Portraiture
a brief introduction

Geoff Shaw & Helen Warnod

Outline

Module 5 Homework

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Colleen Singleton: Megan __ Photo F – 5, ISO 640, Exposure 1/60 sec. I had her sit in the passage with her back to the wall, I turned the speedlight to the opposite side and bounced it off the celling. I had to turn down the power until I had the right amount of exposure. The walls painted cream made it made it dark.

GS quick edit

brightened
contrast
colour balance
sharpen

Module 5 Homework

Colleen Singleton: Caitlyn__ Photo F-1.8, ISO 1/25 sec, ISO-250. I tried to get a shadow on her face, but not to much. I had a black background with a light in front of her. I had her turn her face around until we got a shadow, then to hold the pose. Her face is clear to me but her hands are not.

GS quick edit

brightened
contrast
colour balance
sharpen

Module 5 Homework

Kerry McFarlane: I struggled to get enough light into the shot and feel my camera is capable of a better result than this example. Shot in a low light room I attempted to use light from a window. The outside light was dull due to rain and grey overcast skies. The image is very grainy which I tried to correct using Noise Reduction (Lr) - I don't use Ps.

Module 5 Homework

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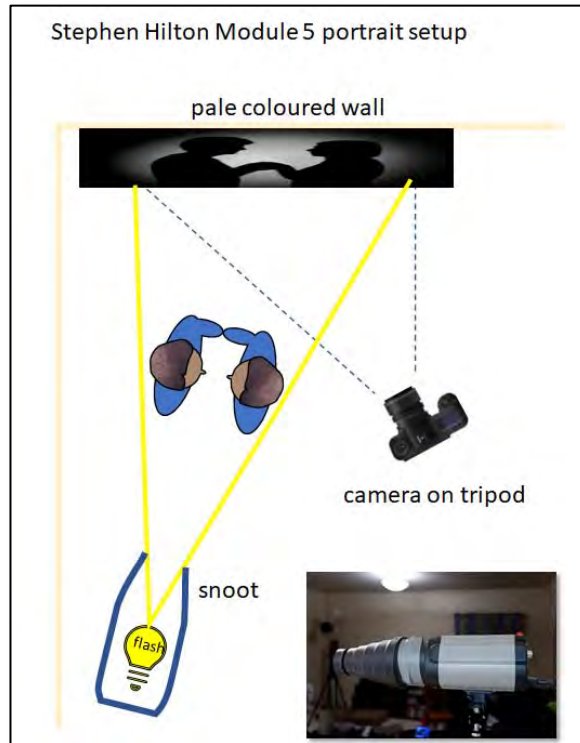
Module 5 Homework

Richard Pilcher: I was looking for separation between the black background and Jen's dark hair so got her to put her hat and matching shawl on. Also I wanted a sideways pose and was pleased that Jen came up with a hint of a smile. The less frequently used far side key light accentuated the contrast between the skin and black background. Camera settings were 1/125 sec, f/5.6, ISO1600 and 105mm focal length. I like the mood of the shot however would value any feedback.
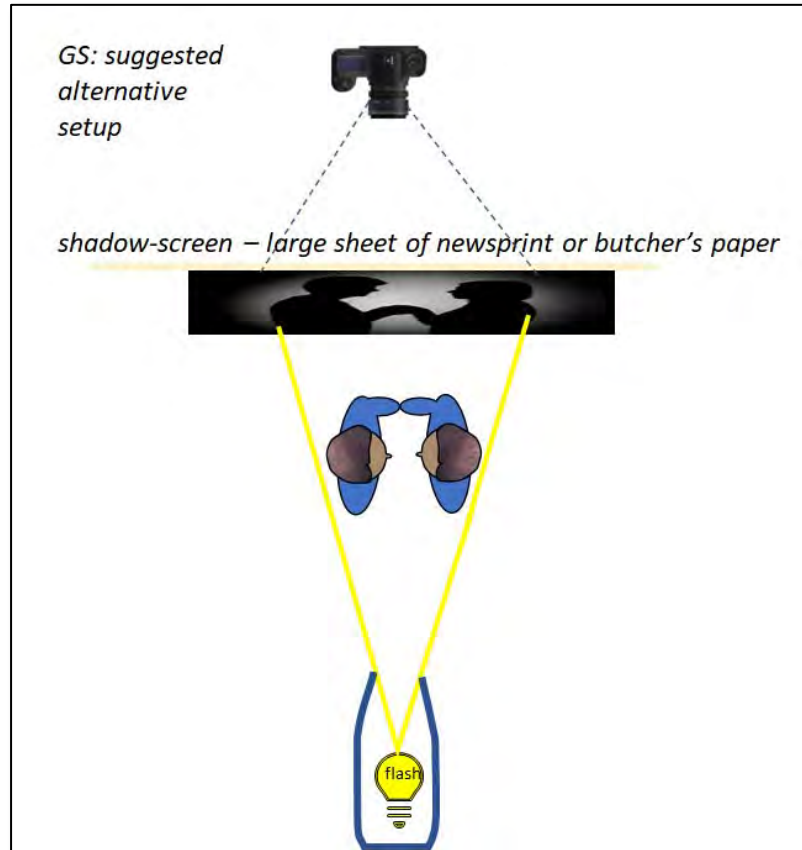
Module 5 Homework

Stephen Hilton: Given that I'd already used my flash in the first two homework assignments, I thought I'd try something completely different for this one. A little while ago, I saw a photographer take a silhouette of a couple, having the effect that the couple looked to be caught in a spotlight. Although the photographer used a special light to achieve this effect, I thought I'd try to cobble something together with what I had.

Stephen Hilton Module 5 portrait setup

pale coloured wall

camera on tripod

snoot

flash

Module 5 Homework

GS Edits: stretch horizontally to restore aspect ratio;
sharpening.

GS: suggested alternative setup

shadow-screen – large sheet of newsprint or butcher's paper

flash

Module 5 Homework

Vira Vujovich: With the 2 images of Jen at the workshop I raised the soft quite high on her left side, (my right side) to put more light on her face while taking some light off her very white top . I believe this was successful as I don't think the white is overpowering. Jen, Happy Face is soft, so I needed to increase the shutter speed as I know this was a bit of an uncomfortable stance for her and I tried to be fast, so she didn't have to pose in that position long. If I increase the shutter speed I would have had to raise the ISO to get the correct exposure.

Module 5 Homework

Vira Vujovich (2): The other 4 images are of a friend outside with natural light, the sun was very bright, so we tried to get the images when the sun was behind the clouds or when she was placed in the shade. It was her first time posing and followed instructions effortlessly and naturally. I was quite comfortable giving directions after having some experience at our workshop.
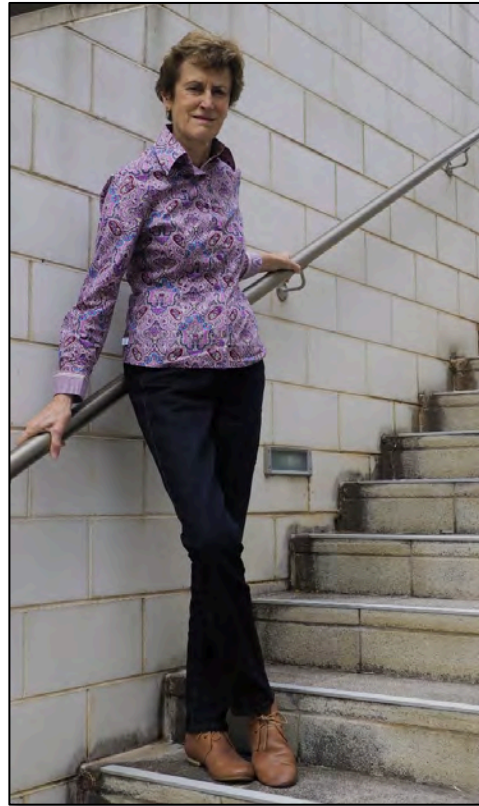
Module 5 Homework

Gallery with comments

https://photos.app.goo.gl/jvPqHXpnJimFLBNK7

Module 6

Portrait post processing

Caveats

I'll be demonstrating some approaches to post processing using Lightroom and Photoshop live on screen-share. The edits I do will be quick and approximate, just enough to show the general approach, but not a perfect final job.

… and if I lose my thread in the middle of an edit, or the edit doesn't work perfectly, you'll have to be patient. Sometimes things just don't work as you expect them to.

I will work mainly using LR and PS, but similar processes apply to other packages in general.

HOW MANY USE Lightroom ; Photoshop … Other …???
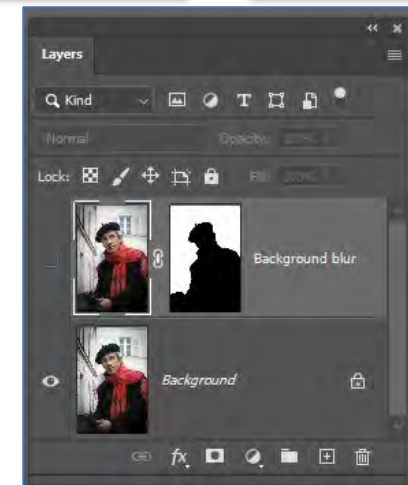
General adjustments

- exposure

- contrast

- highlights

- shadows

- colour balance

- non-destructive approaches

- …

Background edits

- selecting the subject / background

- green screen approaches

- selection tools

- blur / focus blur

- replace

Remove spots and blemishes

- Spot removal tool (LR)
- Spot Healing brush (PS) / clone brush
- similar tools in other apps

Taming wrinkles

- spot healing brush (LR)
- healing brush tool (PS)
- use non-destructive edits on new layer on PS
- adjust layer opacity/brush opacity to get a realistic effect

Smoothing skin

- don't overdo → plastic.
- if you overdo, reduce opacity
- many complex procedures available on the web
- my simple approach uses a negative clarity slider (LR and PS/ACR)

Skin colour corrections

- skin colour
    - melanin – black pigment
    - connective tissue – bluish white
    - blood – red (varies with oxygenation)
- varies across body
- varies with exercise / emotion / temperature …
- perceived colour depends on lighting

Typical skin tones in RGB: Red > Green > Blue
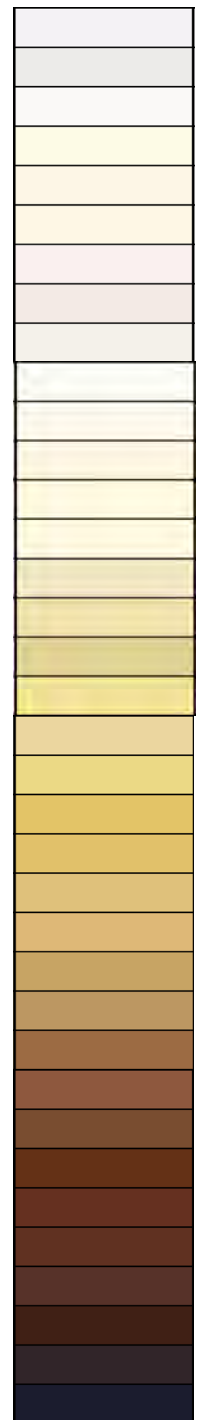
Tools to correct/modify skin tones

Many options, including

- set white balance manually to suit incident light

- black/grey/white swatches to correct for ambient light / white balance

- curves

- colour grading tools

Digital make up

- Can change visual shape of face by adding shading on cheeks, around eyes etc

- Apply colour tones on new layer (blending mode color or overlay).

- Use layer opacity to fine tune

- don't over do it

Creative Effects: Texture overlays

- Overlays can add an extra dimension
  - mood
  - graphic interest
  - narrative

- Easy to do in Photoshop, Luminar etc. using layers

image by Geoff Shaw

image by Jen Fawkes

Creative effects: compositing

Geoff Shaw

- You can create complex graphics or a narrative into which you place your model

- Important to match the lighting and shadows of the model with the composite background

- Think ahead … you can match the lighting on your portrait so it matches the image you want to create

Anthony Yap

Legal and other issues

- It is legal to take photos of people in public places

- It is usually best to ask for permission if you are photographing specific people rather than a crowd scene

- If you intend to use images in some competitions you will need a Model release form –
  - paper – flexible, but need to keep track of paper;
  - digital – app on phone – convenient;

Model Permission form

I, the Model, hereby give permission to the photographic artist to reproduce photograph(s) of me and utilise the image/s in any media or manner, including, but not limited to the image being printed, entered into competition(s) and being placed on public display.

Photographic Artist: _____

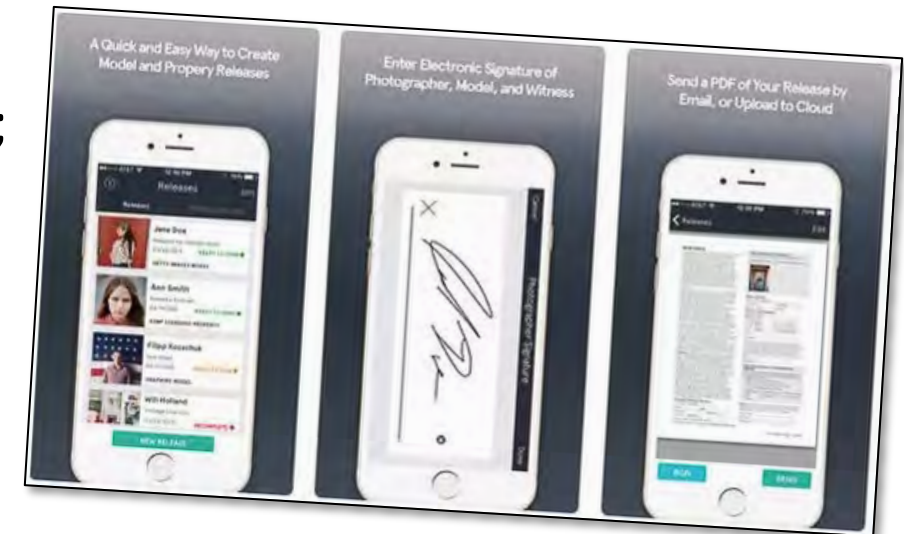Date photographs taken _____

Location photographs taken _____

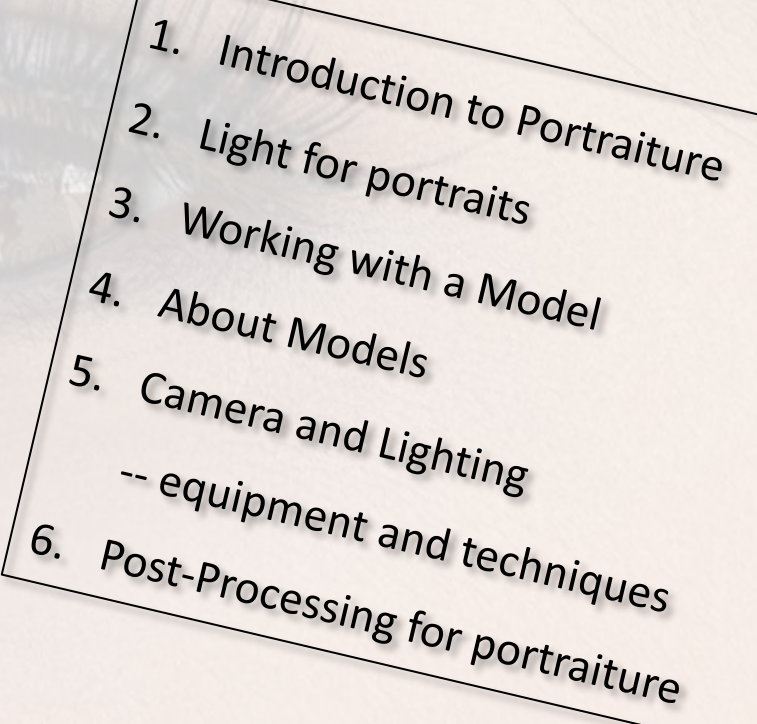Model Name: _____

Model contact: _____

Signed by Model: _____

Signed by Artist: _____

Date: _____

Portraiture – Wrap up

- Learn from other people's work

- Practise with lighting

- Understand background and settings

- Working with models

- Practise with posing & props

- Build a narrative

- Become expert with your equipment

- Optimise your image with post processing

10-Club Portrait Competition

Entries due to the competition organisers by **26 July 2021**. We will have an earlier deadline within the club to allow selection of the entries from the club (probably early July).

Presentation Night **24ᵗʰ August 2021** (by Zoom).

Sections:

- Single person portrait
- Two or more people
- Abstract / Creative
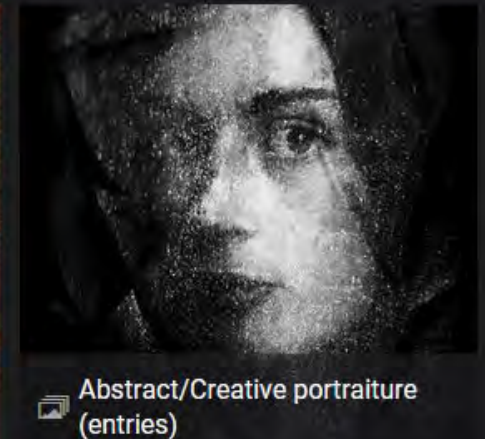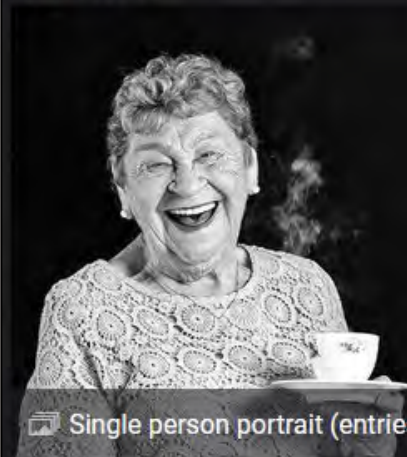
More details later.

2020 competition: WCC gallery
https://waverleycc.smugmug.com/External-Competitions/2020-External-Competitions/Camberwell-Portrait-2020

Galleries

Single person portrait (entries)

Two or more people (entries)

Abstract/Creative portraiture (entries)

PORTRAITURE EXPERT PRESENTATION
7.30pm Tuesday 27 April Zoom

As part of this year's 10-club portrait competition, the organisers have arranged for one of the judges for the event, Alan Moyle, to run a training presentation on portraiture. This will be by Zoom on **Tuesday 27 April from 7.30pm to around 9.30pm**.

Alan will illustrate what he believes are the key points to extremely successful portrait photos using images from a range of photographers. All well as being an extremely useful session in its own right, it will also give us all an opportunity to get to better know Alan and his work. Please let your members know about this event. The zoom link is

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86982638273?pwd=MWlOUWIvZm15ai9aUUMyYmpoSFVTQT09

Homework

Prepare at least one image that you would like to submit to WCC for consideration for the 10-club portraiture competition later in the year.

one person

two or more people

abstract / creative

Anonymous Feedback Questionnaire

We'd appreciate you taking a couple of minutes to give us your feedback. We have a brief anonymous questionnaire at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeE67ZNOGpQSdfdLor5tkIfjwL7olQjgLz0i1VbGp7NspgGmA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Or email us, if you want direct responses.