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Jim combined the color channels on several different images, shot with a Lensbaby, to create this artistic effect.

Jim DiVitale: STILL LIFE WITH A TWIST

Jim DiVitale combined a Lensbaby with Photoshop techniques to get painterly results. A commercial advertising photographer for 25 years, and a member of the National Photoshop Professional Instructors Dream Team since 2000, it comes as no surprise to see Jim combining old studio still life techniques with new equipment and digital technology.

The teapot image shown here is a great example of this. Starting with a Lensbaby 3G lens on his Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Jim explains, “This flexible lens offers more than the swings and tilts of view cameras. It can make things blurrier and funkier. I can get out of focus faster and more harshly than with swings and tilts.”

The new Lensbaby adds a lock-down capability similar to its previous models, which enables multiple exposures to be “pin registered” on the computer. Once the lens was locked, Jim took images with a raw tungsten light from different positions. For most of them, he diffused the light through a piece of mottled shower glass to break it up. By switching the magnetically “levitating” aperture disk on the 3G, he selected f/8 for this shot.

His next step was to bring the images into the computer environ-

ment and view them separately as red, green and blue channels in Photoshop. He selected the red channel from one image and combined it with the blue and green channels from two other pictures that had been lit differently. While sometimes Jim combines only three or four photos for this technique, with other images it might take up to 30. The aesthetic variations he can create are endless.

This technique is not unlike how the (now nearly obsolete) early three-shot digital cameras worked, shooting separate red, green and blue layers in succession. Jim just replicates this function in Photoshop and adds the varied lighting twists. In this way, he has created a very artistic vision, and surprisingly to most people unfamiliar with the technique, he has done it without using colored lighting gels.

To view more of Jim DiVitale’s images, or for a list of his upcoming workshops, visit www.divitalephotography.com. For information on the Lensbaby lenses, visit www.lensbaby.com.

Jenni Bidner has over 17 years experience in the photo industry as an editor, author, Internet content manager, public relations professional and photographer. She is the author of seven books on conventional and digital photography, including the top-selling Lighting Cookbook.