

## Creating Fine Art Magic

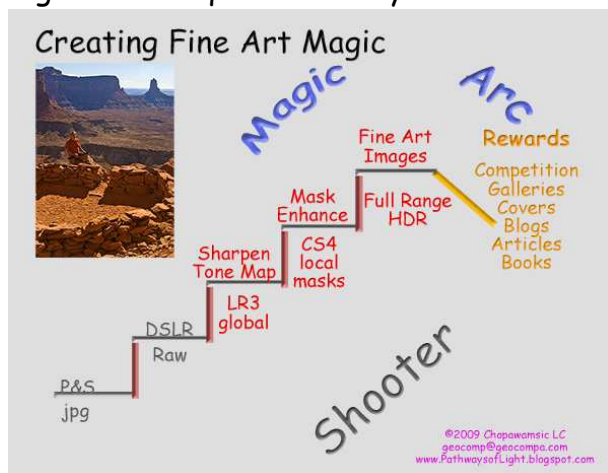
*Creating Fine Art Magic* is an upward path to crafting award-winning digital nature photography. You will use light in some of nature's finest wilds to enhance unique landscapes. Digital magic lies in overcoming capture, software, presentation, and marketing barriers as your images are transformed to fine art.

Our *Magic Arc* teaching path ~ simple talk about complex capture, digital darkroom procoessing, and presentation issues combined. We take you into gorgeous nature, show you incredible landscapes, teach you how to capture, pick keepers, and do global tone mapping, then give workshops for final digital darkroom presentation steps. Your goal - fine art images reaping rich rewards.

I recently recalled twists and turns from having no digital camera to recent appreciation as my Ship Rock digital HDR image wends 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, 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.



Shooter's *Magic Arc* shows a visual path for the growing shooter aka digital photographer. As a shooter you may find yourself on a particular segment now. But, you want to move to another level. With enough hard work, you learn how to make great fine art images ~ learning and overcoming digital darkroom quirks, etc.

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 in 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.

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

In *Ship Rock Example*, 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.

Learning 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.

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