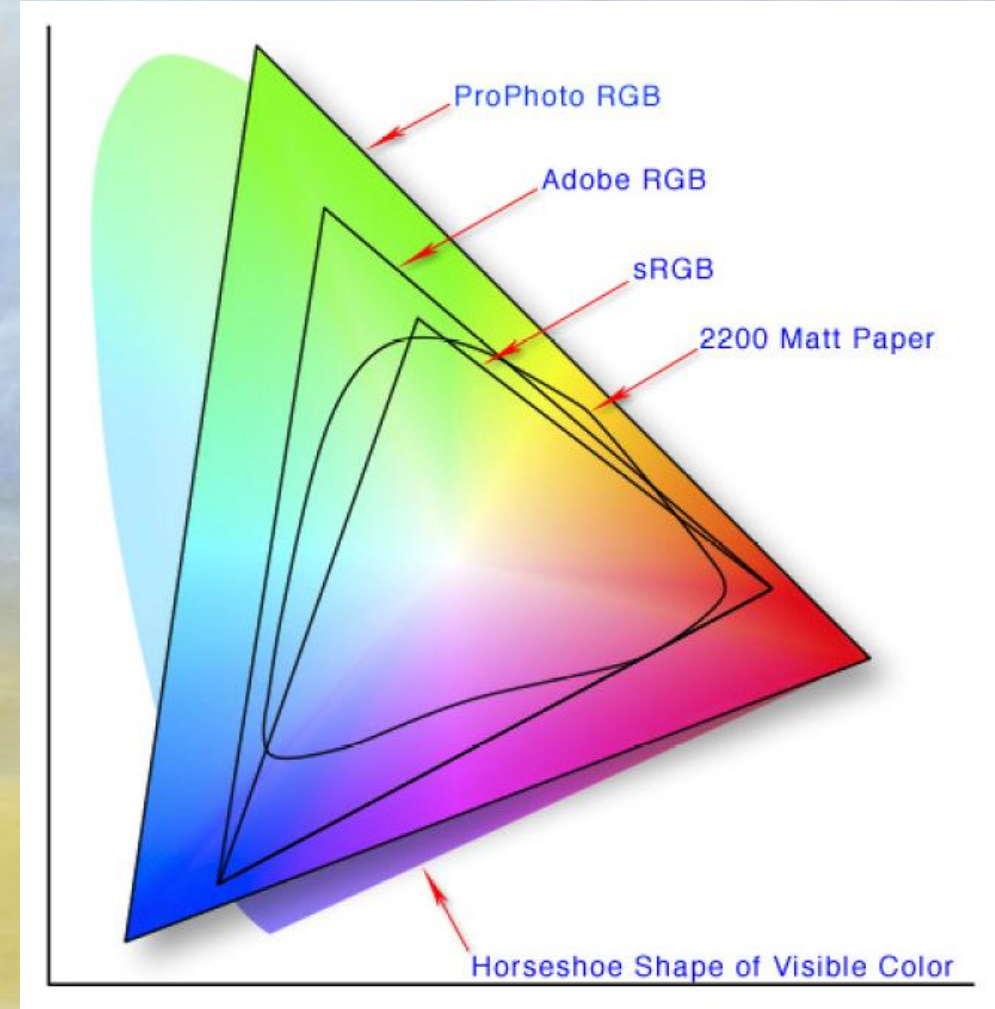# Colour Tools in Lightroom

(And a little Photoshop)

Colour gamut

The range of colours which a particular device can produce or record.

Note: The depiction should really be 3-dimensional.

ICC Colour profiles

ICC Profiles consist of a file that describes the specific gamut of a device and facilitates consistent reproduction of colour across different devices. It translates the colours between colour spaces e.g. between Adobe RGB and the monitor or printer/paper combination.

A colour-managed workflow, with ICC colour profiles for each step, help to ensure consistent treatment of colour.

Colour tools available in Lightroom

1   Profiles [Global]
Control the overall contrast and colour treatment in the image

2   Colour balance [Global / Local]
Control how warm or cool a scene is

3   Saturation [Global / Local]
Saturate or desaturate all colours

4   Vibrance [Global]
Saturate or desaturate by targeting the less saturated colours

5   Color mixer [Global]
Change the hue, saturation or lightness of colours split by zones of the spectrum

6   Point color [Global / Local]
Edit a specific colour with fine precision

7   Color grading [Global]
Apply a colour to the highlights, midtones or shadows

8   Calibration [Global]
Affect the hue or saturation of all colours that contain a R, G or B value and apply a tint to the shadows

Profiles

Try different profiles to see which offers the best basis for processing. The differences can be significant.
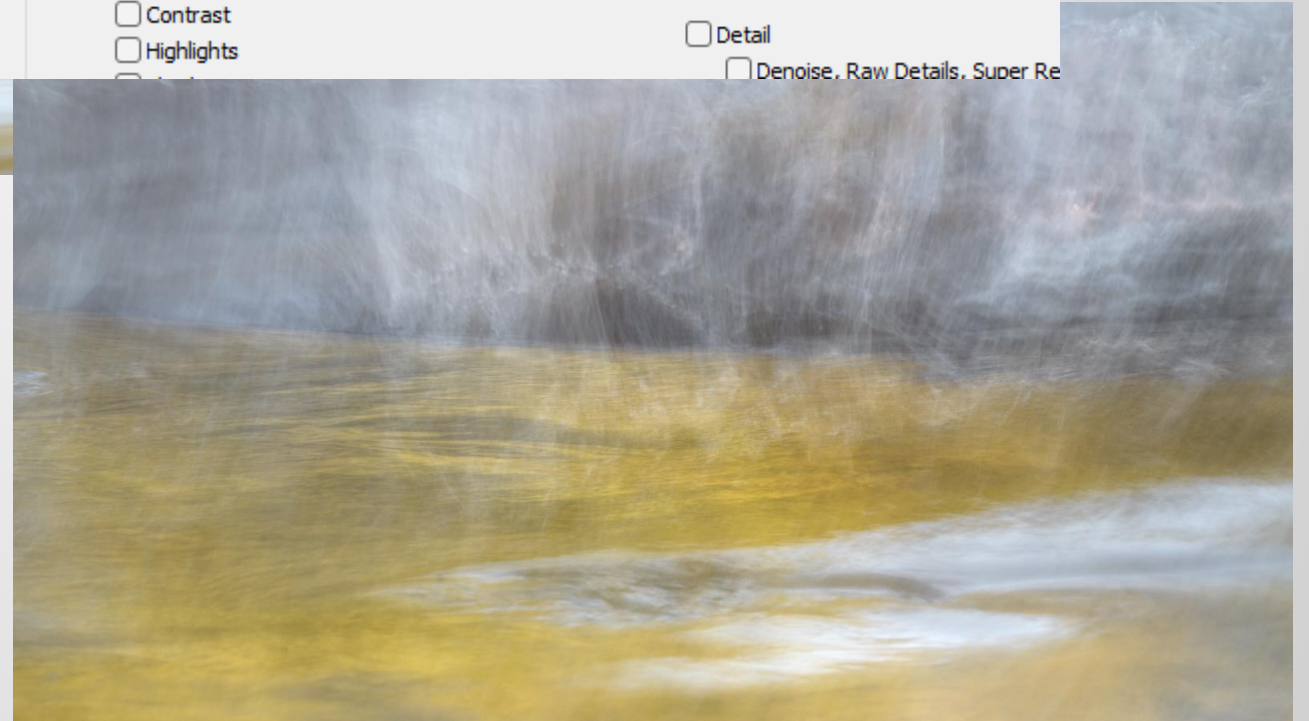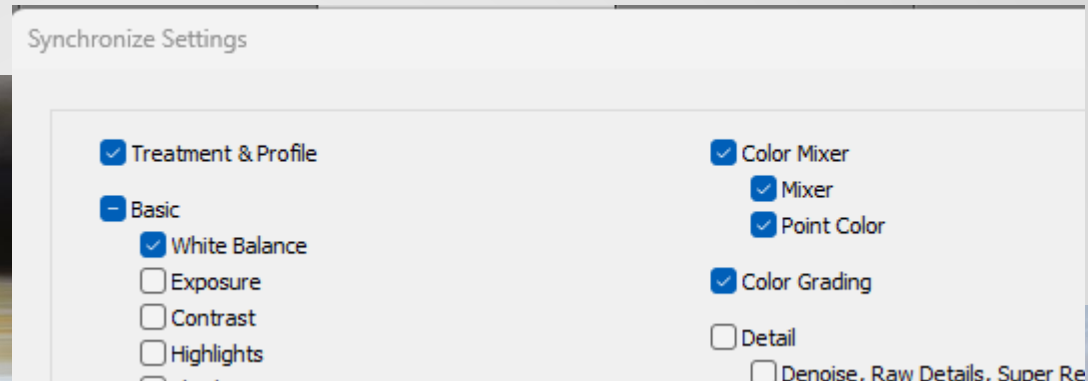
Profiles

The Artistic profiles can be effective for finishing an image, perhaps combined with Color grading. In this case, Color grading also works well on its own.
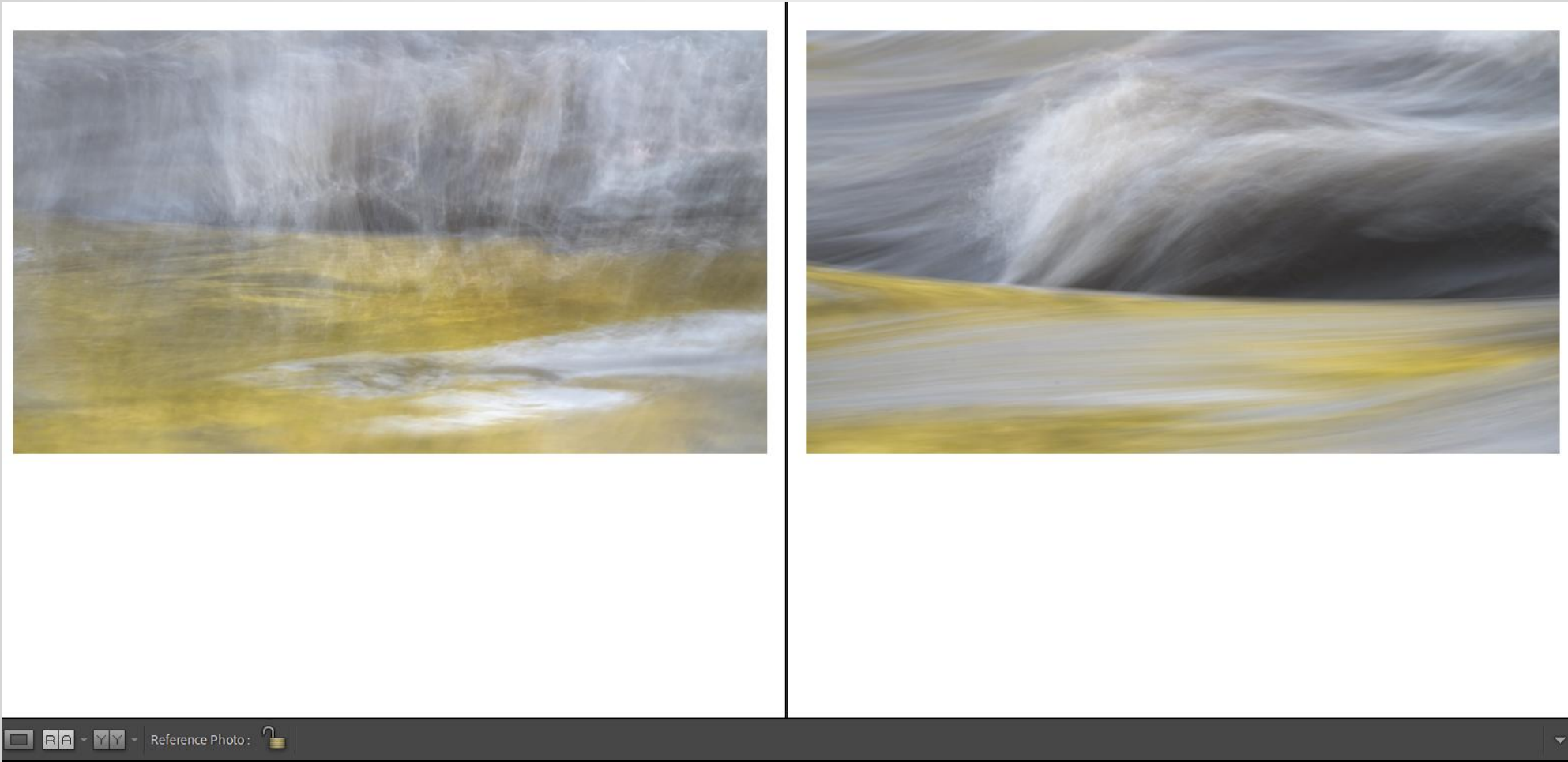
Synchronise settings to produce consistent colours

Reference view to produce consistent colours

In Reference view drag a completed image from the filmstrip and process to match

Extreme colour casts

Try using the target adjustment tool to find a neutral, but it may over-correct

Point color

Profile has a significant impact

Process the truck separately using Select subject

Brighten and saturate yellow lights using select object and point color

Subtle change to hue and saturation of the blue sky using point color – no need
fort selection

Using point color to edit individual colours

I wanted to make the hydrant stand out without affecting the grasses.

1. Color mixer > saturate reds. Cannot use for orange as affects grasses.

2. Select subject and subtract the colour range that corresponds to the grasses – brighten using exposure and whites, add texture.

3. Use the point color tool to brighten and saturate the hydrant oranges and change the hue of the greens

4. Select snow on hydrant and add texture.

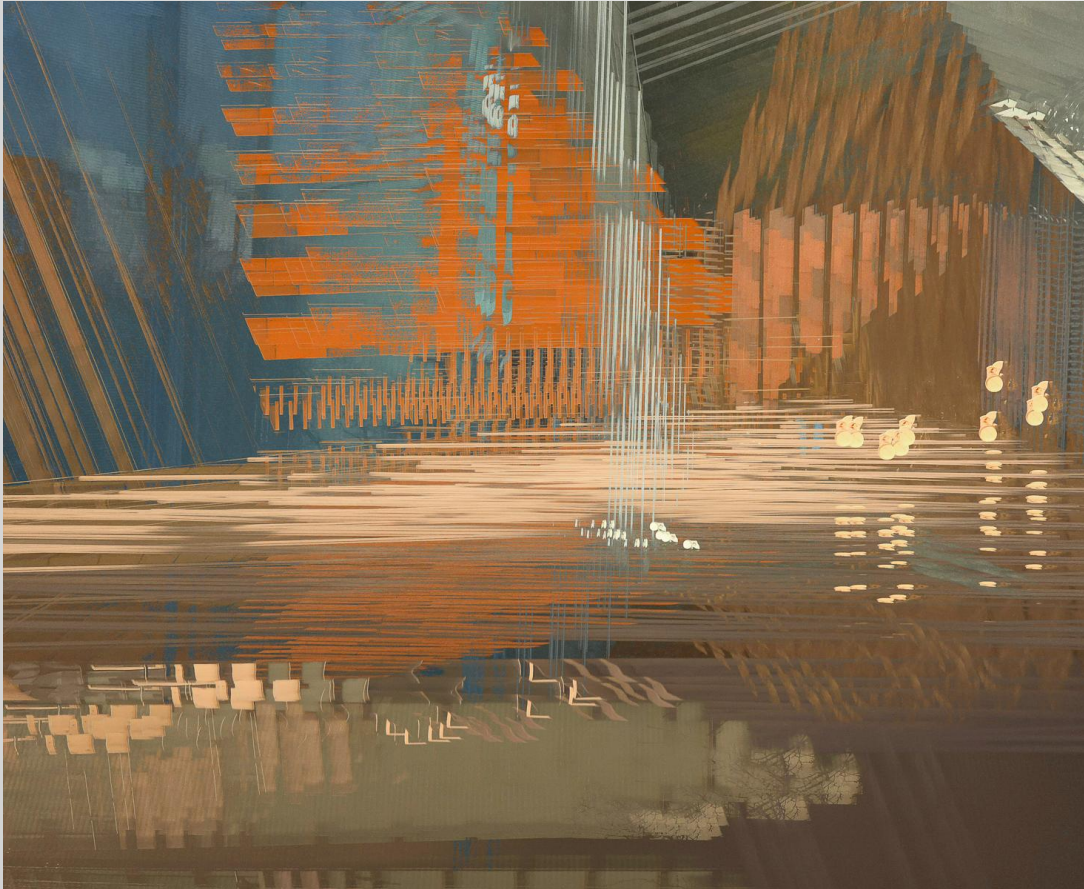# Impact of contrast on colour and controlling this

Increasing contrast (e.g. by pushing whites up and blacks down) increases colour saturation.

Methods to control this:

1. Live with it and reduce the saturation and perhaps vibrance to compensate.

2. Use the tone curve and use the Refine saturation slider.

3. Process using adjustment layers in Photoshop using the Luminosity blend mode (but we sometimes want some saturation increase).

4. Process in LAB colour in Photoshop.

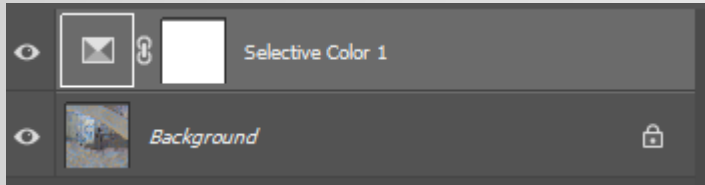# Point color, globally and locally with variation

Point color is incredibly powerful and the Variation slider allows colours to be homogenised or separated.
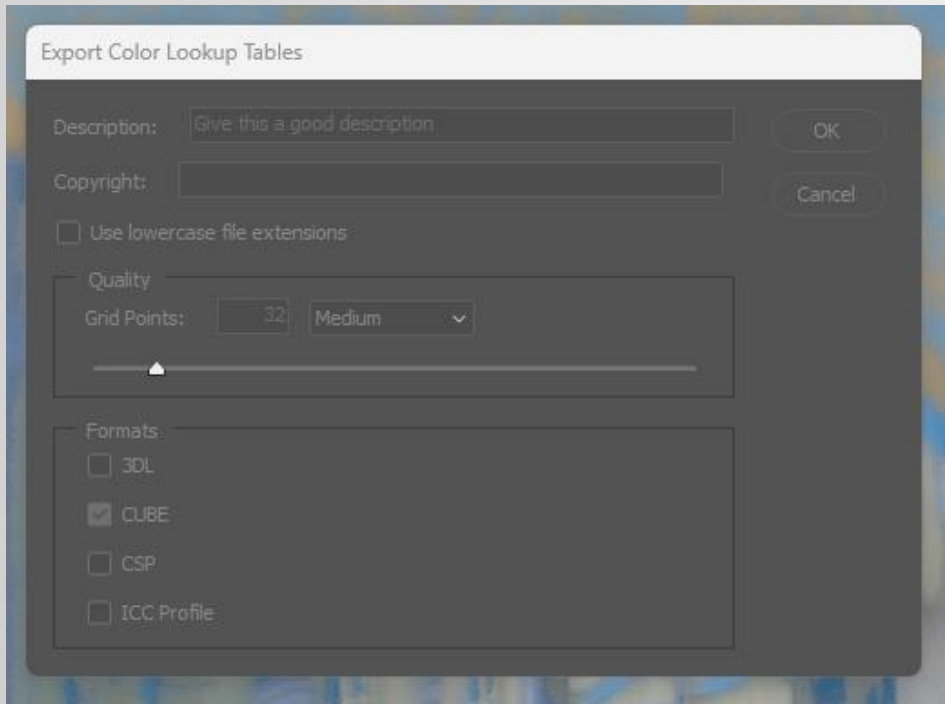
Combining point color with local selections gives even more control.

A Creative Superpower: Produce Your Own Creative Profiles

1. **In PS: Open an image and use adjustment layer to change colours and tones (Selective Color is good, but others e.g. Curves also work well)**
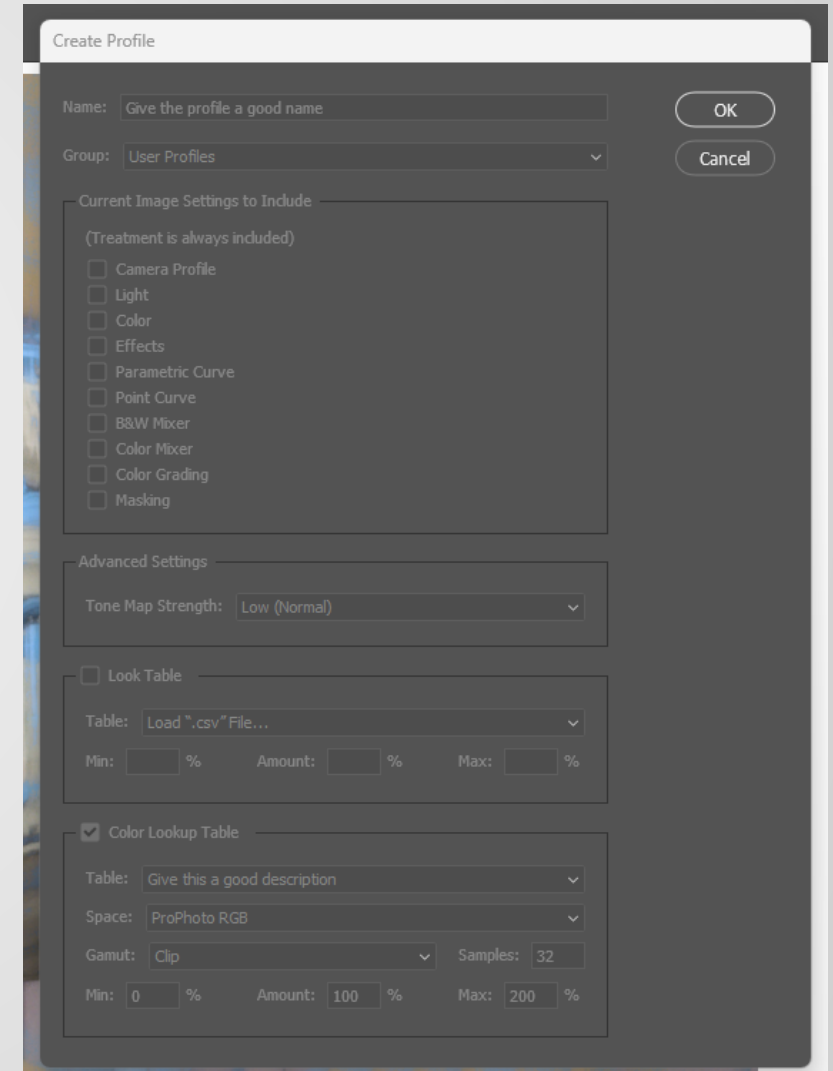

2. **Export a colour lookup table (File > Export > Color lookup tables) – see settings below**
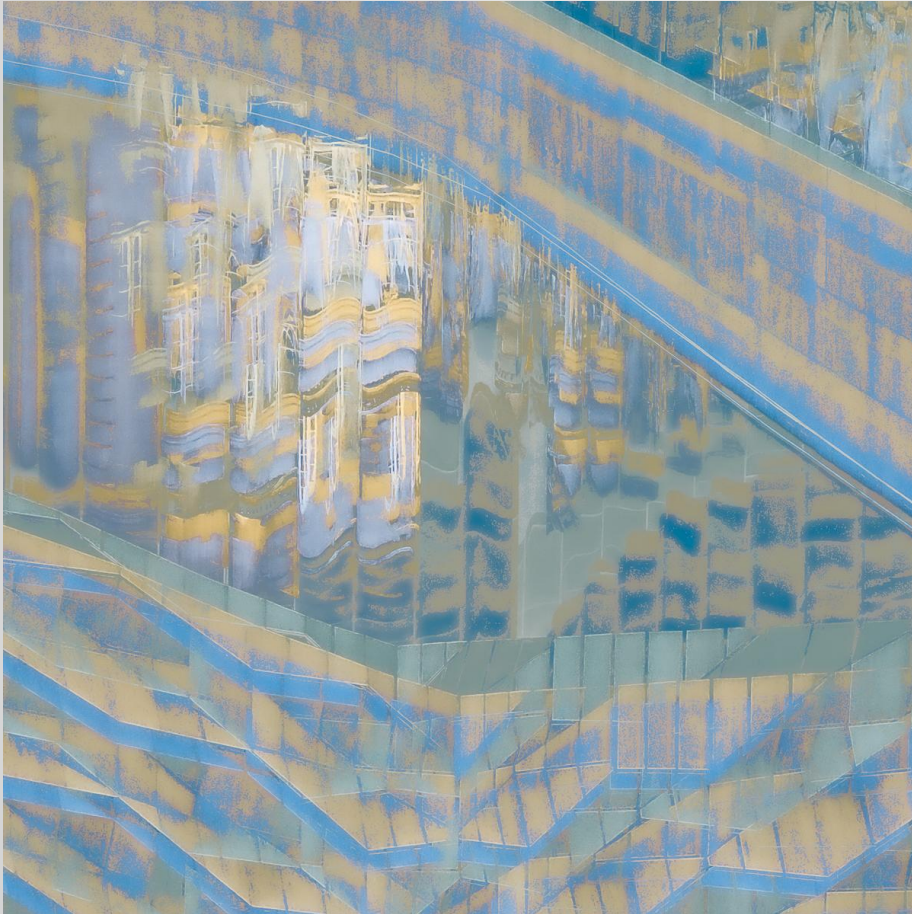
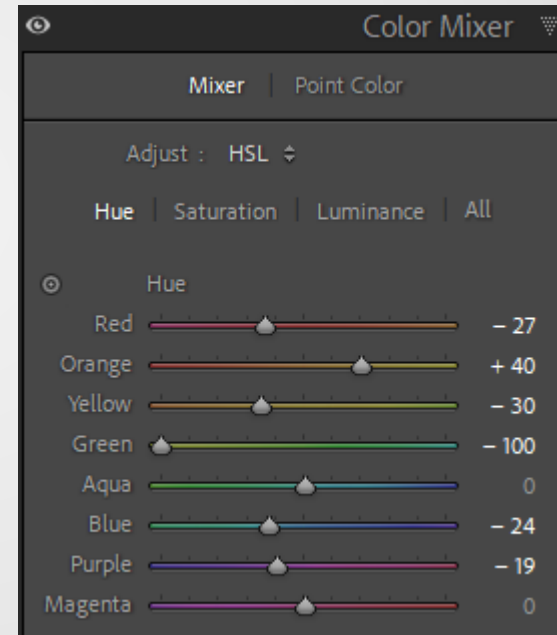# A Creative Superpower: Produce Your Own Creative Profiles

3. **Delete the adjustment layer, then convert Background layer to a smart object (Filter > Convert for smart filters)**

4. **Open Camera RAW (Filter > Camera RAW filter)**

5. **Holding down the Alt/Option key, click on the three dots on the right and choose Create profile.**

6. **Load the Color lookup table you just saved, give the profile a good name and choose Group: User Profiles. Choose OK. You can exit Camera RAW and close Photoshop without saving the image.**

7. **Close and reopen Lightroom. The profile should be available in the list under User Profiles.**

8. **Depending on your adjustments, be prepared for weirdness in Lightroom, but embrace serendipity!**

Apply a creative profile and play with HSL sliders

With abstract images, extreme shifts can work

Summary of Key Principles

Colour is malleable to fit your vision

Edit colour locally as well as globally

Tone and contrast edits affect colour and saturation

Take control of your colours to process for mood or effect