Lightpainting

Equipment :

- o Camera
- o Tripod
- o A cable release or ideally an
- o infra-red remote
- o Battery-operated light source
- o An assistant !

Method :

Set your 'Function' dial to 'Shutter Priority'.

Using your input dial, set the shutter time according to the type of image you are shooting. As an example, the 'fire' images I shot were set on 25 seconds, the 'light sabre' images were approx. 12 – 15 seconds and the fibre optic images were only about 1.5 seconds, but it obviously depends on the type of result you want to achieve.

With camera on the tripod, use autofocus to focus on subject (you may need to light your subject with a strong torch, if shooting in the dark !). If you prefer, and can be as accurate, manually focus instead. Turn OFF the A/F, otherwise it will attempt to re-focus when you release the shutter.

Turn off your 'image stabilisation'.

An aperture setting of f8 is normally perfect.

Set your ISO to 100 or 200 – this is usually sufficient, but again dependent on the individual image. Shoot on RAW quality. Set White Balance to Auto. You are now ready to release the shutter: it is an idea to start the light movement first, then fire the shutter. If the 'painting' movements finish before the shutter closes, switch the light off straight away ….. otherwise it will continue to register on your image and ruin it !

Because of the long exposure time, the camera will take a fair few seconds to process the image, so don't do anything until you see your image appear on the camera screen.

Experiment **with any of the above settings – it's half the fun !** But always shoot on RAW !

Lightpainting – SUGGESTED settings