

## Fran's Helpful Hints

### GO BLACK AND WHITE {Monochrome}\*\*\*\*

Black and White photography was the way of all early photographers until colour photography became available to every person who had access to a camera. Many "purists" continued to print only black and white images as it was considered the only true photography. Eventually even the great photographers, like Henri Cartier- Bresson and Ansel Adams dabbled with colour, but continued to stick with the familiar medium of black and white.

Colour photographers need to see the world differently to make successful B&W images. Colour is second nature, and can enhance an image. However it can be a distraction, taking the viewer's eye away from the subject, whereas B&W simplifies the land and cityscapes around us.

Creative expression has no tangible limits, however it needs clear delineation of shapes and textures.

Shooting for B & W, photographers need to step back from reality and choose subjects carefully. If you have a message in your image it will come across more clearly in B&W, which is why most photojournalists shoot B&W images.

Portraits can be more expressive in B&W as the viewer is not distracted by hair colour, clothing or skin imperfections, while the subject's expression and surrounding environment can give indications of his/her personality.

B&W prints should show a full tonal range of pure black through to pure white with a full range of greys in between. Strong patterns, lines and shapes do well in B&W. If you want to have a melancholy image, print it "Low Key" which means darker grey tones and less white. However if you want to have a completely different image you can change the feeling in the image by "High Key", using light shades of grey and black areas picked out against a white background.

The use of grain {ISO affects this} can be stunning in some images. Large grain or "noise" is produced by "upping your ISO", and gives effects similar to the way brush strokes in a painting affect the final image, while fine grain { having a low ISO} is great on very light clouds or rose petals as examples.

Black and White photography will always be valid as charcoal images are valid works of art compared to oil or water colour painting.

\*\*\*\***MONOCHROME** means **one colour**, so if you **tone your B&W image** with Sepia or Blue or whatever colour you like it is still only "monochrome" provided that you tone the **WHOLE IMAGE**.



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