

Giving directions

Kraguljac and his model were submerged in a swimming pool for the shoot. They both held their breath and communicated using hand signals.

Technique

It was essential to freeze both the movement of the model and the material billowing around her. Kraguljac used settings of 1/125 sec at f/8, while noise was kept to a minimum with an ISO of 200.


Digital Camera EXPERT TIP

"You don't need an expensive lighting set up to get the strong chiaroscuro effect that Kraguljac achieved. An angle-poise lamp or an off-camera flash can work just as well. The trick is positioning it properly to the side of your subject. Experiment with different positions and review test shots on your SLR's LCD screen."

Ben Brain, deputy editor

PHOTO ANATOMY

UNDERWATER ART

Igor Kraguljac's dramatic photo was inspired by Renaissance painting. It's a visually stunning image, but how did he take it? We have the answers...

Kit

Igor used a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III with a Canon 17-40mm, inside an Ewa-Marine U-B Series underwater housing. To light the model he used a JTL Mobilight 301 strobe, modified with a 72x48-inch softbox.

Lighting

Inspired by artist Caravaggio's dramatic 'chiaroscuro' lighting, Kraguljac shot his model against a black background. The single light was placed directly above the model, 15 inches above the water's surface, and fired using a wireless radio transmitter.

Finishing touches

At the post-capture stage, Kraguljac enhanced the contrast levels and made some colour saturation changes. The most time-consuming task, however, was to clone out hundreds of little bubbles around the model.

