

## Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness

The famous line by John Keats could easily refer to photography; with autumn now firmly embedded, there are new opportunities around for photographers.

If close-up and pattern photography turns you on, then a very good source is readily available with fruit, and the images can all be captured in the comfort of our homes.

You could of course try a classic still life composition with a bowl of fruit, and in art galleries there are many great examples for inspiration. An alternative is to explore the insides of fruit with a close-up lens. In particular, fruit with plenty of seeds inside really lends itself to this. Peppers, carefully sliced open, reveal an amazing skeletal structure, and with their translucent skins can make dramatic images with imaginative lighting. Other fruits like oranges, kiwi fruit and even tomatoes show interesting patterns. And, as shown in this photo, melons have a variety of different structures which can be explored.

The technical requirements are very straightforward. A close-up (macro) lens is ideal, and as a sharp image is needed you'll need to use a small aperture to maximise depth of field, which then requires a tripod for a perfectly sharp image. Depending on the image you're looking for, available light from a window provides nice soft lighting, or sunlight for more dramatic contrast. You can also use artificial light, but unless you've got a daylight lamp you'll need to adjust the colour balance on the camera for a natural result. You can also get brilliant results on most of today's smartphones.

So, give it a try, experiment with different levels of enlargement, have fun, and then enjoy eating your subject when all is done!



If you'd like help with this, you can contact Overton Photographic Club. This is easier than ever now, as the club has now had to move to online activities. If you have any questions or need help with anything photographic, do feel free to contact us through the website at [www.overtonphoto.club](http://www.overtonphoto.club) or email me personally and I will try to help or pass you on to someone who can.

John Hodge