

CeeLite Adds New Dimension to Black and White Photography Photography/Exhibit Backlighting Case Study



Islandic Landscape by Libbie Masterson.
Photo courtesy of Carl Maples Photography

“Do you see what I see?” is the plea of many artists as they showcase their work. In fact, this was the entreaty of renowned artist Libbie Masterson who was keen to illustrate the pristine environment in her black and white Icelandic Landscape at the Meredith Long Gallery of Houston, Texas.

Masterson was looking for a new medium to help viewers better understand and appreciate her experience with landscapes.

Friend and lighting designer Nic Phillips saw how lighting could be used to achieve this effect. The light had to be thin in dimension, which would allow for a more sophisticated framing technique, and meet the work’s unique shape specifications. The light source had to emit light uniformly throughout the landscape scene. Lastly the lighting had to give off low levels of heat to protect the quality of the piece, and to guarantee that the photography would not be harmed by the typical heat often generated by a standard light box.

According to Phillips, “CeeLite™ fit the bill. This flat lightbulb brings backlighting to the forefront of the viewing experience of art by giving luminous values otherwise not obtainable in conventional photographs. In effect this adds an unexpected emotional dimension to Libbie’s extraordinary photography. And, it does so without harming the photography while conforming to the conventional form factor of a painted work.”

The CeeLite LEC (light emitting capacitor) technology is comprised of three critical components: OSRAM SYLVANIA’s higher quality light emitting phosphors for color and brightness; advanced, proprietary, programmable Flatline Inverters to control uniform levels of brightness and ambiance; and advanced “packaging materials” for lower heat generation which extends the life of the lighting.

Phillips chose CeeLite panels because of their paper thin dimensions that allowed for a custom-fit for the image. Easy to install, the CeeLite panels can flexibly adhere to awkward locations without compromising uniformity of lighting quality. “CeeLite’s customer support and dedication to making this technology really work for our unique application was another factor in my choice to use their LEC panels,” says Phillips.

CeeLite's Flatline Inverters provided the needed dimming features and controls that delivered 99 percent uniform surface illumination critical for this design. The Inverter allows the artist to program the exact ambient backlighting envisioned for the photographic art, and to set the ambient lighting on a timer to dim and fade to reflect changing viewing experiences – in effect, to make the art come alive.

At the same time, CeeLite panels are cool to the touch. Their low heat emission does not radiate any excessive heat at the back of the photograph and ensures the safety of the photograph.

“We are so excited about the pieces we are making with the panels. It really takes the landscapes to a new level,” said Masterson.

CeeLite, often the choice for illuminating the unexpected, produced a dramatic and inviting effect that exceeded all expectations. CeeLite LEC technology enabled Masterson to illuminate a contemporary piece of art, which engages the viewer; and helped Phillips make the photograph float unencumbered from the standard traditional light box.

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