



On Digital Photography's Bleeding Edge

A Lecture by Stephen Johnson

Lab. for Information and Decision Systems
MIT Photography Club

Wednesday April 11, 2012 4PM
Stata Center, Room 32-677D

Canon



Stephen Johnson

As a photographer, teacher and designer, Stephen Johnson has been teaching and working in photography since 1977. His books include *At Mono Lake*, the critically acclaimed *The Great Central Valley: California's Heartland*, its tutorial companion, *Making a Digital Book* and the 2006 *Stephen Johnson on Digital Photography* (which has received accolades far and wide). Stephen has taught both traditional and digital photography at the college level, and has lectured at scores of seminars and major conferences in the United States and Europe.

In 1999, *Folio Magazine* declared the publication of Johnson's digital photographs in *Life Magazine* to be one of the Top 15 Critical Events in magazine publishing in the 20th Century. Stephen Johnson was named as a 2003 inductee into the *Photoshop Hall of Fame*, recognized for his achievements in Art. Canon named Steve as one of their *Explorers of Light* in 2006. In 2007 X-Rite named Stephen as a founding member of their exclusive *Coloratti* group of photographers and educators honored for their skills in color management. Current projects include *With a New Eye*, an all digital national parks photographic project, a collection of recent work around the world *Exquisite Earth*, and huge digital panoramics.

Stephen's work in digital photography, desktop color separations and digital imaging has included software and product development for clients such as *Apple, Adobe, Eastman Kodak, Epson, Foveon, HP, Leaf, Radius, Ricoh* and *SuperMac*. His work with Adobe includes the creation of the duotone curves shipped with their Photoshop software. Photographic clients have included the *Ansel Adams Publishing Trust*, and the *Friends of Photography*. Johnson's photographs have been widely published and collected internationally. His work has been featured in *Life* and dozens of other magazines and in television specials including features on ABC News/Discovery Channel, PBS, internet TV and many local stations.

A New Realism: Photographer's Gallery 1998

Johnson's work births a "new realism," a post modern expression beyond the constraints of conventional photographic techniques and styles. Plunging into a rich pastel world rarely attempted in photography, yet uncannily familiar to human experience, he is doing battle with color photographic convention of contrasty, saturated renditions, forcing us to see a world we know, but which photography has largely ignored. His sensitive design and color take us into a remarkable world of sensual visual experience.

