

The *Rf* Cookbook

by Harvey Goldstein

Julianne Kost: "Cyclical"

When Julianne Kost learned that a friend had been diagnosed with cancer, she searched for an image that would capture the helplessness she felt, yet at the same time portray the never-ending cycle of life. "Cyclical" represents an invisible force systematically destroying the life of its host, the process of decay over time. Julianne states, "The resulting image is a combination of several elements, which independently are unrelated, yet when placed together form an image whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The circular object in the center is meant to convey the passage of time; absolutely nothing can stop it from continuously rotating. As it turns, it grinds whatever touches the perimeter."

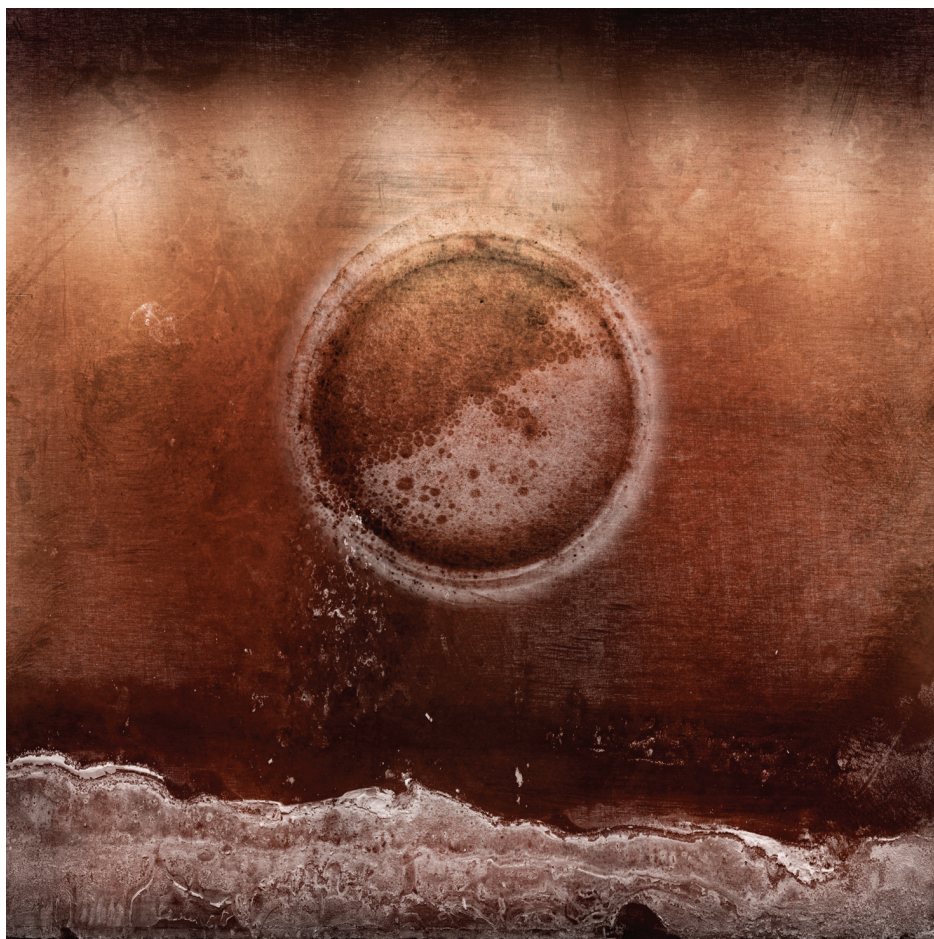
Because the ideas Julianne was trying to communicate—such as decay, time, erosion, life and death—are abstract, she allowed her subconscious to lead her in the direction to create this image. Rather than being obvious by using a timepiece to represent the passage of time, she opted for the more subtle approach. Due to the subtlety, she believes the viewer will see different things in the final image, based on their own life experiences. For Julianne, the process of creating the image is more important than how the final image is interpreted.

To give the feeling of erosion on the "walls," Julianne made a direct scan of an eroding sheet of etching metal.


In the next layer are lights shining down a wall. Julianne wasn't sure what she would use it for when she captured the image, but because she found the lights interesting, she saved the image in her library. "As it turns out, the flat piece of metal needed some depth. The lights, with a bit of blurring and a Channel Mixer adjustment layer, combined with the background to soften the color, gave the backdrop more depth."

She added another layer of texture with some scratched paint that she found on a retired military vehicle. She found it ironic that "such a robust vehicle was being protected by a such a thin layer of paint."

She created the next layer, the circular "time" element, with a used espresso pod. This is another image that was previously photographed because she liked the pattern, and she retrieved it from her library of images for this project. The combination of the metal scan and circle gives the appearance of salt being ground within



the circle, piling up on the floor. Salt will destroy many things, especially metals.

Julianne explains, "The top content layer adds just a bit more erosion to the time element. There were bubbles coming up through a sidewalk. I think they add a bit more diversity to the time element, making it seem all the more weathered." 

INGREDIENTS

- Scanner: Epson Perfection 3200: (for the piece of metal)
- Cameras and film: Nikon N90 with Fujichrome Velvia 50 film and a Tamron SP AF90mm f/2.8 Macro1:1 lens (for the bubbles and paint from the vehicle); Nikon D100 in RAW format with a Tamron SP AF90mm f/2.8 Macro1:1 and a Nikon 28-70mm f/2.8 ED-IF AF-S Zoom-Nikkor lens (for the espresso pod and lights)
- Lighting: available light (for everything)
- Film Scanning: Imacon Flextight scanner
- Computer: Macintosh G5 Desktop
- Software: Adobe Photoshop CS2
- Printer: Epson 2200