

The Art Hidden in Flowers



Carnival in Rio

Fabiola del
Alcazar
Coral Gables,
Florida

Lensbaby, one of the most innovative gadgets, gives endless possibilities for creating abstract and impressionistic images in the comfort of the backyard.

The Lensbabies are small selective focus lenses, available in different mounts, for attaching to a SLR camera. **The lens allows the photographer to decide the sweet spot on an image by**

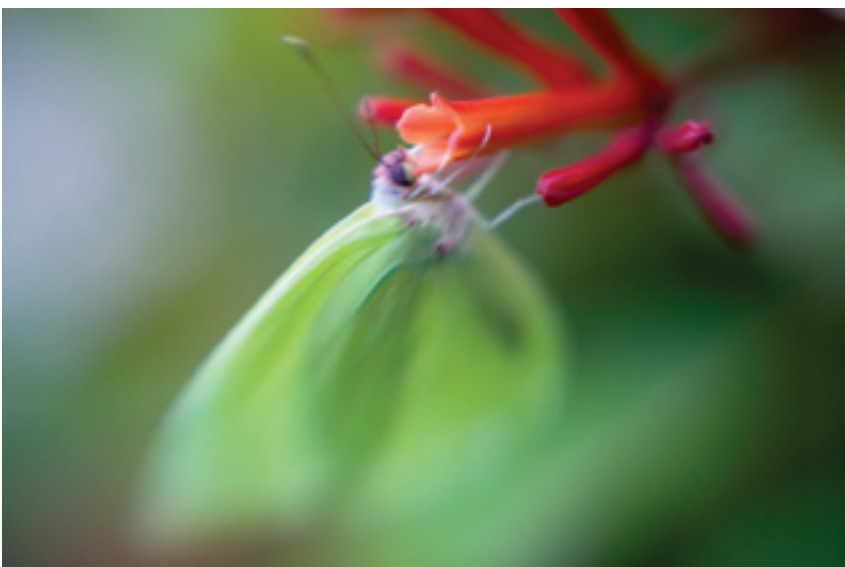
bending, yes, bending the lens to preference.

The lens comes with 4 aperture rings that can be changed with a provided magnet. When using a Canon camera body, the Aperture value mode gives you accurate metering or when using a digital SLR camera, make sure to check the histogram. The Lensbaby works well with all of the major brand cameras.

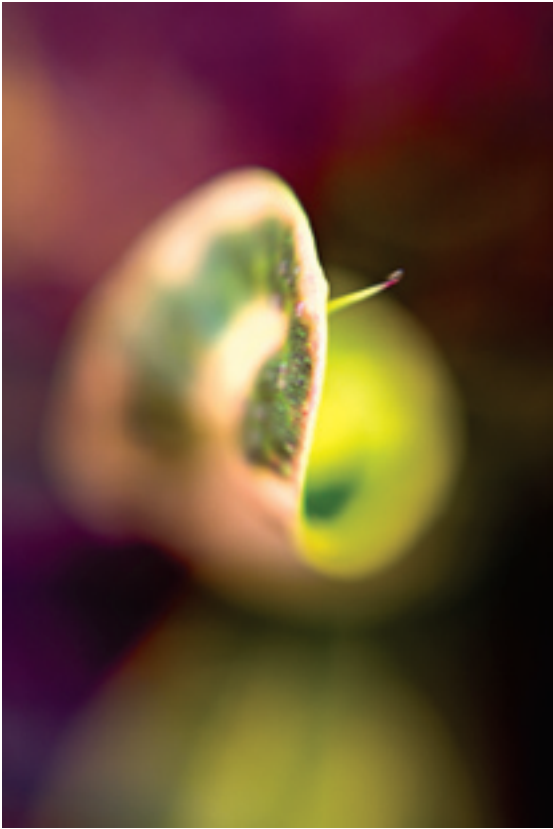
A personal favorite is the f/2.8 ring, because it produces fading corners and maximizes that effect. Apertures f/4 and f/5.6 will be a bit more conventional, with a wider sweet spot and more of the image in focus. There is also an f/8 ring included.

Once the lens and aperture are in place, go to the garden of choice, look for shapes and colors that may be attractive, and move in really close. The way to maximize this effect is shooting as close as possible, and macro adapters can be used as an accessory. The 10X seems to be the best. Locate the **gold mine area**; a rich, workable subject. Start working it from different angles; bend the lens to get focus in a variety of places, to cover the most the subject can provide. Sometimes this involves getting on the ground, and after making sure the area is safe, do so.

With ample light, it is usually possible to shoot



In the wings of a fairy



Curves

at ISO 100, which produces a virtually noiseless image. If needed, go to a higher ISO and use a noise-reduction program. In post-processing, if a low contrast artsy image is desired, use an inverse



Candy



Pink explosion



Lensbaby



Fireworks

Photos ©
Fabiola del Alcazar

curve to make the image softer. This of course, is a matter of taste. No sharpening is the rule, unless you want to bring accent to a vertical edge, then do selective sharpening, either with a depth of field brush provided in programs like **PhotoKit Sharpener**[®], or aggressively sharpening a duplicate image, pasting it, creating a mask and erasing the effect from the rest of the image. Printing these on fine art paper really makes them look special.

If more information is needed about this creative toy, visit the website, www.lensbabies.com. Be motivated to explore the wonderful world of floral abstracts. It is the best therapy around! 🌸

Any mention of products or services in this article or anywhere else in the *PSA Journal* does not constitute an endorsement or approval of those items.



Poinciana



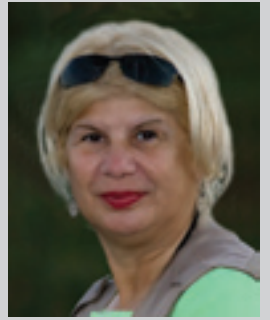
Dewdrops



Chain



Passion



Fabiola del Alcazar



Progression