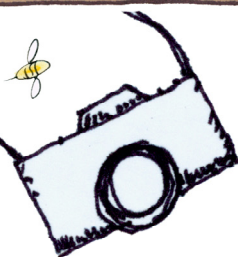


# PHOTO SILLY

An Online Class  
with Steve Sonheim



*"A camera is truly a license to explore.  
There are no uninteresting things.  
There are just uninterested people."*

— Jerry Uelsmann

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Worksheet #13

## Assignment 13

### Blur

Most of the time we think of blur as bad. But blur can be good and some of you have had some interesting blur shots. The effect can translate an ordinary scene into a beautiful abstract and, best of all, you never really know what you will get.



Your assignment is to simply create some interesting blur shots. To get a good blur you need the following:

- A slow shutter speed. Best results are around  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  second. This means you need a small aperture (f/16 ish) and a darkish environment. Bright sunlight or even shade probably won't give you a slow enough shutter speed.
- Something moving. Either the camera or your subject or both.
- Flash off because the flash will "freeze" the action.

**Try this:** Find a scene with lots of points of light, like a busy street or a large room with many lamps. Set your camera for  $\frac{1}{2}$  second. Then begin a slow pan with your finger on the button and click the shot mid-turn. Try moving faster/slower and different shutter speeds.

You can rotate your camera, spin it or even zoom the lens during the exposure for effect. The more sparkly and colorful the better.

### Extra Credit

Turn your flash on and still use a slow shutter speed to create a "stop action blur." Best outside at night.



### Nuts & Bolts

**PAS.** Flash off. If your camera allows you to set the shutter speed, just start with  $\frac{1}{2}$  second and experiment. If not, just being in a dark enough place will cause the camera to set a slow enough speed for some blur.

**SLR.** Flash off. Use a Shutter Priority mode and choose  $\frac{1}{2}$  second. Make sure you are at a very low ISO. If your camera has a "B" or bulb setting, even better. In this mode the shutter will stay open as long as you hold the button down, so you can really have control and experiment.

For both types, a wide angle works the best.