Project 2: Studio Portrait with Prop(s)

Objective:

To understand and apply 1- and 2-point studio lighting set-ups; to understand and practice using key light and fill light; to creatively express concepts through portrait photography; to assess different lighting situations; to create work that demonstrates a professional-level quality; to begin to comprehend the logistics of studio photography; and to create distinct moods with different lighting set-ups.

How to shoot this assignment:

1) For this assignment, you will use the Spiderlite kits (aka, "hot" lights) – one kit includes 2 lights. You will also need to check out a light meter.

2) Find a model who is easy to work with. Make sure he or she is available for the time you are planning to shoot. Have a *back up plan* just in case, and don't wait until the last day!

3) Bring a prop or props that are appropriate to your subject. Think about what that prop symbolizes for your subject and how it can be interpreted. Go beyond the superficial and cliché.

4) Use appropriate lighting and composition to add to the interpretation of the prop. Remember, we want to convey a message to the viewer.

5) Create images with *both* 1-point lighting and 2-point lighting set-ups in the studio. **This assignment must be shot in the studio!**

6) Shoot in RAW format, set a custom white balance for the hot lights, and use a light meter to get perfect exposures!

7) Shoot a minimum of 50 frames: try various compositions, lighting set ups, and uses of your prop(s).

What to turn in:

• 2 final images – one utilizing 1-point lighting and one utilizing 2-point lighting – in PSD format, cropped, corrected, cleaned, and improved from your original RAW files. Also turn in your original RAW files and accompanying XMP files. **If I do not receive RAW files, you will get a zero!!!**

• 2 set-up shots (step back and photograph the "studio" for *each* of your lighting set-ups.

• 2 lighting diagrams, illustrating the lighting set-ups you used.

• 1 typed paragraph (Word document) answering the following questions:
   o What does the prop symbolize and how can it be interpreted?
   o How does your lighting set-up help to portray that meaning?
   o How does your model help to portray that meaning?
   o With your 2-point lighting setup, what contrast ratio did you choose, and why?

Grading rubric:

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

Did you turn in 2 final images as PSDs, along with the original RAW files and XMP files?		10 pts
Did you turn in a set-up photo for *each* of your final images?		10 pts
Did you turn in a lighting diagram for *each* of your final images, showing how you staged your lighting?		10 pts
Did you turn in a Word document with a paragraph answering the questions outlined above?		15 pts
Did you set a custom white balance for your lighting?		5 pts
Quality/Creativity Grade		100 pts
TOTAL		**150 pts**

DUE DATE: at the beginning of class Week 8