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SPECIAL ISSUE

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*Pretty peonies*

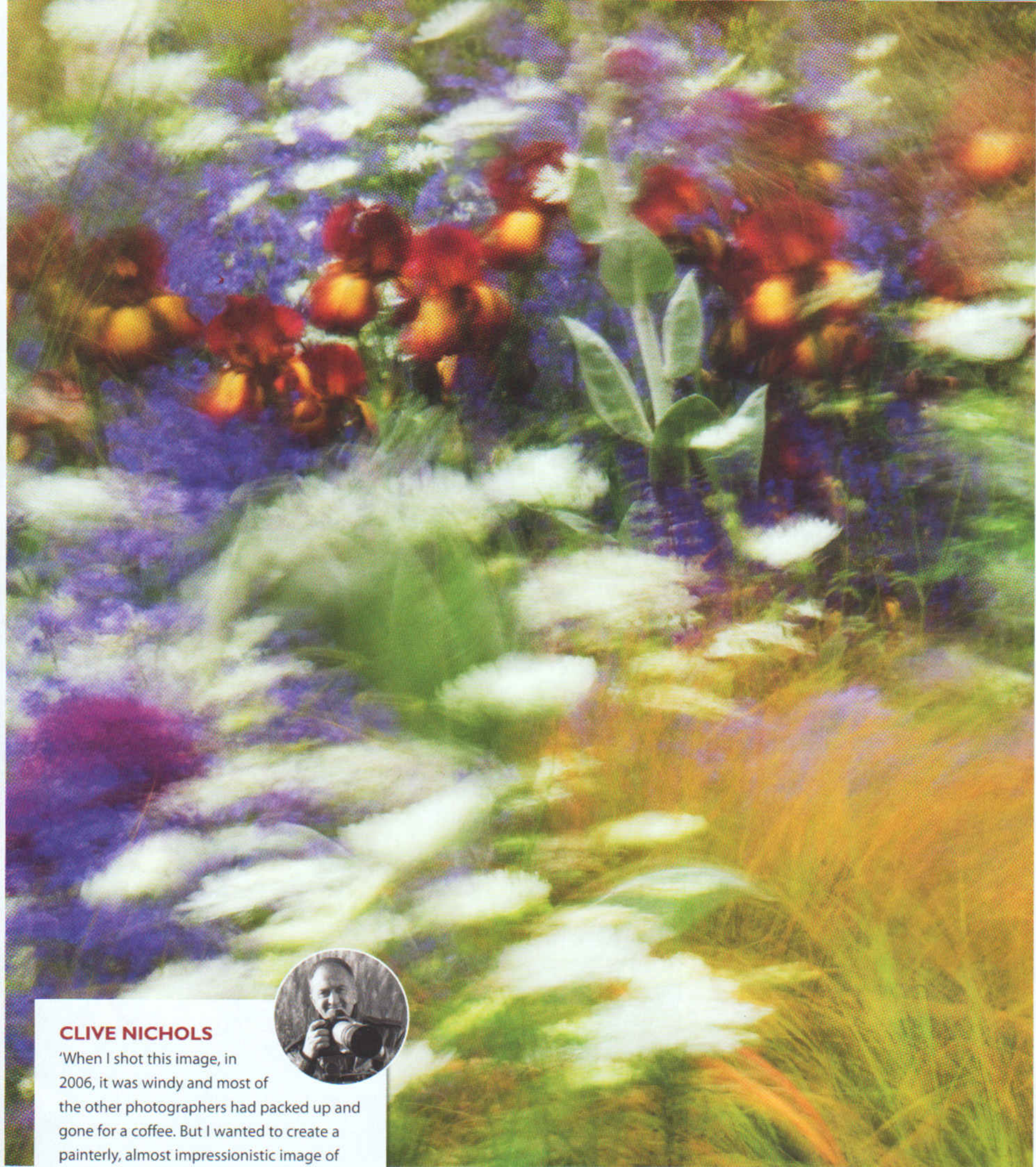
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**CLIVE NICHOLS**

'When I shot this image, in 2006, it was windy and most of the other photographers had packed up and gone for a coffee. But I wanted to create a painterly, almost impressionistic image of Tom Stuart-Smith's amazing planting for *The Daily Telegraph* garden, so I used a long exposure to capture the movement of the plants in the wind'. [www.clivenichols.com](http://www.clivenichols.com)

# THE CHELSEA MASTERS

Some of our favourite photographers share their top RHS Chelsea Flower Show images, and provide great advice to help you capture the perfect shot ▶

The first day of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show runs on pure adrenaline. This day is known as 'build-up' day and is open solely to the press, celebrities and, of course, HM The Queen. Behind the scenes, judges are judging, show garden designers are fretting, nursery staff are finishing displays, and photographers are snapping everything in sight - hopeful it stays dry and calm, and clear but not too sunny. Restricted times of 5am-3pm are enforced ahead of the Royal Family's arrival, which means it's ever more important for photographers to get 'the shot'. Here are some of their own favourite snaps.



### ANDREA JONES

'It's unusual to see any garden designer relaxed the day before the awards are announced at RHS Chelsea Flower Show, but in 2010, Andy Sturgeon was looking chilled under the shade his team had erected to protect the plants on his show garden from the harsh sunlight (*right*). To fill in light when taking this photograph, I used a Lastolite TriGrip 'Sunlite' reflector (gold and silver thread mix), which helped remove shadows and also showed off Andy's great tan!

[www.andreajones.co.uk](http://www.andreajones.co.uk)



### ANDREW LAWSON

'The best garden I've ever seen at Chelsea was Christopher Bradley-Hole's 'Latin Garden', which he made for *The Daily Telegraph* in 1997 (*below*). My own picture is far from being the best I've taken at Chelsea, but it serves as a record of that remarkable garden. Why was it so special? It was uncompromisingly modern in its design, with superb use of materials, a beautiful white stone and high-tech steel. But its purpose was to celebrate the classical world, particularly the life of Virgil, with engraved Latin inscriptions, a classical urn, and Mediterranean plantings - all interpreted with a thoroughly modern twist. I can't think of any garden that more successfully combines ancient and modern than this one. It was tremendously ambitious and superbly fulfilled! [www.andrewlawson.com](http://www.andrewlawson.com)





**NICOLA STOCKEN TOMKINS**



'Andy Sturgeon's Gold-medal winning show garden of 2005 is my chosen picture because it's my favourite of all the Chelsea gardens I've seen over the past 25 years. It is also the inspiration behind my own garden. Andy designed a similar bed in my small riverside plot that links the house to the river, with the ex-Chelsea oak cubes running through like a series of giant stepping stones. Children invariably take the cube route, whereas adults take the conventional one, going down the steps and across the lawn!'

[www.gardenpix.co.uk](http://www.gardenpix.co.uk) ►