

Introduction to Light Painting

By Lachlan McVie



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTION

SLIDE SHOW

QUESTIONS

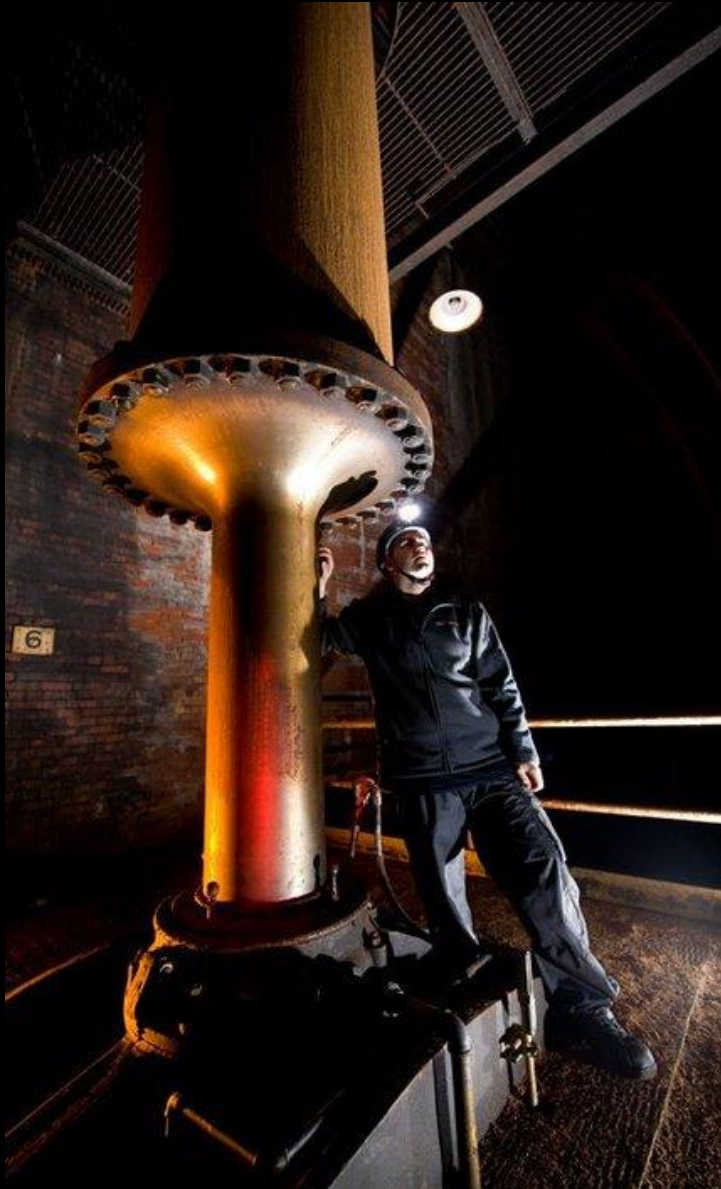
CAMERA FEATURES OVERVIEW

DEMONSTRATION

BREAK UP INTO GROUPS - HANDS ON PRACTICE

FINAL QUESTIONS

Who The Heck Is This Guy?



Name:

Lachlan McVie

Hometown:

Mississauga

Background:

Bachelor of Applied Technology –
Industrial Design

CASI Certified Snowboard Instructor
NFA High Angle Rescue Certified

Job:

Engineering Manager

Shoots with:

Nikon D700, Nikon 14-24 f2.8, Sigma 10-
20 f3.5, Nikon 50mm F1.8, Nikon 30mm
F1.8, Peleng 8mm fisheye F4.

Website:

www.tohellandback.net

So What Is Light Painting?

The “borrowed” wikipedia definition:

“Light painting is a photographic technique in which exposures are made by moving a hand-held light source or by moving the camera.

The term light painting also encompasses images lit from outside the frame with hand-held light sources.”

So What Is Light Painting?

But in practice, it's so much more than that!

Some of the styles, techniques & skills we're going to learn about include:



- Fire Balls
- EL Wire Mist
- Hidden Light Sources
- Backlit Portraits
- Cast Shadows – People
- Cast Shadows – Objects
- Frozen Silhouettes
- Ring Lights
- Tools & Techniques



What Do I Need To Do This?

The short answer – not much, but you'll want a lot!

Light painting can be accomplished using a variety of different tools & techniques. Start small, and you'll end up accumulating a LOT of "stuff" to support the hobby. Its addictive!



Common Tools

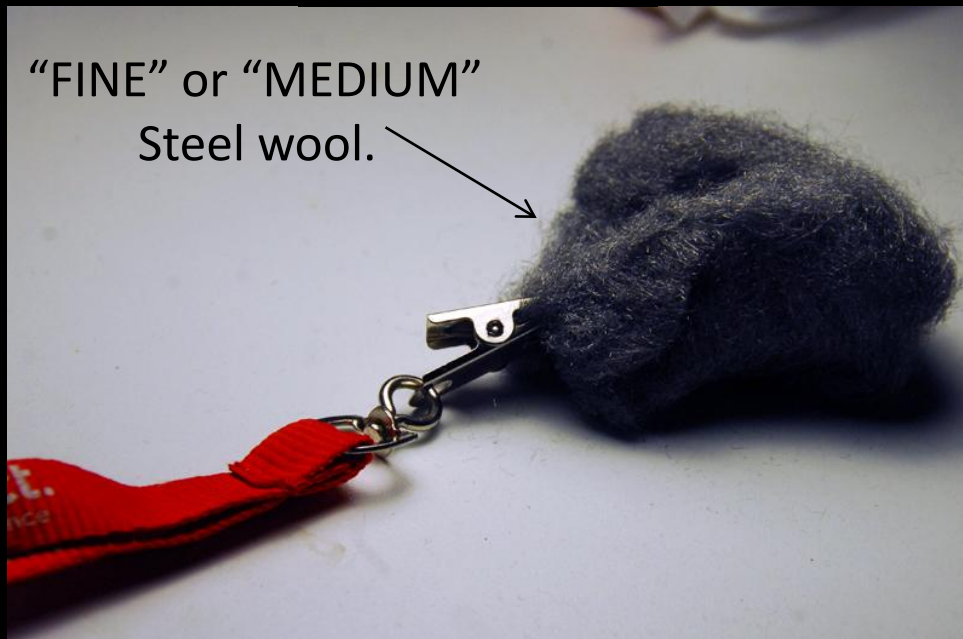
- Cold cathode lights
- Flashlights
- Cordless fluorescent lights
- Headlamps
- Speedlights / Flashes
- LED Ring Lights
- Keychain color LEDs
- Steel wool rigs
- Emergency flares
- Candles
- Novelty lights
- Homemade light tools

Playing With Fire

The “Fire Ball” Steel Wool technique

This technique uses burning steel wool to create circular showers of sparks.
Fast, cheap, simple & interest

The Rig



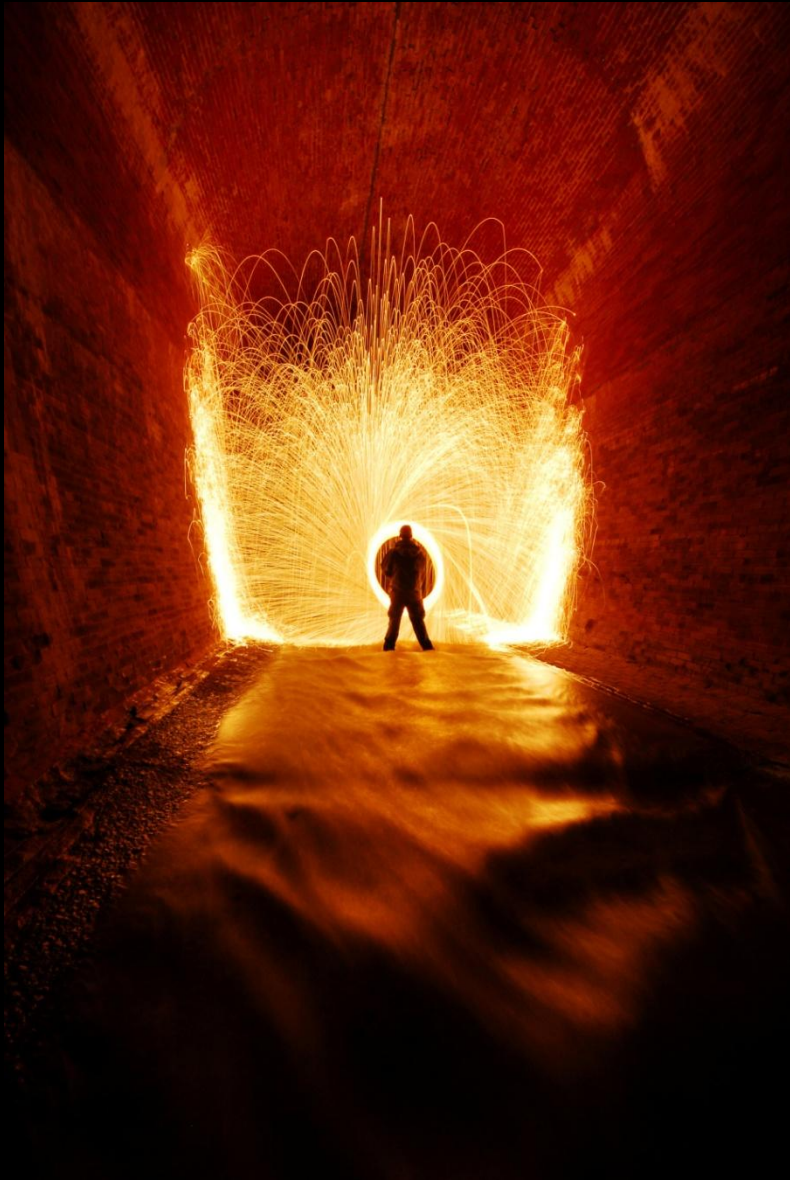
EXTREME care must be taken when performing this technique! The sparks are real, as is the risk of getting burned or starting a fire. ALWAYS wear gloves & safety glasses, and perform only in safe areas!

Playing With Fire



Electrical Development Co. Hydroelectric Tailrace - Niagara Falls

Playing With Fire



Canadian Niagara Power Co. Tailrace – Niagara Falls, 2010



The Colonel, Storm Drain – Etobicoke, 2010

Playing With Fire



Koi River Drain – Mississauga, 2010

Cast Shadows - People



Viceroy Storm Drain – Toronto, 2009

Bold, dramatic shadows create tons of impact, and can produce very interesting photos. They're fun and easy to make - use them to your advantage!

Tips

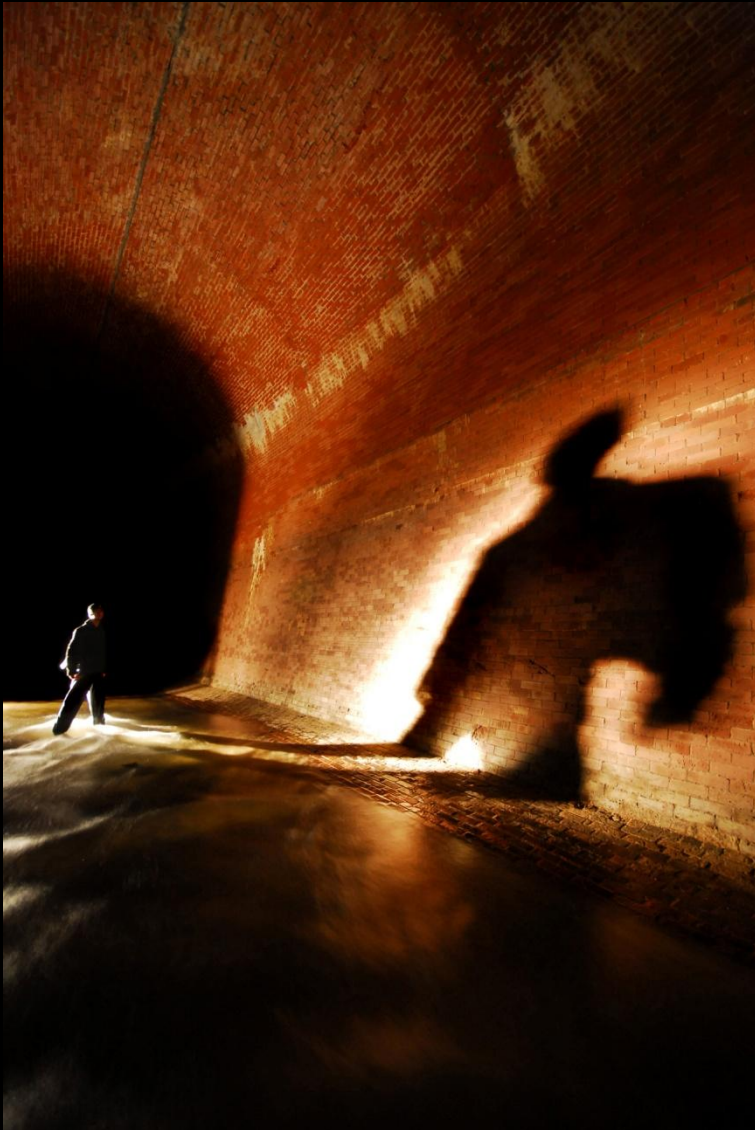
- Use a powerful light to decrease exposure times.
- Move the light source further away for sharper shadows.
- Enhance the visual impact by using several off-camera light sources.

Cast Shadows - People



427 Culvert – Toronto, 2009

Cast Shadows - People



Canadian Niagara Power Co. Tailrace – Niagara Falls, 2010



Graphic Equalizer Drain – Toronto, 2011

Cast Shadows - People



Garrison Creek Relief Sewer – Toronto, 2011



Beltline Sewer Overflow– Toronto, 2012

Cast Shadows - Objects



Geo W. Reed Plant – Montreal, 2011

Cast Shadows - Objects

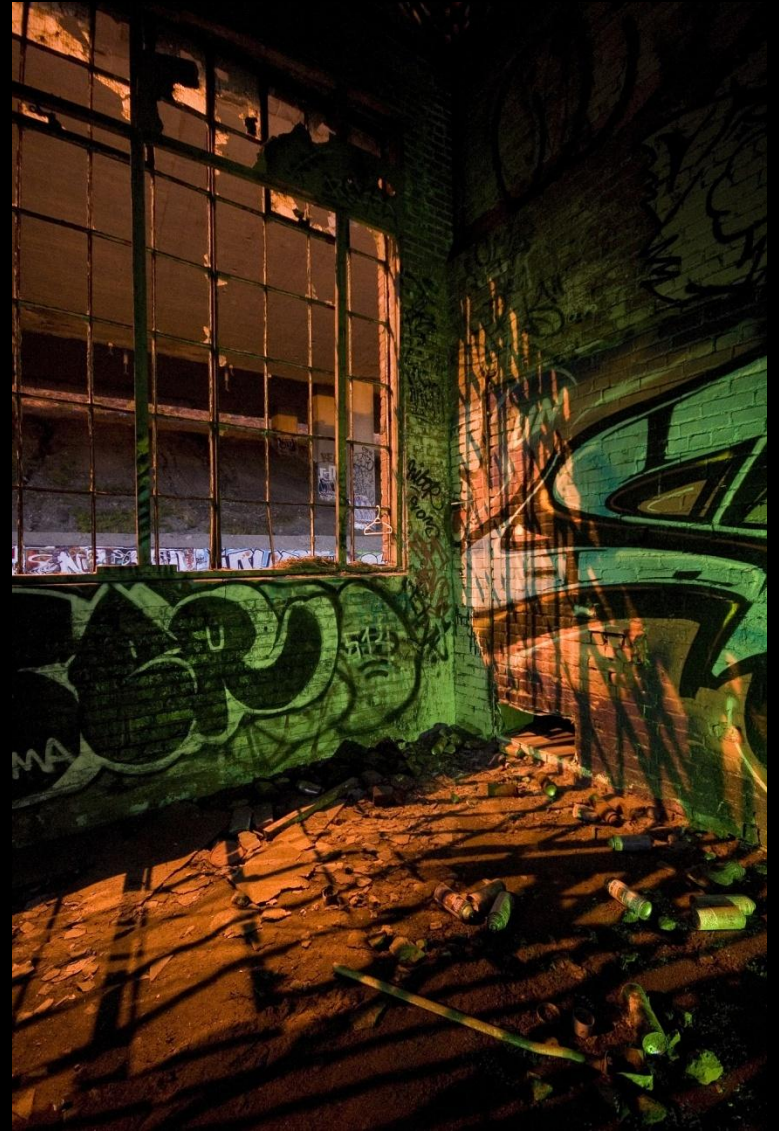


Camp 30 – Bowmanville, 2012

Cast Shadows - Objects



Geo W. Reed Plant – Montreal, 2012



Geo W. Reed Plant – Montreal, 2012

Multiple Light Sources

THE MORE LIGHT THE BETTER!

The use of multiple light sources is very important in light painting. While not essential, it's a skill you'll want to experiment with.

Benefits Include

- Ability to mix different colors
- Contrasting shadows
- Additional light
- Easily light large scenes
- Ability to control areas of focus

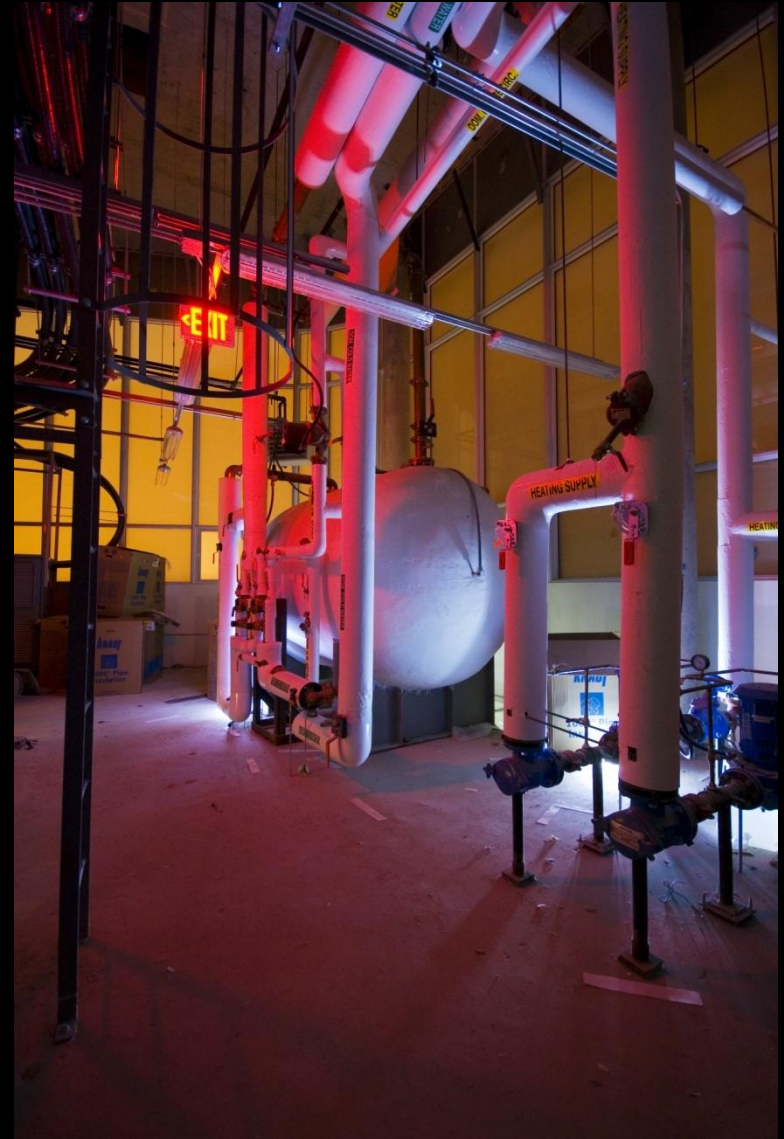


Camp 30– Bowmanville, 2012

Multiple Light Sources



Ukrainian Cemetery— Mississauga, 2012



North Shore Condo, Mississauga, 2011

Multiple Light Sources



Cote St. Paul Collector Sewer – Montreal, 2012



Cote St. Paul Collector Sewer – Montreal, 2012

Multiple Light Sources



Electrical Development Co. Tailrace – Niagara Falls

Backlighting



Storm Sewer— Toronto, 2012

Defining Things With Light

Backlighting can really define your subject by enhancing the outline, casting dramatic shadows and giving them depth.

TIPS

- Use as bright a light as possible – the brighter, the better!
- Use your shadow as a guide and make sure its covering your lens. Light shining directly into the lens will create flares & ghosting.
- Feather the light – this is where a friend comes in handy!

Backlighting



Canadian Niagara Power Co. Tailrace – Niagara Falls, 2010



Geo W. Reed Plant – Montreal, 2012

Backlighting



Camp 30 – Bowmanville, 2012



Oakville, 2012

Frozen Silhouettes

Human silhouettes provide scale to your photos and are easy to create using basic tools.



Red Cross Storm Drain – Mississauga, 2009

Frozen Silhouettes



Cheltenham Brickworks – Cheltenham, 2011



Mary Fix Creek – Mississauga, 2010

Frozen Silhouettes



Canadian Niagara Power Co. Tailrace – Niagara Falls, 2010

The Orbs!

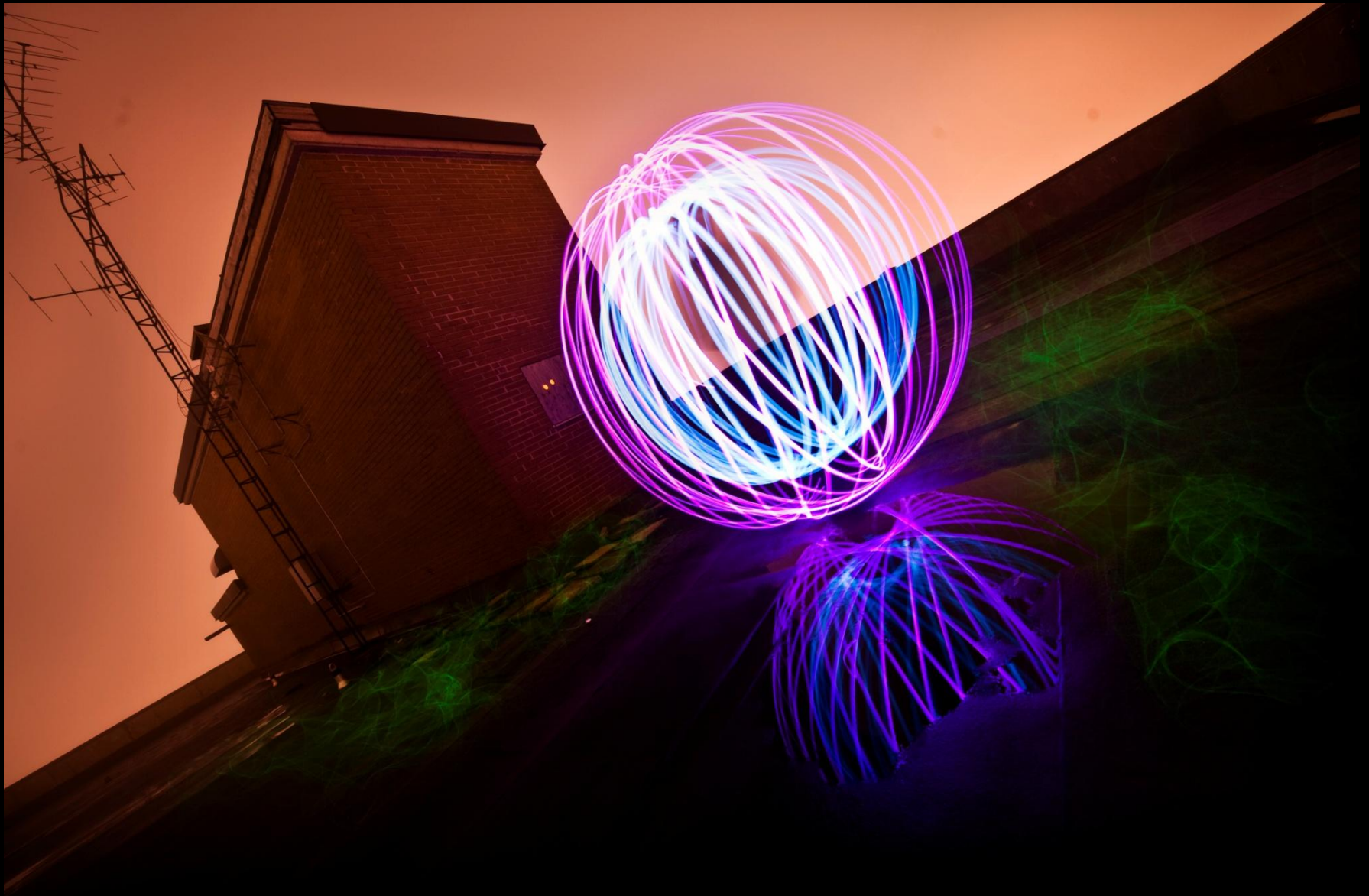


Welland Public School – Welland, 2010



Symes Waste Transfer Station – Toronto, 2011

The Orbs!



The roof of my apartment – Mississauga, 2012

The Orbs!



Ukrainian Cemetary – Mississauga, 2012



Some random park – Mississauga, 2010

The Orbs!



The Woods – Quebec, 2012



Barber Paper Mill - Georgetown, 2011

LIGHT TOOLS

LED RINGS

LED ring lights are one of the best & cheapest light painting tools.

Cheap enough to be disposable, but durable enough to take a beating.

Buy them online or from Canadian tire. Oh, and get batteries too, they take 8x AAs each.



Uses Include

- Hidden accent lighting
- Area lighting
- Light “painting”
- Backlighting
- Light tubes

Ring Lights



Oakville, 2012

Ring Lights

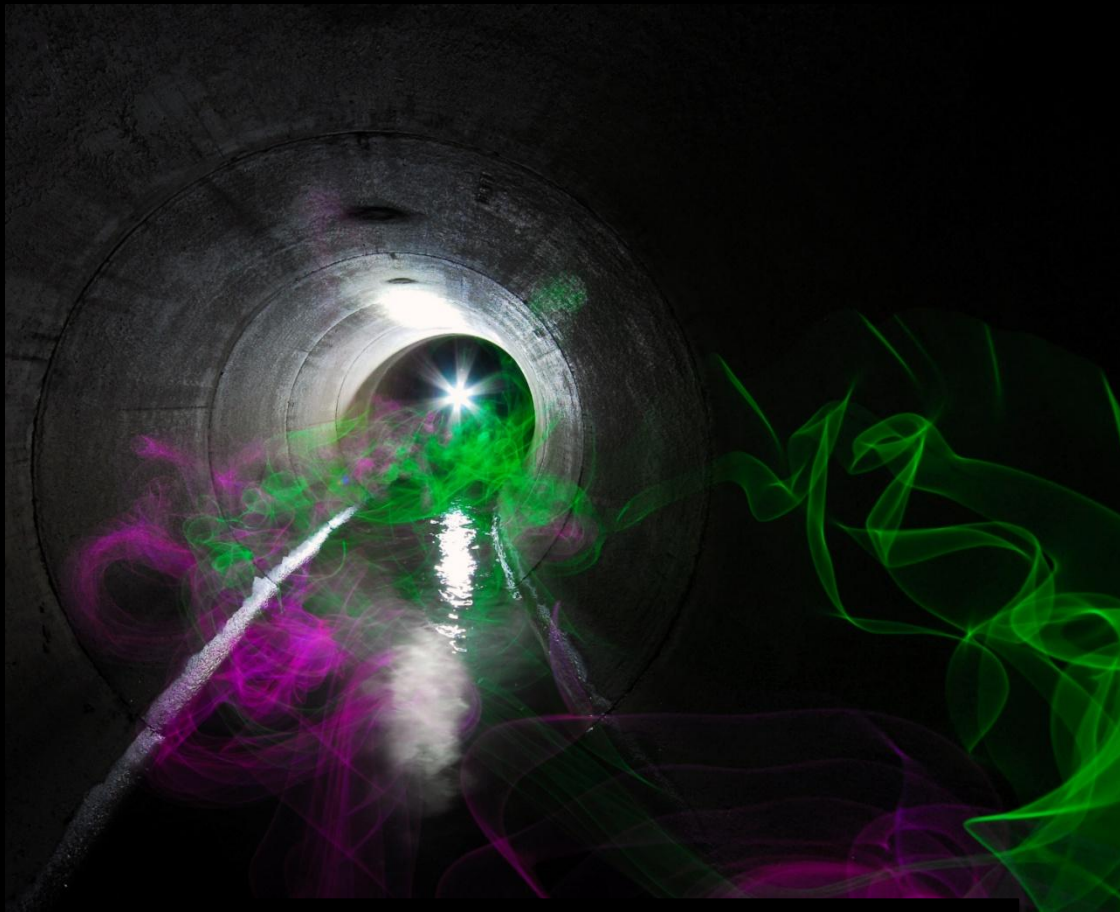


Welland High school - Welland, 2010

LIGHT TOOLS

EL WIRE

“EL” or Electro-Luminescent Wire is a special cord that glows when electrically charged. Cheap and readily available online, its fun to use and can make for interesting photos. Best if used in moderation.



Hershey Drain - Mississauga, 2011

LIGHT TOOLS



Ukrainian Cemetery - Mississauga, 2011

LIGHT TOOLS



Ukrainian Cemetery - Mississauga, 2011



The Colonel Drain – Etobicoke, 2010

MISC



Symes Waste Transfer Station – Toronto, 2011

LESSONS LEARNED



Park Drive Storm Drain – Toronto, 2011

LESSONS LEARNED



Electrical Development Co. Tailrace – Niagara Falls, 2010

— THE END —

THANK YOU!

