

LOVE LETTER TO A GENERATION

REIMAGINING OLD PORTRAITS



IMAGES © JANE LONG

► There was little opportunity for whimsy in war-torn Europe of the early 20th century. But Queensland, Australia-based Jane Long has altered that reality with her vibrant series “Dancing with Costica.” Long has breathed new life into WWI-era portraits made by Romanian photographer Costica Acsinthe. Acsinthe was a war photographer and post-war portraitist whose newly digitized images have been made available to the public.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER: What inspired the “Dancing with Costica” series?

JANE LONG: I was looking for public domain images to practice my retouching when I came across the Costica Acsinthe Archive on Flickr. The images are of people trying to rebuild their lives after the war in a fairly poor part of the world at the time. There was one image in particular—of a multi-racial couple—and I wondered what their experience was. Were



they accepted or, more likely, did they face opposition to their union? I re-colored the image but once I got that far it wasn't enough. They are a young couple in love. I wanted them to be happy and carefree so I changed

the context of the image to try to reflect that.

PP: How do you create a concept for each photo?

LONG: Sometimes the inspiration comes directly from the original image, and sometimes