

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS    ON LINE GALLERY    PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES    HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

---

P. O. Box 425, Mansfield, Victoria 3722  
Phone / fax 03 5776 9533

Email: [richard@richardwhite.com.au](mailto:richard@richardwhite.com.au)  
website: [www.richardwhite.com.au](http://www.richardwhite.com.au)

**Issue #27, March 2009**



House & Pathway, Salzburg Austria 2008

I am sorry for the delay, but I have just been in India for 3 weeks, photographing, researching and attending a wedding. More on that perhaps another time.

I am a great fan of the show Top Gear (the UK car show). It's my only weakness really. It's funny, politically incorrect (also funny), informative, entertaining, biased and, most importantly, when it reviews cars it calls a spade a spade. Refreshing, to say the least.

So to link this with photography, have you ever read a "bad" review of a camera in a camera magazine? If you have answered yes, I would love to see it. Now I say I would subscribe to five camera magazines or camera related magazines and I tend to read the "New Products" or "Updates" areas first. Then, if there is a camera review, I will read it or scan it to get an overview. They (the reviewers) only ever speak glowingly about the product. Those of us who are on the look out for a new camera often read these reviews, do some research and then go along to the camera shop for a look see.

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS    ON LINE GALLERY    PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES    HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

---

P. O. Box 425, Mansfield, Victoria 3722  
Phone / fax 03 5776 9533

Email: [richard@richardwhite.com.au](mailto:richard@richardwhite.com.au)  
website: [www.richardwhite.com.au](http://www.richardwhite.com.au)

As we cradle several different cameras to get the "feel" of them and ask the pertinent questions relating to how they work in certain functions, we will discard one or two, usually because they are inadequate or they just don't sit right in our hands. Finally we settle on one, probably for a myriad of reasons, (we'll find them if asked), but mainly because it again, "feels good, looks good" and it will probably suffice. So, I ask myself, why is it that all reviews in camera magazines suggest that this latest model is "a great improvement on the previous model" and "you can't go wrong by upgrading now". Gee, as I scratch my head and wonder this I turn a few pages only to find a full page ad of the camera I have just been reading a review about. WOW, what a coincidence!

Ok, call me cynical, my other fault, but boy it just reeks of a bit of back scratching. The way they get around saying it really isn't up to scratch is to say that it's "suitable for this kind of work" and "will interest some of you especially those upgrading to a SLR".

I would say if I was to name all the cameras that have been reviewed where I have smelled a rat I think I would have litigious problems for the next 30 years. Death would be a better option. All the new and latest digital cameras are "so much better" than the previous model and "you would be silly not to upgrade". Now the cameras may be an improvement (perhaps), but to the tune of another \$2500-\$12000 out of your pocket, you have to ask yourself, Do I really need to, as the second hand market, especially for SLR's, is not shall we say, healthy, and if we do sell it is usually at a fraction of the cost we paid.

Example. A friend heard a new Nikon model was imminent. Rang to get a price to sell his current model. He paid \$12000 for the body. Sell now, maybe \$5000 to \$6000. Wait till new body release or just before, \$3000. New release was about 2-3 months away. Sell now what do you use in the meantime. He sold privately to a student about 3 weeks later for just over \$6000. The body he had was just 3 years old. Ouch! The thing to remember here is that the current body you have still works as well as it did when you bought it new. Something we tend to forget.

Not long ago I read a review of a wooden 4 x 5 field camera that was made in a country to the north of this land of ours. (Australia to all you UK and US folk. That's our land by the way.) It made comments like, "inexpensive" (cheap), "good as a first camera" (really crappy and won't last the distance) and should be suitable for most applications. (most probably not the one you want it for)

Well, I had tried one of these cameras a few years ago and they were terrible. If you were hell bent on getting into large format photography then one of these would put you off for life. Then of course 5 pages later there was an ad for the company who imports this rubbish, along with other things, so again it was a review to keep the ads coming.

Boy, it makes me sick. Why can't we get some honest reviews on cameras and camera equipment from our magazines? After all, you in good faith read these reviews to gain some insight into these cameras. Deceit, it seems, is all around us. How about the deal of buying a camera body with two lenses (the kit) which incidentally won't fit (the lenses) any other body that "they" make so when you upgrade you have

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS    ON LINE GALLERY    PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES    HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

---

P. O. Box 425, Mansfield, Victoria 3722  
Phone / fax 03 5776 9533

Email: [richard@richardwhite.com.au](mailto:richard@richardwhite.com.au)  
website: [www.richardwhite.com.au](http://www.richardwhite.com.au)

to start from scratch again. Are we told this? The answer is a big fat NO. You have to ask or probe more likely. But who would think to?

Also don't think you will get the "correct answers" on photo forums. It seems so often, but not always, that the people who post their findings or suggestions on these things know very little and only mislead people. A couple of months ago I was researching Ebony cameras and in my perusing I stumbled across this.

A chap bought a new Ebony camera and found the "specs on the camera" to be incorrect. "The camera could not focus to infinity with my 75mm lens. The specs state a minimum bellows draw of 60mm. If this were true I would have no trouble focusing a 75mm on a flat board". He went on to offer alternatives, but in the next sentence told how they wouldn't work. (Like our PM who asks the questions then answers them himself). His conclusion was that "The camera should not be used with anything less than a 90mm lens. Ebony's claim of being able to use lenses all the way down to 65mm seem to be incorrect".

Well no my friend they weren't incorrect. With a couple of small movements you can use a 65mm quite easily and if you use a recessed lens board then it's useable without the movements. Basically it's a walk in the park on a sunny day. In fact you could possibly use a 58mm with a recessed board and movements, but don't hold me to that. Only one example I know, but I could give you more unfortunately, but my blood pressure is up and it's time to take my pills.

Where do you get the right answers? Well I would do a ring-a-round to my friends and find out what they drive and how it performs. Well now we seem to be back to Top Gear.

## **Custom Black & White Lab**

If you are interested in some Fine Art Black & White printing then may I suggest you contact Blanco Negro. Blanco Negro is a small custom lab which processes black & white film and does high quality printing. Chris is an expert B&W printer and chemical guru and prints all things for pro and amateur photographers, exhibitions and galleries. He is highly regarded in his field. With many labs closing down because of the new movement, Chris has become sought after and very busy. Give it some thought if you need someone to get you started. His details follow.

Chris Reid  
Blanco Negro  
44-54 Botany Road Alexandria NSW 2015  
Ph 02 9698 4552

Email: [chris@blanconegro.com.au](mailto:chris@blanconegro.com.au)

[www.blanconegro.com.au](http://www.blanconegro.com.au)

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS    ON LINE GALLERY    PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES    HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

---

P. O. Box 425, Mansfield, Victoria 3722  
Phone / fax 03 5776 9533

Email: richard@richardwhite.com.au  
website: www.richardwhite.com.au

## **FOMA PAPER ORDER**

And speaking of darkroom printing we are hoping to make another order to Foma this month for Fibre Base paper. If interested let me know and I will send you a price list as soon as it is finished.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **NEWSLETTER PRINT OFFER for issue #27 100% guaranteed**

Once again the print offered at the head of this newsletter is the special print offer for this issue.

The photographs offered are designed to give you the opportunity to purchase one of my photographs at a reduced rate. This will apply **only** to receivers of this electronic mail.

### **About the image - House & Pathway, Salzburg, Austria 2008**

The photograph was taken in October last year using a 35 mm camera and TAX-M film.

The image will be hand printed in my darkroom on Foma Fibre base black & white paper, mounted to rag museum board and over matted ready for framing. As always only the finest materials are used in the production of the image.

**The image size will be 9 1/2" x 14" (25 x 35 cm) and over matted to an overall size of 40 x 50 cm.**

Details relating to the image and print number will appear on the back of the photograph.

### **Cost of Print**

**Normally this print would sell for \$450, but the Newsletter Edition Print will be \$300.**

**The dollar value is the same as the country you live. ( Aust. NZ, USA, Canada, UK will be as US**  
**\$**

**i.e. : If you live in Australia A\$300    US\$300    Can\$300    NZ\$300)**

**The print price is inclusive of post and packing.**

**This offer lasts till March 31 2009.**

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS    ON LINE GALLERY    PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES    HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

---

P. O. Box 425, Mansfield, Victoria 3722  
Phone / fax 03 5776 9533

Email: richard@richardwhite.com.au  
website: www.richardwhite.com.au

## **100% Money Back Guarantee**

I also understand that buying a photograph from a computer screen can cause some to have heart palpitations, so with that in mind if you do purchase a print and are not completely satisfied I will refund your amount in full, provided you return the photograph within 14 days of receipt in the same condition it arrives. This is a 100% money back guarantee.

If you would like a print, send me a note with a cheque, money order, direct deposit or international bank transfer for the correct amount along with your name and address and contact details. Ordered prints will be hand printed in my darkroom by myself and sent out within 4 weeks.

## **Workshops in 2009**

### **Cradle Mountain - Tasmania April 3 - 6 , 2009. Accommodation & workshop fee \$985**

THE WORKSHOP IS FULL

We are going back to Cradle Mountain again in 2009 to run another exciting workshop in this fabulous area. This will be a great opportunity for those who attend and are hell bent of improving their photography. The workshop will run from Friday morning beginning in Launceston where we will then travel to Cradle Mountain and then return to Launceston Monday afternoon/evening.

The workshop fee includes transport from Launceston to Cradle Mountain and return and during the workshop, all accommodation in the very comfy Wilderness Village log cabins and the workshop fee. Food and beverages are extra, but expect Bistro type prices and great food. For further information contact The Art of Photography Workshops.

**The workshop will be limited to just 6 people.**

### **The Autumn Art School - Wanaka South Island New Zealand April 20 - 24 2009**

THIS WORKSHOP IS FULL

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS    ON LINE GALLERY    PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES    HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

---

P. O. Box 425, Mansfield, Victoria 3722  
Phone / fax 03 5776 9533

Email: richard@richardwhite.com.au  
website: www.richardwhite.com.au

## **The High Country - Falls Creek May 1 - 4, 2009 Workshop fee & Accommodation: \$650**

In 2009 we will again venture back to Falls Creek in the High Country. Mountain Huts, fabulous views and exquisite Snow Gums. Staying in the village at Falls Creek in mountain Lodge accommodation. Many outdoor photography excursions and informative indoor sessions. The workshop fee is based on twin share accommodation, but no meals. Documentary film maker Don Parham will again join me as co-instructor adding an interesting element to the workshop.

## **The Portrait Workshop Kiama area south of Sydney May 15 - 18 2009 Workshop Fee: \$465**

The workshop looks at making Portraits in whatever situation you come across. From studio lighting set ups using one light or two or even three, to window light, indoors or outdoors using any camera you wish. There are basically no limitations on making a portrait and we will look at many ways to accomplish this. During one of our outdoor sessions we will look at photographing only the landscape. Actually seascapes and rock formations. It is rugged and very beautiful. We will also consider the option of placing a subject within our composition should we wish. During our 4 days we will photograph, discuss, eat and sleep photography.

Co instructor is again Anthony Browell, known for his unique style of portraiture and vast photographic knowledge.

## **Into The Outback West McDonnell Ranges June 6 - 13 2009**

In June of this year I am teaming up with Into the Blue - Creative Walks, to lead a group beginning in the West MacDonnell Ranges out of Alice Springs. The area is eye catching in both colour and b&w. We will venture into parts that have limited access and some exclusive only to our group.

The landscape of Ormiston Gorge and Standley Chasm is quite spectacular as are parts of the Larapinta Trail and Gosse Bluff. A day of portraiture and history will be enjoyed at the old Lutheran Mission at Hermansburg. This is a chance to mix with, photograph and enjoy both the indigenous and other locals that inhabit this extraordinary place called The Outback.

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS    ON LINE GALLERY    PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES    HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

---

P. O. Box 425, Mansfield, Victoria 3722  
Phone / fax 03 5776 9533

Email: richard@richardwhite.com.au  
website: www.richardwhite.com.au

For a direct link and further information of this walk including, booking, pricing and itinerary please contact Into the Blue, phone: 02 47876027

<http://www.intotheblue.com.au/tours/tour.asp?ID=59>

[www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au) or Email: [info@intotheblue.com.au](mailto:info@intotheblue.com.au)

## **The Fine Print (Advanced darkroom practice) June 26 - 29 2009.**

Workshop Fee & all materials: \$495

This workshop will begin Friday evening and ends Monday pm to allow plenty of time to demonstrate all the new techniques you will learn. You will be encouraged to print from one or more of your negatives under my watchful eye where we will look at applying some of the new techniques. This is not a workshop for the newcomer in the darkroom, but someone who has either completed one of my introductory Black and White print workshops or has been actively involved in print making for some time. There will be portfolio reviews as usual and lots more. The workshop fee includes paper and chemicals. Limited to 6.

## **THE CANADIAN ROCKIES - September 13 - 19 2009**

I am teaming up with Canadian photographer Craig Richards who has lived in the Rockies for over 25 years. His intimate knowledge of the area will make sure we get to photograph the most spectacular places. Our base will be in the heart of the Columbia Ice Fields which is breath taking as it is, but this will just be the start of it. I have made many trips to the Canadian Rockies and it one of those special places on earth and one of my favourites. The workshop will be limited to 12 people. Some from Canada, some from Australia and maybe some from elsewhere.

Well that's it for now. Enjoy your photography.

Till next time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.