

LIGHT PAINTING

UNVEILING ART THROUGH ILLUMINATION



May 2026 Program Night

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WHAT IS LIGHT PAINTING?



LONG EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY:

Capturing light over extended periods (seconds or minutes).



MOVING LIGHT SOURCE: Creating trails and shapes with LEDs, sparks, or flashlights.



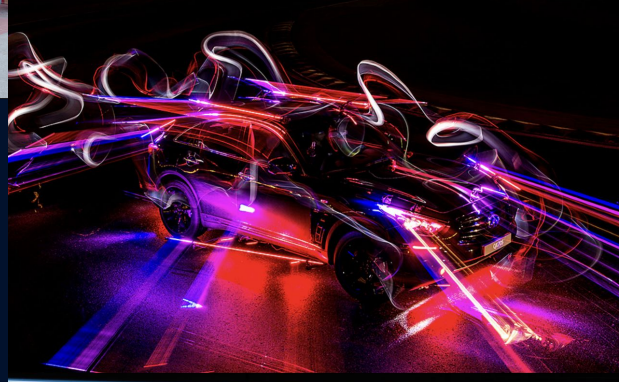
DARK ENVIRONMENT: Practiced in low-light or absolute darkness for maximum effect.



Types of Light Painting

WHAT IS LIGHT PAINTING?

Strategically Lighting an Object



You can also
Combine both Techniques

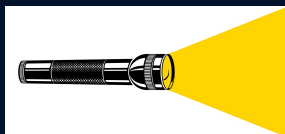
Creating Designs within an Image



WHAT IS LIGHT PAINTING?

Strategically Lighting an Object

Consider facing the light toward the object so you do not see light trails.



Creating Designs within an Image

Consider facing the light toward the camera so the camera sees the light trails



CAPTURE THE MOTION

MOVE SLOWLY for bright,
defined paths.



USE DIFFERENT COLOURS
and tools.

EXPERIMENT WITH SHAPES
and text.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE



- **LIGHT SOURCES**
FLEXIBLE LIGHT WANDS
RGB LED STRIPS
GELS & FILTERS
PROGRAMMABLE LEDES



- **CAMERA GEAR**
ROBUST TRIPOD (Essential for stability)
CAMERA WITH MANUAL MODE (M or B)
REMOTE SHUTTER RELEASE



**ACHIEVE SHARP
DETAILS** with a
sturdy base.



CAMERA SETTINGS FOR LIGHT PAINTING



- **EXPOSURE MODE:** Set to Manual (M) or Bulb (B). Offers total control over variables.



- **APERTURE:** Start small (e.g., f/8 to f/22). Increases depth of field and manages intensity.



- **SHUTTER SPEED:** Use long exposures (e.g., 15 seconds to minutes). Match the time needed for your strokes.



- **ISO:** Lowest ISO (e.g., ISO 100 or 200). Minimizes digital noise in dark scenes.



- **FOCUS:** Switch to Manual Focus (MF). Pre-focus on a scene element while lighting is available.

TAKE FULL CONTROL



LIGHT PAINTING TUTORIAL



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Video Examples- [Freeform](#)





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Video Examples- **DIY & Freeform**





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Video Examples- [Models](#)



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Video Examples- **Spirograph**





START TO FINISH HOW TO 

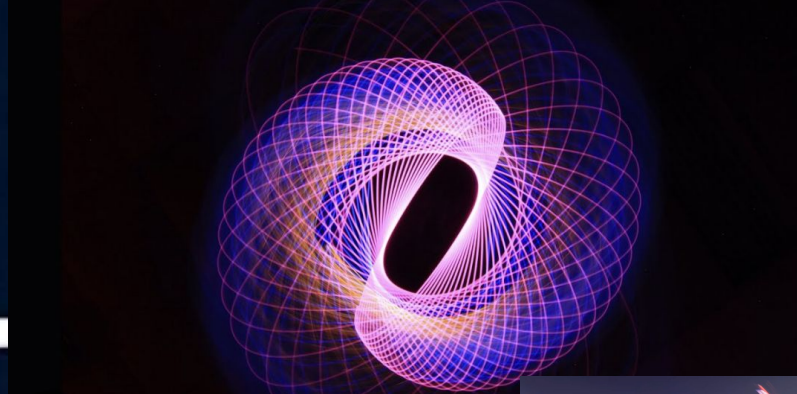
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Video Examples- [Vehicles](#)





LIGHT PAINTING

 Light Painting Tutorial
LightPaintingPhotography.com LightPaintingBrushes.com

UNVEILING ART THROUGH ILLUMINATION



Tonight's Stations: Model, Outdoor Freeform, Vehicle(s), Spirograph
Still Life (weather dependent)
Tools: Light wands, Flashlight & gels, Color-changing Lights on Strings



Click image for link



Click image for link

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Additional Resources:

[How to and Tools](#)

[DIY Spirograph](#)



Directions for Spirograph Station

Camera Settings

- **Mode:** Manual (M) or Bulb (B).
- **ISO:** 100 or 200 (to keep the image clean and dark).
- **Aperture:** Start at **f/8** or **f/11** to keep the light trails sharp.
- **Focus:** Set to **Manual Focus**. Turn on the light, focus on it while it's stationary, and then don't touch the focus ring again.
- **Shutter Speed:** Between **30 and 60 seconds** (or use a remote trigger in Bulb mode).



The Process

1. **Kill the Lights:** The room must be **completely dark** to avoid capturing background clutter.
2. **Start the Motion:** Give the light a gentle push. For a classic spirograph, try a **circular or elliptical motion** rather than a straight swing.
3. **Open the Shutter:** Once the light is swinging smoothly, trigger the shutter.
4. **Close and Review:** Let the camera record for at least 30 seconds. If the image is too bright, close your aperture (e.g., to f/16); if it's too dim, open it (e.g., to f/5.6). *Hint: Use cardboard to cover lens when using cardboard within a single exposure*