

Worked with Ansel Adams foundation

Workshops / photography / Blog

Lived in Yosemite National Park –

West Coast Imaging – started his business

Locations:

- Big Sur Coast
- Reverse Creek
- Half Dome
- Blizzard
- Pacific Grove
- Filigree snow
- Sentinel rock

The Importance of Craft

- Analogy of playing by ear/reading sheet music
- Craftmanship – skillful work
- Craft goes beyond function to include expression
- Vocabulary – tonality, contrast, etc.

Expressive photography

- Translate what we see/feel/believe into a non-verbal expression
- Translate what is in head/heart to the final photograph
- Camera and process are in the way

Photographs record more than physical reality

- Ideas
- Emotions
- beliefs
- truths

Why didn't the camera record my perceptions?

- camera doesn't see the world the way we do
- Learn to work with the camera

Two ingredients

- understand your vision
- understand the tool

VISION

- harder to work on as no straight path to improvement
- no formula,
- influences, experiences
- understand your story
- understand your subject
- best developed/encourage in small group or one on one instruction/mentorship
- A lot of work and planning can go into visit

TOOLS

- Easier to learn
- Measurable / repeatable
- Good instruction helps learning
- Limitless possibilities in how we apply the tools

The better we understand the tool, the better our results

- Closer to our intent

- Higher success ratio
- More satisfaction from the results
- Clearer decision path when photographing/processing

#### How do we understand the tools better?

- Gain understanding and seek mastery of fundamentals
- Not leave the craft to chance
- Experience
- Informed choices

#### Camera fundamentals

- Sufficient exposure
- Aperture
- Shutter speed
- ISO
- Understanding your preferences
- Understanding what effect these factors have on your images

#### Camera Fluency

- Easy to decide which setting will produce our intent
- Ability to work and react quickly to opportunities
- Confidence and certainty
- Intuitive level
- Comfort with camera

#### Processing Fundamentals

- Density – bright/dark
- Contrast – defines dimension/form
- Color balance –
  - o Christopher Burkett – becomes more clear as you find correct color balance
- Saturation
  - o Oversaturation is current trend
  - o Believable – but expressive
- Masking (dodging/burning, brushing)
  - o Dodging / burning compensates for issues
- Refinement
  - o Learning how small moves can make big differences
  - o Less readical moves (in many cases)
  - o Refined color perception
  - o Ability to be subtle and delicate
- Right tool for the job
  - o Cameras
  - o Software
  - o Different tools produce different reults
  - o Different ingredients produce different flavors
  - o Know your tools
  - o Know your ingredients
  - o Know what you want to express
- Lightroom like tools
  - o Emphasize highlight/shadow slider and lights/darks
  - o Often have negative effect on contrast
  - o Curves are fundamental to contrast

- Don't deal create darkroom like tonality easily
- Photoshop
  - Not as hard as you think
  - Use 3 main tools: Curves, Color Balance, Saturation
  - Add in Masking for local control
  - Knowledge of core ingredients lets me quickly mix them in any way I need to get desired results
  - Offers a straightforward path to control density and contrast in a way that to me feels photographic
  - Makes a look in line with Traditional analog expressions
- Aim small, miss small – try to get precise results

ACR – minor modifications

Is Your processing that simple

- A diagnostic question
- Work with the tool or against it
- Sharp knife vs dull knife

Not a perfect world

- Don't pass up opportunities
- Skill allows us to make the most of less than optimal situation

Take Ownership of the process

- Visualization
- Decisions affect outcome
- You choose when to press the shutter

Visualization

- Melding of process and vision
- Seeing result in your mind's eye before you click the shutter
- Listen to the subject
- React with intent

Workshop

- 2/29 – color processing for print
- Print Lab Sessions – March (21<sup>st</sup>?)
- Classic B&W Processing
- Perfect Exposure
- Photoshop Fundamentals

RICHSEILING.COM

CRAFTINGPHOTOGRAPHS.COM