

Twisted

Website features wonderful collections of photographs, videos, artwork and more

The internet is probably the greatest tool ever invented for wasting time. And **TwistedSifter.com** may be the greatest website ever developed for wasting time.

In fact, I wasted so much time looking at this site that I was barely able to finish my column before deadline. Even as I was writing I found myself revisiting the site to check on something, only to end up getting sucked into it for another 10 or 15 minutes.

But is time really being wasted if you spend it looking at images and videos that are beautiful, inspiring or even just funny? There are certainly worse ways to spend your time than admiring the creative efforts of others.

Selective collecting

The site is an aggregator of photos, videos and artwork from across the



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Web. There are lots of sites that do this, but Twisted Sifter does an especially good job of it. The curators and editors of the site have a good eye for quality when it comes to deciding what gets included in the various categories. Of course, not everything is great,

and taste in art is highly subjective, but the really good stuff outnumbers the silly pet images by a good margin.

The imagery covers a wide range of subjects, including wildlife, landscapes, space, macro photography, people, art and more. A great deal of it has been created by professional photographers and artists at the top of their professions. Some of it has been created by talented amateurs.

Many of the videos are incredibly innovative, taking advantage of the latest technology: GoPro cameras, remote-controlled flying drones and even the International Space Station are used to capture footage from previously impossible vantage points. You can watch a couple dangling from ropes waltz on the vertical surface of a tall building. View a fireworks display from a drone flying between the exploding rockets. Watch the aurora borealis from space.

Other videos are the result of serendipity. Some of the most amazing foot-

age I watched was of scuba divers filming stingrays. Out of the darkness a dolphin swims up to the divers. Its mouth and one of its fins is tangled in a fishing hook and line. It hovers patiently alongside a diver as he removes the hook, untangles and cuts the line. The diver gives it a pat on the belly and it swims off, back into the darkness.

There's also lots of amazing artwork on the site. Wonderful sculptures made of paper, crayons, car parts, fruit, found objects and even traditional media can be found. Street art, tattoos, drawings, paintings, animations and all sorts of experimental artwork are also featured.

The site's design is simple and clean and the navigation is easy to use. Near the top of the page is a looping slide show of featured content. It consists of large images accompanied by a headline and brief descriptions. Clicking on the headline takes you to the full collection of related images and the rest of the story.

Easy to browse

Below the slide show is a seemingly endless stack of scrollable images arranged chronologically from the most recent posts to the oldest. These also have headlines and descriptions that link you to the rest of the package.

Scrolling down the home page isn't the only way to browse the content. There are links to various categories, such as art, travel animals, picture of the day and more, across the top of the page. There's also a list of popular posts, links to the latest and most popular videos, a clickable word cloud and a search function that lets you type in subjects of your own choosing. Prominent links to the most popular social media sites allow you to easily share the treasures you find.

Twisted Sifter is a highly addictive site. At the bottom of every page you look at are suggestions for more items you may find interesting. Of course, this leads to more suggestions and more clicks, and before you know it, hours have gone by and the deadline for your column is looming.

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