# **Photography Training**

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In Gdansk, April 13th 2016
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What makes photography so special as a media?

Qualities of a powerful photo?



Image 23 of 93: CATHAL MCNAUGHTON, Northern Ireland

"The G8 summit was taking place at a Golf Resort on the outskirts of Enniskillen, a small town in the Northern Irish countryside. I was in the area shooting security pics as Northern Ireland prepared for the arrival of some of the most powerful heads of state in the world. As I drove through the nearby village of Belcoo I did a double take as I spotted several fake shop fronts erected to cover derelict buildings to hide the economic hardship being felt in the towns and villages near the resort where G8 leaders were staying. As with a lot of photography, luck plays a part and in this instance a man happened to walk past the fake butchers shop with his dog. I shot a few frames as the rather confused canine attempted to figure out what he was actually looking at."

Canon EOS -1D Mark 4, lens 16-35mm, f8.0, 1/250, ISO 800

Caption: A man walks his dog past a vacant shop, with graphics pasted to the outside to make it look like working butchers shop, in the village of Belcoo, Northern Ireland June 3, 2013.



Image 24 of 93: KEVIN LAMARQUE, Northern Ireland

"At the G8 Summit in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, the timing could not have been better (or worse) for a meeting between Obama and Putin. With the Syrian regime testing the will of the outside world, Obama and Putin came to the G8 with different takes on the conflict. So what is normally a fairly dry photo op following their meeting turned into a lesson in body language overriding words. The awkwardness was perhaps enhanced by the fact har translators disrupted the normal flow of conversation, but nevertheless, the two could not have looked more ill at ease. This body language was captured on camera and was the lead image from this summit."

Canon EOS-1DX, lens 70-200mm, f4.5, 1/250, ISO 1600

Caption: President Barack Obama meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin during the G8 Summit at Lough Erne in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland June 17, 2013.



Image 26 of 93: RONI BINTANG, Indonesia

\*The day after the big volcanic eruption of Mount Sinabung, two colleagues, a journalist from KOMPAS (a national media in Indonesia) and a freelance photographer and I drove from Tiga Pancur village, the place where we stayed while covering Mount Sinabung, to Mardingding village.

Mardingding had already been left empty by its residents. We took pictures of the impact of volcanic ash on the village. I saw a couple of red hibiscus flowers among the volcanic ash that caught my attention. I don't know the exact explanation for this beautiful scene. I thought, maybe, the volcanic ash had covered the flowers while they were still buds, and that would explain why their color was not affected by the ash by the time they bloomed."

Canon 7D, lens 70-200mm at 93mm, f4, 1/800, ISO 100

Caption: A hibiscus flower is seen on an ash-covered plant at Mardingding village in Karo district, Indonesia's north Sumatra province November 19, 2013.

"Sehari setelah letusan besar gunung Sinabung saya dan dua rekan lain, seorang Jumalis Kompas (media nasional) dan seorang fotografer freelance mengendarai mobil dari Desa Tiga Pancur tempat kami menginap selama meliput aktivitas gunung Sinabung menuju Desa Mardingding.

Setelah selesai memotret dampak abu vulkanik diperkampungan Mardingding yang sunyi ditinggal mengungsi oleh warga, kami pergi ke ujung Desa. disana warna merah bunga kembang sepatu diantara abu vulkanik menarik perhatian saya. Waktu itu logika awam saya hanya berfikir mungkin ketika abu vulkanik menutupi tanaman ini, bunganya masih kuncup, dan mekar sehari setelahnya.\*



Image 42 of 93: BRENDAN MCDERMID, United States

One of the most anticipated and controversial Supreme Court rulings in years was the recognition of gay marriage and the eligibility for same sex partners to receive benefits When planning coverage for this day we had all agreed that one of the most important places to be on this day would be at the Stonewall in, the birth place of the gay rights movement in the U.S. The Stonewall inn was the sits of the Stonewall rich so 11989 that were a result of a police raid and arrests at the Greenwich Village tavern which had always catered to the gay community. People, both gay and straight, had gathered there for the announcement all hoping it would be in their favor. When the Court's announcement first came down the bar erupted in celebration, people watched the news coverage and began to erjoy the moment. The local channels broadcast a news conference by one of the defendants in the Supreme Court's case, which was very endounced the news coverage and began to erjoy the moment. The local channels broadcast a news conference by one of the defendants in the Supreme Court's case, which was very endounced the news coverage and began to erjoy the moment. The local channels broadcast a news conference by one of the defendants in the Supreme Court's case, which was very and file. The bar was very dark with only one large window in the front and had made several strong images, but nothing that really stood out for new, I was a salking towards the door I saw a ouple who had just arrived standing together watching the coverage, they were becoming quite emotional. I made several transes of them as they watched and reacted to what they were seeing. At that point I was concentrating more on getting the images sharp more than anything else, I had opened up the my lens to 1.5 and was using a very slow shutter setting (1/40th of a sec, which left very little depth for focus. The light hitting the faces of the two men is actually glow from the television had proved the service of several frames, a very large crowd of excited and emoti

Canon 5D Mark III, lens 50mm, f1.4, 1/49, ISO 4000

Caption: Patrons watch coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act at the Stonewall Inn in New York June 26, 2013. The U.S. Supreme Court handed a significant victory to gay rights advocates by ruling that married gay men and women are eligible for federal benefits and paving the way for same-sex marriage in California.



Image 67 of 93: ALEXANDER DEMIANCHUK, Russia

"It was after a gloomy, cold and dank winter (which in St. Petersburg lasts from November to the end of April) on one of the few winter sunny days, some fans of extreme relaxation went to the beach at the Peter and Paul Fortress. They stood against the wall and sunbathed. This usually takes place in March, when the city has a lot of snow and the temperature is still -10 and -15 degrees Celsius (5 to 14 degrees Fahrenheit) but the sun is out and it slowly begins to warm the city."

Canon EOS-1D Mark IV, lens 200mm, f9.0, 1/1000, ISO 250

Caption: People sunbathe by the wall of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg March 10, 2013.

"После хмурой, холодной и промозглой зимы, которая длится в Санкт - Петербурге с ноября месяца по конец апреля, в один из солнечных дней ,которых зимой бывает мало,некоторые любители экстремального отдыхы приходят на пляж Петропавловской крепости , становятся у стены и загорают. Это происходит обычно в марте месяце когда в городе еще много снега и температура бывает до -10 и -15 градусов мороза, но солнышко уже потихоньку начинает согревать город."



Image 83 of 93: DAN LAMPARIELLO, United States

"When I woke up on April 15, I had no idea I was going to take a photo that would be seen by millions of people around the globe. I came to watch the marathon, as I do every year, with my family and girlfriend. Patriots Day in Boston is always a day of camaraderie, joy and excitement. No one ever thinks that something will ruin that. When the first bomb went off at the finish line no one had any idea what had happened. All we saw was a large amount of smoke rising into the sky. So I just started taking pictures of the situation – taking them as fast as my finger could press the capture button on my iPhone. That's when the second explosion went off. Everyone I was with turned and ran. We had no idea what was coming next. All we knew is that we needed to get out of the area.

I had no idea what I had caught on my iPhone until I started looking back through the photos once we were in a safe spot. I immediately posted it to Twitter so people could see what had happened."

#### iPhone

Caption: Runners continue to run towards the finish line of the Boston Marathon as an explosion erupts near the finish line of the race in Boston, Massachusetts, April 15, 2013.



Image 70 of 93: DAMIR SAGOLJ, Japan

"If you have ever been to Japan, you know how big vending machines are there – shiny, blinking boxes, sucking tons of energy and ready to serve your cold and hot drinks, are everywhere.

In coastal areas of Fukushima prefecture, wrecked by the 2011 tsunami, that 'everywhere' gets a totally different meaning. From a field near Minamisoma, probably a good half-mile from the sea, one of these shiny red boxes sprouted. I knew about it, I'd already seen pictures of that Coca Cola box, brought inland by a powerful wave, so I drove inside the exclusion zone around the crippled nuclear plant to check it out for myself. I had plenty of time to walk around the red machine that appeared to scream from a depressing emptiness, to choose the angle and the lens, but every picture I took was equally, absurdly beautiful.

Just as beautiful was the whole area – beaches algoristic at hite ocean green hills and fertile rice fields. Only some other strange fruits grow here – cars on too of a building, a plang in

Just as beautiful was the whole area – beaches alongside a blue ocean, green hills and fertile rice fields. Only some other strange fruits grow here – cars on top of a building, a piano in river, a vending machine in a field."

Camera Canon EOS 5D Mark III, lens 50mm, f2, 1/8000, ISO 100

Caption: A vending machine, brought inland by a tsunami, is seen in a abandoned rice field inside the exclusion zone at the coastal area near Minamisoma in Fukushima prefecture September 21, 2013.

Click here for a related blog

Unique power to convey emotion and highlight the importance of a particular moment.

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Gives us a chance to examine people and phenomenas as long as we want without embarrassment.

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Unique power to convey emotion and highlight the importance of a particular moment.

Gives us a chance to examine people and phenomenas as long as we want without embarrassment.

Stops the crucial fracture of a second.

Leaves room for imagination.

Unique and broad ability to convey emotion, mood, narrative, messages and other key elements of storytelling.

What is happening in the photo? What happened before or after that moment? Who or what is the focal point? Who is playing the leading role? What is the context? What is going on around you subject? What little things tell about your subject?









#### Single

- All the elements you need have to be in one photo
- Highlight the main subject
- Use details to complement the story
- Leave something for the viewer





Kees Smans



Krisjanis Grinbergs

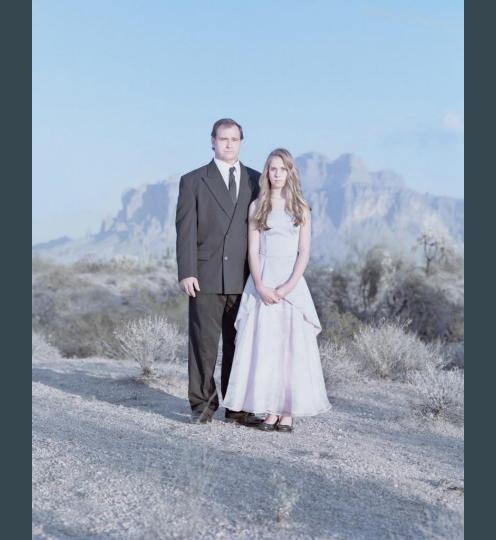














You can tell stories with a single image and with multiple image series. What is the difference?

#### Multiple image story

- Your images are actually read like a story
- Transmit a broader overview
- Story is constructed piece by piece
- Different image types

- Scene setter
- The medium shot
- The portrait
- Capturing detail
- Capturing action
- Mood creator

Plan and take a lot of pictures.

"I plan as much as I can ahead but then the reality of the world changes everything and it's this constant act of planning and then re-modulating based on what I find" – Alec Soth

Tip: Make a hit list. Plan ahead and write down a list of photo types you want.

- Tightly cropped portrait
- Detail of servings
- Wide landscape with action in front of the town hall

# Telling stories with photos

Tip: Figure out method, some visual or stylistic theme to your series. It can be something simple, a shape or color that comes up again and again.









Giuseppe Colarusso Improbability





Kyle Bean Soft Guerilla

It's all about this. How to evoke and transmit emotion? How to make a photo more than just a proof of that you were there?

1. You decide what is the atmosphere! You decide what to shoot and what is the viewpoint.

2. Get in close

Make the spectator feel like you were part of the situation.

3. Don't be just a silent observer Go and get in situations, make eye-contact, people will acknowledge your presence.

4. Use mood creator pictures
Simple and visual image with right message is powerful.

5. Use technique to steer the mood the way you want It can be something you do with your camera or something you do in post production.





As of often as a picture is worth a thousand words it can mislead the viewer more than a thousand words. Choose your picture and caption carefully!



Iraqi army soldiers stand by two men suspected of being Al Qaeda members in Baqouba, capital of Iraq's Diyala province, on Oct. 10, 2006.



Iraqi army soldiers are training blindfolded partisans to dismantle weapons in the dark. Baqouba, capital of Iraq's Diyala province, on Oct. 10, 2006.

What is the role of an image when presented with text?

Irreplaceable





#### It's raining medals for Mercedes-Benz.

Three gold, silver and bronze medals in the "Blogger Auto Award 2014".

The most influential German auto bloggers voted for their favorites in twelve categories, putting Mercedes-Benz on the winners' podium no less than nine times. The accolades included Mercedes-Benz being elected the best car manufacturer of the year for the second time in succession. Other winners of gold medals were the new CLA as the best compact car and the S-Class as the best in the "luxury class" category. Mercedes-Benz wishes to thank the jury of bloggers, socialpublish, mercedes-benz compact.

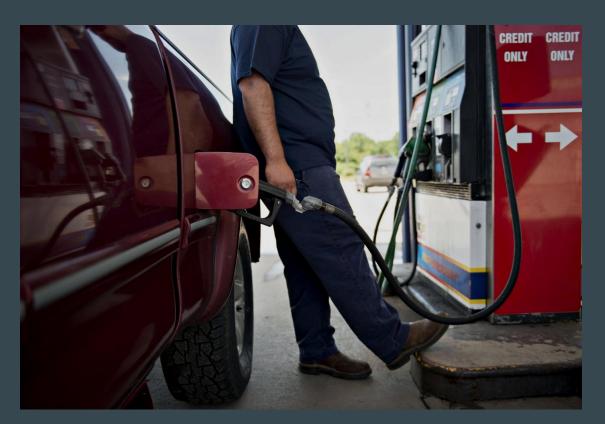


Draws attention





Supports the textual part



Supports the textual part



Decoration or cheer up



Mood creator



Simo Räsänen

Symbol





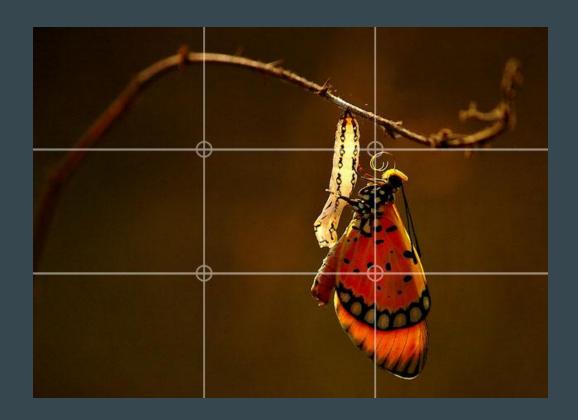
Why caption is so important?

- Context and viewpoint
- You want to make sure your photo is read certain way
- Basic information of a photo will be crucial in the future

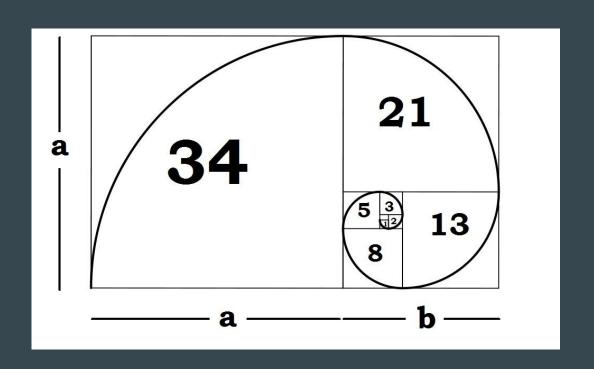
1. Simplify
Decide what is the center of attention.



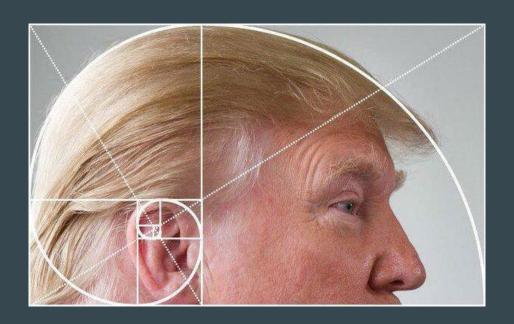
2. Rule of thirds



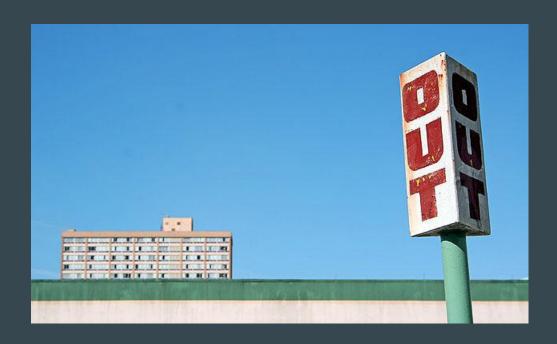
3. Golden ratio 1.618



#### You will find what you want to find...



4. Balancing elements



5. Fill the frame



6. Movement in

picture

Left = Past

Right = Future



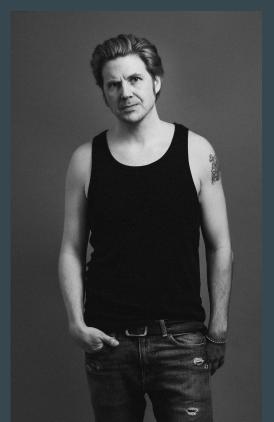
7. Active space Movement need to have space

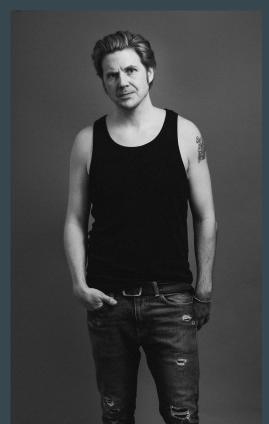


8. Be aware of the background



9. Don't cut people off from joints





10. Avoid headon pose





# Tips and tricks for composition

Break the rules
How to break them? It's a cliche, in photography rules are
made for breaking.

Look for leading lines. Try find lines that lead you across the frame to your subject.



Use diagonal to add drama and action. Dutch tilt is one way to achieve this.



Use diagonal. You don't necessarily have to find the diagonal -just shift your position.



Symmetry and patterns. You can also break the pattern in some way, introducing tension and a focal point to the scene.



Depth. You can create depth in a photo by including objects in the foreground, middle ground and background.



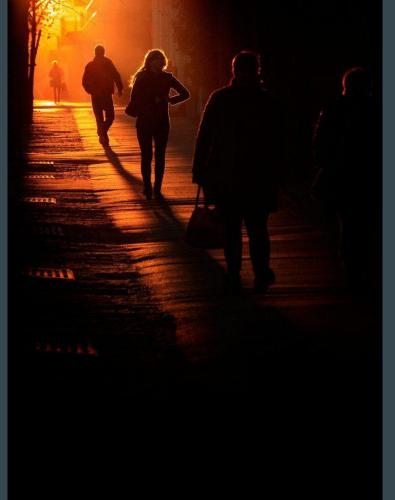
Frame your subject. Almost every place is full of objects which make perfect natural frames.



Get in close. One of the most important things. You need to be there where the action happens.



See the light. Find intresting spots, look for contrast, shadows and shapes. Use also reflections.



Use your legs and arms. Go to the best viewpoint the place and situation is offering. Try different perspective. People want to see things they usually don't see.



Keep it simple.

Don't try to stuff too many elements in one composition.



Finding the spot. Finding the right spot to take an interesting photo is the key. Don't settle for easy way. Take your time and look around you.



Bring it all together!



How to get relaxed photo of your subject

- Make contact and be present
- Direct your subject
- Crack a joke
- Take some time

How to get a good group photo

- Make sure no one is covered up
- Take more photos than usually
- Squish people together
- If you're not a comedian it's a good time to start practicing

Be creative also with group photos...



Be ready, things happen quickly. Candid moments come and go fast. When a good moment comes don't waste your time for technique at that moment. Honest expressions and moments are things what people want to see.

When and where things happen? I think that usually the interesting and unexpected things happen before and after the action itself.

#### The best photo for each purpose

#### Taking pictures

- Think about the purpose, what is your goal with the photo
- Don't settle for one version. Take one secure composition and then try something else.
- Take a lot of pictures. It might be a little more pain in the editing room, but usually it's worth that.

## The best photo for each purpose

Choosing the right photos

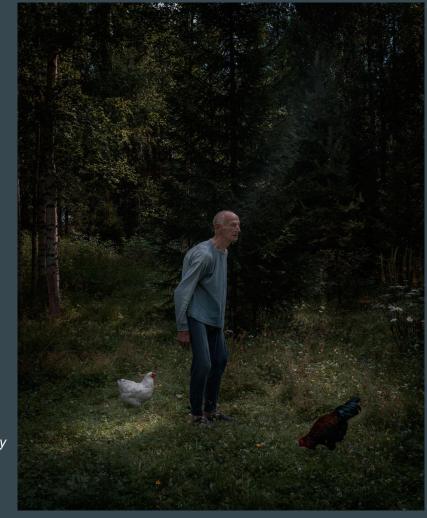
- My personal workflow

#### **Juuso Westerlund: Looking For Heroes**

Looking for heroes (2014) The Finnish national epic, Kalevala, features the trials & tribulations of many

mythological heroes. I'm searching for these legendary characters from the people of the same Kainuu

region where the Kalevala stories were originally collected.



Nokka-Matti (Snoot-Matti) is a legendary squirrel and marten hunter. He got the last of his 9 children at the age of 79.



Tutti-Tuomas (Pacifier-Tuomas) likes to suck a pacifier when weight of the world s too much to handle. He also sticks chewing gum to the walls and from the shapes of the gum he likes to tell fortune.



The invincible Kinnunen brothers have won more or less every sports competition they have attended.
The brothers still live at their childhood home with their parents. The two on the left are twins and they share the same room as they did as a child.



Mustan-Seppo (Seppo of the black) is a mythical storyteller from Kainuu.

Most people there have heard of him but not many have seen him.



Väinö. The Soviet partisans slaughtered his whole family in front of him when he was 10 years old. He was the only survivor.

#### Photo analysis

- What is happening?
- What are the key elements?
- Who is the subject?
- How the picture makes you feel?
- What is the message?
- Purpose, audience, context, tone?
- Composition, background, perspective?
- Levels of light, color, contrast?
- What is the overall atmosphere and why?
- Is it easy to read?



Photo was published in reportage that considered current state of Finnish Defence Forces.

Exposure



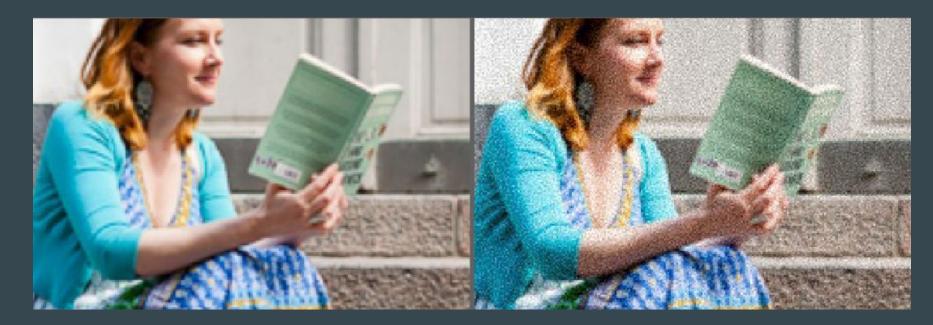
White balance



Focus



Quality (size, grain, artifact)



Should I use technically good photo or one with better atmosphere?

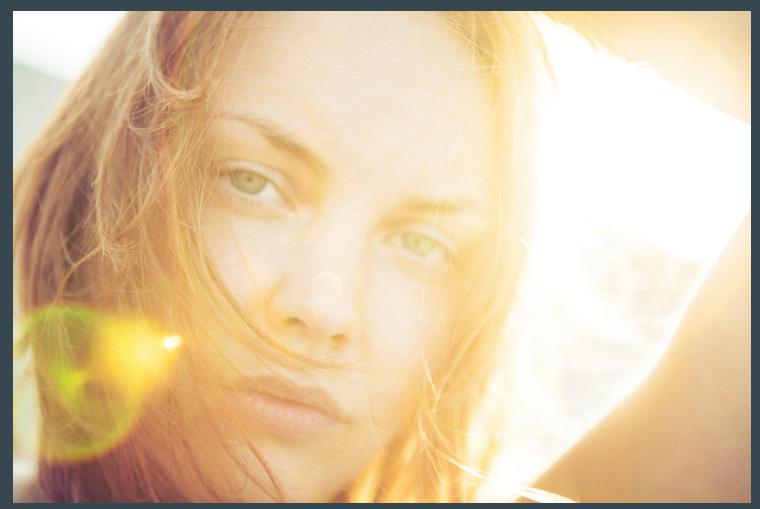
People are often drawn to technique too much, but most of the time emotion or expression overrides technique.



Christopher Underwood



Pictoplasma Conference



## Getting familiar with your equipment

What equipment should I use?







#### Getting familiar with your equipment

#### Smartphones

- First phone cameras were introduced in year 2000
- We've only just got to the point where they pack features that can be found in more dedicated cameras
- Better aperute, improved lens, more controls
- Megapixel myth



#### **RAW**

- Shoot RAW if possible
- Uncompressed camera sensor data
- Leaves much more options for post processing
- Bigger file size -it's worth that

#### Manual controls

- Biggest differentiator between point-and-shoot compacts and DSLR-cameras
- More control over how your photos will look like
- Exposure correction, focusing point, manual focus, aperture control, shutter speed, ISO-sensitivity...

### Bigger sensor

- Megapixel myth = more megapixels  $\rightarrow$  better quality
- Bigger sensor → bigger receptor size = more dynamic range
- Cranking up ISO-sensitivity won't ruin your photo se easily
- All this together = Better photos in low-light situations

#### Better lenses

- Wider angle
- Bigger aperture
- Improved quality
- Better coatings



### Optical image stabilization

- Does exactly what the name says
- Floating lens element directed by gyroscope
- Lens makes counter movement to correct your accidental movement
- Enables you to use longer shutter speed → Better low-light photos

High resolution displays

- Resolution up to 2560x1440 (compare regular 1080p)
- Better contrast ratio
- Better color reproduction
- Super high resolution viewfinder!

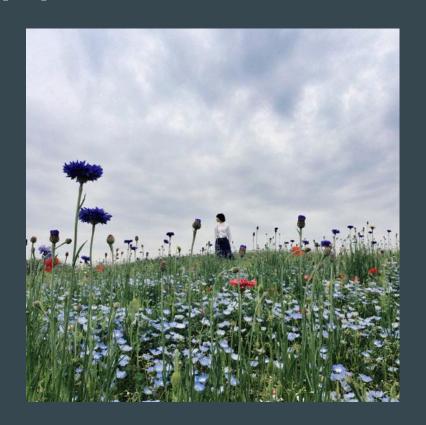
- Read your camera manual!
- Watch tutorials from youtube
- Try it yourself

Best-case scenario: You operate your camera by instinct and you can concentrate on your subject.



Use the characteristics of your equipment as a benefit. Phone:

- Small sensor → Huge depth of field.
- Pocket size → Quick.
   Always with you.
- Unobtrusive



Use the characteristics of your equipment as a benefit. DSLR or hybrid:

- Big sensor → Dynamic range, shallow DOF
- Manual controls → result you want
- Technics won't limit you



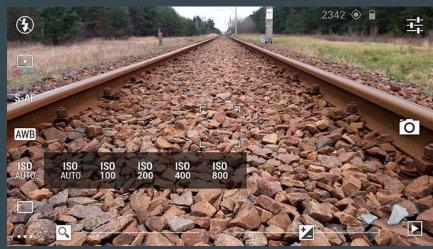
## Camera apps for phone

Open Camera, Google Camera,
DSLR Camera Pro, Camera+, VSCO
Cam, Manual Camera...

If you shoot RAW it's better to use phones own camera app.

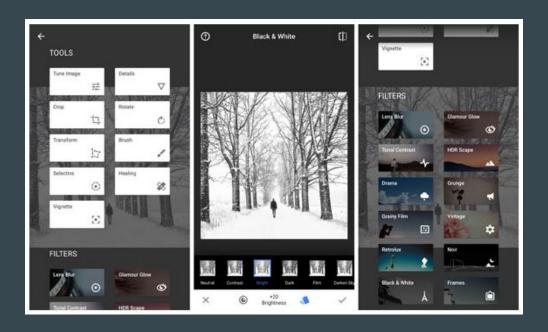






## Camera apps for phone

Best editing app I've encountered is Google Snapseed



### Use tripod or holder

- Vital in low-light condition
- No shaky pictures
- Longer shutter speed → lower
   ISO-sensitivity
- Create cool effects





#### Use accessories

- Selfie stick can give you a different point of view
- Lens attachments can add a little twist or get you closer to the subject





Get to know your camera

- The most important thing
- Create movement blur
- Be creative with exposures





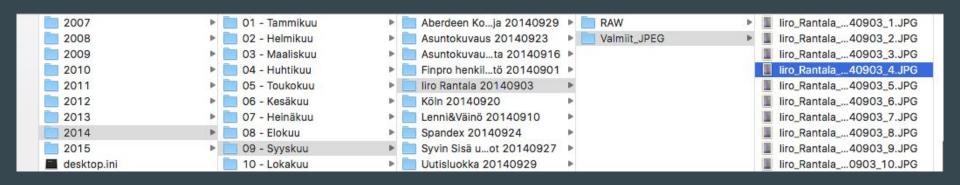
#### Be creative in editing

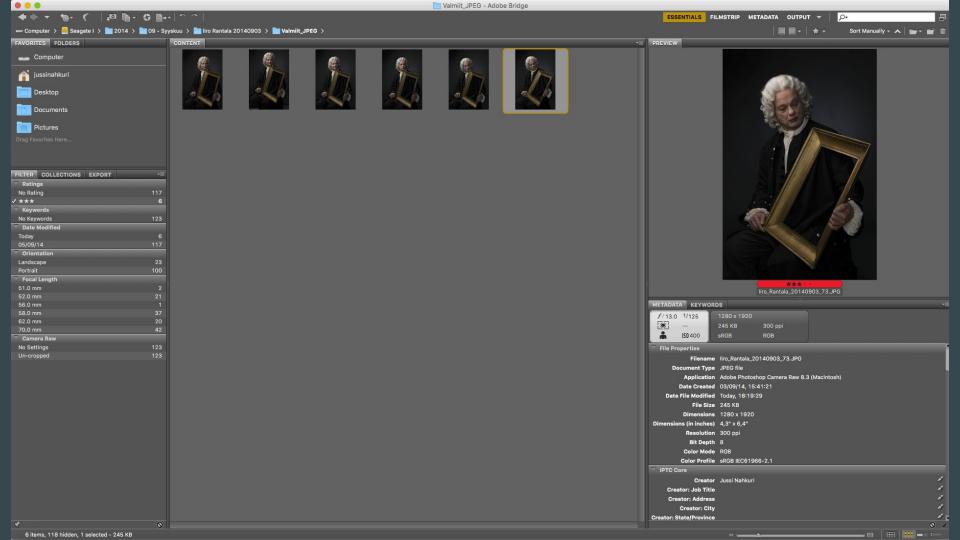
- Make sure your subject pops the way you want
- Overall atmosphere fits the content
- Trust your own eyes



#### Archiving

- There's no right or wrong -just make sure you do it the way you actually can find things you need to





#### Archiving

- Normal folder structure and preview
- Adobe Bridge
- Adobe Lightroom
- Apple Photos (iPhoto dont exist anymore)
- Microsoft Picture Manager

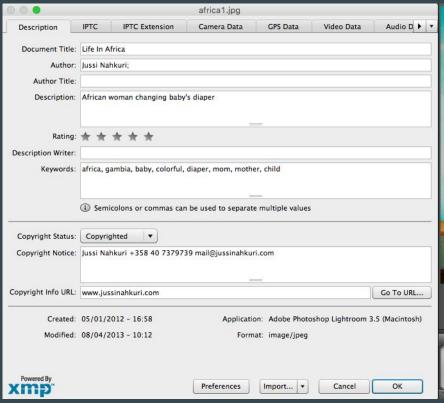
### Archiving

- Name the folder correctly
- Date

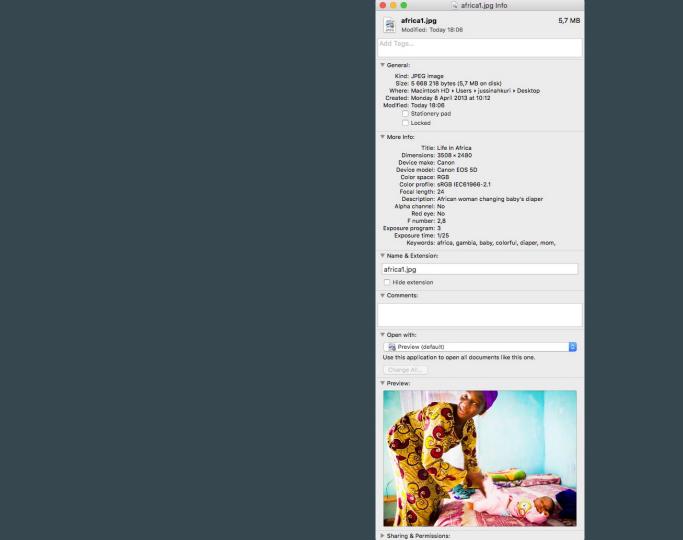
### Adding metadata and keywords

- Who, what, where, when
- Who is the creator. If I bump into this photo and want to use it, who to contact?
- What are the possible reasons you might want to find the picture in the future?









### How to export a photo

- Edit and export a copy. Leave the original photo untouched!
- Some programs have presets
- Use at least the "fine" -packing with JPEGs
- In most cases color space sRGB

Image sizes in social media

Facebook – 1,200 x 628

Twitter – 1,024 x 512

LinkedIn - 800 x 800

Google+ – 800 x 1200

Pinterest – 735 x 1,102

Instagram – 1,200 x 1,200

Backup, backup and backup!





#### Private sharing

- Dropbox (2gb)
- Google Drive (15gb)
- Microsoft One Drive (5gb)
- iCloud
- Box.com
- Wetransfer (unlimited transfer, 2gb at time)

All of these can be upgraded

- Copyright means owning property. Ownership rights include:
- 1. to reproduce the photograph
- 2. to prepare derivative works based upon the photograph
- 3. to distribute copies of the photograph to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership
- 4. to display the photograph publicly

In general, when the shutter is released, the photographer who pressed the button owns the copyright. An exception is when the image falls into the "work-made-for-hire" -category.

Licensing means that you can grant someone some of the rights exchange for money. Those rights can include for example reproduction.

Moral rights cannot be taken away from you.

- 1. Anyone in a public place can take pictures of anything they want.
- 2. If you are on public property, you can take pictures of private property.
- 3. If you are on private property and are asked not to take pictures, you are obligated to honor that request.
- 4. Sensitive government buildings (military bases, nuclear facilities) can prohibit photography if it is deemed a threat to national security.

- 5. People can be photographed if they are in public (without their consent) unless they have secluded themselves and can expect a reasonable degree of privacy.
- 6. Private parties have very limited rights to detain you against your will, and can be subject to legal action if they harass you.
- 7. If someone tries to confiscate your camera and/or film, you don't have to give it to them. If they take it by force or threaten you, they can be liable for things like theft and coercion. Even law enforcement officers need a court order.

# Questions?