Owen Brown

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Clouds Two

      This image captured the sky east of Denver, Colorado on November 16, 2018. A temperate morning in the middle of November, had a sheet of high clouds covering the sky. The sun rays shining through the light and in some spots transparent clouds. With the help of the post-processor gimp, the clouds are highlighted to give an omnipotent presence.

Figure 1: Final cloud image taken just east of Denver, Colorado November 16th, 2018

      The clouds featured are wispy and cover the entire sky and appear to be Cyrus in classification [1]. The Skew-T plot shown below indicates significant instability in the morning

with the CAPE at approximately 0.00. The clouds are forming at multiple elevations with the most concentrated formation at just over 6000 m[2].
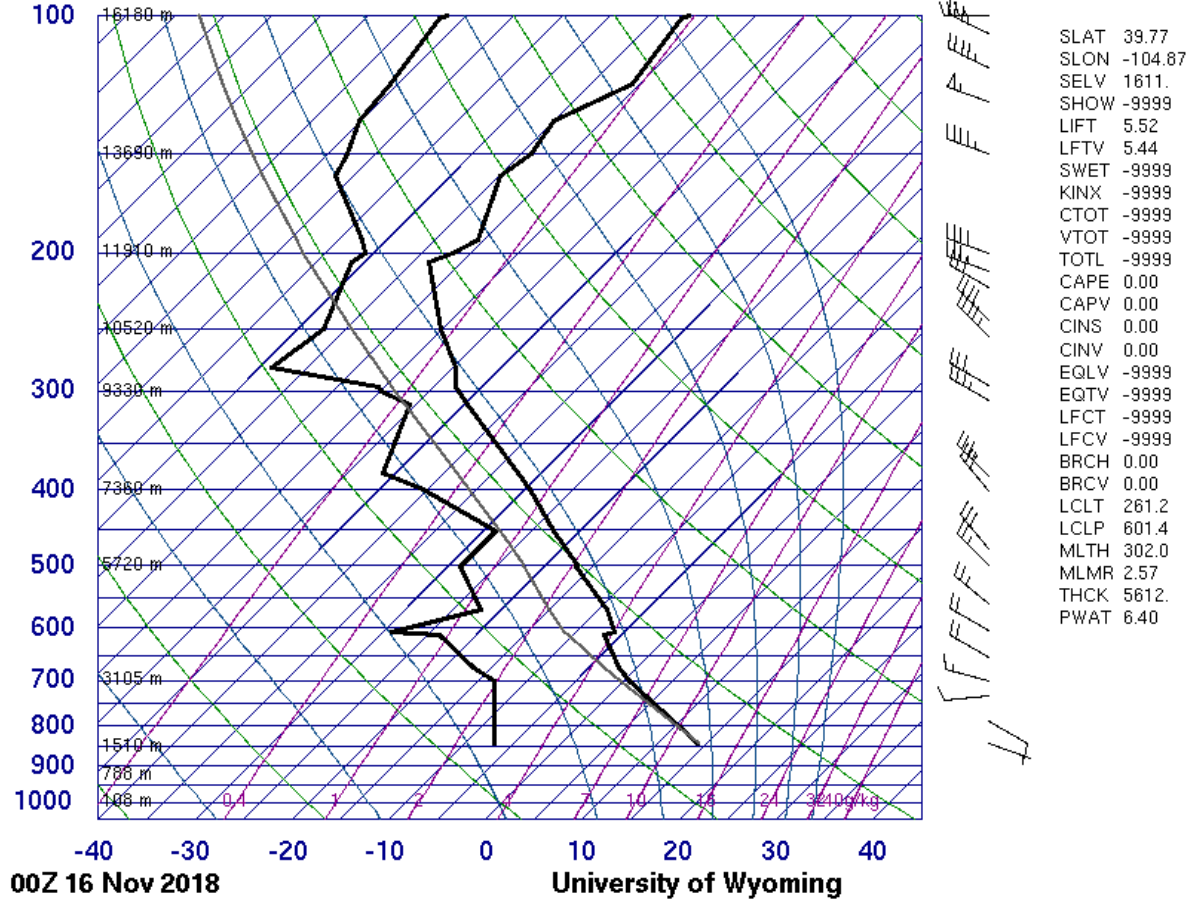

Figure 2: Skew-T plot showing air & dew conditions the day of the cloud formation

The image was taken on an iPhone 6s. The dimensions of the image were 4032 x 3024 pixels with a 72x72 dpi resolution. The exposure time was 1/2653 sec, with an ISO speed of 25. The focal length of the micro lensed camera was a fixed length of 35 mm.

Figure 3: Unedited cloud image. An early morning image taken just east of Denver, Colorado.

The original image has some muted colors of orange and blue, but there lack of depth made it all the more reason to take them out. The final image came out very nicely with a ton of impact coming from the view of the shot, looking far down range of the horizon. The post-processing was selective in isolating regions of contrast to either lighten or darken, giving an almost abstraction that when compared to some contemporary art, as seen in figure 4.

Figure 4: (a) Cloud image (b) Clyfford Still PH-929 [3]

If I were to repeat this image, I would focus on bring out some other tones and staying away from grey scale. With the post-processing capabilities, I might have kept a few muted yellow and contrast them with stark whites and blacks.

References:

[1] Hertzberg J., S 2018, Lecture 11:Clouds 1, lecture notes, Flow Visualization MCEN 5051, University of Colorado Boulder, delivered October 5, 2018

[2] http://weather.uwyo.edu/cgi-bin/sounding?region=naconf&TYPE=GIF%3ASKEWT&YEAR=2018&MONTH=09&FROM=0700&TO=0700&STNM=72469

[3] Clyfford Still, PH-929, 1974. Oil on canvas, 114 x 172 in. Clyfford Still Museum © City and County of Denver / ARS, NY