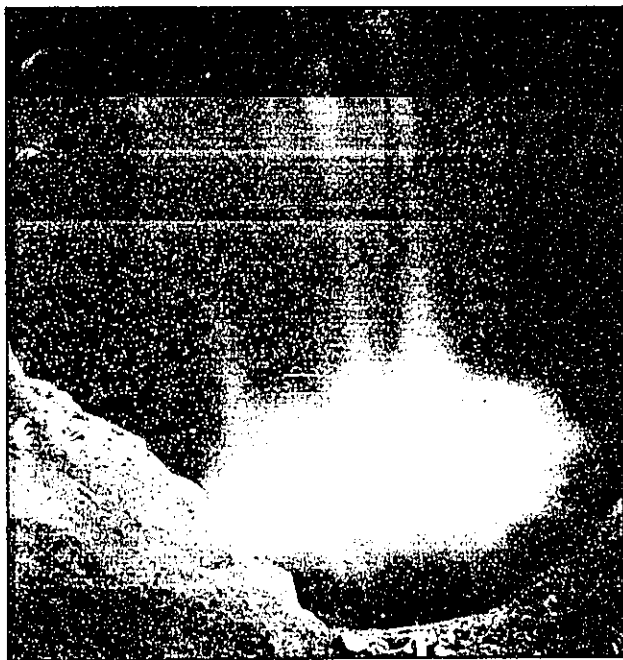
A closeup of a rusted latch on a weathered barn door can tell a lot about the barn as a whole. A well-executed intimate shot of a single bud will usually have more impact than a picture of an entire garden of flowers.

How about a simple photo of a flower-laden window ledge in a small French village? Such a picture can convey the feeling and charm of all of Europe.

As in all good photography, watch your backgrounds. Simplifying your compositions also means simplifying the background. Look for backgrounds that are uncluttered or select a background that complements the subject.

Remember, a well-done shot that uses the KISS theory and contains the essence of the whole will reward you with a photograph of which you'll be proud.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.



**Mist-ical:** Nothing wrong with shooting the whole waterfall. But, how about trying to keep it simple and photograph just a portion? Monte Nagler took this intimate scene in Hocking Hills, Ohio.

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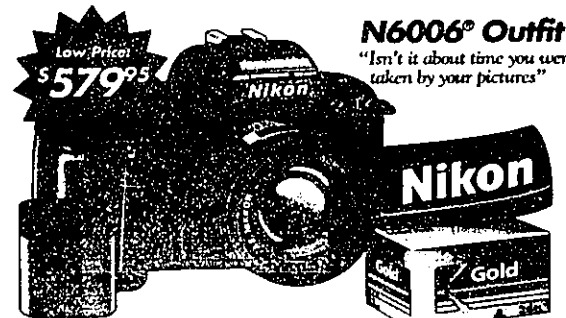


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