Portraiture & How Photographs Function In Our Society

GOAL:

Participants gain portrait photography skills.

DATE:

NAME:

ACTIVITY TIME:

30 mins to 1 hour + Group Discussion

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Something to take photos with (i.e. digital camera, or phone camera)
- Writing instruments to write down some notes

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Pair up with someone to take their portrait. One of you will be the photographer and the other will be the subject.
- 2. One person will spend 10 minutes photographing the other, then you will switch roles (total of 20 minutes).
- 3. Pick at least two settings in which to photograph. This can be a "studio" setting like a blank wall, or an "environmental" setting that might be visually interesting to you.
- 4. Take your time to set up. Be patient with your subject and with yourself. Have a conversation with your subject to help them relax.
- 5. Utilize all the tools you have acquired from this series so far (Presence, Light, Composition, and Color) and take a lot of pictures. Change settings, try different backgrounds, switch poses, shoot up-close and from far away, etc.

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GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. Take a few minutes to look at your photos. Share your best photo with the group (each person shares one photo). This can be done by uploading it to a shared site and viewing them as a group or simply by showing your photo to others.
- 2. Why do you like the photo that you have shared?
- 3. What decisions did you make in terms of light, composition and color, in the process of taking these portraits?
- 4. How did you feel when you were taking this photo? Did anything surprise you during this portrait? If so, what?
- 5. What does your portrait say about the person in the photo?