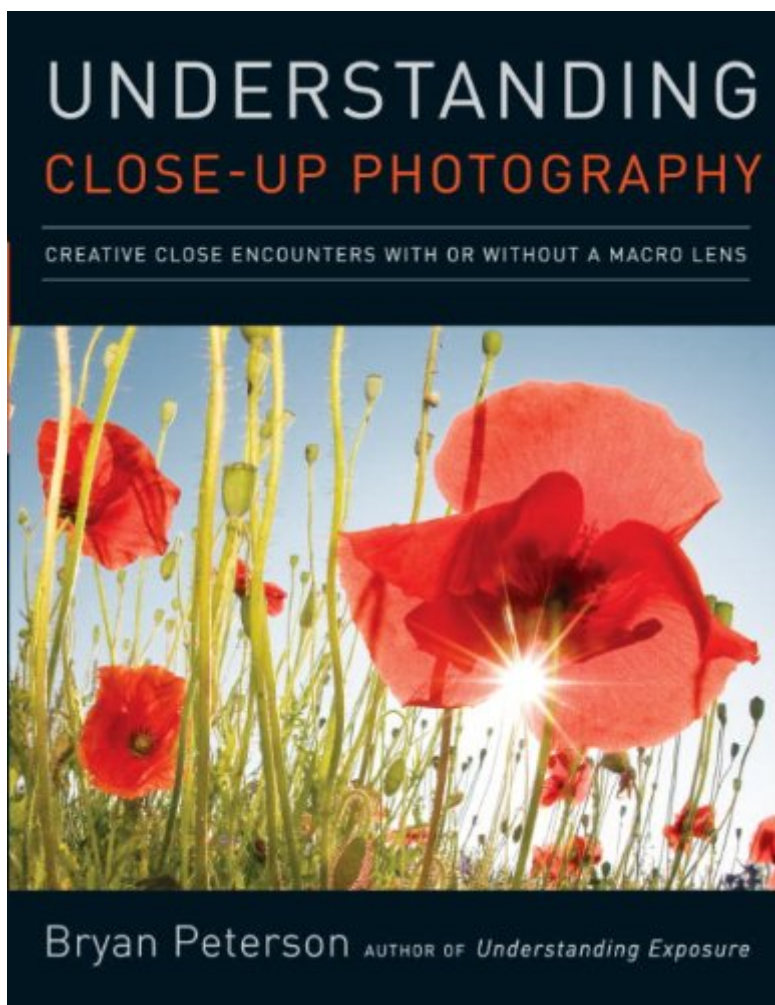


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# Understanding Close-Up Photography



## Synopsis

In his sixth book, renowned photographer, popular instructor, and best-selling author Bryan Peterson challenges and inspires us to see close-up photography in new ways when we view it through his eyes. You've seen the dewdrops, but what about dewdrops on a bird's wing or raindrops on a car windshield? You've seen the bumblebees on vibrant flowers, but what about the fluid edge of just one petal or the colorful rusting metal at industrial sites? Even when Peterson does capture the more traditional subjects, it's done in untraditional ways and often with minimal specialized equipment! Most important, he moves beyond the commonplace to inspire new ways of getting close, using your lenses, and discovering unconventional subjects.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Peterson's books on Shutter speed and Aperture are among the best I've ever encountered so when I saw this book in the soon to be released section I ordered it immediately. After waiting three

months, it finally arrived and although I would not put it into the same category as the Aperture and Shutter speed books, it is certainly a worthy addition. First, I'm not a pro but enjoy close-up and macro probably more than any other type of photography. This book strikes a solid balance between buying advice and explanations sufficient for newbies wanted to get started in close-up or macro and a few creative ideas or style for others with more experience. The emphasis is certainly on close-up above macro but with sufficient appeal to keep both happy. Ample explanations, nice use of comparative photos and Peterson's exceptional style of casual communication that provides insight into the shot itself. Also, he includes wide angle, fish-eye and other less common lens types outside of just the macro itself...for that he gets an extra star as it is a topic rarely included in most close-up discussions. Not every photo is of stellar quality - although there are some beautiful examples. Briefly, topics include equipment, depth of field and aperture, general tips, home studio, framing, magnification ratios, depth of field preview, and other essential information. To sum it up...a worthy addition but not of the same quality or caliber as exposure and shutter speed. Newbies will benefit the most while more experienced users may pick up a few worthy ideas.

I think it's important to begin by saying what this book is not. It is not primarily a "how to" book that will guide the reader through complex set-ups that require piles of camera gear. What this book does do, however, is inspire and excite the reader by showing creative ideas for close-up and macro photographs. I have found this book to be mesmerizing, not just because the photographs are beautiful, but because many of the photographs are of things that have been right under my nose for years. A cheese grater? A drain pipe? Peterson provides the reader with photographs of common items but taken in such a way that they appear complex and beautiful. He encourages the reader to look at everyday things with creativity and imagination. And he encourages the reader to look not only at the subject of the photograph but also to pay close attention to the equally important background (something to which many amateur photographers pay too little attention). This book should be appealing to photographers working within any budget because Peterson shows that you don't need the latest \$1200 advanced macro lens to take beautiful and interesting photographs. It can be done with something as simple and inexpensive as a reverse lens ring or extension tubes. That's not to say he doesn't show what can be accomplished with a good macro lens, but rather he covers the gamut. This is a book I find hard to put down.

I think the comment on the front of the book pretty much covers it, (Creative close encounters with

or without a MACRO lens). I started watching Bryan Peterson's YouTube videos about a year ago, which got me to take a look at this book. I would highly recommend taking a look at some of his YouTube videos also. If you want to be inspired and if you are looking for ideas that lead to other creative ideas, Bryan's books and videos are excellent! He also has many useful tips on using macro lenses, extension tubes and even wide angle lenses in close-up work. His focus is not on trying to document every single detail of how he created each image in the book. I think he is more interested in giving useful guidelines and creative ideas that can be applied to a variety of photography equipment. I will definitely take a look at Bryan's other books and I'm sure I will be referring to this book as needed. I have been dabbling in photography for many years, but I have gotten into it more seriously in the last two years. My current focus is on macro or close-up photography and this book and Bryan's videos have helped me to start getting the kind of photos I was looking for.

I have owned and taken thousands of pictures with a Canon 8701IS digital elf camera (my wife and I each have one and we love this little camera). I have since upgraded to a Canon 7D camera and got hooked on learning to take good/great pictures. Subsequently, I have bought a number of photography books written by various well known authors. However, after having bought Understanding Aperture written by Bryan, I have bought three more of his books. I can confirm without a doubt that this man really knows photography. His explanations and photographs as well as his honesty/philosophy about keeping his photographs mostly as it is without enhancements in Photoshop is what has sold me. I have learned more from his books than from all the other photography books combined. I plan on participating in one of his photography online classes (PPSOP or Perfect Picture School of Photography) soon.

Peterson is in fine form here with his trademark style of plain-spoken, practical teaching. He has a way of putting abstract concepts into easily understood, everyday language that leads the reader to truly OWN the idea. And at the same time he nudges along the more experienced photographer to reach beyond the familiar techniques and styles it's so easy to rely on in the myriad artistic selections one makes with every shot. The photos Peterson selected to illustrate his points communicate perfectly everything from the arcane to the simple, and they are consistently beautiful as a bonus! Understanding Close-up is better edited than his prior books but retains the charming, "note to a friend" voice that typifies Bryan Peterson. As someone who has taken his on-line classes, heard him speak at conferences, and read most of his books, I am clearly a fan, but I'm also a

reader and I appreciate the fact that his latest book is fun to read, beautifully made and still causes the little light bulbs to go off above my head!

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