

Image Editing 12/4/08

With Sarah Sutter

Lossy and Non-Lossy files : how not to decrease the quality of your image

Your camera shoots in jpg format. jpg is a “lossy compression” file format : every time it saves, it throws away some information to make the file size smaller. (ie: you have an 8 Megapixel camera, but the shots on Large are only 4MB in size when you download them to the computer – half the information has been tossed already)

This becomes a real problem when you open, tweak, and save the file repeatedly. To avoid degradation of the image, consider the following:

1. Keep an “original” version of the image in a safe spot (burn to CD, backup on external drive)
2. DUPLICATE the original file before opening to edit, rather than open and “save as” another version.
3. When editing and you are given an option to save as a TIFF format file, do that. Then if you need a jpg file to upload you can “save as” a jpg from the final edited version.

Online storage and sharing with others

Flickr : can take the original size of the image, limited uploads per month for free, but unlimited for \$25/yr. Well worth it!!!

Photobucket:

Picasa: part of the Google-opoly

Myspace and Facebook (only stores small versions of your image)

Ordering Prints (also storage)

Photoworks

Snapfish

Smugmug

Walmart

Image Size : Pixels and what they mean for printing

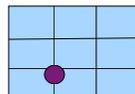
Cropping : Relative dimensions : ASPECT RATIO

Cropping for better composition:

Eliminate the unnecessary : What drew you to take the picture in the first place?

Does it need a context? How much context? A relationship for place? for scale?

Using Third Lines and Power Points



Keep complete shapes, cut off any intruding little bits

Image Control

What is a HISTOGRAM? How does it work?

Exposure : making the image lighter overall

Lightening specific areas (Dodging)

Darkening specific areas (Burning)

Contrast : Too high? Too low?

Red Eye fix

Color cast : All light is not created equal

Red : Cyan
Green : Magenta
Blue : Yellow

Type of light	Color cast	Color to correct with
Fluorescent	green	magenta
Daylight	blue	yellow (maybe some red)
Cloudy	blue	yellow and red
Tungsten/Incandescent	yellow/orange	blue / cyan
“gymnasium orange”	orange/red	cyan/green/blue

Black and White or Sepia : Eliminating full color

“Artsy Filters” make it look sketchy

TWEAKING for emphasis

Selection tools

Making the background lighter or darker

Making the background out of focus

Adding a person to a group

ie: absent student for advisor group, family photo someone missed

Ordering prints and other goodies

Calendars

Cards : holiday or other, postcards (Vista Print or Modern Postcard)

Other items : shirts, ornaments, magnets, (Smugmug, Photoworks, etc)

Photo books