



Eva Polak's landscape impressionist photographs show the subtle moods and emotions of nature.

# Making an impression

Visual inspiration can be expressed using a variety of tools and can translate into impressions of various forms. **Virin Gomber** reports.

Eva Polak uses impressionist photography to give voice to the artist in her, taking inspiration for her photographs from the beauty and variety of nature and the world she lives in.

She uses her skills to show the subtle moods and hidden emotions of a place she is trying to portray.

Originally from Poland, Eva came to New Zealand with a graphic design background. "Photography was a hobby for me to start with. In 2007, I attended a workshop on impressionist photography, which made me fall in love with impressionist art," Eva told *Urban Living*.

"From there on I developed my own techniques; and now it's more an exploration of art for me than a profession."

Now a leading impressionist photographer in her own right, Eva has exhibited her work at Colorado's Center for Fine Art Photography.

She has also been published in *Practical Photography*, on digital-photography-school.com, and has produced two books: *At The Beach*, a collection of images, in 2008; and *Impressionist Photography Techniques*, outlining ways to use your camera for painterly effect, in 2009.

"I use a standard camera with manual controls, but it's the techniques I employ that result in the impressions.

"While expressionist art is ab-

stract with more form and colours, in the impressionist kind the form is not that clearly defined but can still be recognised," she explained.

Recently Eva explored and photographed the West Coast beaches from Whatipu to Muriwai – from dusk to dawn, winter to spring. She presented the results in her first solo exhibition, *Tides of Light*.

She says most of the time when trying to capture the moods of nature she just stands and watches.

"Everything in nature has a pat-



tern. So all I do is point my camera and wait. Patience is a big part of capturing just the right moment."

Eva feels light guides her on an endlessly shifting journey through subtle and dramatic changes in environment and mood. She says she never manipulates her photos in any way.

"I'm quite traditional in that sense. The only thing I would do is crop the photos, if required, to

make them look more dramatic."

"Interest in impressionist photography has grown over the years. More people now appreciate it."

Not only capturing the impressions of nature through her camera, Eva also teaches this art form and holds workshops.

"I had a great response to my first workshop, so I'm planning more in the future.

"I would also like to have more exhibitions to present my work, and make this style more popular," she commented.

"I feel grateful to have come across this great form of art as I feel I can express my feelings more using it."

"It has been quite liberating."



Eva Polak.