

Photo Silly Advanced

Wednesday, March 21, 2012



#6 Hocus Focus

Without focus or sharpness in a photograph, we are missing critical information. The details of our subject need to be sharp so we know what we are looking at and can appreciate it. It is something we are always striving for.

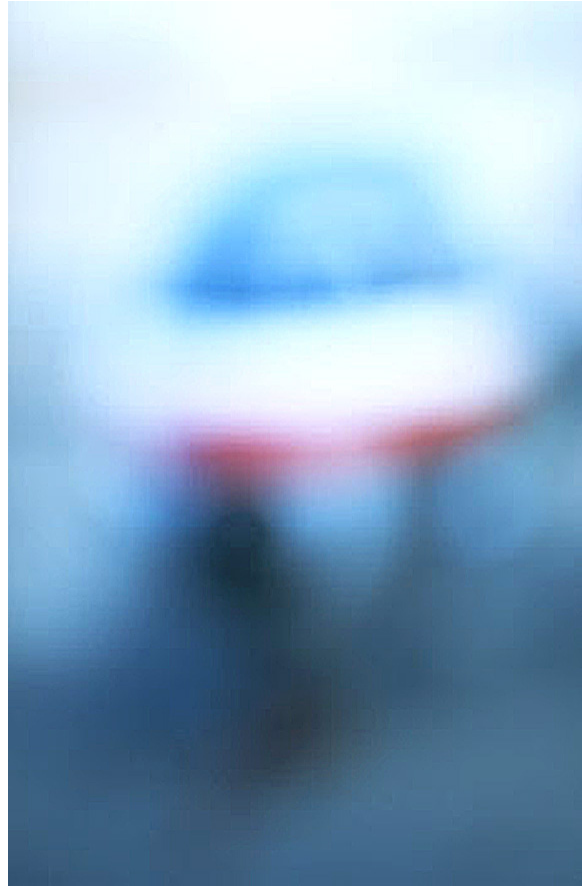
But you can you have compelling photographs without focus?

Your assignment: Create an image that is completely out of focus that still conveys feeling and a story. Silly is best but it can be serious or sad.

Backlit settings work well for this, as do silhouettes. Lots of bright reflections can be effective as well. Over-exposing usually helps.

To make it work, switch your lens to manual focus and just start looking at stuff and start snapping away. This is an assignment where taking lots of shots really helps.

If you can't switch your camera to manual focus, you will have to work around the auto focus by pointing the camera at something very close and then reframing your shot while holding the button part way down. Almost all auto focus cameras will allow you to do this. It takes some practice but once you get the hang of it you can shoot pretty fast.



Look in your manual. It would be called something like Focus Lock, or Auto Focus Hold.

Another trick that works with the new iphone is to frame your shot with something very close in the foreground that is right at the edge of the frame, like the edge of a tree or a chair. Move the focus point on the screen to the object at the edge of the frame and shoot. Later you just crop off the edge and the "in focus" object.

No other rules beyond that. Have Fun!

