

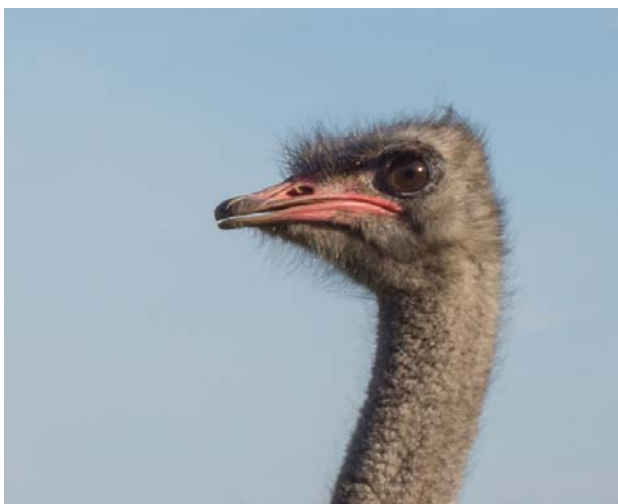


**01-Flight of Fancy.jpg**

*Sara Courtneidge*

This images comes under the category of what I call ‘every now and then...’ What I mean by that is that every now and then everything just falls into place. The wings are spread, the tree limbs are reaching up to give some texture, and the bokeh drives the eye to the bird... and the photographer was ready.

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**02-Ostrich looking for a mate.jpg**

*Rick Thau*

This ostrich headshot is fun. But I wish it had just a bit more texture or context, instead of the blue sky. Now, that’s not an easy thing to do, as these guys are what, 6 feet tall?

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**03-Peacock in full splendor.jpg**

*Rick Thau*

This explosion of color and symmetry is wonderful to behold. And the edge-to-edge cropping/ composition fills the image with color and beauty with no wasted space.

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#### **04-The tree everywhere.jpg**

*Brian Spiegel*

This image just forces you to look up and absorb the massive, almost intimidating structure of the canopy, where the main trunk of the tree winds its way to right over your head. But fear not... there's a trail that will lead you out. This is an experience, not just a picture. There's enough light underneath to give the viewer some texture, and the wide lens carries the viewer's eye right into that texture.

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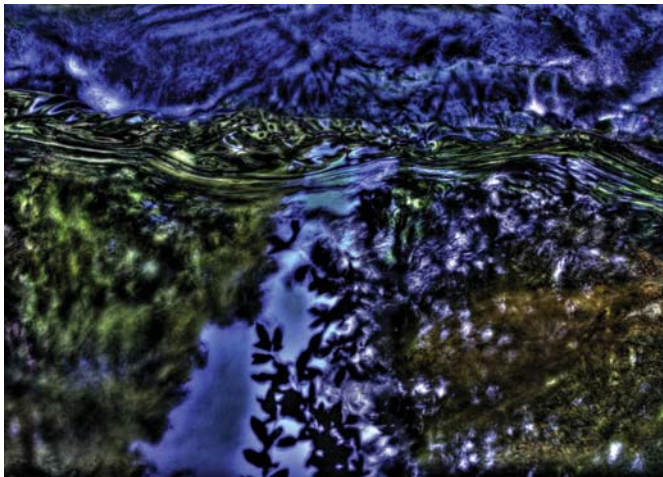


#### **05-Water droplets on leaves-1.jpg**

*David Eisen*

Excellent in every way: composition, depth of field, color impact, water droplets detail. A great still-life study.

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#### **06-Waterfall reflection.jpg**

*Brian Spiegel*

At first I thought this image with a little too abstract and that it needed some context, but I kept coming back to it, drawn by the colors and the hint of the forest canopy reflected in the moving water. We've all seen this situation before, but this frozen instant asks the viewer to slow down and study and absorb the natural beauty, which is why we take pictures in the first place.

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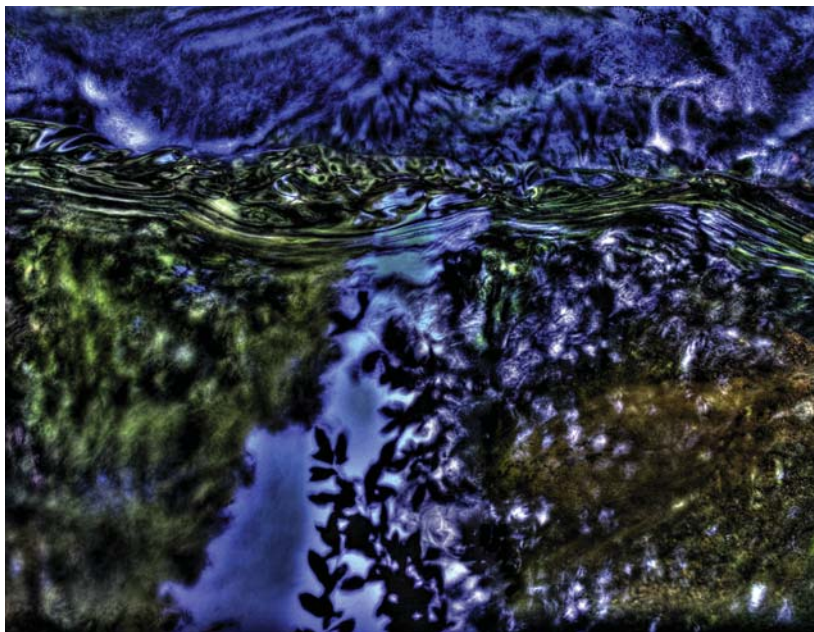


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## Winning Images:

Third Place

**Waterfall Reflections**  
*Brian Spiegel*



2nd Place:



**Flight of Fancy**  
*Sara Courtneidge*

First Place:

**The Tree Everywhere**  
*Brian Spiegel*

