

The Future IS Now...

Highly evocative, award-winning best-selling images from nature photography are often taken at Magic Hour, that hour around dawn and dusk. Several very exciting trends are changing post-processing in high dynamic Range (HDR) digital shots! What can we learn to both speed up processing and attract the buyer?

So, how do you create a satisfactory workflow between capture, pre-processing, and final image HDR production? You can successfully learn how to:

1. Capture Magic Hour images with continuous bracketing.
2. Pre-process tonal changes of raw HDR images in Bridge.
3. Process 32-bit HDR images in Photomatix.
4. Selective contrast control with blending in Photoshop CS3.

Yet, capture and raw digital image processing can create a number of hidden problems. Often, those really magic images should be captured with HDR. Of course, we want to produce a provocative result others want to buy!

What Tools Do You Need for Future HDR Workflow?

Successful HDR digital image processing presently requires at least two software environments. Adobe Photoshop CS3 and Photomatix Pro provide three components to ease your work burden. You say three, but wrote two - *why?*

Because Bridge and Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) come bundled with CS3. Bridge acts as your light table for image ranking. Much color management control during image pre-processing is now in ACR, with its marvelous, visual aid and histogram slider system. Clipping, contrast, sharpening, etc. can be resolved in ACR.

When you combine techniques to reduce HDR capture and pre-processing problems, it's possible to begin to

1. Speed up your workflow, and,
2. Control some of these potential pitfalls.

The Future's HDR Workflow...

1. More sophisticated high contrast software.
2. Advanced local HDR controls (presently global only).
3. Selective 14 to 32 bit algorithms for more shadow / highlight contrast.

Does all this sound like a tall order?

Not if you attend workshops or tours specializing in fine light during future Magic Hour's! See our book *Paths of Light*, with color Fine Art Photography, and, our workbook *Capturing Nature's Light*, with Photoshop Workflow. www.BistiArt.Smugmug.com

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