

Parting Shot

In the days before digital and Photoshop we needed to do things differently. That's not to say the results were always satisfactory - but it's the thought that counts and one shot that worked well for me was this fisheye and hands shot.

I was competing in a 'Photosub' competition - The Blue Dolphin in Aquaba in 1988 and I produced this image.

It is an 'in camera' double exposure. The first image obviously being the circular fisheye image and then the hands were added during a second exposure.

I loaded a roll of 36 exposure film in my Pentax LX camera and marked the film so that I could reload it very precisely a second time. At the time, the LX was one of the few cameras which had very accurate 'registration' and the film sprockets rotated to exactly the same position when the film was wound on.

I shot several frames of the fisheye image. For this I used a Maxwider supplementary lens. This adapter screwed onto the front of a standard lens (50mm) to give a fullframe fisheye effect. On a 28mm it gave the full circular image while on a 24mm a

smaller circle resulted. I used it on 21mm lens to give a slightly smaller circle with more space around it.

After the dive the film was then rewound and placed back onto the same starting position on the sprockets but, unlike most other double exposures at the time, I displaced it by one sprocket hole which placed the circular image off centre and slightly higher in the vertical format to give more space for the second image.

The hands of the model were then shot against a dark background with a 50mm lens behind a flat plate. The overhang of the bow of a wreck was most convenient it and allowed the hands to be shot with natural light. Getting the exposure right for this second image was the biggest problem but a large bracket range gave the right result.

Nowadays there are Photoshop tools to turn full frame images into circular fisheyes and then add second images at the stroke of a mouse without leaving your chair but would that give you the same feeling of satisfaction?



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Do you have an interesting shot with a short story behind it?
If so e mail us and yours could be the next "Parting shot".
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