PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS MAGAZINE | ISSUE 137

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS



INSPIRATION

FINDING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC VOICE

BUYERS GUIDE

THE LOWDOWN ON THE SONY A9 III

EXPERT GUIDE

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH FILM PHOTOGRAPHY

featured

EMANUEL SCARPONI INTERVIEW

ITALIAN LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER

PHOTOSHOP

STUDIO PORTRAIT TO FINE ART

MASTERCLASS

MASTER THE ART OF FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS MAGAZINE







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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to this edition of Photography Masterclass Magazine

The fashion industry is a multibillion dollar affair, and it relies heavily on photography to sell clothing and promote brands. There's a huge amount to experiment with in the fashion photography genre, giving you almost endless creative possibilities. In this issue, we'll cover the different types of fashion photography, the equipment you'll need, and our 6 top tips for shooting stunning fashion photography.

In this issue, we interview Italian landscape photographer Emanuel Scarponi. With an unwavering passion for the outdoors and a keen eye for composition, Scarponi's work transcends mere imagery, inviting viewers into a world where light dances on rugged terrain and every frame tells a story of serenity and wonder. Join us as we delve into the creative mind behind the lens, exploring the inspirations, techniques, and philosophies that shape Scarponi's captivating photographic journey.

We hope you enjoy this issue. If you try out any of the techniques mentioned, we'd love you to see your results, so please do share them with us in our readers' Facebook Group, or on Instagram using hashtag #PhotographyMasterclassMagazine

Happy Shooting!

Gill



MESSAGE FROM GILL ROBERTS

THE EDITOR

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER: EMANUEL SCARPONI



REFLECTION

In this issue, we speak to Italian landscape photographer Emanuel Scarponi. With an unwavering passion for the outdoors and a keen eye for composition, Scarponi's work transcends mere imagery, inviting viewers into a world where light dances on rugged terrain and every frame tells a story of serenity and wonder. Join us as we delve into the creative mind behind the lens, exploring the inspirations, techniques, and philosophies that shape Scarponi's captivating photographic journey.

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER



EMANUEL SCARPONI

Photographic Speciality/Style:

Landscape photography

Short Bio:

Born in 1992 in a small town in central Italy, I started taking photographs at the age of 18 after buying my first reflex camera with the sole idea of capturing better images than those taken with a cell phone, during my travels.

From there, the curiosity to better understand this medium was born, giving birth and growing my passion for photography.

Being in contact with nature, searching for the most hidden details and being able to admire the beauty of the night were the things that satisfied me most and made me feel good. It can be said that it is precisely from this feeling of well-being that the passion for landscape photography developed in me.



THE LONELY



TIME TO RETURN

Your images are stunning. Tell us a bit about your story and how you ended up specializing in landscape photography?

First of all thanks for the compliment - it's always nice when people appreciate your efforts. I started, as I believe many do, to take photographs by experimenting with all photographic genres starting from "street" to "still life", passing through portrait photography and ignoring at the beginning, paradoxically, landscape photography.
.
Over time, I then signed up for various courses to try to improve in each of these genres but, beyond the additional knowledge, the feeling was always that I was taking a photograph that I didn't feel was entirely mine.

As a nature lover, out of pure curiosity one day I decided to take part in a landscape photography course, almost for fun, and in that moment I discovered a wonderful world. In addition to being able to spend time in contact with nature away from everyday life, I also understood that for me the real challenge consisted in studying how to get the shot I had in mind when I found myself in those places. The spark was born precisely at the moment where I discovered how to combine an old passion (nature) with a new and ever-growing one (photography), and since then I have never stopped.



How do you decide on locations for your photography?

It might seem trivial, but my research very often begins with a photo of a more or less well-known location, seen by chance on social media or an advertisement and which particularly attracted my attention. Nowadays we are literally bombarded with images and it is true that many photographic locations have become too popular, reaching the point that they could bore those who are always faced with the same subject.

However, given that my photographic research is done primarily to satisfy myself, what I really like is finding a personal interpretation of the places I visit, in order to make the shot unique. It is for this reason that I can actually say that my shots often originate from social media or other photographic channels.



MYSTICAL EMBRACE

STARRY NIGHT





You've travelled to so many great places. Which have been your favorite locations to shoot so far and why?

Fortunately (or unfortunately) I still have to visit many places as Patagonia, Japan, Morocco, America and much more are still missing from my list. However, I am lucky enough to have been born in a country like Italy which, among other things, is a nice amusement park for this kind of photography since you can range from the beautiful mountains of the Dolomites to the sinuous hills of the Val d'Orcia , passing through the southern coasts up to the night skies of Sardinia.

But I don't deny that my love currently remains fixed for Iceland, a nation that can offer so much to a landscape photographer with all the pros and cons of it. Although I have visited it in all seasons, I figured out that it can offer something different for every occasion and perhaps its beauty lies precisely in it being so wild and sometimes unpredictable, especially due to the weather.



ETHEREAL HEIGHTS



BETWEEN CURVES AND LIGHT

Tell us a bit about how you go about planning a shooting a specific location and getting the final image.

In Italy or abroad I love to plan, albeit slightly differently, every photographic outing trying to associate the shot with the weather conditions and the shooting session (be it a sunrise, a sunset or a night time) to exploit the best light conditions.

For this reason, before traveling I always rely on various apps and websites that help me with this and I spend a lot of time studying them.

Furthermore, especially when it comes to a new location, I also try to understand the environment in the vicinity of the shooting location in advance to avoid finding myself completely lost when I arrive. Also in this case I help myself with various 3D maps which often offer me the possibility of even studying a minimum composition in advance.

I am so meticulous in this process that my goal before departure, in addition to having memorized the location in broad terms, is also to predict which technique to use when shooting for the composition I have in mind (focus stacking, HDR etc.) so as to better optimize the timing and possibly have the chance to try something different that I couldn't have foreseen from home.

Your images always have such great lighting. Is it luck or are you able to plan it to some extent?

Luck certainly plays a fundamental role in every photographic outing: who wouldn't want to have this factor always with them? However, it is normal for the unexpected to be around the corner even if, as mentioned before, trying to match each location with its ideal light and weather conditions minimizes the risks, in the hope that all the predictions will then come true. Sometimes it goes wrong, but very often you get results that are even better than you imagined.



EYSTRAHORN

It's great to see that you alternate between day and night photography. Could you tell us how you get such great dynamic range in your images regardless of whether it's a day or a night shot?

Let's start from the assumption that I always try to represent and interpret in a personal way what my eyes have seen and that very often, as I believe has happened to many of you, it is not what the camera manages to capture.

As regards daytime photography, I often use shooting techniques by subjecting the same image to different exposures to then combine in the post-production phase to increase the dynamic range of the scene. Less frequently I use graduated filters, which I leave only for certain environmental conditions or when I am looking for specific water blurring effects.

For night shots, however, I try to lengthen the shutter speed as much as possible to capture more details (which in my opinion make the difference in a successful photo) thanks also to modern sensors which allow excellent recoveries in very low light conditions. However, I don't like to exaggerate too much, because for my photographic vision the shot must remain nocturnal and must never turn into daytime.



AUTUMN MORNING



KISS THE STARS



INTERWINED

What's your long-term photographic ambition?

Wow, good question... Definitely continue to travel to visit and therefore photograph as many places as possible.

Over time, I would also like to create new collaborations with brands in the sector and organize courses dedicated exclusively to landscape photography directly in the field.



WHITEOUT

Where does your photographic inspiration come from?

Mainly from other Italian (and not only) photographers who I admire and follow most on various social networks.

I believe that nowadays we are surrounded by people with a lot of talent for this photographic genre and being able to study their vision encourages me to do more and improves my inspiration. For this reason, if I have the opportunity, I also like to meet them in person and organize some shooting sessions together, since I always find the discussion stimulating and I consider it a fundamental moment of both professional and personal growth.

What would you consider to be your greatest achievement (or achievements) in your photography to date?

In the early days, one of my biggest flaws was arriving at the location and, if there hadn't been the planned weather conditions, returning home without any shots - even sometimes without even having taken the camera out of my backpack. For many it might seem trivial, but having understood how this behavior was a strong limit to growth for me and finally being able to overcome it was a great personal achievement! In this regard, one of the most recent photos that got an award in a competition was taken in conditions that until a few years ago I would never have thought of capturing.

If we are talking about personal recognition, in recent months I have managed to establish collaborations with various companies in the sector and win some more or less well-known competitions. I am a very humble person and I realize that I have a long way to go, but for the moment I am satisfied with the path taken.



TUSCANY DETAILS



NOCTURNAL SYMPHONY



SIT BACK, RELAX, AND ENJOY THE SOUND OF FLOWING WATER

What's your favorite photo that you've ever taken & why?

This question puts me in great difficulty because just as I dedicate a lot of attention to planning the shot, I am equally self-critical when I find myself in the post-production phase. It is for this reason that each of my photos is published only after having passed a long selection phase, sometimes remaining still on my hard disk for months, and therefore one could say that each of them is my favorite.

However, if I had to indicate one that I am particularly proud of, I would choose the shot "Sit back, relax and enjoy the sound of flowing water" (see above) that I took a few years ago in Godafoss in Iceland, whose title refers to exactly what I was experiencing at that moment.

What's inside your kit bag?

I currently use a Nikon Z6 II with various lenses, including a Sigma 14mm f/1.8 Art lens, a Nikon 14-30mm f/4 S, a Nikon 24-70mm f/4 S, a Sigma 100-400mm f/5 - 6.3 and K&F and Kase magnetic filters, all well kept inside my two faithful f-stop backpacks Tilopa and Ajna.



OXARARFOSS

What's inside your dream kit bag?

I have never been a great lover of photographic equipment for its own sake, in the sense that I have never dreamed of the latest camera model or a particular lens just for its own sake. In fact, my aim has always been to find the equipment best suited to my needs, although at the moment I think it wouldn't be a bad idea to combine my Z6 II with a Z8, especially after having had the opportunity and pleasure of using it on some occasions.

Which piece of kit couldn't you do without?

My ace in the hole is certainly the Nikon Z6 II combined with the Nikon 14-30 or, alternatively, with the Sigma 100-400, given that these are the lenses I use most: I love the ultra wide-angle lens for capturing the great landscape and I love the zoom to capture glimpses and smaller details, I consider them the strong points of my photographic vision.



STARRY HAVEN



What words of advice would you give to beginners?

The first advice I would give to everyone is to have fun and enjoy every moment they want to immortalize, since in my opinion photography should mainly be this. Also because I believe that a shot taken mechanically, without enjoyment, is unable to convey anything to the viewer and has no sense of existing.

Another piece of advice that I would like to give, and which in my case has proven to be very useful, is to observe and study as many photos as possible to understand, among those that capture our attention, why they do so. In fact, in my opinion, it is essential to pay particular attention to the composition, the light and the choices made in the post-production phase for each of them in order to research the tricks and techniques that made it successful and then be able to re-propose them in your own shots.

Find photographers who are a source of inspiration for you and perhaps even try to imitate their shots but adding something personal, to understand over time what the elements that characterize your vision and style might be.

STARING UP THE SKY



Follow more of Emanuel Scarponi's work on his website, Instagram and Facebook.