

# Monthly Workshop Series

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Our hands-on photography workshops will help you stay engaged, keep you photographing and let you improve your skills in a fun and hands-on way. All workshops take place on a Saturday morning for 2 hours, and we hold at least one per month. These workshops are a great way to learn about photography on an ongoing basis. While each workshop is self contained, some build on each other. The greatest benefit is gained by participating in all of them. - Of course.



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## Overview

Check the workshops for the ones you're interested in, and then look at the schedule to see when it runs next. All you need to do is sign up below and send us an email, letting us know which workshop(s) you'd like to take part in and reserve your space that way. If the workshop includes a model, there will be separate model fee due. You may pay when you register, or on the day of the workshop. If you are part of our Photo Explorers, workshops are free to attend, but you will need to pay any applicable model fee.



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# Lightroom



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Lightroom is a great program for workflow management - storing and organizing your photos so that you can always find the image you want.

It's also a powerful editing tool. Our two-hour Lightroom workshop focuses on setting up your workflow and using the program to tweak your photos. We'll show you whole slew of tips and tricks to edit your photos without having to put them in Photoshop. And we'll show you our systematic approach to maximize the effect of the tools when you use them together.

We will show you in detail how to use these controls to punch up your photos:

- Whitebalance - Correct the color in an image if your camera wasn't set quite right.
- Contrast - Manipulate the balance of light and dark to make a flat image pop.
- Brightness - Do you want sunshine on a cloudy day? Look no further. Lightroom can rescue under- or over-exposed images from the virtual trashcan.
- Gradient filters - Add drama to a sky; direct a viewer's eye where you want it to go; tame areas that remain too bright when the rest of the image looks great; the list goes on.
- Radial filters - Add drama and pop to an image, making sure that what gets noticed is exactly what you want your viewer to focus on.

The key to using all these tools well is to apply them with a delicate touch. And that takes some guidance at first, followed up by a lot of practice. In our Lightroom workshop, we'll bring our years of experience to bear, giving you all the guidance you can stand. (All with patience and kindness, of course.) Although not required, if you have a computer with Lightroom installed, feel free to bring it with you so you can follow along and get a jump start on that practice.

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# Photoshop



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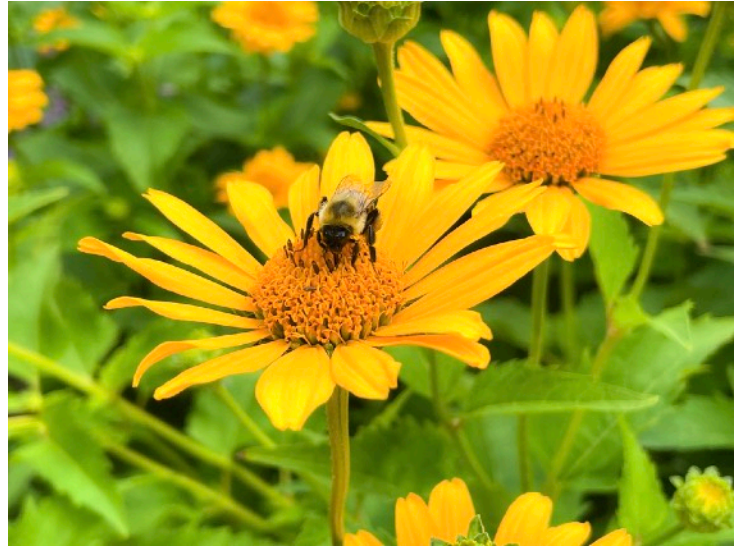
Photoshop is the power tool of digital editing. And, as with any power tool, it's easy to know just enough to get yourself into a heap of trouble. The good news is that you can't actually saw off a limb with it. The bad news, as we all know from those "15 Photoshop Disasters" articles all over the internet, is that your photo subjects might end up looking as though they're missing a limb. Of course, that is the extreme. The more real risk is that you'll end up with a photo that looks over-processed. One that screams "Photoshop!" at first glance. Photoshop should whisper, never shout. But that takes skill and practice. The elements of Photoshop, while very powerful, are not intuitive. If you've ever found yourself frustrated by a photo-editing session that went awry or wanted to edit your photos, but been afraid to try, this workshop is the place to start. Trying to teach yourself these skills can be challenging. Maybe even downright discouraging. But we're here to help.

Because Photoshop can be overwhelming we will start at the beginning and show you how to:

- Open files
- Use layers
- Perform quick edits
- Crop and size your photos
- Save and export your work

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# Digital Camera Class



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This workshop is for you if:

- You have a new camera and find yourself lost in the settings
- You're just getting started with your photography practice
- You're a seasoned photographer whose camera-handling skills have gotten a little rusty

There's nothing more frustrating to a photographer than finding a great photo opportunity but not being able to make the camera capture what the eye sees. The first step out of that frustration is understanding your camera's systems and how they work together. In our Digital Camera Class, we'll talk about whitebalance, shutter, aperture and ISO and how they interact. We'll talk about how to use your camera's autofocus feature to your advantage. We'll include time for hands-on practice, so you'll be able to see how changing one setting influences the others - and what the results of that might be. Digital cameras are complex and can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be that way. We can help.

What You'll Learn:

- **Camera Basics:** Understand the essential functions and settings of your camera.
- **How to use shutter speed:** Learn how to prevent blurry photos.
- **What the aperture does:** Discover how to use your aperture to create stunning photos.
- **How to leverage ISO:** Explore and use ISO settings to your advantage.
- **How to prevent blue-ish photos** when you're outside.

Why Join Us?

- **Expert Instruction:** Our experienced photographer will guide you every step of the way.
- **Small Class Size:** Enjoy personalized attention with a small group setting.
- **Fun & Engaging:** Interactive activities and real-time feedback to boost your confidence.

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# Studio Flash



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When you're photographing outdoors, you have to work with the light you're given. In the studio, you can have the ultimate control over the direction of the light, the intensity of the light, the amount of spill. But with great control can come great confusion. In this workshop, we'll talk about the idiosyncrasies of using studio flash so your path to enlightenment will be less rocky. Using studio flash requires setting up your gear in a certain way, and we'll talk about how to that - and why you need to do it, too. You'll have the chance to learn about light in a controlled environment that will allow you to really study all its properties.

What we'll look at:

- How to set up your gear to work with studio flash
- How to control the light to achieve the effects you want
- How mastering one light will unlock your understanding

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# Back Button Focus



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If you've been using your camera for any length of time, you may already know that depressing the shutter button halfway activates your autofocus system. And that's a good thing, usually, because it lets you focus properly on your subject and then, as long as you don't release the shutter button, recompose your shot to your liking without losing focus. Awesome, right? However, most DSLR cameras have a button on the back dedicated to autofocus, too. Many professional photographers choose to use back button focusing because it provides much greater control over how the camera behaves. It does take some getting used to - kind of like switching from a mouse to a trackpad on your computer - but once you get comfortable with it, you'll be glad you did.

What we'll look at:

- Why you might want to switch your camera to back button focus
- How to set your camera so that the shutter button won't override the back button focus
- How to use back button focus for greater control over your camera

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# Portrait Photography



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There is a method and an art to portrait photography. It's about more than just taking a pretty picture of a pretty person. You're really trying to capture and convey who they are. Not only that, but there are different styles of portrait photography that can be used for different purposes. It can get complicated, but we're here to help. In this workshop, we'll show you how to think through the process so that your portraits will tell exactly the story you're hoping to get across.

What we'll look at:

- The different types of portrait photography
- How to set your camera for portraits
- Lighting patterns used for portrait photography - and why you might choose one over another
- Studio vs. outdoor portraiture



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# Landscape Photography



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If you've ever come home from a vacation with images of a beautiful place that should be awesome but actually feel a little flat, this could be the workshop for you. There is a difference between a pretty snapshot and an effective landscape photograph. Landscape photographs can - and should - transport the viewer, making it feel as though they are inside the scene. There are some simple but perhaps not obvious techniques to accomplish this which we'll explore in this workshop.

What we'll look at:

- How to think differently about the scene even before you photograph it
- How to compose and frame the scene so that it has life to it
- How to use the available light to your advantage

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# Photoshop 2



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Once you have the basics of Photoshop, like getting files in and out of it, and working with layers, you're ready to really make some magic.

Our Photoshop 2 workshop picks up where Photoshop-1 leaves off to introduce you to some of the more advanced photo editing concepts:

- Selecting tools

Photoshop gives you tools within tools, all with a specific function to perform. We'll show you how to decide which tool to use, and how to access that tool once you've decided what you want.

- Layer masking

One of the things that makes Photoshop so flexible and powerful is the ability to work in layers. Just as the fine artists of old layered plaster, paint and pigments to achieve the depth and effect they wanted, so can you. But unlike those mediums, Photoshop layers give you fine-tuned control to show or hide anything you want. It this sounds awesome - well, it is. It if sounds confusing, don't worry. After our workshop, you'll have a much better handle on what it all means.

- Using adjustment layers

With adjustment layers, you can alter the tone and color of an image, or even just a portion of the image. Among many other things, adjustment layers make eliminating yellow teeth or bloodshot eyes a snap. And if you overdo it, you can edit adjustment layers without having to start all over again.

- Blending layers

Blending layers gives you the power to precisely control the contrast in specific areas of your photo. We commonly use them to make a subject's eyes connect with the viewer, but that's only the beginning of what you can do.

- Using curves

Curves give you the most precise control over the highlights, shadows, and midtones of an image. There really is nothing like Photoshop for taking images from pretty good to jaw-droppingly great - if you know what you're doing, and with our help, you will.

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# Using Natural Light



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In the studio, with time, practice, and the right equipment, you can have complete control over the lighting situation. Natural light is a different beast. You're dependent on conditions that you often cannot control. But you can learn to work with natural light, and it's worth doing. The results can be absolutely stunning.

Seeing light takes a little bit of time and practice and we'll help you get on your way. Once you start reading natural light it'll forever change your photography.

What we'll do:

- We'll look at what makes for good lighting: brighter is not always better when it comes to natural lighting. Sometimes, you have to do things that seem counterintuitive to get the most out of your natural setting.
- We'll show you how to use existing lighting in a natural setting: It's a given that when you're shooting outdoors, the lighting conditions may not be stable through your whole shoot. That doesn't mean that you can't find a way to take beautiful photos in almost any conditions. (Barring torrential rain or a blinding blizzard.)
- We'll get you started on reading light. You need to carefully consider the quality, the direction, and other factors in order to make the best use of it. This workshop will give you some real world experience to start you off in the right direction.
- We'll show you what does not work so well when lighting a subject
- There are pitfalls to photographing using natural light, and almost all of us fall into them at one time or another. And then have to deal with the disappointment of images that don't meet our expectations. We'll help you identify a few of the "don'ts" so you can hopefully avoid them in the future.
- We'll share a trick that'll let you shoot beautiful portraiture at high noon. Conventional wisdom tells us that noon is the very worst time to attempt natural light portraiture. And by and large, that's true. It is possible, though, to get great results, even at high noon, and in this workshop, we'll show you how.

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# Off-Camera Flash



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Mixing existing light with an off camera flash can result in dramatic lighting effects. Using this technique, you can make high noon look like dusk and bring out all the drama in the sky too. We'll demystify all aspects of using off camera flash outside and we'll show you how to get the effects you are looking for. Everyone who attends the workshop will have a chance to work individually with our model to create stunning images. And, as always, there will be guidance to help you on your way.

What we'll do:

- Use off-camera flash to kiss your subject with just a little light

Sometimes just a little light to bring out the depth of your image is all it takes. And the beauty of using an off-camera flash is that you control the direction and quality of the light completely. This opens up whole creative worlds to explore.

- We'll turn day into dusk and light our subject in a dramatic way

Off-camera flash can add intense drama, bathing your subject in light, while changing the appearance of even the most brightly-lit background in amazing ways. We'll show you exactly what we mean, and give you a chance to try it out for yourself. We put the power to overpower the sun in your hands. How about that?

- Experiment with different aspects of mixing daylight with a flash

Of course, it doesn't have to be about overpowering anything. Using an off-camera flash allows you to seamlessly blend natural and man-made light with breathtaking results.

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# Advanced Studio Photography



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Advanced studio photography more often than not takes lighting schemes and techniques right to the edge, just before everything falls apart. This style of lighting requires a bit of a different approach. A different way of thinking. How can you go beyond lighting for exposure and make light and shadow dance with your subject?

This is typically our last workshop of the calendar year. Throughout the year, we've practiced lighting and posing, and Advanced Studio Photography gives us an awesome opportunity to bring it all together. (Although you don't need to have attended other workshops throughout the year to join us for this one.)

We get a super pretty model, take what we've learned about studio lighting, and see how far we can push it, using the techniques and methods Walter learned when he studied fashion photography in NYC. You'll come away from this workshop with images to add to your portfolio that will be of a quality that's hard to come by. Lighting, posing, wardrobe, styling: it all has to work together. Many know how to play with the individual elements, but may not know how to blend them together into a coherent whole. Fortunately, we do, and we'll share that expertise with you so you will craft clean, strong images such as you'd find in New York City studios.

What we'll look at:

- Lighting effects and how they relate to the human form
- How to use light and shadow to suggest, rather than expose
- How to create the thought of beauty in 3 dimensional space
- How to use planarity together with lighting techniques to create beauty
- How to use a single light to create a fascinating dance of light and shadow