

# **THE VIEW - NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINE**

## **DESIGN SYSTEMS DOCUMENT**

8"

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Front Cover



Back Cover

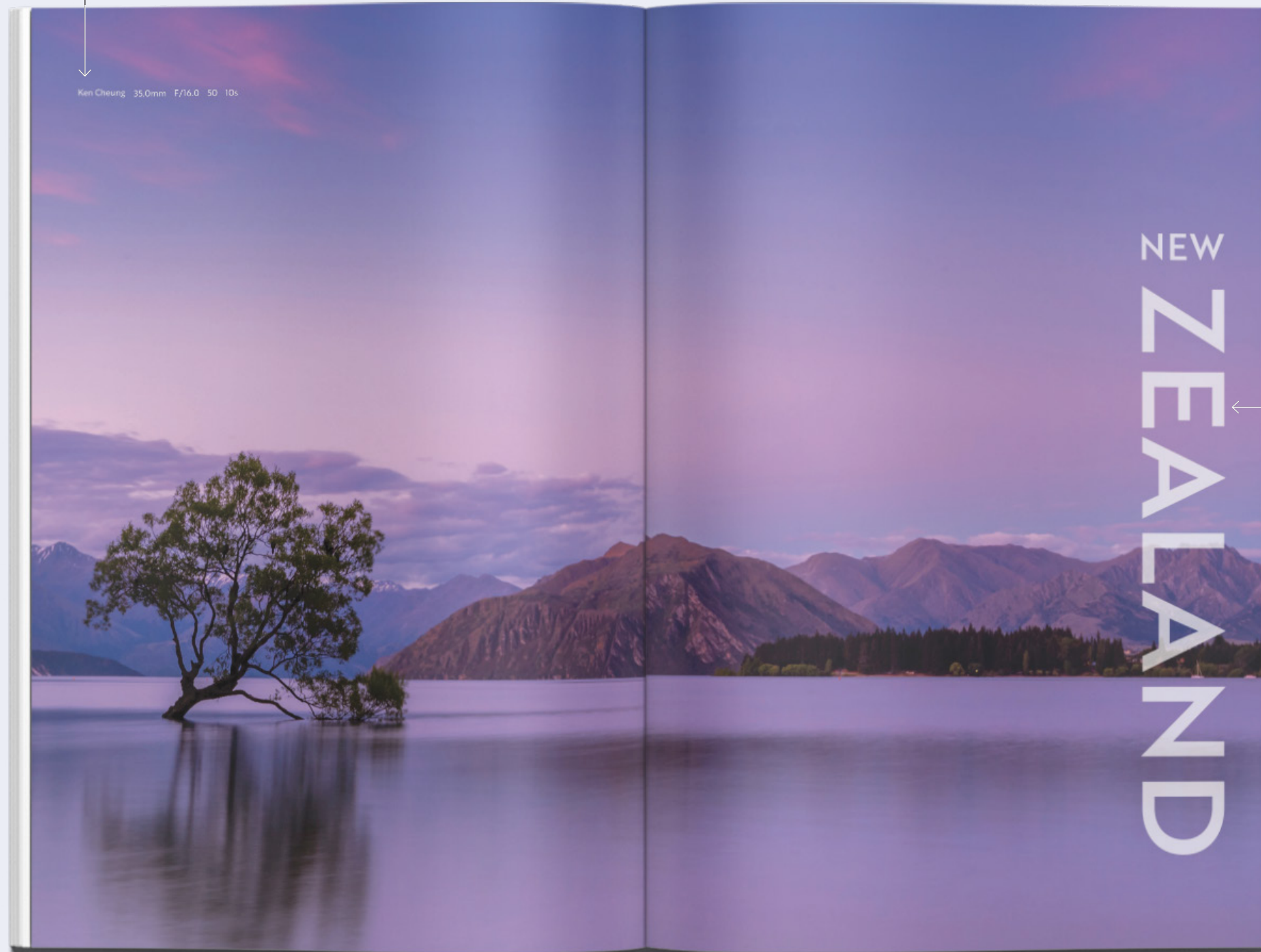
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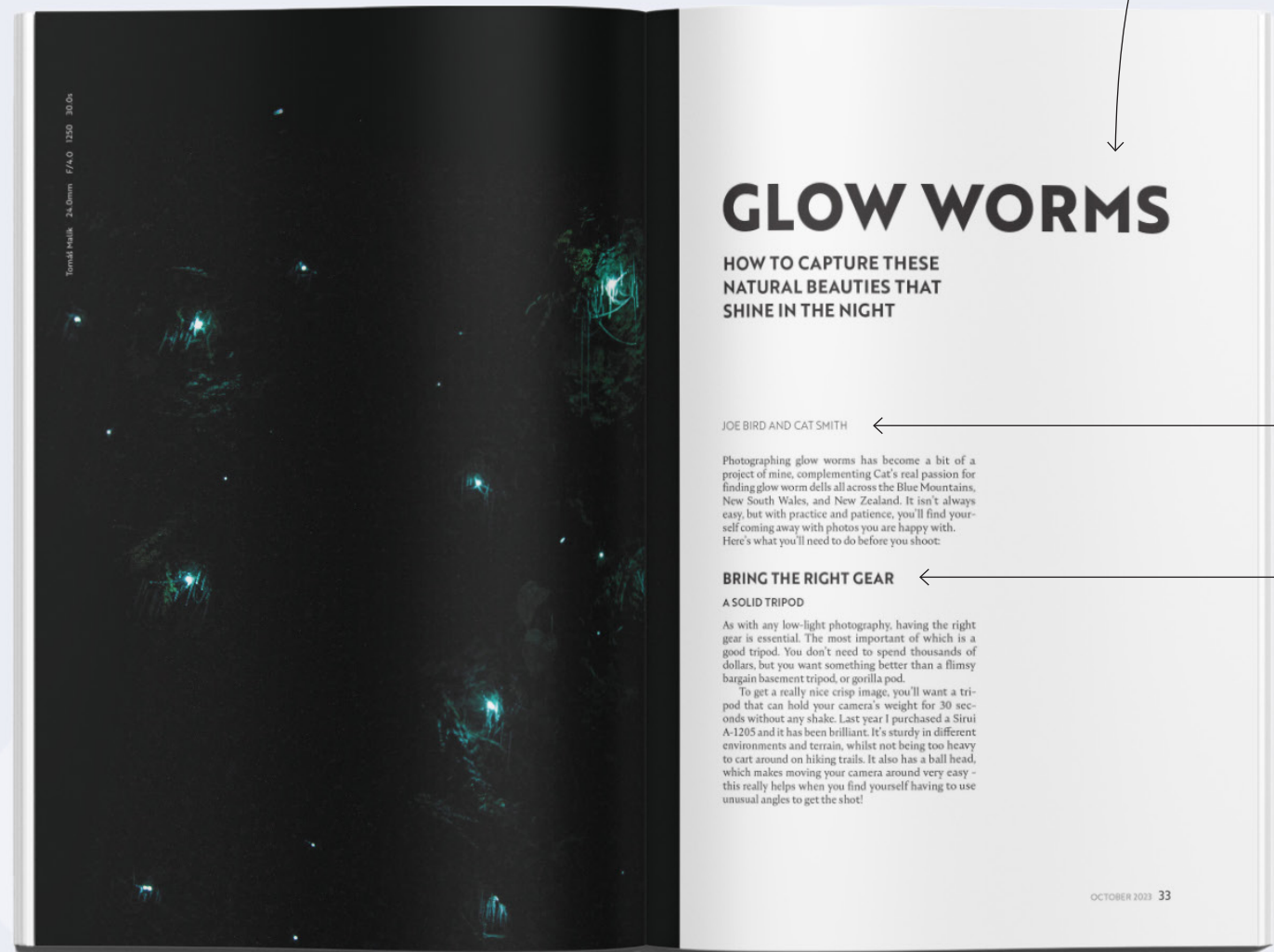
Photographer and  
camera settings

Ken Cheung 35.0mm F/16.0 50 10s



Section Title

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Photographer and camera settings

Author

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Footer with page number, magazine title, and issue





Boris Ng 20.0mm F/2.8 400 48s

**INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU GO**

It's not essential but scouting out the location in the daytime before you go at night can help you plan the photo you may want to take. It's a lot easier knowing where you're going when you come back after dark.

**HOW TO GET THAT PERFECT GLOW WORM PHOTO**

**1 SET YOURSELF UP**  
Now that you've done an investigation and know what you're in for, it's time to set up... in the dark! Get your camera out, set up your tripod and find an angle you're happy with. It's worth playing with the focal length as sometimes you'll start thinking you want hundreds of glow worms in a single photo and realize that it isn't practical. I am silly thinking I'll always come away with a photo of a million blue dots, and then decide I quite like the close-ups. Once you're set up and have your composition, it's time to get on with your camera settings.

**2 THE SETTINGS**  
First things first: make sure you're shooting in raw! This will make getting that perfect photo much easier as it is much higher quality than JPEG. No matter what type of shot you're taking (whether it's a close up or a wider landscape), the settings will be pretty similar for a photo in the dark. You'll want to take the same approach to photographing glow worms as you would to astro-photography: a long exposure with a wide aperture to let in as much light as possible. Try using the following settings:

- 10 second countdown
- Aperture: 2.8
- Shutter Speed: 30 seconds
- ISO: 6,400

If you find that your shots are still too dark using these settings, then I'd recommend looking at either taking a longer exposure (you will probably need to use a shutter release remote and bulb mode) or bumping up the ISO. A word of warning though - increasing the ISO much more than 6,400 is likely to make your photos grainy, so be careful with this. I would also recommend checking and adjusting after every photo - it's a fine line between blowing out a glow worm photo and getting it just right.

**3 GET THE FOCUS RIGHT**  
Focusing is the hardest part when taking glow worm photos, as the majority of cameras will struggle with auto focusing in really low light. If you are planning on taking a close up of a glow worm, then you shouldn't have a problem using auto focus, but for those wider landscape photos you will need to use manual focus.

When using manual focus, the best way to ensure the photo is sharp is to use the LCD screen on the back of your camera and zoom in on an individual glow worm as much as you can. Then adjust the focus until it becomes the smallest possible dot before disappearing - this tends to be the best way to get a sharp image.

**4 GET CREATIVE**  
If you're looking to get creative and have a person in the photo, then you will need to use some form of lighting. There are two ways to achieve this: 1) get a minimal or brief light source that can light up your subject but not blow the photo out or 2) take two separate photos - one of the subject and one of the glow worms - and blend in Photoshop. I'll be honest, I'm not great at this and I find it tricky to find the balance between getting Cat nicely lit without making it too bright so the glow worms disappear. Whilst I am getting better at Photoshop, I haven't been able to master blending two photos like this and make it look like it wasn't photoshopped.



NEW ZEALAND

**5 THE EDIT**  
If you've managed to get the exposure right, then the edit isn't too difficult. Here's a few editing actions I take with almost all glow worm photos I edit:

**Drag the white balance** until it appears bluer (glow worms always look green in photos for some reason).

**Use the luminance slider** just under "noise reduction" in the detail section.

**Adjust the whites and highlights** to ensure it's not blown out. Darken the blacks slightly.

**Reduce clarity by 10** and see if dehaze helps or not.

In the end, taking any nighttime photo presents a challenge that can be overcome with patience and practice! Once you get the knack, taking photos of glow worms is not only fun, but allows you to get creative. •

Alexander Kesselner 20.0mm F/2.8 3200 61s

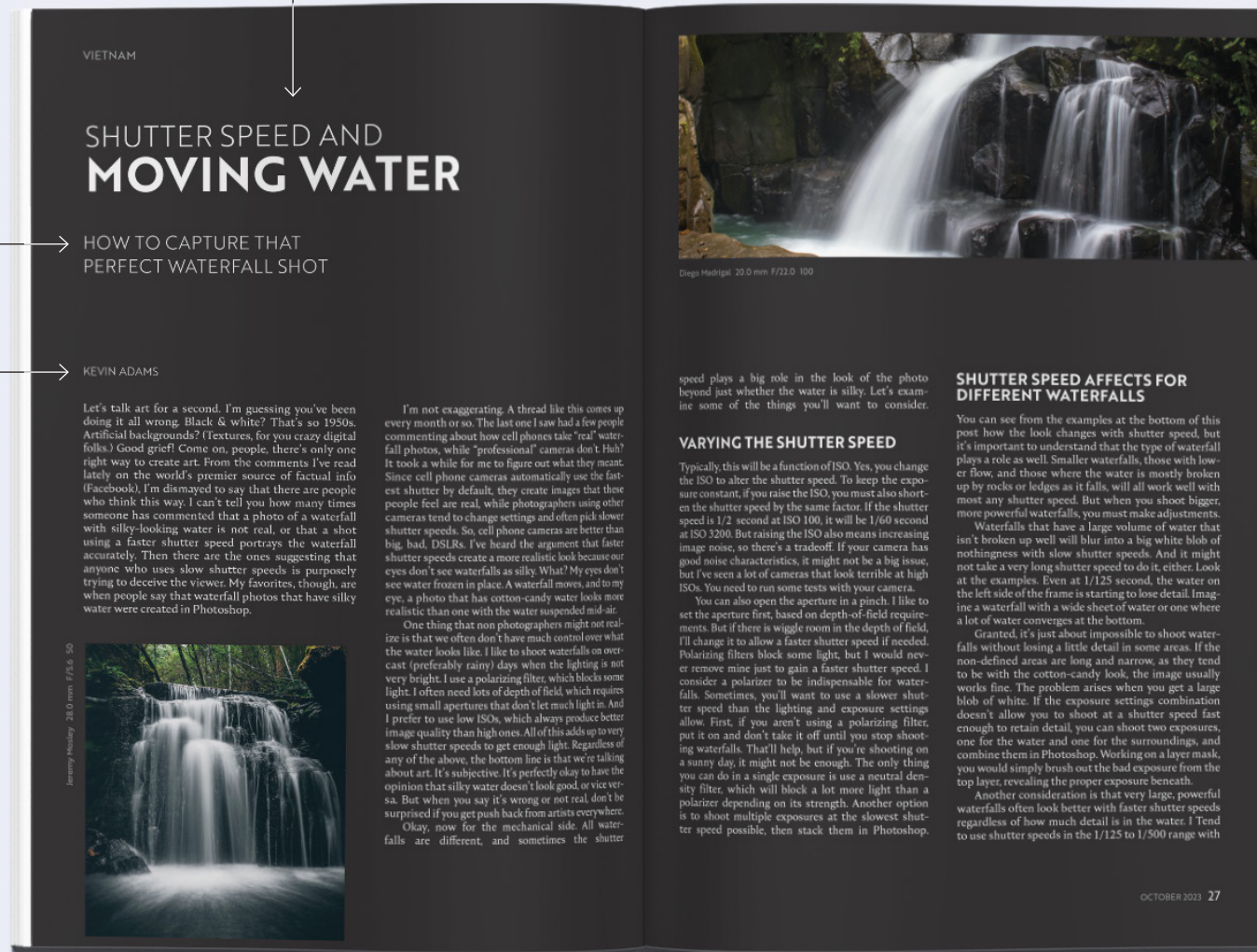
Photo spread to break up articles



Title of Article

Subtitle

Author



Header 1

