

Long Exposure Light Painting Photography.

This workshop was about giving some of members something they could try with friends or on their own, giving them the opportunity to try something different and have some fun.

Equipment.

1. Glass objects like vases, paperweights, crystals, bottles anything that you can pull lights out of, or will make patterns if light is shone on them.
2. Some fairy lights battery operated, laser pens.
3. Your camera, a tripod.
4. A mini portable studio if you have it. If not a black or brown sheet or black card. It works better with a dark background.

Set Up

Set up your Mini Studio if you have it, or your background. You need to make sure you have enough of the background above where your object ends, so when you pull lights out of a vase you can adjust the camera to give yourself enough room to capture the streams of light coming out of the top of the object. Put your camera on the tripod and put your object say a vase with the lights in front of your background and your camera in front of that focusing on the object.

Taking your Pictures

Your camera setting should be aperture f/20, ISO 100, Shutter speed 8 to 10 seconds. Set the self timer to 10 seconds. The shutter speed may need adjusting up or down depending on how light or dark your images come out. This is where practise comes in and just playing about until you find

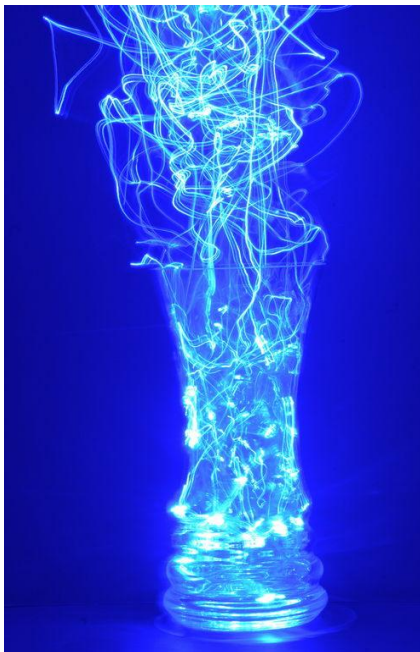


Figure 1

settings that work for you comes into play. With the lights on get the autofocus to get the focus on the object, once you have focus lock switch focus to manual and you can now turn all your lights off and just have fairy lights in the vase on. Start your 10 second self timer and go to the vase. When the shutter is open start to pull out in a stream the fairy lights the 8 to 10 seconds. You should then end up with a stream of lights – see Figure 1.

Try to be careful not to let lights hang down from your hands or have the battery section of the lights still near the vase or get too close to the vase as all these things or anything not moving will show in your photo.

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Now it's just a case of having fun, trying different objects, like bottles, glasses – see Figure 2

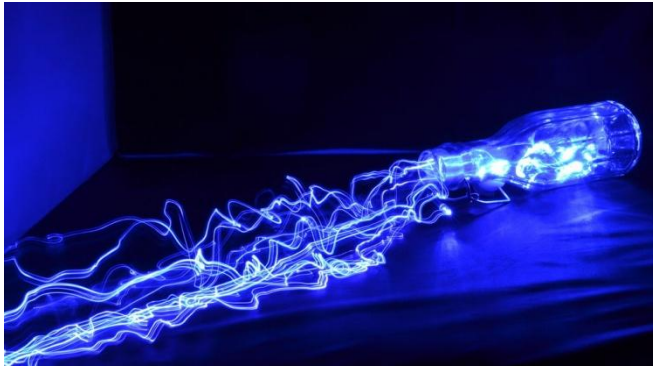


Figure 2

Using a laser pen on objects, the set up is the same. Focus with the lights on using auto focus and then switch to manual and again turn the lights off. Start the timer and when the shutter is open turn on your pen and move it over the object in lines up and down or side to side whatever you fancy doing it's just a case of playing about really – see figure 3, or just small movements over and over object like a paperweight just to light it up – see figure 4. You may have to adjust your shutter speed if the object is too dark to let the lens stay open for longer.

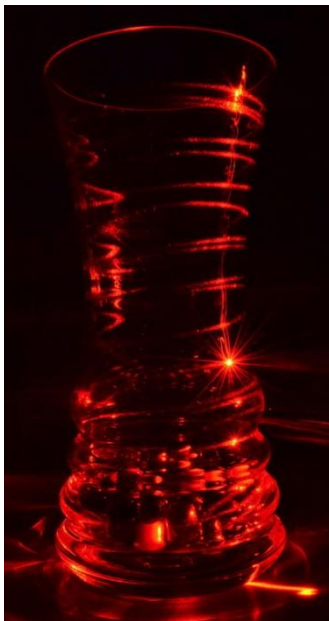


Figure 3

If you are feeling adventurous you can just try using the laser pen to draw pictures, or trace objects, or try to write your name or messages. This is better done a black card or a dark wall. Set up your focusing with the lights on, Stick an object to the wall with blue tack and get your focus lock in autofocus, then switch to manual remove the stuck object giving you a blank canvas and paint and draw away.



Figure 4

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Suppliers

For all the lights, laser pens you can shop at Amazon and EBay and find lots of items quite cheap. The objects are either stuff I had at home or I purchased in charity shops again quite cheaply.

So have fun experimenting and mucking about with objects and lights.

Simmy Knight