

MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES · EP. 16

Golden hour, bent time. What would you let the light melt?

`--sref 7968751416` · Surreal Sunset

Reference PDF: full prompts, settings and tips

The idea

This SREF bends time inside a real photograph. You describe a real place at sunset, and it turns anything that moves into long streaks of orange light, stretched skylines and ghost double exposures. The skill to practise is choosing what melts and what stays sharp.

The four slots

[REAL PLACE]	A real city, street or landscape. Name it: Seville, Valparaíso, Havana.
[SUBJECT STAYING SHARP]	The one thing you want readable: a face, a head, a sign.
[WHAT MELTS]	Everything that moves: traffic, a crowd, a body, a wake, a staircase.
Tail	warm amber glow, pale cream sky: keeps every image in the same light.

Parameters

SCENES

```
--ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

COVER

```
--chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --sw 300 --v 8.2 + cover --no list
```

Every scene has --no text, letters, words: one of the SREF's sample images invented a word in the sky.

Starter prompt

CHANGE THE [CAPS]

```
a photograph of [REAL PLACE] at sunset, [SUBJECT STAYING SHARP], [WHAT MELTS INTO STREAKS OF ORANGE LIGHT], warm amber glow, pale cream sky --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

Filled-in example



The old guitarist is the sharp part (face and hands). The melting part is his body and the sound of the guitar, which break into sparks and fragments on one side. The street stays real.

03 · THE GUITARIST

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a photograph of an old flamenco guitarist with deep wrinkles and grey stubble playing on a narrow street in Seville at sunset, his face and hands sharp, his body and the guitar's sound dissolving to one side into fragments and streaks of orange light, whitewashed walls, warm amber glow, pale cream sky --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

02 · Black horse, Baja beach



Cleanest example: the head stays sharp, the body turns into lines of light.

PROMPT

```
a photograph of a black horse galloping along the shoreline of a beach in Baja California at sunset, its head sharp, its body trailing behind in ghosted double exposures and long streaks of orange light, wet sand reflecting the sun, warm amber glow, pale cream sky --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

Why it works: the sharp part (the head) is big and close to the camera, and the motion has somewhere to go (the empty beach).

04 · Valparaíso funicular



The houses on the left stretch upward, the funicular tracks pour down in ribbons.

PROMPT

```
a photograph of the colorful hillside houses of Valparaíso at sunset, seen from the top of a steep staircase, an old funicular climbing the hill, the houses on one side of the frame stretching upward into thin vertical streaks, the staircase flowing down into curving ribbons of orange light, warm amber glow, pale cream sky --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

Location only, no person: the SREF still needs something that moves (the funicular, the stairs) to draw its streaks.

05 · Red convertible, Havana Malecón



Asked for a sharp, still car. The traffic swept right over it.

PROMPT

```
a photograph of a red 1950s convertible parked on the Malecón in Havana at sunset, the car sharp and still, the passing traffic and the sea wall melting into wavy ribbons of orange and gold light trails, faded colonial facades stretched upward into thin vertical lines, warm amber glow, pale cream sky --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

MJ took a liberty: the facades and antennas stayed sharp, but the car got melted with the traffic. A parked car isn't strong enough to resist the streaks.

06–07 · Paris stairwell (same prompt, two results)



A: the man at the railing stays sharp; the stairwell becomes a cage of fine lines.



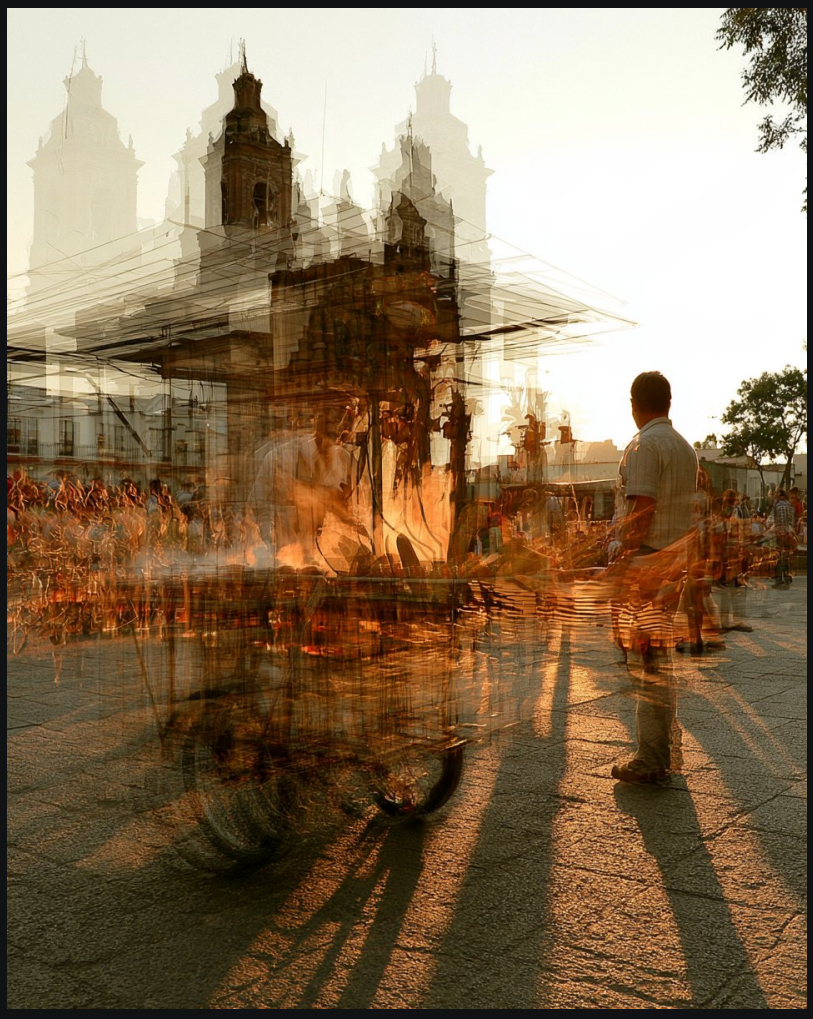
B: looking down the well, the orange glow sits at the bottom of the spiral.

PROMPT

```
a black-and-white photograph of a Haussmann spiral staircase in Paris, a man in a dark coat looking down over the railing, the stairwell repeating into overlapping ghosted layers and fine vertical lines, a single warm orange glow at the bottom of the spiral --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

Black and white + one orange glow: the SREF kept the color in one spot in both results. That's the bonus challenge.

08 · Tip: elote vendor, Coyoacán



The vendor melted; a stranger in a white shirt stayed sharp. The church towers did repeat in the sky.

PROMPT

```
a photograph of an elote vendor with a steaming cart on a busy plaza in Coyoacán at sunset, the vendor sharp and still, the crowd around him blurred into ghostly overlapping double exposures, the church towers repeated faintly in the sky, long shadows on the cobblestones, warm amber glow, pale cream sky --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --v 8.2 --no text, letters, words
```

"Sharp and still" is a request, not a promise. The SREF melts whatever moves, and a vendor at a cart moves. Fix to try: make him big and close to the camera, or name a still pose ("leaning on his cart, arms crossed").

Cover prompt



The sign spelled perfectly: "MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES" on top, big "16", "EP." small in the corner. The pole and sign stay sharp while the pedestrians melt.

01 · COVER · PASEO DE LA REFORMA

```
a photograph of Paseo de la Reforma in Mexico City at sunset, a large wide lightbox sign on a pole close to the camera, the sign reads "MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES" on the top line and "EP. 16" large below it, huge bold black lettering filling the whole sign, the whole sign fully visible in the frame, the sign stays sharp and still while traffic and pedestrians behind it melt into long wavy streaks of orange light, the skyline stretched upward in thin vertical lines, warm amber glow, pale cream sky --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --style raw --sref 7968751416 --sw 300 --v 8.2 --no credits, small print, fine print, billing block, watermark, signature, logo, repeated text, duplicate letters, cropped sign
```

Cover tips

• A lightbox on a pole close to the camera spelled best again.
• Of four covers, only one was clean: one melted the "EP." into the streaks, and the Venice one came back as a street with no canal. A Lisbon tram board spelled correctly but got two trolley poles (Lisbon trams have one).
• Keep --sw 300 for the sign. If the streaks eat the letters, drop to --sw 150.

Cheat sheet

Name a real place	The SREF looks most real when the place is real and named.
One thing sharp	Pick one thing to keep sharp and make it big and close to the camera.
Give it motion	Streaks need something that moves: traffic, a crowd, a wake, a gallop.
Still things get swept	A parked car or a person standing in a crowd can melt anyway.
Black and white works	Ask for B&W and one orange glow: the SREF keeps the color in one spot.
Block the text	Add --no text, letters, words to scenes. Leave it out only on the cover.
Covers	Lightbox on a pole close to the camera + --sw 300.

Challenge

Post your sunset and tell us what you kept sharp and what you let melt.

Bonus: write "black-and-white photograph" and allow one single orange glow. Does the SREF keep the color in just one spot?

Credits

SREF 7968751416 "Surreal Sunset". All images made with Midjourney V8.2 for Midjourney Chronicles.