

# LONG EXPOSURE PORTRAIT



## GOAL

Create a portrait using long exposure technique.

## SUMMARY

Shooting portraits is something that most of us get our hands on at some point. Long exposure photography is another genre that helps with creative photography. Combining the two genres will open the doors to more creative portraits! Long exposure portraits help you achieve dreamy effects.



You leave the shutter open for a longer period of time than you would for normal portraits and as a result movements are recorded creating a surreal effect in your photographs. Long exposure portraits can be shot either indoors or outdoors and this depends on the available light you need for creating a photograph.



Photo via Jesus Rocha

Photo by Alexander Krivitskiy

# THINGS TO REMEMBER:

## 1. MOVEMENT



Since you are shooting long exposure portraits, you will need an exposure of 0.5 seconds and above so movements are recorded.

## 5. TRIPOD



Since this is long exposure photography, you will need to have your camera on a tripod because you do not want to move the camera in various directions.

## 2. SUBJECT



You can shoot a model or make a self-portrait. If you are creating a self-portrait, you need to manually focus on the spot where you will be positioned and then use a remote trigger.

## 4. LIGHTING



You can use natural light if it's not too bright. Window light can be a great option if you're shooting indoors. You can easily modify it with curtains.

## 3. SHUTTER SPEED



For long exposure photography, you use a longer shutter speed which means the shutter remains open for a longer period of time. Any movements during this period are recorded as blurry streaks.

## 6. CREATIVITY



Long exposure portraits are about creating surreal, abstract and creative effects. So there is no one setting or output that you need to worry about.



Photo by Parastoo Maleki

# ADDITIONAL TIPS AND TRICKS:

## 1. STABILIZATION

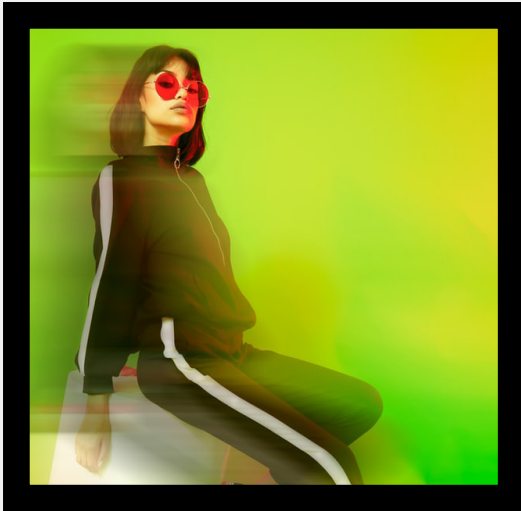


Photo by Dom Hill

Once your camera is on the tripod, turn off image stabilisation. It is advisable to use a remote or cable release or use the timer delay feature in your camera to trigger the shutter.

## 2. SHOOTING OUTDOORS



Photo by Hybrid

If you are shooting outdoors, you should not have very bright light in your long exposures. So make sure you are in a dark location where making a desired long exposure will not overexpose the image.

## 3. GESTURES



Photo by Javi Hoffens

Here are some movements you can try:

- Ask your subject to sit still and turn their face once in one or both directions.
- Your subject can flick their hair.
- Ask your subject to use their hands to cover their face once and remove or similar movements.
- Your subject could dance, sway or make any slow movements.

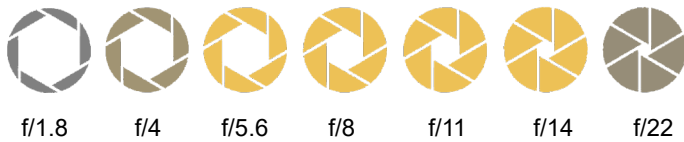
## 4. BACKGROUND



Photo by Manav Sharma

It is good to have a plain dark background so your subject stands out and there are no other distracting elements that can take away attention from your subject. Be patient and take many shots. Experiment with different exposure times, light intensities, etc.

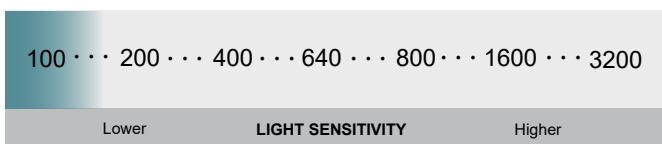
# CAMERA SETTINGS:



Wide Aperture (more light)

Narrow Aperture (less light)

- You can use wider aperture values or narrow down to f/7 or even f/16. This depends on your exposure time. Also, switch to manual focus as the camera will have difficulty focusing in low light conditions.



- Set the iso to the lowest possible value so you can have long exposure times.



- Trigger the shutter and ask the subject to make some movements. Preview your image to see what can be changed. If you're shooting in low light, you can start with 4 seconds and go either faster or slower depending on the amount of light your camera captures.



Photos by Elina Krima and Alexander Krivitskiy

## ADDITIONAL TIPS:

1.

Since we are going to play around with shutter speed in this project, and then adjust the aperture and iso to get the desired results, it is easier to use shutter priority mode, but it is not mandatory. You can also shoot in manual mode.

2.

Set the white balance depending on the light used and if you are unsure, use auto white balance. If only a part of the frame is going to be illuminated, use spot or centre weighted metering.



# EDITING:

Once you have shot the images, import them into your favourite post processing application. Adjust the white balance, straighten and crop the image if necessary.

1. Make basic adjustments like exposure, contrast, highlights, shadows, whites, blacks, vibrance.



2. If the image is too soft, you can try using the dehaze slider to improve details. Add clarity and sharpness if required. Play around with exposure, shadows and black sliders to create moody, emotive or mysterious images.



3. Converting this image to black and white will make the subject stand out. To do so, drag the saturation slider all the way to the left and then make addition adjustments.

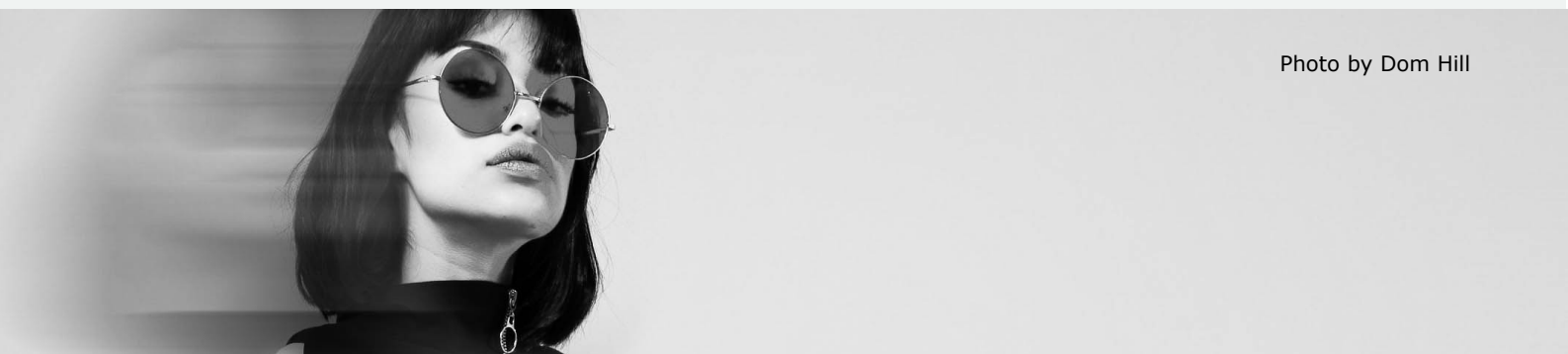


Photo by Dom Hill



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