

The Story Behind the Photo



The Old Couple: Fire and Ice by Rhonda Cullens
February 2025 Monthly Challenge "Odd Couples" Competition - 1st Place

Start with an Inspiration from Google/Instagram



Google: Photos of fire and ice

Or Inspiration from a Master!



Fire and Ice Cocktails by Erik Landegren

April 2015 Assigned Subject “Opposites” Competition – 1st Place

Brainstorming Ideas for Fire and Ice

Fire and Smoke:

1. Build a fire outside and Photoshop it in? (No, it's too cold out!)
2. Shoot the whole thing outside in front of a fire? (No, too cold!)
3. Build a fire inside a fireplace? (No, don't use ours.)
4. Bring up an image of a fire on my laptop to put behind it? (Maybe?)
5. Build a fire inside a glass in the kitchen! 😊

Ice:

1. Make fresh ice in the refrigerator freezer? (Wrong shape & size)
2. Use plastic ice cubes! 😊

Try Different Options



Fire video on my laptop for the background – Didn't work well.

Brainstorm Ideas – What do you need?

How to create fire – Water, Rubbing Alcohol, Fire Starter

How to create smoke – Candles vs. Smoke Machine

What kind of ice to use – Real vs. Fake Cubes

What items to include – Glasses and Liquids

Surface and Background

Lighting

How to create fire inside the house: Water, Rubbing Alcohol, Fire Starter



Start small with an old glass!
Mostly water with a little alcohol.

How to create smoke: Candles vs. Smoke Machine



Depends how much smoke and where it should be.
Smoke machine produced more and was easier to control.

What kind of ice to use?

Real vs. Fake cubes



Fake plastic cubes didn't melt and were the right size. – Used in glass and on surface.

What items to include?

Glasses and Liquids



Chose glasses & candles for size, shape and color. (Glasses weren't my good set!)

Used sparkling cider for ice glass and water for fire glass. Martini glass was tinted.

Surface and background

Acrylic, Glass and Sheet



Surface: Black acrylic surface with a piece of glass on top. (Didn't want fire to melt acrylic.)
Used black electrical tape on back edge to get rid of glass edge reflection.
Background: Black sheet

Lighting



Taken at night with undercabinet lights and sink light on, but overhead lights off.
Focused on the fire in the glass for exposure.

Other tips



Safety: Have fire
extinguisher nearby!

Remember: Have fun!

Used eye dropper to put water around ice cubes on surface to appear as “melting”.