

making the most of your portrait 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 portrait 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.