

Hi all,

As you know, I have shared a couple of frozen flower images in our group meetings recently and I wanted to share some info inc. references I found about how these are created, in case anyone else would like to have a go at doing them. I really enjoy them and it's something I would like to do more of. Also, this kind of project can of course be done from home, so a good idea for rainy days too!

Some notes I found with info on how to set it up are found here <https://digital-photography-school.com/photography-frozen-flowers/> and also some wonderful inspirational images by artist Kenji Shibata – from his Locked in the Ether projects http://www.shibatakenji.com/gallery/locked_in_the_ether/ are found here. You will see that Kenji uses a slightly different technique of completely freezing and then partially thawing the blocks of ice, where the flowers then release in the ice and start to decay.

I have also read about some other techniques, where the block has been frozen and then put into water, to force the ice to crack and create unique patterns.

The technique I saw initially on reading about it in various places and have used so far, is to partially freeze the block of ice, so that although the outer parts are frozen, there is still some water and movement in the centre of the block. However, the block is frozen solid enough around it, to hold. The ice in the container I used, which was a fairly large plastic lidded container, took about 9 or 10 hours to freeze to the desired effect, so it's worth either starting the project early morning, with the plan to take the photos later that day/evening, which is what I did, or alternatively, prepare the box late evening, to take the photos in the day afterwards.

I like this way, as it gives you good opportunity to allow light through the block and flowers but still with the texture around the outside of the image and across it, of the ice. There are also different ways of course that you can light the ice/ice block. You could try standing the block on a table in daylight with light behind it, for example. I have so far found the most effective way for me, has been to stand the block on a table with a black background and light the block quite carefully in the dark, mainly from the sides, using a torch (covered with a white piece of material to slightly diffuse the light) and a longer exposure (about 5 seconds). I have included my camera settings in the two images below that I have shared recently. It's a bit tricky to do as where the ice is wet or you are shining light on the water or surface of the ice, you can get highlights so it's one of those like many things where you try as you go a lot and it does need a fair amount of patience!

In post editing, I have in most cases, cropped the images to the edge of the block and then tweaked the shadows/highlights/exposure and also enhanced the vibrancy of the flowers as I needed but again, I am at the stage of experimenting when I do it and just seeing what I like the look of, so it's far from a precise science!

As with all things too, there are lots of ways to do things so fun to experiment!

I hope all this makes sense and if you do have a go at doing it, it would be great to see your images and share tips 😊

Best,

Sharon



Echinacea on Ice - Sharon Powell

Shot 5 second exposure @ f/10, 33mm ISO 100



Ice Garden - Sharon Powell

Shot 5 second exposure @ f/13, 36mm ISO 100