Beyond Digital Photography

Transforming Photos into Fine Art with Photoshop and Painter

Cher Threinen-Pendarvis and Donal Jolley

Peachpit Press

Excerpted from Beyond Digital Photography: Transforming Photos into Fine Art with Photoshop and Painter by Cher Threinen-Pendarvis and Donal Jolley.

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Foreword

> In art, the hand can never execute anything higher than the heart can imagine.
>
> —*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

> There is nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept.
>
> —*Ansel Adams*

Balance is always one of the most difficult states for an artist to achieve, especially one who lives in the digital age.

Good art always has its germination in creative passion. Passion without technique, and without craftsmanship and control over one's artistic tools can be desperately stunted. Conversely, mastery of technology without a vision worth sharing, is a decorative meal without nutrition or taste.

Creativity and Craftsmanship are key components of the artist's balancing act. The skills used to execute the tools at hand extend the vision that is within the heart.

Enter Stage Right: Cher Threinen-Pendarvis. The consummate artistic tightrope walker! Cher is an absolute master of the digital medium, and a painter so passionate you couldn't stop her from creating art on a daily basis if you tried!

I've known Cher for a zillion years, both of us starting to do digital painting back when computer art was one-bit and the computers themselves were wood-burning! In addition to our art, both of us also share an intense love for the sea and the riding of her waves (which you will experience in much of Cher's work), that continues to this day. But what has always struck me about Cher is her ability to balance out the completely bohemian drive

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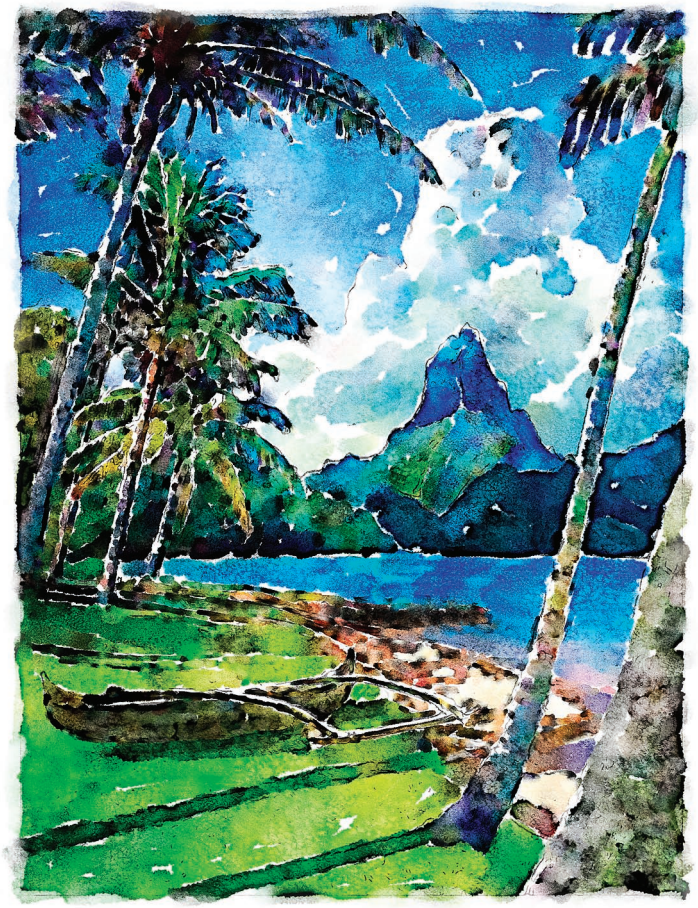

to paint and draw, with a "geeky" technical prowess of the digital tools—especially her drive to share *both* of these passions, these gifts, these ways of looking at the creative life, through her wonderfully intimate writing and teaching.

In your hands is the consummation of Cher's and her coauthor, Don's, incredible ability to share these two sides of the digital painter's coin. Here you will find everything from setting up your computer studio, to help choosing what makes a great composition, to practicing step-by-step real-world art projects in both of the artist's essential software packages—Photoshop and Painter—to printing out your masterpieces after they have come to life.

The authors have done this sharing of the complete creative process is such a way that it is highly accessible, completely enjoyable and entirely inspirational. In this book you will *play* . . . and *work* (another balancing act that Cher excels in) and thus you will walk away from your sessions in this virtual classroom empowered to put into passionate practice what you have just experienced first-hand from these two Masters.

You have a gift in your hands. Enjoy it. Consume it. Master this balancing act of Craftsmanship and Creativity, and take up your stylus and continue down this wonderful adventure that is the Artistic Life!

Vaya con Dios,
Jack H. Davis

Award-winning artist, photographer and author of numerous books on the digital creative process.

AdventuresInPhotoshop.com

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