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Portrait Photography -Pointers And Tips

A portrait is a picture taken of a person or small group focusing on their face or expression while they are in a still position, also known as portraiture. This is to display the personality, mood and the likeness of the person or group. Portrait photography does not always have to have just the face in the picture, the whole body and background can be included as well. When taking a portrait photo the person or group is generally looking straight at the camera.

Non-professional models are used for portrait photography, unlike other styles of photography. Some examples of portrait photography are graduations, special events, and weddings and are usually displayed in private homes. Many are done on studio with several backgrounds to choose from.

A Bit of History

People have been using portrait photography ever since the camera was invented. Having your portrait painted was expensive and not as available. Natural light was used from an open window and people would sit against the background. Portrait photography can now be more creative with the way technology has evolved since they can adjust light and move around more.

Styles

A professional photographer has complete control over the lighting when taking portrait photographs in a studio. They can change the direction and the intensity. Different lighting terms are kicker lights, fill lights, background lights and the main light.

The main light is the primary light source. It is usually at a 45 degree angle of the subject but it can also be positioned above or below as well. The fill light is used to help eliminate shadows that are created by the main light. The kicker light is the light that brightens up the hair of a subject. This will help to add depth and to show the separation from the subject and the background. A Background light brightens the background and can add effects to the backdrops.

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