

Painting with Mini-Lights

By Valerie Henshel

Valerie demonstrated a novel light painting technique that she and Carole Cohen, former member of OPCC, experimented with successfully. With Mini-Maglites and regular key-chain flashlights she cast beams of light onto the screen we use for slide projection. The cast patterns had the normal gray circles we see when using flashlights. Then she cast light onto the screen using LED (light emitting diodes) key-chain lights. The patterns cast had no dark circles, just a full light circle. She also told that these small flashlights can be purchased such that they cast different colors—red, blue, green, etc.



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To demonstrate the technique, Valerie lit the blooms of an arrangement of white flowers, and then other photographers followed (see above photo and the small lights on the table). The blooms were lit in front and from the rear to show the technique's versatility. Valerie said that exposure for a bloom can be made using the camera's internal meter; for a whole arrangement, it needs to be done by trial and error. Give Valerie's technique a try; your results should surprise you, especially if you use the different colored lights on adjacent blooms.