

## **THE FORGOTTEN ELEMENT**

We are all caught up in the use of correct lighting and forget about making use of shadows. Light is nothing without shadows. Shadows are an entity as vibrant as light. **SHADOWS DEFINE SHAPE!** In portraiture various lighting patterns such as Butterfly, Rembrandt or other lighting used by proficient photographers are all illustrated by the placing of shadows and not just the light sources. Look up different types of lighting on the net.

Wrinkles and skin imperfections are obvious when there are shadows on the skin. This gives character and definition to the image. A wide face can be narrowed by shadow on one side without detracting from its beauty or character. Without shadows flawed skin will appear perfect so if that is what you want don't have shadows emphasizing flaws.

Photographers need to give as much thought to the effect of shadows as the effect of light on their subject. Shadows give depth and shape and improve your image.

Shadows occur all around us. Wherever there is a light source shining on an object there will be a shadow. The length and shape of the shadow will depend on the positioning of the light source and the object.

It can be very beautiful to have part or all of the object or person and the shadow of that object or person in the image. Careful capture of the image, bearing in mind photographic ideals and shapes might give you more than you thought possible.

Early and late light will give you lengthened shadows, deeper toned and more interesting images if you are shooting outside.

Fran Cross