

**U3A TAURANGA CAMERA CLUB • AGENDA 2 MARCH 2026**

**The Vines Village Theatre, Bethlehem  
convener: Margaret Marsh, 07-281-2408**

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**Homework Slideshow – TRAVEL**  
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**Drainspotting in Japan**

In Japan, many towns and municipalities have their own unique manhole cover designs linked to local sights – from deer in Nara to Osaka's famous castle. Estimated to be over 6,000 different cover designs!



**The most beautiful manholes in the world. [3.33].**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNdD\\_zQrfYs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNdD_zQrfYs)

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**What is Virtual Photography?**

Virtual photography is a modern medium where images are captured within digital environments or through remote technology, rather than by a physical camera present at a scene.

**Virtual Photography – How it Works. [3.00].**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gdX2d1CtHo>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual\\_photography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_photography)

<https://www.threekit.com/blog/everything-you-need-to-know-about-virtual-photography>

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**NEXT Meeting: 6 April 2026 – Easter Monday.  
Homework : Bird Images ... 2 please!**

**Incredible Morning of Bird Photography. [1.47]**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDqFNU-uV\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDqFNU-uV_U)

**Birds of India. [5.47]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IB6fyunJwc>



# What is Virtual Photography?

Virtual photography is a modern medium where images are captured within digital environments or through remote technology, rather than by a physical camera present at a scene. Depending on the context, it generally refers to one of three distinct practices:

## 1. Remote/Virtual Photo Shoots

These emerged significantly during the 2020 Covid pandemic, allowing a photographer to photograph a subject remotely.

- **How it Works:** The subject/client uses their smartphone, and the photographer takes control of the camera via apps like **Clos** or video platforms like **FaceTime** and **Zoom**.
- **Professional Quality:** By shooting in RAW format with these apps, photographers can achieve high-quality results suitable for magazines like Vogue.

## 2. In Gaming Photography

This is the most common form, where players use specialized "Photo Modes" or mods within video games to capture artistic shots.

- **Creative Control:** Photographers can manipulate the "virtual camera" by adjusting focal length, aperture, depth of field, and lighting just as they would with a real DSLR.
- **Popular Games:** Titles like *Red Dead Redemption 2*, *The Last of Us Part II*, and *Ghost of Tsushima* are widely used for their photorealistic graphics.
- **Community:** Platforms like Flickr have dedicated categories for virtual photography to distinguish it from traditional screenshots.



### 3. 3D Product Rendering

In the commercial world, virtual photography (also called 3D Product Imaging) uses 3D models and rendering software like Adobe Substance 3D to create lifelike product images.

- **Efficiency:** Brands like IKEA use it for their catalogues because it eliminates the need for expensive physical studio sets and shipping prototypes.
- **Versatility:** A single 3D model can be rendered in thousands of variations—changing colours, textures, or backgrounds with a few clicks.

#### Key Benefits

- **Cost-Effective:** It is often reported to be up to 10 times cheaper than traditional shoots.
- **Accessibility:** It allows individuals with physical disabilities or those in remote locations to experience and capture worlds creatively.
- **Infinite Creativity:** Photographers can capture "impossible" shots, such as subjects in zero gravity or fantasy environments.



Also see:

<https://www.digitalphotomentor.com/stay-home-virtual-travel-photography/>