Final Project: Creatively-lit Body of Work

Objective:

For this final project, I want you to have fun using your lighting skills and tap into your creativity. You will be producing a body of work that shows strong and intentional use of lighting. Your choice of subject is entirely up to you. This "body of work" will consist of at least 10 final images that are tied together in some way. These images can be united by being of similar subjects, by using similar photographic approaches, you can create a photographic narrative, or maybe you want to take a more in-depth look at something we did earlier in class. The most important thing I want to see throughout this body of work is a *creative use of lighting*. Creative lighting means *intentional lighting* – studio lighting, "natural" lighting, or a combination of the two are all acceptable, as long as how *you* use the light shows purpose and creative intent.

How to shoot this project:

1) Your first step is to write up an outline of what you plan to photograph and how it ties together. This should answer the following questions. What will be the "theme" of your body of work? How do you plan to light this work? What equipment will you need to accomplish this (types of lights, how many, light modifiers, props, accessories, etc.)? What two photographers do you draw inspiration from (provide bibliographical or website references)? How will you develop your own unique and creative approach to lighting your chosen subject? ***This Final Project Outline is due Week 8 and must be turned in as a digital document (Word doc or Text file).*** We will review these in class. Also bring to class any books, magazines, links, etc. that have influenced you.

2) Your body of work will consist of 10 final photographs. The subjects you use are up to you (and these should fit your chosen theme). So a big part of this is going to be the thought that goes into your outline from step 1 above. The main requirement here is to be creative with your lighting – experiment and try to move beyond "normal" photographs.

3) I do want you to show me your skills with lighting, so work with your angles, with your choice of light(s), with your light modifiers. As always, be sure to use your light meter to get the perfect exposure.

4) Take setup photos as you shoot, as you will also need to turn these in as well as create lighting diagrams for each of your final images.

5) Because part of this Final Project is to continue learning from your own experiences, I expect some work to be turned in each of Weeks 9 and 10 (Progress Checks 1 and 2). I want to see at least one complete shoot (bring in many images to review) at the first Progress Check (Week 9). For the second Progress Check (Week 10), I want to see at least three of your final, or nearly final, images (plus a setup photo and lighting diagram for at least one of these). We will review these in class.

6) You will be turning in at least ten (10) final photos. Please rename your files with sequential numbers: "*YourName*-1-Final-Image", "*YourName*-2-Final-Image", "*YourName*-3-Final-Image", etc. You will also be turning in 3 setup photos and 3 lighting diagrams to correspond with three of these final images. These should be named to match the numbers of the Final Images, as follows: "*YourName*-3-Setup", "*YourName*-3-Diagram", "*YourName*-7-Setup", "*YourName*-7-Diagram", etc. Since I am only asking for three setup shots and lighting diagrams, I want to see a different approach to the lighting in each of these.

Requirements:

- Final Project outline (due Week 8), answering the questions in #1 above (must be a typed digital file, Word doc or Text file).

- Progress Check 1 (Week 9): at least one complete shoot to review.

- Progress Check 2 (Week 10): three of your final, or nearly final, images, and a setup photo and lighting diagram for at least one of these.

- You need to create 10 or more final images united under your chosen theme, turning in **both** RAW files and PSDs or XMPs. I expect you to do some additional cropping or prep of the images in Photoshop, or at least "develop" your images with some raw adjustments as XMP files. So I will need to receive ten RAW files, and either ten XMP files or ten PSD files. Prep these with an eye towards printing them!

What to turn in:

- 10 digital images in **RAW format** along with XMP or PSD files showing your improvements over these RAW originals. Files should be named as above. **If you do not turn in RAW files, you will receive a ZERO!**

- 3 setup photos and 3 lighting diagrams. These should correspond to three of your final images (each using different lighting), numbered in the file name to match.

- Turn in the photos in your shared DropBox folder (if you haven't already done so, share a folder titled "AI Studio Photo – *YourName*" with "andrew@andrewross.com", and put your files inside of this for me), or bring these completed files on a flash drive to class when it is due is fine, too.

Grading rubric:

This project will be graded 1/3 on technical requirements, and 2/3 on quality/creativity

Did you turn in a Final Project outline (Week 8)?		5 pts
Did you bring in the photos for one complete shoot for Progress Check 1 (Week 9)?		5 pts
Did you bring in three final, or nearly final, images, along with a setup photo and lighting diagram for at least one of these, to Progress Check 2 (Week 10)?		5 pts
Did you turn in at least 10 final images, named appropriately?		10 pts
Did you *improve* upon these images by making adjustments in Camera Raw or Photoshop, turning in the required XMP or PSD files for each image?		5 pts
Does your body of work carry a consistent theme and show intentional and creative use of lighting?		10 pts
Did you turn in setup photos and lighting diagrams for three of your final images?		10 pts
Quality/Creativity Grade		100 pts
TOTAL		**150 pts**

DUE DATE: at the beginning of class Week 11 (plus progress checks as noted above)