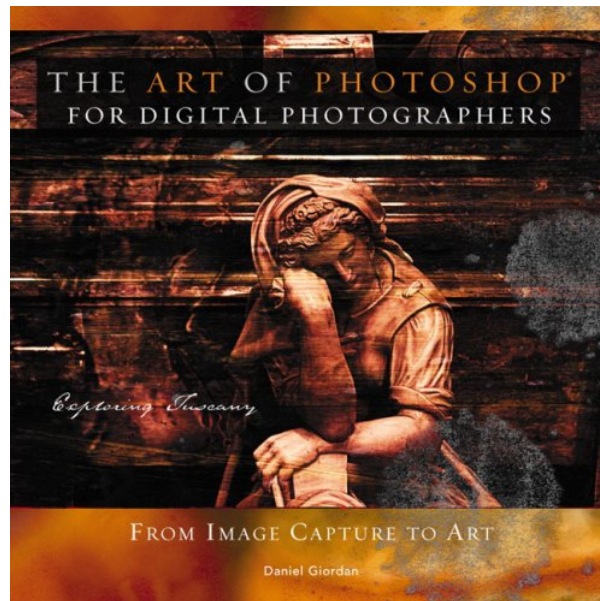
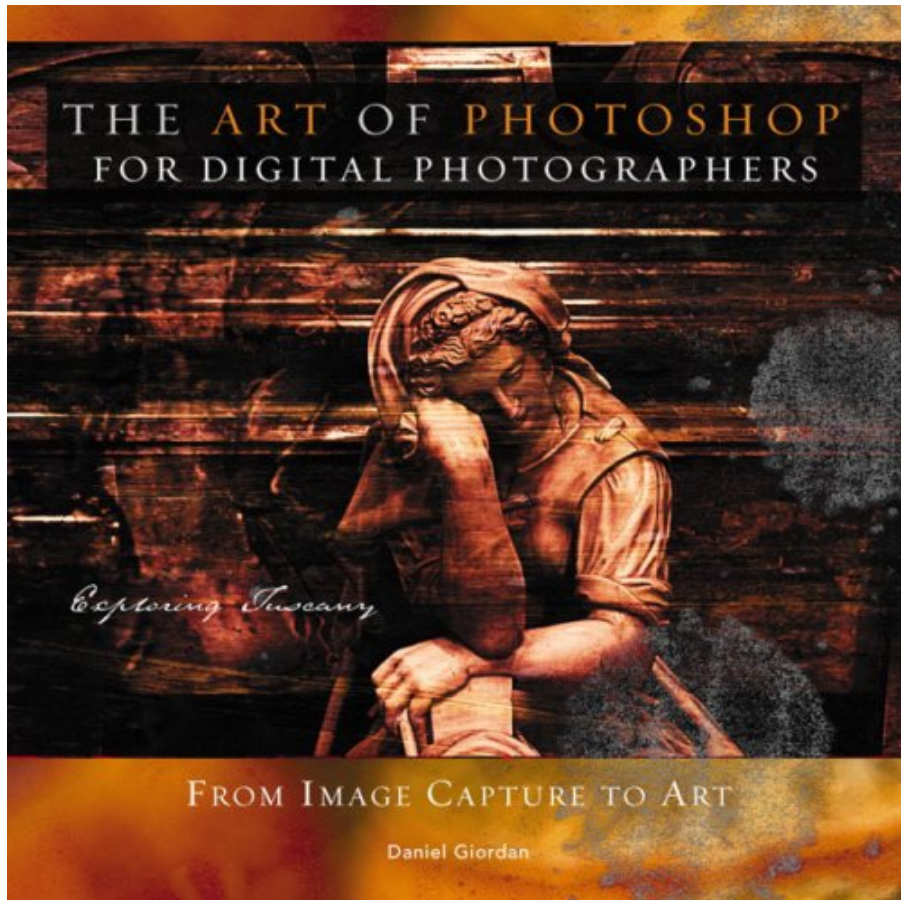


THE ART OF PHOTOSHOP FOR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHERS BY DANIEL GIORDAN



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Most helpful customer reviews

17 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

Split Personality

By Conrad J. Obregon

I was really excited when I first looked at this book. I regularly complain that many ostensible photography manuals are really picture books that have had some language added to make them look like photography instruction books. Here was a book that had plenty of beautiful pictures of Tuscany that were really used as a framework for instruction. Then I discovered the book's split personality.

The first part of the book is aimed at beginning to intermediate serious photographers. Using the author's own digital pictures, Giordan explained the basics of photography, including exposure, focus and composition. The pictures were not only lovely, but they were tied to the text so that they illuminated the teaching points. Giordan has a tendency to photograph details rather than the big picture, but perhaps that's also a useful lesson to learn. He also seems willing to tolerate over-exposed skies to get shadow details. But he passed my litmus test for any book maintaining it's about digital photography by explaining the use of the histogram, blinkies and even the zone system.

Unfortunately, he also put out some wrong information. For example, he states that digital cameras achieve exposure compensation by adjusting ISO ratings and so one should shoot in manual mode if one expected to compensate exposure. But that's certainly not true of the Nikon D2H, which Giordan used for the pictures in this book, or any other digital camera I know. Most digital cameras compensate with the aperture when you are in shutter mode and the shutter speed when you are in aperture mode. Moreover, while the author acknowledges that an important role of lenses of different focal lengths is to adjust perspective, he also preserves the old myth that depth of field is a function of focal length.

Still, even with inaccuracies like that, this book looked like a four-star book. Then the second section came along. It deals with the use of Photoshop and is aimed at very experienced users of the software rather than the beginning to intermediate audience of the first section. Here was an ideal opportunity to use the photographs of Tuscany to show how to control exposure, lighting and color with the basics of Photoshop. Instead he chose to use some very advanced techniques to create pictures that were far removed from the basics of digital processing. For example, in a chapter telling how to use Photoshop while preserving the photographic nature of the image, he shows how to simulate twilight or do the equivalent of hand coloring of photographs.

In the following chapter he explains how to modify images so they look like paintings or drawings. He finishes up with detailed descriptions of how he manipulated certain photographs to make them look like they weren't photographs.

I tried to put aside the philosophy that one should capitalize on the nature of photography when using

Photoshop. I downloaded images from the companion website and tried to follow along with the author's description of how he was manipulating the pictures. I consider myself an experienced Photoshop user, but often the instructions were too sketchy or ambiguous for me to follow on a first try, and sometimes after several tries, I still couldn't follow Giordan's instructions.

This book had the potential to be really effective by taking a different approach to photography instruction. Unfortunately, the first part is filled with a few landmines and the second part is only for the most experienced Photoshop users for whom the first part might prove too simplistic.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Most beautiful Photoshop book ever!

By D'Lynn Waldron, PhD

This is the most beautiful Photoshop book I have ever seen.

Daniel Giordan has always been my favorite Photoshop author for his clarity and organization, and with this book he brings together his Photoshop expertise, his skills as a digital photographer, his art school training in traditional media, and his love of the land of his ancestors, Italy. He traveled through Tuscany taking photos.

He then created a book to instruct and inspire the digital photographer and he also shares with the reader the pleasures of traveling through Tuscany.

This book taught me new techniques to use in Photoshop and reminded me of things I had been neglecting that will optimize my digital photography, such as having my camera display histograms and using an off-camera shutter release when I am using a tripod to eliminate the camera movement from pressing a shutter button.

The design team is to be praised for creating a book design that is in itself an aesthetic pleasure. Daniel Giordan designed the cover and a David Giordan is listed as a designer of the interior.

This book makes the perfect gift for a photographer who uses Photoshop. A really great gift would include a holiday in Italy because after reading this book and looking at the marvelous variety of beautiful subjects, you will certainly want to take your own trip through Tuscany.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Another Fantastic Guide

By Melissa Naiman

One of the things I loved most about The Art of Photoshop was the detailed descriptions of the many intricate (and not-so-intuitive) features of Photoshop. The Art of Photoshop for Digital Photographers follows this same pattern, offering explanations of camera settings (f-stop, aperture, etc) and moving on to advanced editing/artistic techniques. The entire book revolves around the philosophy that while Photoshop can be used to make a mediocre picture good the artist can use Photoshop to make a fantastic photo better. This book seemed very personal; Giordan mixes stories from his travels in Tuscany with technical information, making this book an easier read than the Art of Photoshop.

In this version the stock photos are available to play with before one goes out and shoots their masterpiece :).

So once again detailed explanations leave the reader more empowered in front of the monitor. If you are looking for an easy, fast, quick, commercial guide, this is not the book for you. However, if you are interested in creation rather than imitation, you will be very pleased with this purchase.

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