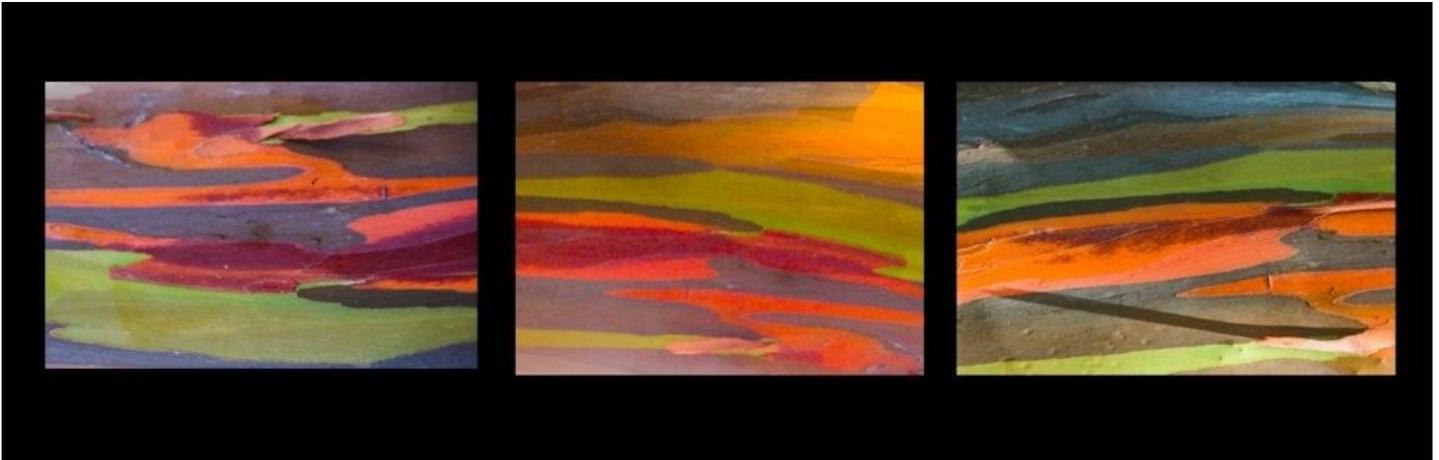


How to Get the

Shot

*Revealing the Secrets
Behind Unforgettable Photography*

Blog #113: Modern Art Or Natural Wonder?



Flipped on their sides, three photo of details from Rainbow Eucalyptus trees make an interesting Triptych.

Sometimes nature is stranger than reality. And sometimes it's more colorful than something we would have thought up on our own. That unexpected find can be the inspiration behind a photo – or in this case a triptych. (A triptych is artwork consisting of three separate panels).

My triptych started out with morning coffee at a rustic-chic coffee shop with a bohemian flare in Ft. Lauderdale. The Alchemist Cafe is known for the distinct smell of coffee roasting in a courtyard nestled in an artist community. Lots of outside seating with local artwork displayed alongside forgotten antiques and collectables.

While I waited for my brew, I glanced up and saw an unexpected surprise. Here was a tree standing about 60 feet tall with a vibrant canvas of color peeling away. Rusty reds and purples giving way to orange. As you pulled on a layer, it revealed another color below – bright chartreuse greens and burnt oranges making way for yellow. I spent an hour taking multiple close-up of the colors and patterns. Everywhere you looked there was another mini-masterpiece of colors like a Morris Louis painting coming to life. You know photography is your passion when you can get lost in a moment like this. Time flies. You start to imagine the colors being paint colors on a canvas you will be creating back on the computer. The possibilities are endless. Where's that coffee?!

The colorful striations are created due to the fact that the tree doesn't shed all at once while other exposed areas have already begun aging. As a rainbow eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus deglupta*) sheds its bark, it reveals a neon **green** inner layer. Slowly, over time, different layers fall off and as they are exposed to air, it ages into different colors—bright reds, oranges, blues, pinks and purples. The tree is indigenous to the Philippines, New Guinea, and Indonesia growing to a massive 250 feet. It's been introduced into the US in Hawaii and the southern portions of California, Texas and Florida, so may be surprised to see it locally.



Back at my computer, designing, cropping and framing, I was challenged by the numerous options available. Do I select the most colorful photograph or put vibrant patches of color side by side? I started out picking my favorite three photo that showcased a brilliant variety of colors and patterns. Dur to the vibrant colors, I did not need to add any colors. I just increased the contrast and white balance in the photographs already taken. After printing copies, my husband noted that laid on their sides, the photographs looked like a creative version of a sunset, and I decided to jump on this idea as the basis of my photo display. In the end, I brought three images to Costco and had them transformed into works of art reproduced om canvas that are displayed as a triptych on the wall.

TAKEAWAYS

1. Keep your eyes open for new photo opportunities. Take in nature. Enjoy the scene.
2. Don't rush. If you're on your own, and you have the luxury of your own time, give yourself permission to get lost in the moment and enjoy the creativity it inspires.
3. Step back and move in. Take shots that capture the detail of the subject and the context for the larger image.
4. Consider returning to a photo site. A second trip can provide great perspective and shots you missed. The same colors in full daylight can be completely different at sunrise or sunset.