

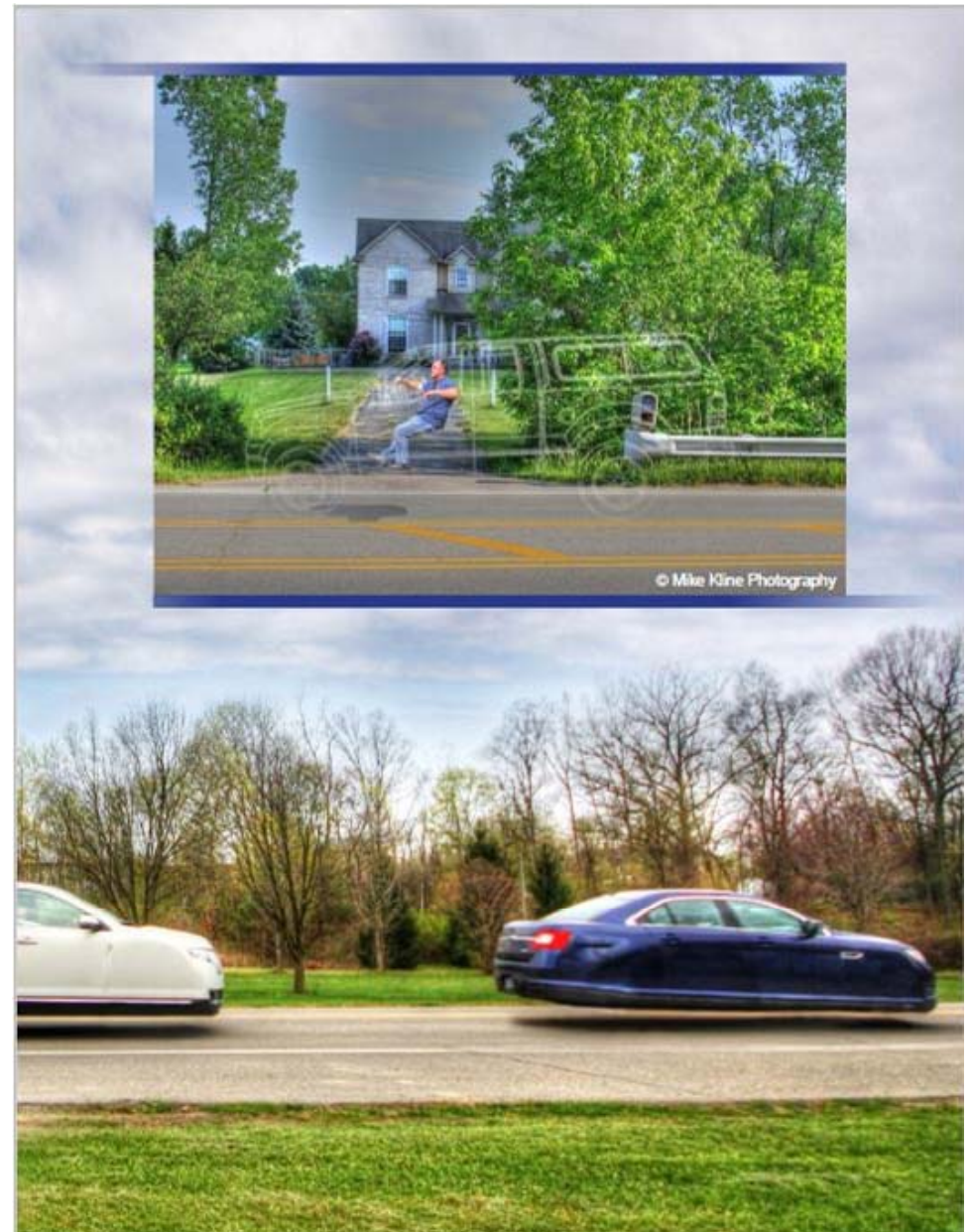
# MIKE KLINE

manipulated visions

*I'm a 43 year old, married father of two, living in Canton, Michigan. I consider myself to be a creatively eclectic person, and I am happiest when I am doing something that allows me to use my imagination. I fell into photography in 2011 when I went to Detroit to take pictures of graffiti, and ended up meeting a bunch of great Detroit-area photographers. When I saw their work, I knew I had a lot to learn. I had been bitten by the photography bug. I started trying different techniques, asked my new-found friends a lot of questions, and went everywhere with my camera.*

**Digital manipulation, why and how did you wind up working in this style**

**Early in 2012, I decided to start a 365 Project, a picture a day, with each picture being digitally manipulated. The motivation behind this decision was job driven. I have a marketing degree, worked various office jobs at Ford Motor Company for 15 years, and have owned a home inspection business for the last six years, but I want to work in Graphic Design / Advertising. Without a degree or experience in those fields, I thought if I did this project, and really applied myself, I would end up with a decent portfolio to showcase some of my ability. I plan on taking the images from the project and putting them into book form which I can then use as a resumé of sorts.**







Where do you come up with these ideas and what are your editing techniques?

I get asked all of the time, "Where do you get your ideas?" Honestly, I get my ideas from everything around me, and I have a vivid imagination. Since starting this project, I look at things differently than I did before. When an idea starts forming, I write it down. Some days I might write down twenty ideas, other days, none. Usually in the evening, I will sit down with my laptop and start working on the image for the day. Most of the time, I start with a particular idea in mind, other times I will peruse my picture library looking for something that motivates me. Even when I sit down with an idea, I often find that as I start the editing process, I change directions; sometimes moderate modifications to the original plan, other times I end up going in a completely different direction. I have found that fighting the creative juices is usually a losing battle. It's best to allow the art to flow out naturally and see where it goes.





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**“WHEN EVERYONE ELSE ZIGS, ZAG.”**

I use Photoshop Elements for my editing. I've been told that full blown Photoshop would make things easier, but so far I think I'm OK with Elements. When I started my 365 project, I knew very little about using Photoshop, so have been learning and discovering as I go. Most of my project images are composites, made up of pieces of several different pictures, but I also create some images basically from scratch, drawing and painting the little details using the tools in the software. I also use Photomatix quite a bit, which allows me to produce HDR imagery, as well as adjust colors, contrast, light, shadow, and many other factors in the image.

*I still take and publish "regular" pictures, just not as many while I am in the midst of this project.*



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