

THE CONCEPT OF "MOTION STILLS" AND FOCUS PULLING

February 22, 2013

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

New Video Here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFy7yusUxZM&feature=youtu.be>

I have been working with stacked photos for many years, stacking layers of photos to create the sense of the entire photo being in focus. There can be upward of a hundred photos in a stack. Keep in mind that with our eyes, everywhere we look things are in focus, although in reality things are only in focus exactly where we look, and all our peripheral vision is blurred. We just don't notice it.

With focus stacking, everything (or as much as we wish) is in pristine focus, so unlike a traditional photo where there is one main point of focus (and one focus plane), with a stacked photo your eye is not led to one point by the photographer, but is free to range over the entire photo and pick your own focus. This fact makes stacked photos kind of three-dimensional in some way. There is a freedom there. That is focus stacking and I have written a couple of books on the subject, which are here:

<http://macrostop.com/>

Since I tend to find myself walking the bleeding edge all too often, I am now interested in pursuing what I am calling "Motion Stills," the idea of using DSLR (or other) video to create mini-videos, short vignettes that take the eye on a 3D tour of the subject via focus, along with various pans and zooms.

We enjoy looking at still photos. Why should we not enjoy a few seconds of these motion stills if done well? Anyway, that is what this short video is about, as well as taking a look at pulling focus using one of the new follow focus devices for DSLRs.