

# ICM INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btDWQ228nOc>

<https://www.capturelandscapes.com/icm-photography/>

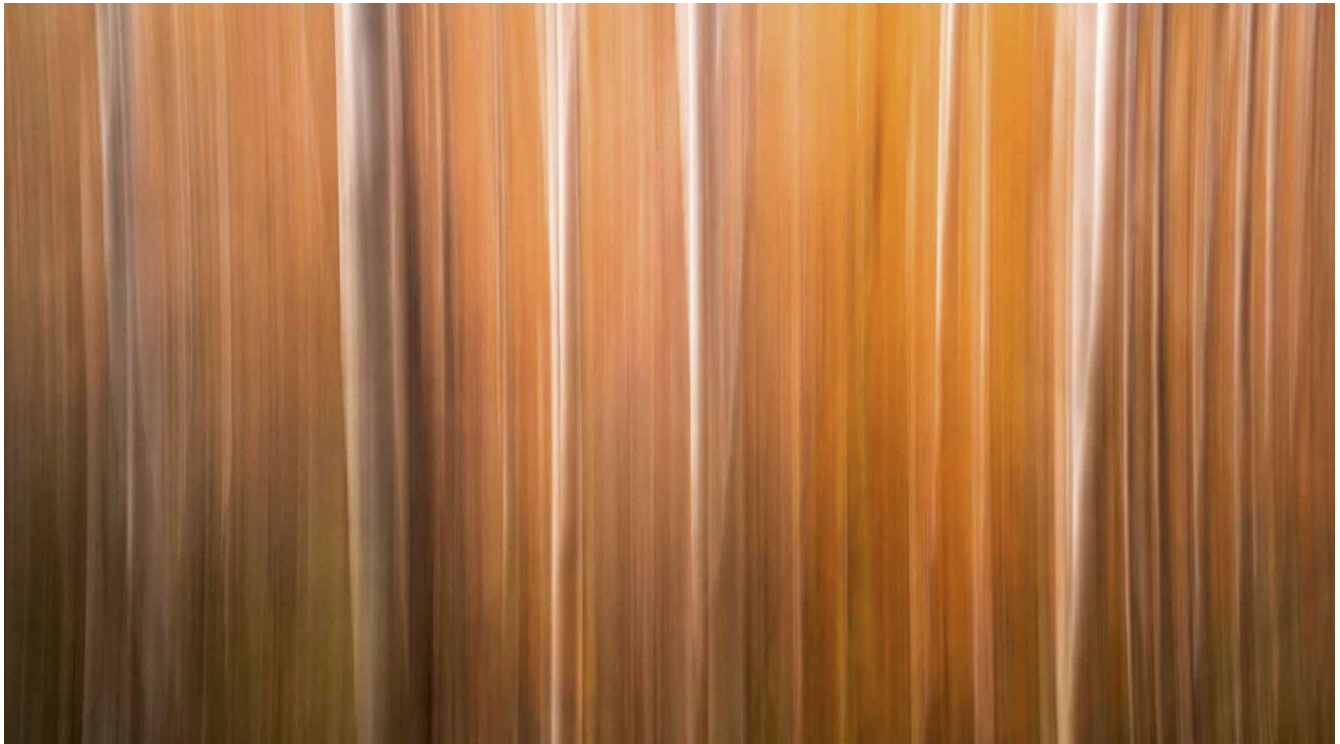
<https://www.juliaannagospodarou.com/guide-icm-intentional-camera-movement/>

## What is ICM?

ICM, or Intentional Camera Movement, is a technique that combines the use of a slow shutter speed and intentional movement of the camera.

Moving your camera while it's exposing an image means that the elements within the frame won't be frozen in place. Instead, they lose their natural appearance and can give a painterly effect.

The longer the shutter speed is, the more obscure the elements become.



Unlike traditional long exposure photography, we aren't looking for motion just in naturally moving elements such as water or clouds, but in the entire image.

## Required Camera Equipment for ICM Photography

ICM photography is a low-cost technique to get started with. Besides a camera with manual functions, you don't need anything else. Here's the full list of equipment that can be beneficial:

- Camera with manual function
- Mid-range or telephoto lens
- A tripod (optional)
- Neutral Density and or Polarizer filters (optional)

A **camera with manual functions** is essential, you need full control over the ISO, aperture, and shutter speed.

A tripod is not essential for this technique but you may find that it helps with controlling the movements (i.e., moving the camera in a straight horizontal line)

## ICM Techniques

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That being said, there are some guidelines that you can follow when you're just getting started:

1. Set your camera to **Shutter Priority** mode, usually 0.3 to 2 seconds.

1/4th of a second should be the very quickest shutter speed you use. Any quicker than this and the motion won't become significant enough. The shutter speed is more flexible in the other direction you should stay within a couple of seconds.

A shutter speed that's too slow can result in too much motion, in which the technique might lose impact.

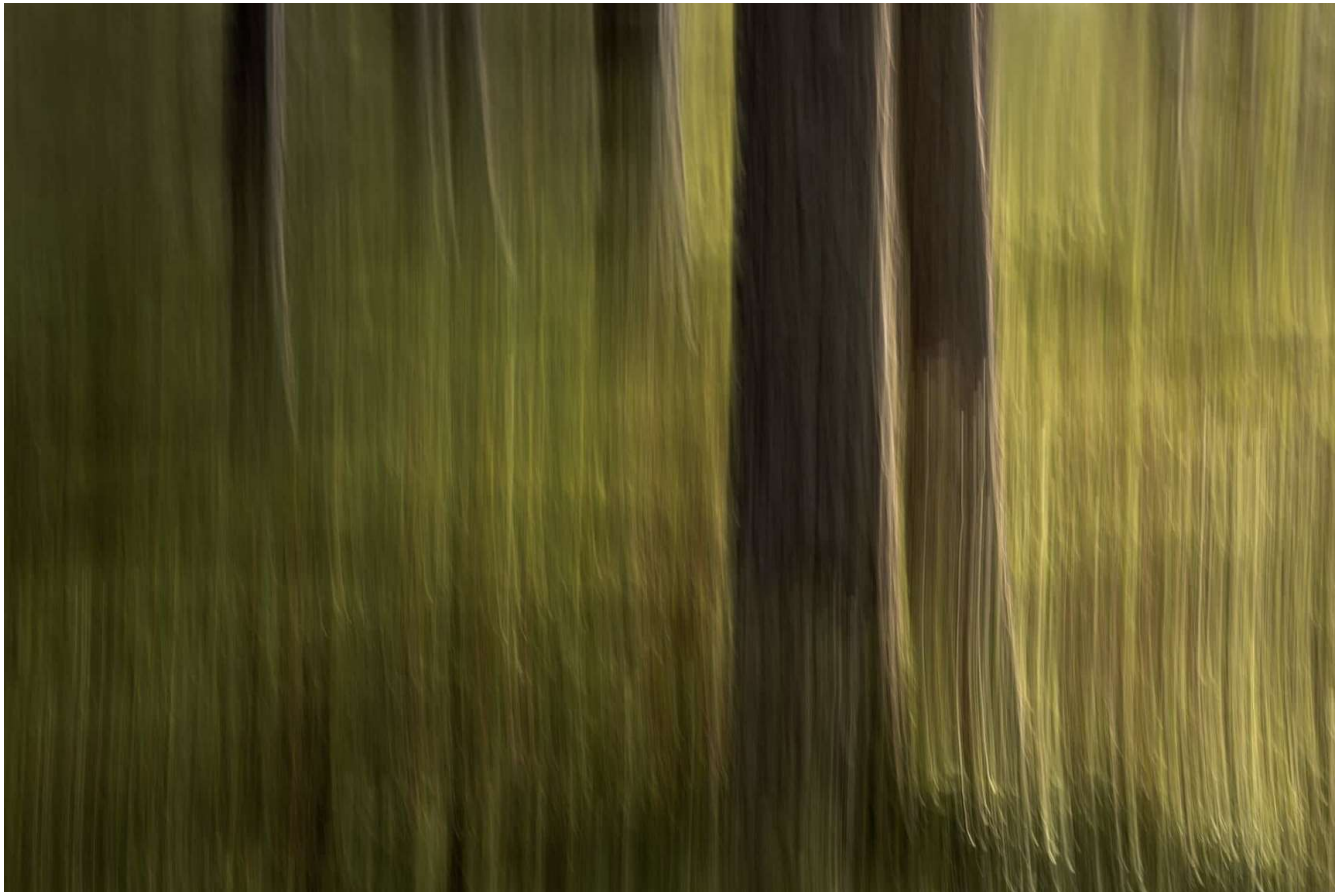
The aperture is less significant than in other genres of photography but it somewhat depends on the scene you're shooting. It matters more in scenarios where you only use slight

movements (i.e., quicker shutter speeds) than when you use a slower shutter speed with more movement.

The ISO is dependent on the circumstances but, generally speaking, you want to keep it at a minimum. A high ISO leads to a quicker shutter speed which is the opposite of what we want to achieve in this situation.

Choose the lowest ISO of your camera to have more freedom with the length of the exposure. In case the exposure you want to use is not possible at the lowest ISO of your camera you can use a low-intensity neutral density filter to lengthen the exposure. Most of the time a 3-stop or 6-stop ND filter will be enough and you do not need to use your strong ND filters like the 10-stop or the 16-stop. Keep those for truly long exposures.

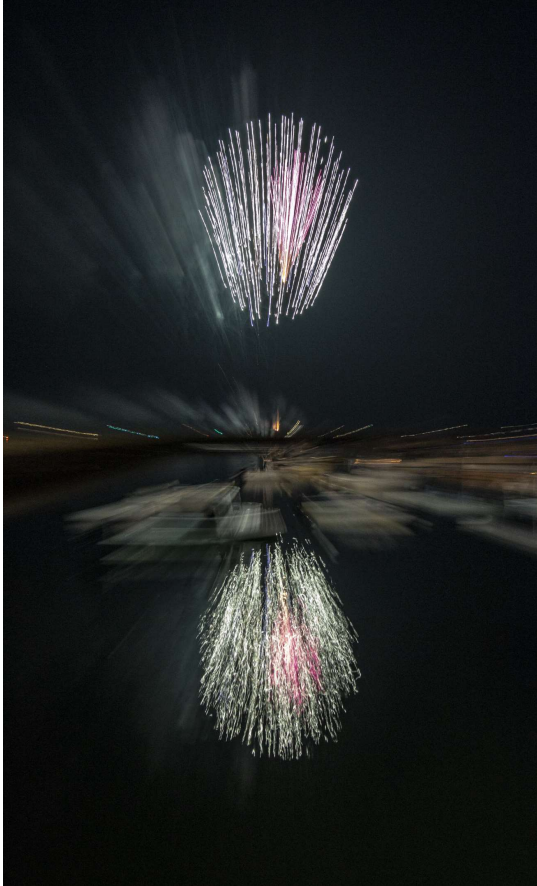
Using a polarizing filter can not only reduce up to 2 stops the light that reaches your sensor, thus giving you the freedom to use longer shutter speeds, like in the case of using an ND filter, but it also enhances the colors and contrast in the image, so I am recommending it as a good addition when shooting ICM.



#### Ideas to experiment

- Try moving the camera more slowly / quickly while the shutter is open and see what the effect is on the photo
- Try different shutter speeds (longer / shorter) and see what difference this makes

- As well as moving the camera vertically or horizontally, try moving it diagonally, in a circle or even a zig zag. You can even keep the camera stationary and zoom in or out with the lens instead while the shutter is open
- Double exposures! Try both in-camera and in Post Processing



*Figure 1: Zoom ICM*

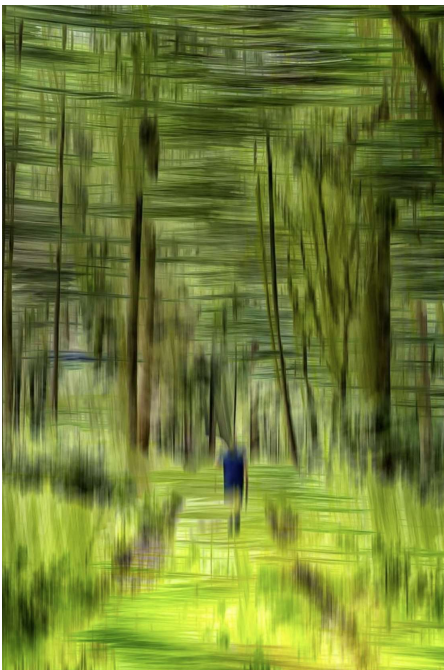


Flowing Dance II © Julia Anna Gospodarou - ICM Circular Movement - Image Details: 60mm, 1/32, 0.8 sec, ISO 100

*Figure 2: Rotate ICM*



*Figure 3: 2 Exposure ICM*

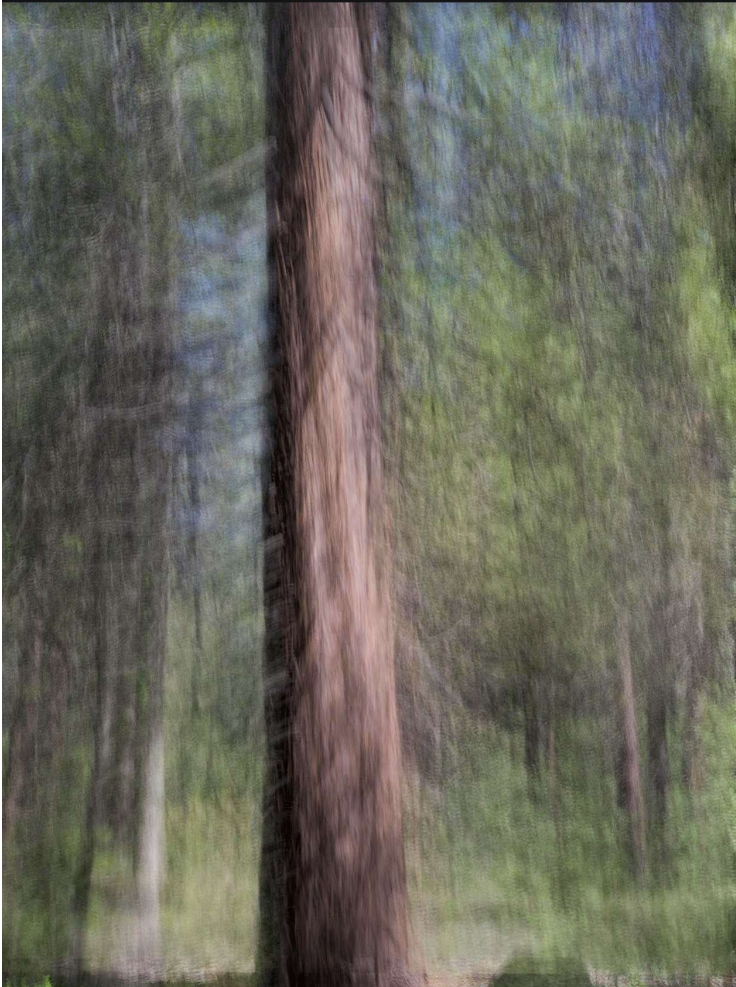


*Figure 4: 3 Exposure ICM*



Phone Apps:

Look for “Long Exposure” App. (Spectre has a free version that is suitable for ICM)



**Spectre Camera** 4+  
Brilliant Long Exposures  
[Lux Optics Incorporated](#)  
★★★★★ 4.3 • 2.2K Ratings  
Free · Offers In-App Purchases



**ReeHeld - Long Exposure Camera**  
AI Slow Shutter without Tripod  
[Reeflex GmbH](#)  
★★★★★ 4.4 • 277 Ratings  
Free · Offers In-App Purchases