

This is what I have learnt about tabletop Bokeh

I found my 100 mm macro lens worked best for me as it had an aperture of 2.8 combined with some old multi coloured Christmas lights. Although you can use a random pattern, in the end I decided to make the Bokeh into a shape and used a black mat board and punched some holes in it in a circular pattern. I then pushed the coloured lights through the mat board, set the mat board on a table and moved the camera far enough back to fill about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the frame with focused Christmas lights. A darkened room works well especially if it has a hallway attached to give you some additional length for setting up if required. Keep some space at the bottom or at the side of the frame to include your object, a mug or glass of water, camera back, wine bottle etc.

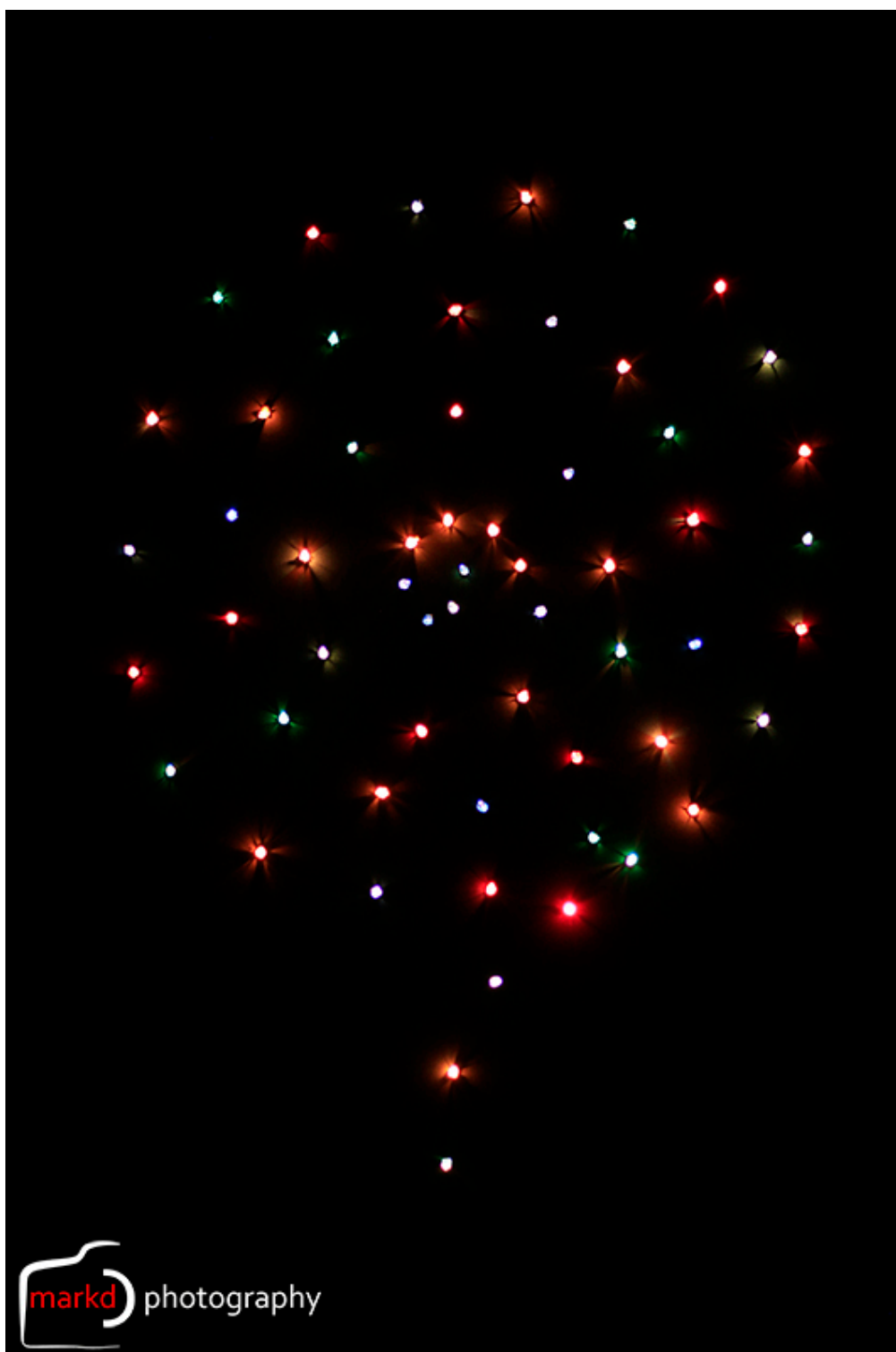


Image 1 shows the lights in focus. Due to the black background, under exposing by 2 or 3 stops also helped.

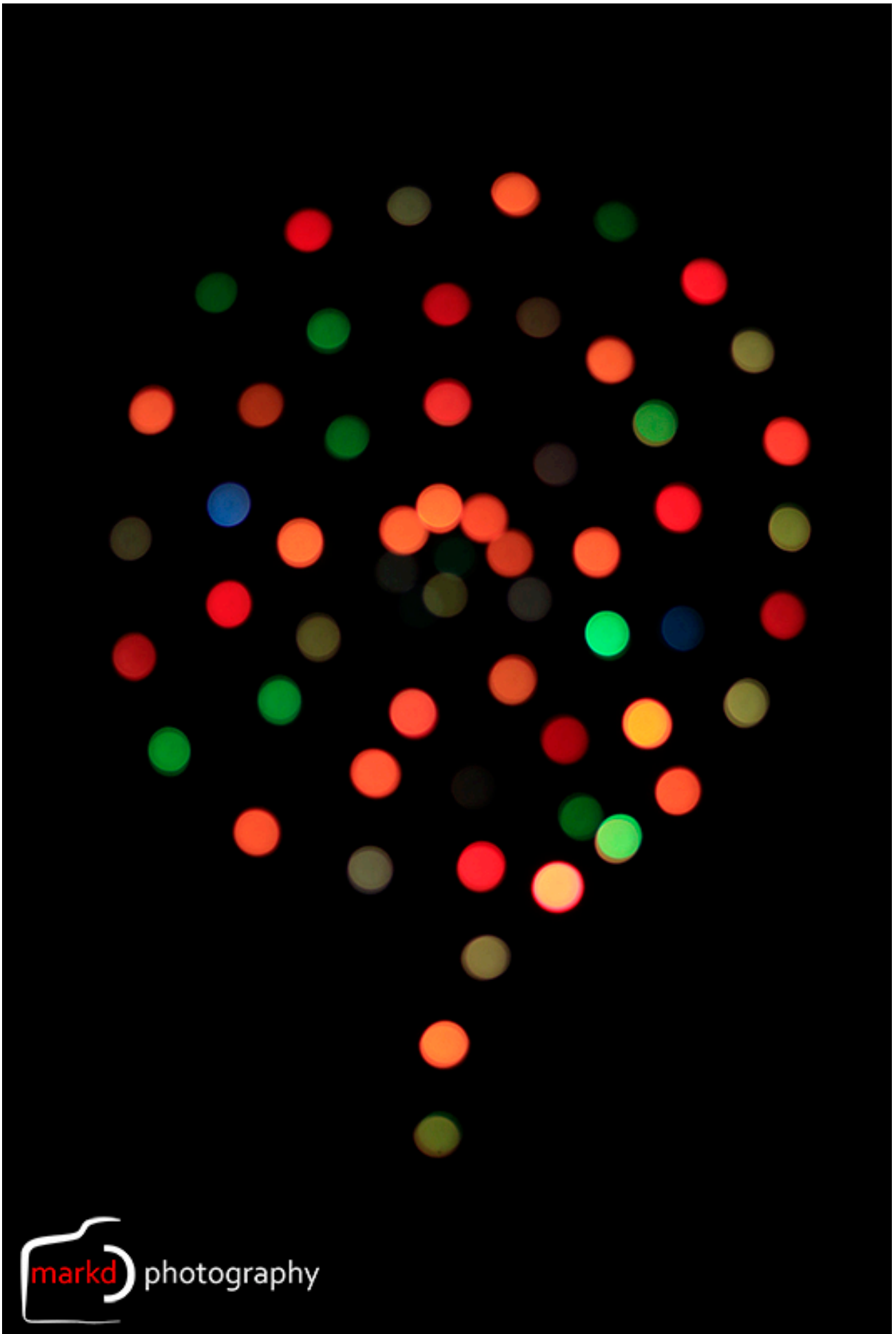


Image 2 – small Bokeh



Image 3 – bigger Bokeh



Image 4 - bigger and less Bokeh

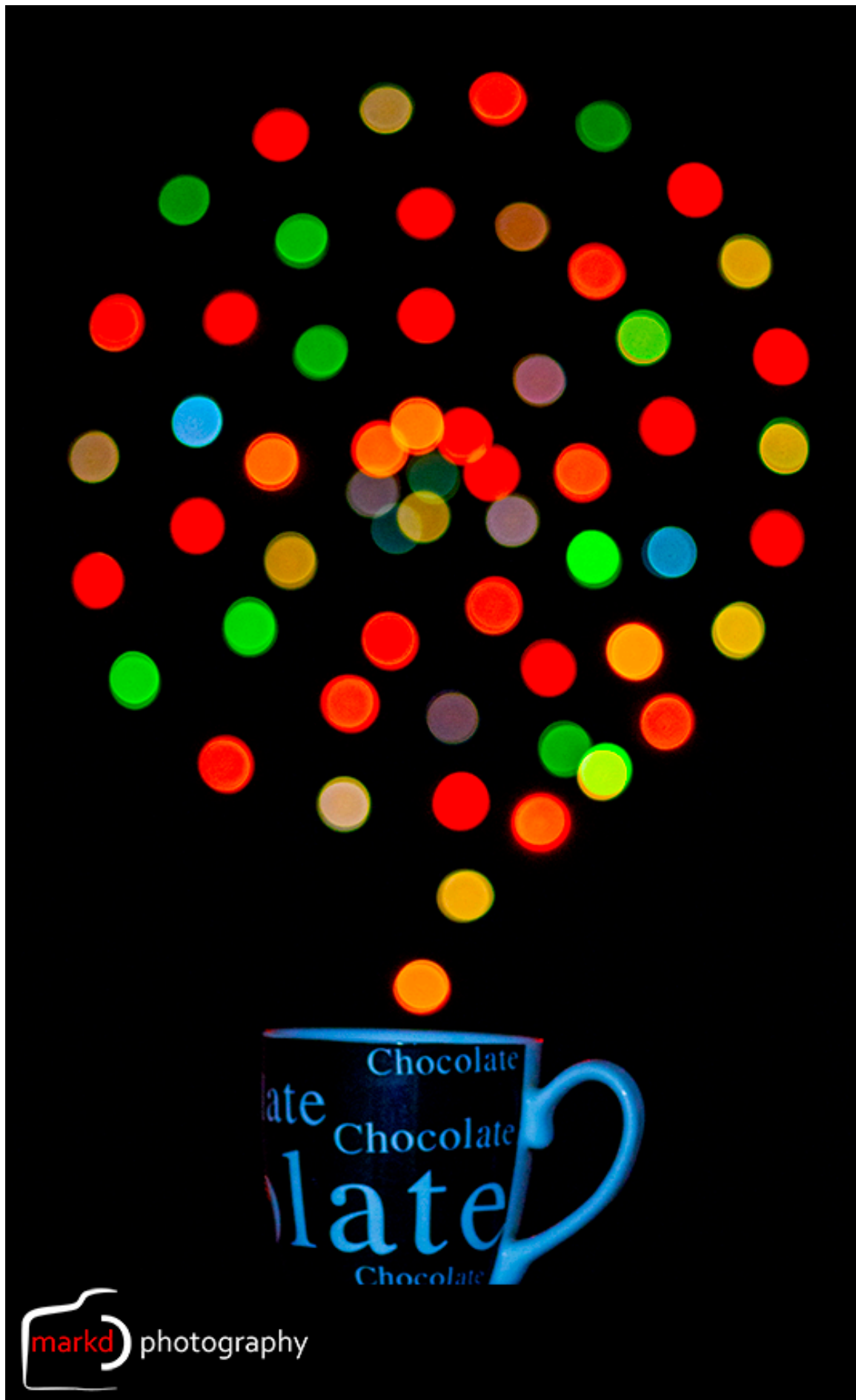


Image 5 - As I used a fixed focal length lens, you need to set up the object and move it so that it is in focus. Do this by placing it on another table at the correct height and move it backwards and forward until the item is sharp in the viewfinder or on Liveview.

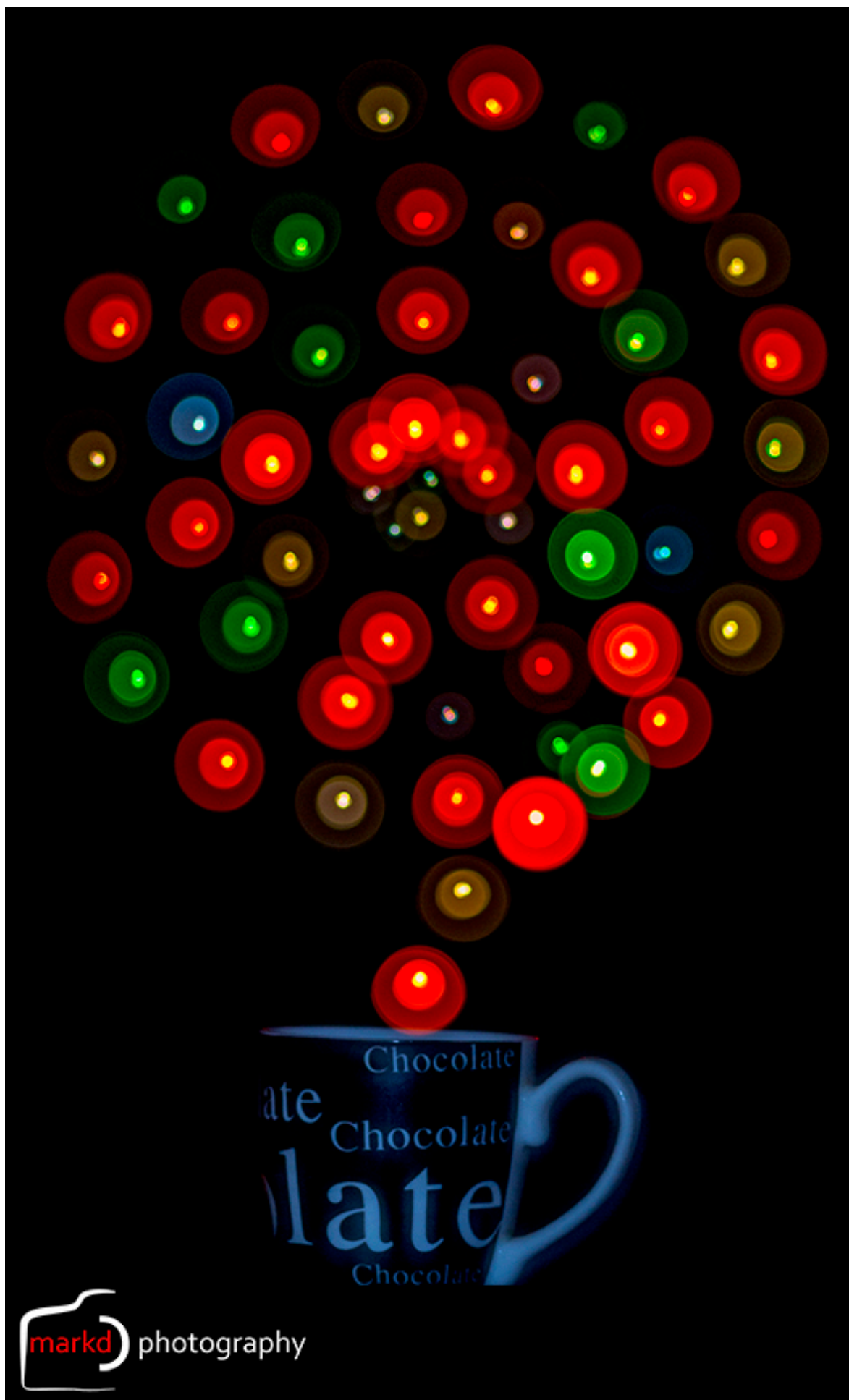


Image 6 – if you get really creative and your camera can do multiple exposures combine 3 images at different points of focus to get the effect or montage them in Photoshop.