Project 2: Creative Portrait with Off-Camera Flash

Objective:

You all have made many portraits, including portraits using 1-point, 2-point, 3-point, etc. lighting with studio strobes. For this project, I want you to combine what you know for how to light a subject with the wonderful portability of multiple flashes as a studio setup. Where can you take these flashes to create a unique portrait – somewhere outdoors?, an abandoned buildings?, small spaces?, places with limited electricity? Be creative and challenge yourself to come up with a unique portrait you haven't been able to do before acquiring your new skill at using multi-flash setups. And also put to use your knowledge of how to balance the light from the flashes with the ambient light of your chosen setting.

For this project, I want you to produce a **creative** portrait, so think beyond standard lighting setups, poses, and locations.

What you will do:

1) You will of course first need to find a willing and interested subject for making this portrait. This portrait should be about producing the image of *your* vision, but you also want to find someone who shares in this vision and can help you create it. Clothing, accessories, props, etc. are encouraged, although you can also create a very defining portrait just with your choice of location and lighting. **This portrait is *not* to be made in the studio or in your home.**

2) I want you to use at least one off-camera (slave) flash for this portrait. You can of course use more than one, or include the light from the on-camera (master) flash. And you are welcome to have the sun or other natural light source be a primary or secondary light source. You do want to include the ambient light in your portrait in some way. *Remember that shutter speed does not effect flash exposure, so you can use this to control your mix of ambient light with the flash(es).*

3) Vary how you work with your subject and what you do with your lighting. Since I'm asking you to create a portrait different from anything you have done before, experiment! You will be turning in 3 *different* photos for class, so consider how to vary your lighting, composition, location, pose, etc. – even use different portrait subjects if you can!

4) As with any well-planned shoot, you should be creating *at least* 50 photographs of your subject. From these, you will be turning in **your three best images**. I want to see *at least two different lighting arrangements* among these three images.

5) As you are shooting, make a setup photo of each lighting arrangement so that you can use this to create a lighting diagram to represent how you lit each of your final photos. Note that since you will be shooting with *at least* two different lighting arrangements, you will create a minimum of two lighting diagrams.

Requirements:

• You will turn in 3 final images. I encourage (and require) 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 three RAW files, and either three XMP files or three PSD files. Prep these with an eye towards printing them!

- Take a lighting setup photo for *each* of your lighting arrangements (minimum of two to be turned in).

- Create a lighting diagram for *each* of your lighting arrangements (minimum of two to be turned in).

What to turn in:

- 3 **RAW files** of your chosen images, with an adjusted PSD or XMP file for each. Files should *always* include *your name* in the file name. If I do not receive RAW files, you will receive a **zero**!

- 2-3 setup photos (one for each lighting arrangement used in your final photos).

- 2-3 lighting diagrams (one for each lighting arrangement used in your final photos). These need to be digitally created – I recommend the on-line tools available at lightingdiagrams.com or strobox.com.

- It would be great if you can DropBox these to me (in your shared folder titled "AI Flash Photography – *YourName*", shared with "andrew@andrewross.com"), but bringing these completed files on a flash drive to class 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 3 final images as RAW files, with PSDs or XMPs to provide cropping/enhancements?		10 pts
Did you shoot with at least two different lighting arrangements, showing your subject in the best light?		10 pts
Did you give me a setup photo for each of your lighting arrangements (minimum of 2)? *Make sure these are labeled in the filename as to which final images they apply to.*		10 pts
Did you give me a lighting diagram for each of your lighting arrangements (minimum of 2)? *Make sure these are labeled in the filename as to which final images they apply to.*		10 pts
Do your photos show an appropriate balance of flash and ambient lighting?		5 pts
Did you name all of your files with *your name*?		5 pts
Quality/Creativity Grade		100 pts
TOTAL		**150 pts**

DUE DATE: at the beginning of class Week 7