

making the most of your engagement session

Memorable portraits take careful planning. The choices you make regarding clothing, grooming and location are very important to your portrait's success. These guidelines will help you make important decisions about your engagement session. The extra steps are well worth the effort and will ensure timeless images.

Clothing Selection

Fine classical portraiture that will have a timeless quality is defined by its simplicity. Simple, plain, traditional outfits of a solid color photograph best—they are not distracting and will not look dated in a few years. Avoid bold or floral patterns, stripes, plaids, checks, bright colors such as orange and red and print.

» Darker Backgrounds

When photographed on a dark background, white and light colors stand out. This has a tendency to make the subjects look heavier. Deep, solid colors recede into the background, giving us that slim look that we all like. We suggest medium to dark tones of the following colors: brown, rust, green, olive, purple, blue, black, or burgundy.

» White or Lighter Backgrounds

Clothing for hi-key portraits may be all white or pastels. Avoid light colors that approximate flesh tones such as beige, tan, peach, pink and yellow.

» Outdoor Backgrounds

Wear casual clothes, colors and styles appropriate for the environment. Earth tones (browns, rusts, greens, etc.) are always a safe choice. Make sure you dress for a full-length portrait. Denims, kakhis, cords, sweaters, long sleeve shirts/blouses and scarves are all excellent choices.



Oops! I Got Sunburned!

We cannot photograph you with facial sunburn. If this happens, please call to schedule a new appointment.

A Note on Eye-glasses

Not only do eye-glasses catch light reflections, but they can also deform the face line in some portraits due to their lens characteristics. You may wish to obtain a set of frames like your own, or have the lenses removed from your own glasses for your session. Be aware that tinted glasses cannot be lightened. Do not wear any eyeglasses for at least one hour prior to the session if you intend to be photographed without them.

» Couples

Special attention when selecting clothing for couples is critical! Do not wear loud, distracting prints or different colors. The most important concept to remember is coordination. Harmonize the color and style of your clothing as well as the formality of your selections. You do not have to match colors exactly, but try to be in the same family of shades. Be sure to match pants and shoes accordingly.

» Additional Points to Consider

All clothing for portraits should have long sleeves! It is important not to wear anything sleeveless or anything with capped/short sleeves. Short sleeves will make your arm look larger in the photograph.

- Turtle necks or V-necks are flattering provided that neither is exaggerated in style. Avoid very wide or particularly deep V-neck garments as well as bulky cowl neck sweaters that completely hide the neck.
- Often people forget that their feet may appear in their portraits, so match your shoes with your outfit. Also, coordinate socks with the rest of the outfit.
- Women being photographed in full length should wear long skirts, pants, or dark stockings in order to keep the eye from being directed toward the legs and away from the face.

making the most of your engagement session (cont'd)



Grooming

» Women

Wear your hair the way you like it best. Be very cautious about trying a new hairstyle for your portrait. Although it may be possible to try a new hairstyle and have it turn out the way you want it the first time, that doesn't happen very often. The key to making your hair look good in your portraits is to wear your normal style and keep it smooth. Loose ends will pick up light and photograph prominently. We cannot fill in or rearrange hair after your portraits have been taken so make sure it's looking its best.

The center of interest in a fine portrait are the eyes. An extra coat of mascara will enhance them. Eyes should be lined on the outside of the lid, not the inside. Neutral eye shadow should be used as opposed to colors. Frost lipsticks, or face highlighters will reflect light and are not recommended for portraits. Base should be applied lightly with just enough to even out skin tone. Be sure to blend it thoroughly over face and neck area. Facial blemishes can be minimized with cover stick. Today's modern retouching methods will soften and remove acne. Bring your makeup, hair spray, etc. with you for touch up during the session.

» Men

If you plan to have a hair cut before your session try to schedule it a week in advance so freshly cut ends won't stand out. A fresh haircut, especially in the summer is too obvious. Be sure to shave just before your session— there is no way to hide a "five o'clock shadow".

Displaying Your Images

Once you receive your proofs, select the images you'd like to include in your free guest-book. The book comes with 8-5x7 image pages and 6 guest signature pages. Please fill out a LPP order form and either email or snail mail your selections to the studio. Additional inserts (1 image / 1 signature page) may be purchased.

» Coffee Table Books

Choose from a fine selection of.... To treasure your relationship memories in.

» Image Boxes

Display your love on one of our brass easles with our image box, mat and easle combination. Or use a small 5x5 box to treasure your love for one another in an intimate image box meant only for the two of you. Keep the image box next to your bed, write personal expressions of love on the matted edge.

» Folios

Perhaps a grand display is what you had in mind with one of our many decorative wall folios. Choose from a variety of styles and sizes that will compliment your new home and taste.

Please refer to our product catalog for a complete listing of available items.

Odds and Ends

Engagement sessions include two rolls of film and two hours of on-location photography. Please call the location ahead of time to make sure there are no restrictions on professional photography. You are responsible for location fees should they be required. The studio photographer reserves the right to refuse any location should it be outside the permitted 35-mile radius and if it presents a danger to you and/or the working photographer(s). In addition, the photographer has the right to refuse service should you cause harm, destruction and/or public disturbance to person(s) or property during your photography session.