Introduction to Photography

A Visual Guide to the Essential Skills of Photography and Lightroom

Mark Galer

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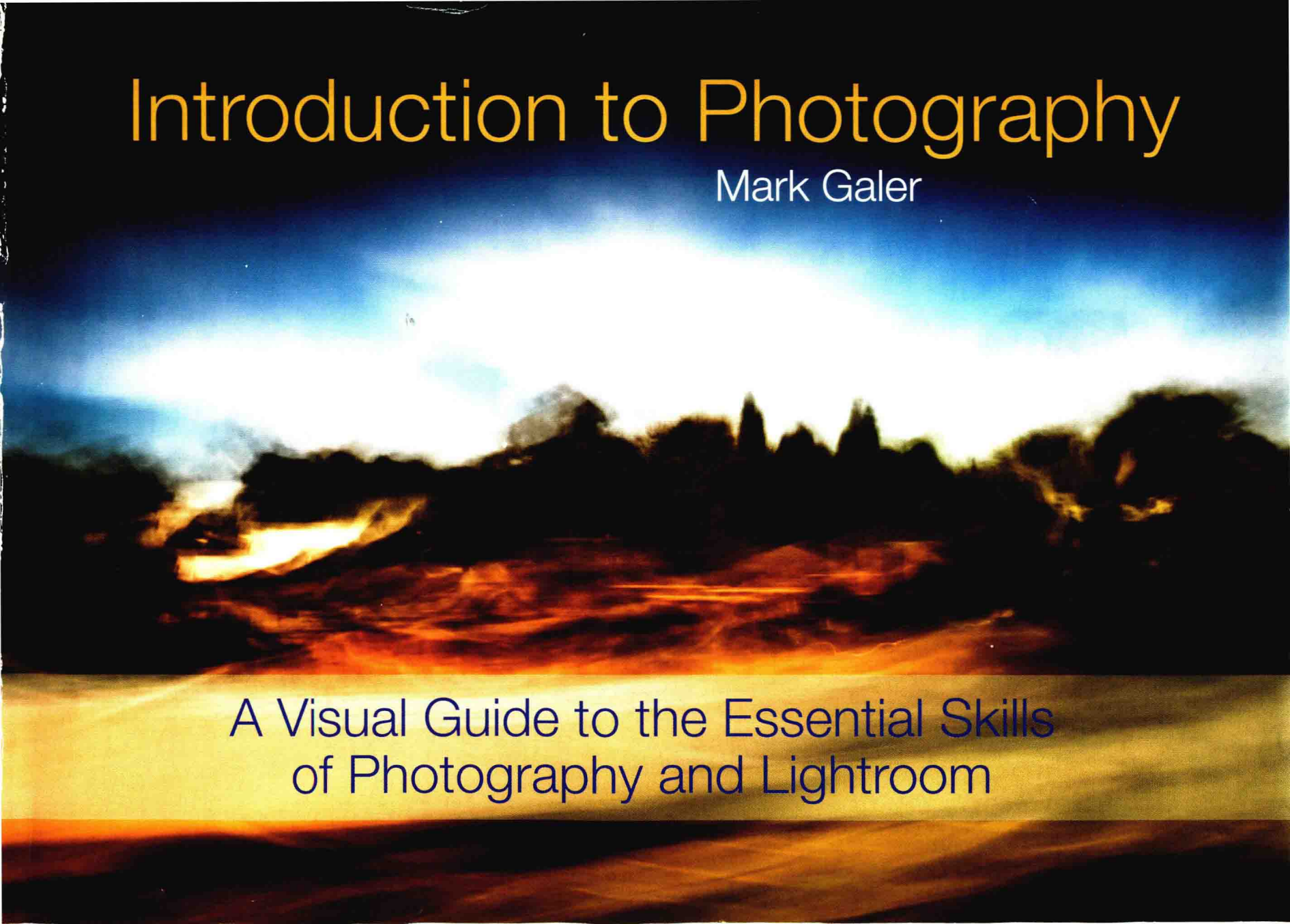

A Visual Guide to the Essential Skills of Photography and Lightroom

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A Visual Guide to Mastering Digital Photography and Lightroom

Mark Galer

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All other images that appear in this book are by the author.
To all the people who either posed for me and allowed themselves to be photographed or who were captured by my roving photographic eye I am eternally grateful.

MARK GALER has a commercial background in editorial photography and is a recognized Photoshop expert. He has been a Senior Lecturer in Photography at RMIT University and has published twenty-one photography titles for the international publisher Focal Press.

His books have been translated into seven languages including Chinese and Russian and have been adopted widely across Europe and the USA as curriculum texts for aspiring commercial photographers.

Mark Galer

Sony Ambassador

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The aim of this short course is to provide you with the essential skills to capture creative photographic images.

You will learn how to take your camera out of Auto or Program mode and adjust aperture, shutter speed and ISO settings. This will enable you to creatively change the visual outcome to suit the subject you are photographing.

As with all craft skills, it requires repeated practice before these skills will become 'second-nature' so that you can then focus on your subject instead of your camera.

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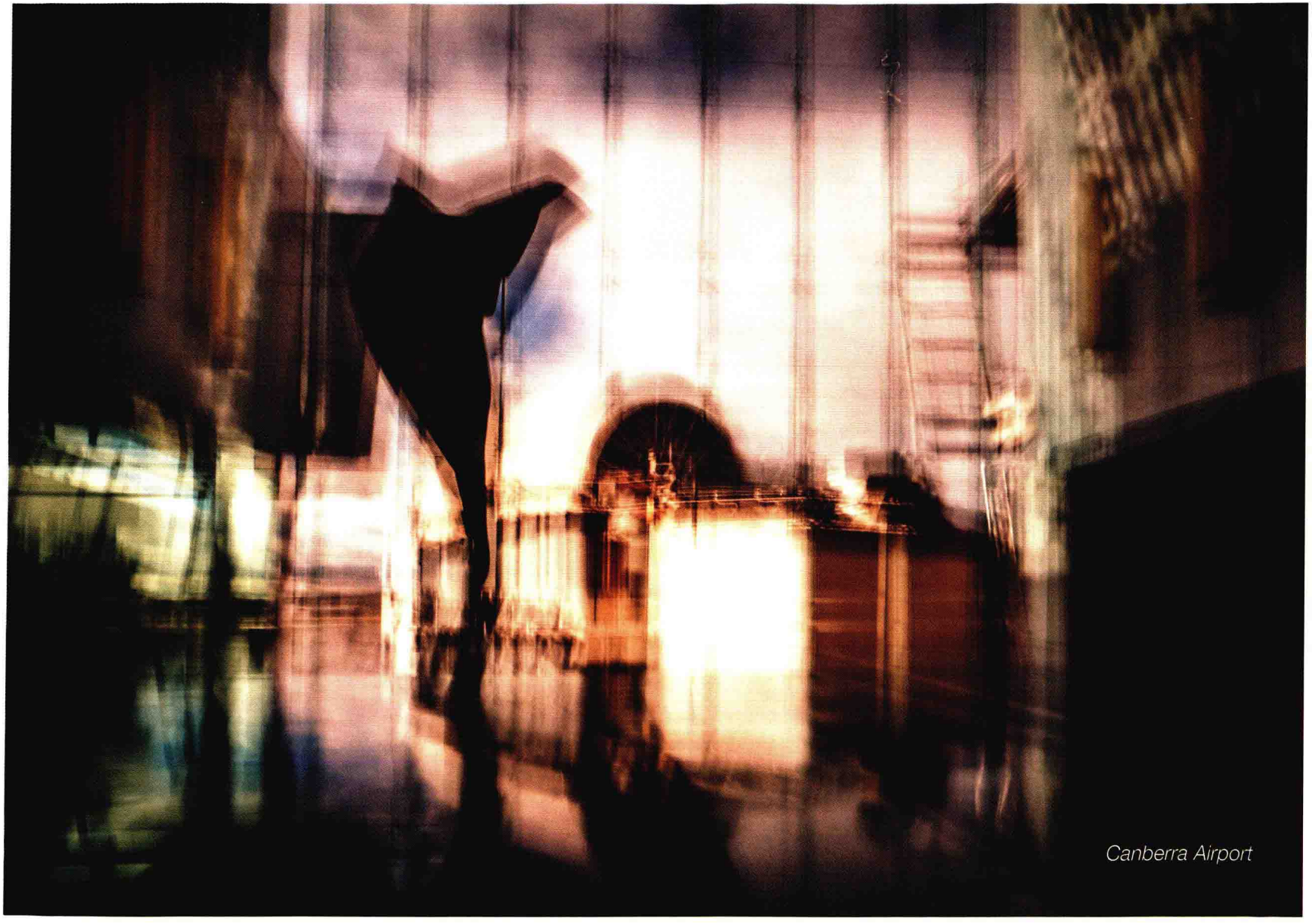

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Course Overview

Study this Technical module until you are comfortable with the camera settings and concepts being outlined.

Read the FOUR creative challenges in the ‘Creative Challenge’ module and then capture images that meet the technical criteria of each challenge. The images that you capture will teach you how you can work with your camera optimized for four shooting scenarios.

Optimize the images using Lightroom (as guided by the ‘Image Editing’ module of this guide) and then submit four ‘Raw’ images from each challenge that demonstrate your understanding and skills.

For more information, videos, and tutorials, please visit i2p.markgaler.com.

Equipment and Materials

Camera: To complete this course you need a DSLR or interchangeable lens camera (ILC) or a 'prosumer' fixed lens camera that can shoot in the Raw (unprocessed) file format.

Lens: The camera's lens must be able to zoom from wide angle to short telephoto. A standard kit zoom on will suffice or any fixed lens prosumer camera with a 3x zoom or greater.

Software: Use the current version of Photoshop Lightroom and keep the software up-to-date.

Course Information

If you are using this text as part of a college course follow these guidelines so that your teacher can assess your work for the creative challenges.

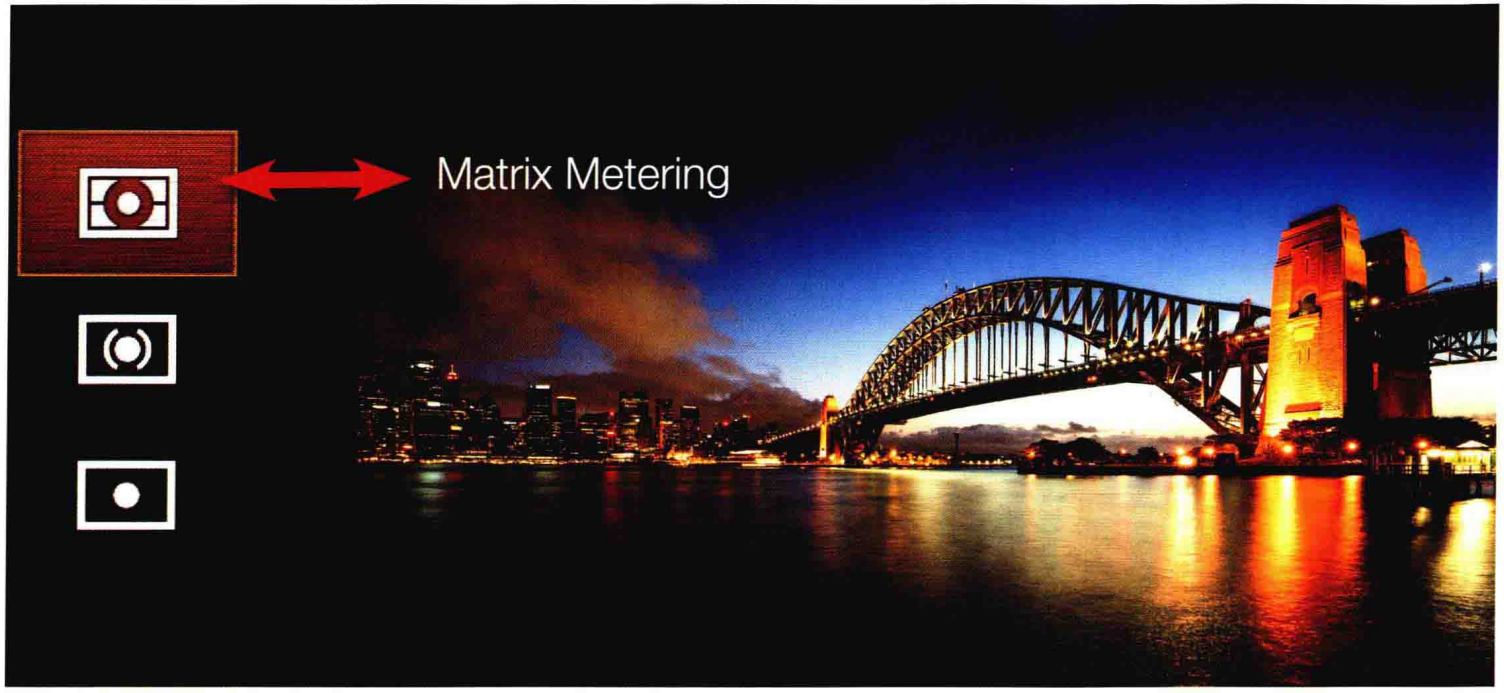
- Use available light only. Do not use flash photography for this course.
- Set the current time and date in the camera's menu.
- Do not photograph at night (twilight is OK).
- Seek permission when photographing on private property.
- Do not use lens-adapters to attach non-standard lenses.
- Only photograph strangers in a public place, and be considerate to people's wishes if they do not want to be photographed.

Technical Section

Eureka

Exposure

Metering Modes



Cameras measure subject brightness and then ‘Expose’ the ‘image sensor’ to the light. Varying the ‘Exposure’ will control how light or dark your image appears. Different ‘Metering Modes’ enable the camera to measure subject brightness either in the center of the frame (spot or center metering) or across the entire frame (Matrix or Evaluative metering). Matrix or Evaluative metering is recommended for general use.

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