

Advanced **IMAGES**

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& Digital IMAGING  
Issue 34

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Advanced **IMAGES**

Issue 34, November / December 2007

PP12416/6/2008

RM 8.00



# Looking Thru The Eyes of Steve Chong

Steve Chong is a self-made Malaysian photographer who started his hobby in October 2001. Starting out with a point and shoot film camera, Steve had gone through various film capture mediums before embracing the digital age a mere two years later in 2003. Since then he has also invested in medium format cameras to take advantage of its high image quality, and has since gone on to large format from 2006.

Steve found his niche in conceptual and surrealistic photography, a passion that he pursues fervently. His tireless efforts and photographic eye have earned him international accolades from Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland, USA, Singapore and Luxembourg, ranging from 1st prizes, gold medals to silvers and bronzes. AI salutes Steve Chong for his efforts in putting Malaysia on the world map, and hopes that his works will inspire the next generation to excel in photography for the country and for themselves.

**AI: How long have you been doing still life photography?**

SC: I began my interest in still life photography somewhere near early 2002.

**AI: Do you walk around with your photographic eye turned on all the time, or is it turned on when you are in the mood to create art?**

SC: I would say I have the so called "photographic eye" turned on most of the time. I would look for subjects that interest me the most and sometimes when the contact is made, chances are, I could be inspired at that very moment. Of course when I am driven by the mood, the process of conceiving an idea and bringing it to life would take a shorter turn.

**AI: What makes a good still life photograph? Are there any rules to follow?**

SC: As far as I am concerned, I feel that a good still life photo would stand out prominently; it could be the idea or the concept, the play of light or shadows, the application of colors or composition, either way, it would have to be different and most challengingly, it should convey a message or invoke the inner feelings of the viewers.



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**AI: Do you prefer shooting still life in a studio, or outdoors where the environment is less controllable?**

SC: Most of my still life photos were done in the studio. My work requires lots of previsualization and preparation; to achieve the optimum result I would categorically like to have a substantial amount of control over my subjects. Shooting in the studio gives me the advantage and the chances of success are admittedly higher.

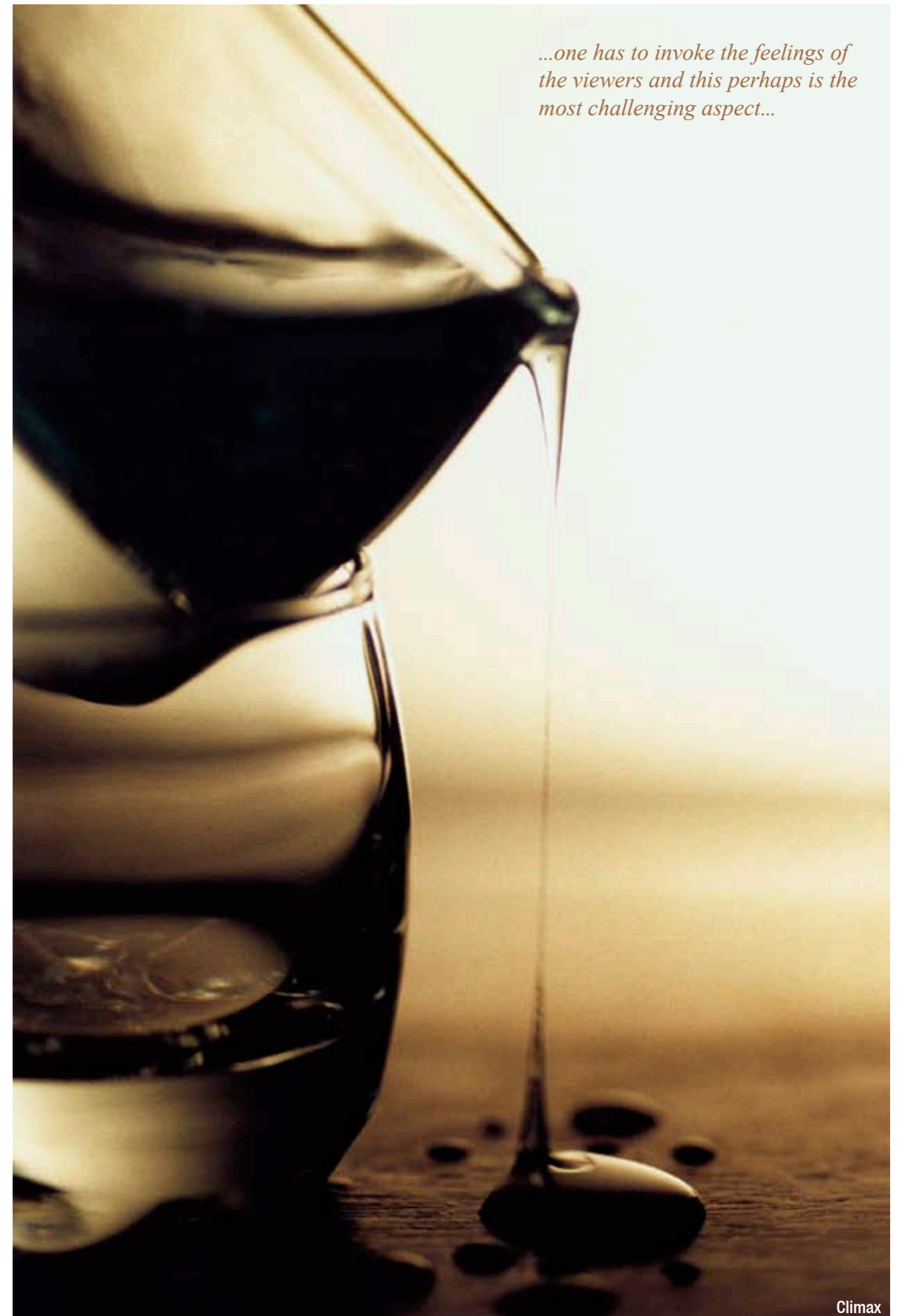
**AI: How often do you shoot still life? Do you make it a point to shoot a certain number of still life a month, or only when you are inspired?**

SC: I shoot when I am inspired.

**AI: What are the most challenging elements of shooting still life?**

SC: I find that some of the most challenging elements in still life photography are that one has to make it different, one has to convey a message through the photo, one has to invoke the feelings of the viewers and this perhaps is the most challenging aspect, since it is after all "still life" we are talking about.

*My work requires lots  
of previsualization and preparation.....*



*...one has to invoke the feelings of  
the viewers and this perhaps is the  
most challenging aspect...*



Tango Of Exuberance



Butterfly Dream



Salty Snow



Steve Chong hails from Bahau, Negeri Sembilan. He specializes in conceptual, still life and landscape photography. He shoots with DSLRs, medium format as well as large format cameras.

**AI: Are you shooting professionally? What is your main focus?**

I do occasionally take up jobs; however, my main focus is on assignments that concern conceptual types of still life photography.

**AI: Do you think of the captions for your works before or after the shoot?**

SC: Most of the time, I thought about the captions after the shots were completed. However, sometimes I do shoot based on an idea or a caption. "Butterfly Dream" fits the context very well.

**AI: If there's one thing you want to be remembered by when you're gone, what would it be?**

SC: It would have to be, "Oh that guy does cool conceptual stuff, he is different."

AI congratulates Steve for his achievements in the past, and hope that many more accolades await him. Steve can be contacted at [info@stevechong.com](mailto:info@stevechong.com). For more insights into his works, do visit [www.stevechong.com](http://www.stevechong.com)

"It is not what you see, but the way you see it ..."  
**Steve Chong**