

Dual Worlds Exhibition

City Gallery May of 2023

Greg Zbach

The "Dual Worlds" exhibition is a combination of my two experimental art styles. The first five works are examples of my more established approach, Photographic Modifications, or photo mods. Photo mods start with a photograph and are manipulated with digital effects and other processes. I have been creating and exhibiting photo mods for close to 25 years now.

The second set of works are from my newest endeavor, the "Surrelectric" series. Works were created solely on a computer using the exciting field of mathematical art. These creations fall into the category of new media art and are on the leading edge of the digital art genre.

On the end walls you will find eight of my works on aluminum. All but one of these works are of the photo mod style.

The exhibition will also include Brad Ford, Artwork selections from the series "Smaller Sky."

This exhibit will give the viewer a sense of the evolution of my creative process as I continue to explore new avenues of art.

Some history:

The Surrelectric series is the result of expanding my creative sphere into the world of 3D fractals and mathematical art. This genre of New Media Art is the wild west of the computer world with difficult-to-use specialized software that is not always stable.

The Surrelectric works are digital stories of fragmented dreams and alternate realities. Included are both micro and macro visions of hidden worlds involving a mix of bright colors and textures with geometric and analog shapes representing a range of metaphorical, abstract and surreal settings to engage and challenge the viewer.

GREG ZBACH

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PHOTO/DIGITAL ARTIST ~ COMPOSER ~ ELECTRICAL ENGINEER ~ BOARD MEMBER

You may recognize me for my nature and abstract art rooted in digital photography. For me photography and the digital darkroom have been vehicles to express myself and since the day I started experimenting with this thing called art I have always looked for new tools and approaches to tell my stories. Photography was the first step in this evolution. I have experimented with Color photography and Photo Mods including digital effects, Infrared, stereo, light painting, collage, new media art and AI manipulation, and I will continue this journey.

The next step was inevitable, pursuing digital art due to my fascination with the world of digital. This arises from my first love, electronics. Hence the electrical engineering degree I obtained. I am not afraid to take on complicated math programs and concepts. Since my retirement I have finally been able to research and totally Immerse myself into the world of 3D fractals and mathematical art. A number of these programs require scripting and a basic understanding of mathematics. They can be difficult to install and maintain. One example of fickle software is when one of my programs decided to crash and completely delete my work directory. At least I had most of it backed up. I had programs scramble and start working differently, require re-installing or just stop saving to certain directories.

Compared to photography digital programs create art that has a very wide range from dark to light. It can be difficult to print these as is. I have to find ways to limit the dynamics without losing the amazing colors, high contrast, clarity and detail of this art.

As a result of close to two years' worth of experimenting I may have found my niche. With these programs, textures, 3D objects and digital collage I have found a brilliant new way to express myself.

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09-22-22

Bio:

Erie native Greg Zbach is a photo and new media artist, composer, retired electrical engineer and current President of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association. Greg's three published instrumental music CD's include "Grimsby," a full length children's ballet performed at the Warner Theater in 2002.

Past exhibits include two collaborations with professional photographer Art Becker at Glass Growers Gallery and multiple invitation only shows with Campbell Stonewall Gallery, NPAA and PASNWPA art organizations. Works were accepted in juried art exhibits for the Erie Arts Festival Panorama, where Greg received an Honorable Mention, Excellence Award, Gold Circle Award and Third Place. His work was accepted 16 years in a row for "In the Garden", an annual show at Campbell Stonewall Gallery, where Greg received three Honorable Mentions.

More recently, Greg's works were accepted in five Erie Art Museum Spring Shows and NPAA juried shows at the Erie Art Museum and Crary Gallery in Warren, Pa. in 2019 and 2020. Greg also received First Place in an invitation only show at Campbell Stonewall Gallery "The Essence of Art: Pattern and Color" in 2019.

Newer shows include a solo exhibit "Surrealelectric - Intricate digital dreamscapes for the 21st century" at Glass Growers Gallery in 2022 and an invitation only show "Photography of the NPAA" at Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, in 2018. In 2019 Greg juried the Patricia S. Yahn Student Art Show at Penn State Behrend.

His work can be seen in multiple regional businesses, Glass Growers Gallery, D' Hopkins Denniston Gallery, Marquette bank, Erie Federal Credit Union bank, and Flagship City Food Hall. Greg is a charter member, current membership chair and a board director of The Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania (PASNWPA). Greg is also an active member and serves on the board as president of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association or NPAA.

Artist Statement:

Being an artist with a background in engineering, I feel I have benefitted from the juxtaposition of analytical and creative processes in my perspective on art. This balance allows for a greater variety of artistic expression, leading to a range from surreal and even op art-like to painterly works.

I use technology to heighten the magical qualities of vision. The digital camera is one of the instruments I use to capture both the ordinary and extraordinary events I perceive. The digital darkroom allows me to present my impression of these moments in time. My work comes from a traditional photographic construct but I also alter certain works to magnify and focus a feeling, mood or sense of wonder. This same approach applies to my newer all digital works but the instrument I use is not a camera but a computer and specialized software.

I strive to create a mysterious atmosphere in my creations, even to the point of strangeness, in order to draw the viewer in to a challenging and evocative experience.

It is my hope to leave the spectator a compelling and fresh view of the natural and virtual worlds.

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Full Bio:

Greg Zbach obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering from Gannon University, and has retired as Program Manager for Sunburst Electronics. Greg is the current President of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association, past Vice President of The Erie Summer Festival of the Arts and a past Executive member of the Erie Civic Ballet. Greg owns Studio Z, an electronic music production studio.

In 1972 he was instrumental in starting, and helped run WERG radio at Gannon University. He was also sound engineer for 39 Gannon theater productions. Through Studio Z, Greg has recorded for many local businesses and organizations and composed music for 3D computer animations, videos, radio and TV commercials. Greg is also a multimedia author and web site designer. The video suite The Seasons in Photos and Music is an example of Greg's multimedia work.

Greg prefers writing for dance and was commissioned to compose an instrumental suite for modern dance to celebrate Erie's Bicentennial. Two of Greg's tone poems were choreographed and performed at the Arts Festival by Sandra Brown (with Baryshnikov's American Ballet Theater). The Arts Festival was also the site for the premiere of "Legend", a tone poem based on an Eriez Indian legend of how the Peninsula was formed; choreographed by Christina Maria of Lake Erie Ballet.

Greg released three self-published CD's of instrumental music for dance; "The Seasons," in 1998, "In The Telling" in 2000 and "Grimsby," a full length children's ballet based on the book by Erie author Don McQuaid. The ballet was choreographed by Christina Maria, and performed at the historic Warner Theater in 2002.

Greg has been very active in the arts community, forming a program called "Computer Tools for Arts and Music" or "CTAM", to expose/educate the community to the creative power of computers. He also developed "Festival of the Arts Computer Time" or "FACT", at The Blasco Memorial Library. This is a hands-on environment, where children are exposed to creative software in a fun setting. FACT was expanded as a result of a grant from the Verizon Foundation. Greg's newest is "The Art of Photography," A day of lectures and demonstrations by top pros, sponsored by the venerable Erie Photography Club and presented at the Erie Summer Festival of the Arts.

Greg has become a prolific award-winning nature photographer, and new media artist, embracing the new digital darkroom and digital art technologies. Past exhibits include two collaborations with professional photographer Art Becker at Glass Growers Gallery and multiple invitation only shows with Campbell Stonewall Gallery, NPAA and PASNWPA art organizations. Works were accepted in juried art exhibits for the Erie Arts Festival Panorama, where Greg received an Honorable Mention, Excellence Award, Gold Circle Award and Third Place. His work was accepted 16 years in a row for "In the Garden", an annual show at Campbell Stonewall Gallery, where Greg received three Honorable Mentions.

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Dual Worlds - Copyright Greg Zbach - Photo Mods and Surrealetric Series - City Gallery May 2023

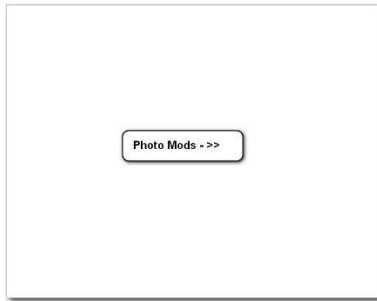


Photo Mods ->>

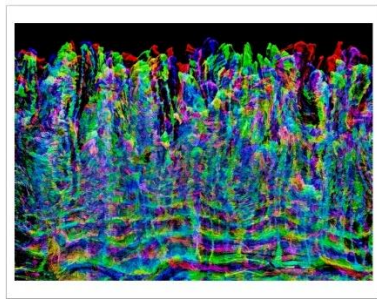
Photo Mods



Chicago Bluesprint



Copper Drops



Orchestral Colors



Water Colors 2



The Woodwide Web



Surrealetric Series ->>

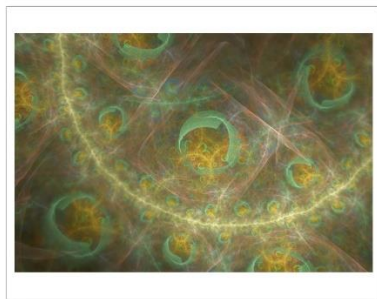
Surrealetric Series



Emergence



Eye Test



Hatchlings



Prairie Colors

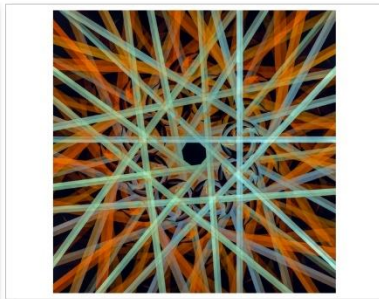


Ribbon Candy 2

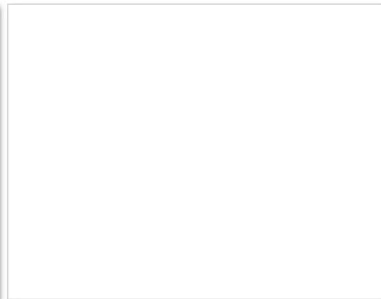
Dual Worlds - Copyright Greg Zbach - Aluminum Photo Mods and Surrealelectric Series - City Gallery May 2023



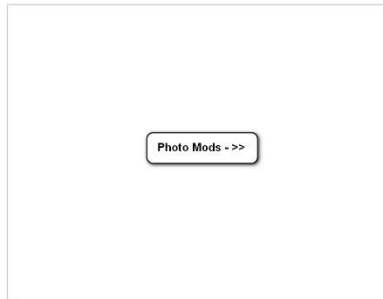
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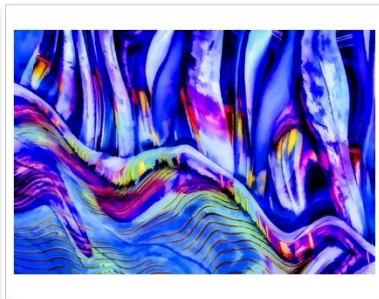
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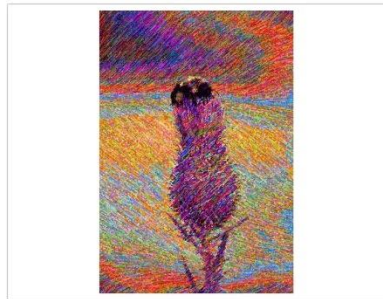
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Blue Tsunami 10 X 17



Cathedral Window 14 X 11



Crowning Glory 20 X 16



Fractal Fantasy 16 X 20



Oculus 10 X 14



Poisoned Purity 17 X 10



Skeletal Blue 16 X 20