

Less than < 10 cm

Macro Photography Exhibit: Getting Too Close
In Association with The University of Malaysia, Borneo
School of Creative Arts

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This is an artistic study of the proxemics of getting *too close*.

In everyday life, we are often taught to keep a “safe distance.” To “stand back”—or to maintain at least an arm’s length—is what is required in order to gain perspective. This is particularly true in the study of nature, where safety and detachment are commonly considered the essentials of dispassionate analysis. A “good” scientist or a calculated “observer” stands at a distance in order to better assess the situation, so we’re told. It is as if keeping the world literally at arm’s length (60-90cm+) means that you won’t be crossing the invisible boundary into “intimate space,” or into the emotionally subjective.

But what if you did?

What happens when you move in close? Maybe too close? When, say, you get within 10cm --or even within 1cm—of a person, animal, insect, plant, or other element?

What happens then?

These photographs are about that very process. All of them were taken with *too-closeness* in mind. Most all were photographed within less than 10cm of the object. Some were shot within 1cm. This is the world of macro-photography. It involves getting as close as possible without disturbing the subject of the photograph.

As we hope you will see, when you move in too close, new patterns, new textures, new details, and new observations start to emerge.

At first, some of these images may make you feel a bit unnerved. They’re supposed to. “What is THAT?!” you say? This is a creditable starting question.

We hope that other questions will follow when you are not sure of what you are seeing, or whether you should be looking at something (or someone) that close.

This, too, is discovery. It could be science. Whatever it may be, we hope that you take some of these ideas with you, and that you may even be inspired to get too close yourself.