

## What Is Creating Fine Art Magic (CFAM)?

I recently recalled twists and turns from having no digital camera to enhanced appreciation as my *Ship Rock* digital HDR image wended its way through professional photography venues of New Mexico. As this Magic Arc image states, several growth steps lead me from beginner to shooter to fine art professional.

If you've read or seen Tony Hillerman's *Skinwalkers*, *Coyote Waits*, or *Thief of Time*, the incredible Navajo murder mystery series on PBS Mystery, you know Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee overcame many many obstacles to catch the murderer.



Unfortunately, the same convoluted fate awaits a photographer/shooter. When you decide to shoot pictures other people will buy, there are both technical and digital technique barriers you must overcome before reaching professional status.

**Magic Arc** shows a visual path for a growing shooter aka digital photographer. As a shooter you

may find yourself on a particular conflict segment now. But, you want to move to another level shooting Nature photos. With enough hard work, you learn how to make great fine art images ~ learning and overcoming digital darkroom quirks, etc.

### Learning Barriers

In **Learning Barriers**, you're the shooter. You work up the **Magic Arc**, perceiving and overcoming each successive environmental, gear, or digital darkroom barrier until your images become perfection.

### Digital Learning Barriers

Our next topic - describes a sequence of barriers impeding progress up the professional ladder to fine art success. From buying a camera to learning software's quirks through the sequence of growth steps to digital darkroom production of fine art images - the photographer overcomes challenge after challenge, weathers each conflict, and, in this tortuous, time-consuming process, walks up the path to becoming a fine art connoisseur. A **Magic Arc** schematically

shows progressive steps a photographer might make in overcoming obstacles along each inimitable pathway to their particular goal.

### **Workflow Learning Barriers**

*Creating Fine Art Magic* is an upward path to creating award-winning digital photography. You may use our Adventure Tours to learn outdoor challenges of shooting in Nature, and processing fine art. The wilds add it's own complexity to your success.

Our *Magic Arc* teaching path ~ simple talk about complex issues combined with real shooting. Your goal - fine art images reaping rich rewards.

### **Tour Learning Barriers**

You just don't get something for nothing...

Touring lets you find Nature's byways ~ places where *your* resilience and creativity are challenged. We have searched out lands where ancient Anasazi roamed for centuries. They picked 'the high lonely...'

You go there to see how light was their companion, their majestic painter, their source of rain and food...

But, its off the beaten path, it's a trekking challenge, it's a fine art connoisseur's delight when you capture light in breathtaking natural scenes, and its one of the greatest memories you store in a lifetime of provocative experiences!

We call this process *Creating Fine Art Magic...*

In *Ship Rock*, we talk about the history of capturing, processing, and completing Ship Rock. It's a good case of transcending inhibitions of the physical, gear, and darkroom topics while improving rigorous workflow to success.

While we were not explicit in describing those many versions, we were reading technical books, trying this, trying that - taking 10 months to reach our final image. Ultimately, we were satisfied with a combined Photomatix-Lightroom-Photoshop development process.

CFAM, Learning, Workflow, and Tour Barriers may not be your complete list; your experiences, your gear, and your software choices may lead you to different viewpoints. Nevertheless, if we can show our schematic workflow, as you see techniques we learned and apply, you can create your own *Magic Arc* and reap unique rewards.