



## Experimental Interpretation of Color and Contrast

Text and photos by Gary Rose, MD

When asked, “What are your favorite color contrast underwater photos?” my initial thought (as I would assume any underwater photographer would have), was to think of the vivid contrasts and enriched colors of shooting in deep blue water with strobes. We have all seen spectacular photos of walls resplendent with colorful and scintillating gorgonians, sponges and impossibly colorful schools of fish. It is for this reason that I chose not to repeat the same art that we have all become accustomed to.

I have chosen to share with you a few of my fun color, contrast and interpretation experiments. Playing with my camera and strobe settings has borne luscious fruit. From time to time, we all need to step out of our underwater photography comfort zone—and PLAY. It is during these creative and imaginative times that some of our most unusual

and fabulous art is created.

By combining strobes and natural light, painting light near and far, upwards, downwards and sideways, I was able to produce these photos that I am sharing with you. Light is the source of all visual information. It stimulates the retina, creates electrical stimulation that is transmitted along neuronal pathways, and then these impulses are sent on to the brain where interpretation takes place. Sometimes, it takes a little while for the brain to process what one is actually looking at. On other occasions, the infinite combinations of color and contrast are more obvious.

The next time you go out for an underwater photoshoot, experiment and give your brain the freedom to interpret the magnificence of what it is witnessing. Then, remember to depress the shutter release. My goal with this group of photos was to create color, contrast, and experimental interpretations. Visit: [garyrosephotos.com](http://garyrosephotos.com)



Lemon sharks approaching the surface (above). Exposure: ISO 200, f/11, 1/125s; Lemon shark emerging into the light (top center). Exposure: ISO 200, f/11, 1/125s; Great white shark under the rainbow (top left). Exposure: ISO 320, f/8, 1/125s; Lemon shark with a following (left). Exposure: ISO 200, f/11, 1/125s. All photos were taken with Nikon D500 camera, Tokina 10-17 lens, Nauticam housing, Inon Z330 strobes

