



EPID CHATTER

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT IMAGING, DESIGN & WRITING

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Evergreen Photographic Illustration and Design
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Two Websites to Serve You: <http://indydigitalbiz.com> & <http://evergreenphoto.iepid.com>
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PHOTOBlog **FOCUS ON** Still Life Photography

We have had a busy end to 2010. 2011 on the other has begun with everything on the quiet side. This is normally the way it happens from year to year with the welcome transition from the "holiday rush-rush-rush" to the January expanse of "Where did everybody go?". It has allowed us some time to reflect on the past and to regroup, to make plans and to refocus on the coming months.

Being that it is now Winter, the weather is consistently on the cold and wet side, it is a great option to focus on what can be done inside where it is warm and cozy. Stay open to the occasional pristine snow photo possibilities. But remember what immediately follows the beautiful snowy landscapes - that's right; mush and mud. That being said it is natural to bring our focus to Still Life Photography as well as Family and Pet Portraiture.

Still Life Photography

Artists have painted still life subjects since the Renaissance. Why? You might ask. There could be many reasons for doing so. One could be cost:

The subject normally will not ask to be paid for services rendered. Nor will it need clothing to keep warm. Neither will the subject get tired of "the pose". Will never ask for a lunch break or time to pick up the kids at school. Some artists choose Still Life over people just because they feel that they cannot do justice to people. That may be a valid fact. But for me it is just as valid to choose to do a SL session because I want to.

Finding an inanimate object and illiciting emotion from something incapable of emotion is an art in itself. One needs to look within oneself, to draw on memories and to emote with your Brush (Your Camera).

So my suggestion to you is to begin with an object interesting to you, preferably one that is transparent or at least semitransparent. Why you may ask. I feel that being able to see through something is to allow yourself to embrace the whole experience of the subject/setting with nothing

hidden. Everything is connected each other. Also select a simple resting place for the object, such as a small table or box and a simple uncluttered background like a wall or a background such as swatch of fabric.



To keep things simple for this discussion, choose a single flood type light for your light source. Do not use the on-camera flash. Further more the light will only be lighting the background. You do not want to allow any of the light to spill on to the front surface of the subject. That way there will be no reflections to spoil the simple setting. So this being said position the flood either above or below and behind the subject. Just a pure lighted background. One that is also visible through your subject. Think of a lighted fish swimming behind a jellyfish. And the body of that jellyfish distorting what is seen behind it.

Next decide what camera to use. It really does not matter as long as it will focus at distance that you are at. A simple camera to a digital SLR are both fine. Being that you will be using a flood for lighting the cameras flash will probably not turn on. If it does you will need to turn it off. Set the camera ISO setting at 200 or so and set the color balance to Tungsten. As well a camera support such as a tripod or utilizing a dining table chair turned backwards that you can straddle and use the chair back to support your arms while you shoot are also good ideas. This is to steady you while you will be utilizing the moderate telephoto setting on the lens. When shooting compose initially to fill the frame and keeping your lines straight. Using a digital camera is helpful as you can check your exposure and composition as you shoot. Try a variety of cropping with

your zoom. You might even try some none straight shots. You are looking for a good balance of light with bright white areas and dark and contrasty shadowed areas.

As you get used to shooting this type of SL subject you can add more subjects with a variety of colors and shapes and in a selection of grouping. Your main thought process is to connect with the subject and to combine it with a space (background) that helps you to elicit an emotion. Sometime you will need to add more light sources and eventually work into add frontal lighting as desired. As well you might like to try you hand at utilizing various software packages to alter your images. That will be subjects of future blogs.

The main idea behind all of my various blogs is to get you to get outside the box and to try new things and revisualize your world. There is so much more to photograph y than to just point and shoot and built in flash. Imagination is something that begs to

be utilized and nurtured. And that comes from trial and error and requires you to get out of your comfort zone and to blaze new trails. Get in close, add lights, try new angles, change color balance, buy a new lens. Oh there are so many possibilities for you to explore.

BUSINESS EPID Winter Shoots

As I mentioned in the previous section we were busy with a variety of areas. We built websites for some of our customers and photographed a lot of food for various restaurants as well as designed many menus. Also musicians needed portraits



Family Portraits were taken and the occasional pet begged to be photographed.
So in conclusion; here are a few samples of 2010 works of EPID.

Thank you for you interest and keep learning.
Read More. Try new things.

For more information, Please call us or visit one of our websites listed on page one.

John R. Spurr – epid
Owner-Photographer-Designer.



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*Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky,
 Hundreds of shells on the shore together,
 Hundreds of birds that go singing by,
 Hundreds of leaves in the sunny weather.*

*Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
 Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
 Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
 But Only One Mother the whole world over.*

George Cooper (1836-1927)

With Much Love & Respect to Your good Honey Bear Love Always, Mom

12/29/2011
 South Side Art League



TJ's Tree Trimming Crew 8/22/2010
Evergreen PHO



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