

Portrait Photography: Assignment for Digital Photo II

A portrait is defined as a likeness of a person. A photographic portrait not only captures a person's physical likeness, **but also something of the person's character.**

What is a Portrait?

A good portrait will contain at least one element that reveals the subject's *personality, attitude, unique mannerisms* or any of the other features or traits that form the individual nature of the person.

Tell us something about the person being photographed.

The image is not only a true physical likeness, but also reveals a significant, identifiable part of the subject's character.

Yousuf Karsh

Known for:

Portraiture of famous people from 1940s to 1990s, including heads of state, movie stars, scientists, and artists.

Most Popular Images:

Archetypal portraits of Winston Churchill, Georgia O'Keeffe, Ernest Hemingway, Albert Einstein, Pablo Picasso, Pablo Casals, Joan Miro, and many others.

Quote:

On photographing his famous subjects, Karsh writes: "The endless fascination of these people for me lies in what I call their inward power. It is part of the elusive secret that hides in everyone, and it has been my life's work to try to capture it on film. The mask we present to others and, too often, to ourselves may lift for only a second – to reveal that power in an unconscious gesture, a raised brow, a surprised response, a moment of repose. This is the moment to record."

Images: An overview of Yousuf Karsh

<https://karsh.org/>

<http://121clicks.com/inspirations/the-greatest-portraits-ever-taken-by-yousuf-karsh>

On Capturing Winston Churchill

<http://iconicphotos.wordpress.com/2009/07/31/winston-churchill-by-yousef-karsh/>

Arnold Newman

Known for:

"Environmental portraits", capturing the subject in a setting reflective of his or her vocation and personal creativity.

Quote:

"We don't take photographs with our cameras, we take them with our hearts and our minds. They are a reflection of ourselves, what we are, and what we think."

"A preoccupation with abstraction, combined with an interest in the documentation of people in their natural surroundings, was the basis upon which I built my approach to portraiture. The portrait of a personality must be as complete as we can make it. The physical image of the subject and the personality traits that image reflects are the most important aspects, but alone they are not enough...We must also show the subject's relationship to his world either by fact or by graphic symbolism. The photographer's visual approach must weld these ideas into an organic whole, and the photographic image produced must create an atmosphere which reflects our impressions of the whole."

<http://arnoldnewman.com/>

<http://arnoldnewman.com/portraits>

Contextual Photography

Capture the essence of your subject.

Drawing a subject out by having them talk while you are making photographs will often result in interesting and revealing expressions.

Assignment I Extraordinary Portraiture – Directed Portrait

Photograph a portrait that best exemplifies the character of the personality of the subject you are photographing. Opposite: Smile for the birdie....