

BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY FOR CARVERS

SHOWCASE YOUR CARVING BY GETTING IT RIGHT IN CAMERA

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INTRODUCTION

Member of the Oregon Carver's
Guild and Guild of Oregon
Woodworkers

Photography and Operations
Manager with Shutterfly from 2011
to 2021

Inspired by Dennis Mihm, whose
work will feature in the program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



SETTING:
Showcasing Your
Carving



LIGHTING: Your
Work in the Best
Light



CAMERA: More
Than Point-And-
Shoot



EDITING: Simple
tips for photo
correction



DEMO: V-Flat and
Lightbox Instruction



**QUESTIONS AND
COMMENTS**

SETTING: SHOWCASE YOUR PIECE



- Is the carving clean?
- Has it been dusted? Polished?
- Are there any imperfections to note?
- Is your setting clean?
- Have all visual distractions been removed?



PRESENTATION MATTERS

In both images all the carving has been completed. But the finishing touches make all the difference.

BACKDROPS: HIGH KEY VS. LOW KEY

Think carefully about whether your background complements or contrasts with your carving.

Dark backgrounds absorb light. Bright backgrounds reflect. White, black, or muted tones are best.

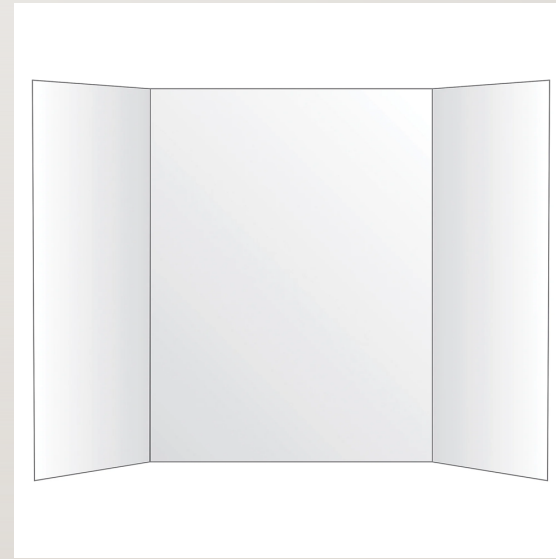


CONTROLLABLE ENVIRONMENTS = SIMPLE AND CONSISTENT LIGHTING

LIGHTBOX - AMAZON



V-FLAT/PROJECT BOARD



STAGING CARVINGS

- Showcase your carving in its environment. Carefully select complementary “props” and most importantly, make sure your work is prominently displayed and featured in the image. Props should only be accents.



LIGHTING: YOUR WORK IN THE BEST LIGHT

- Direct Light vs. Indirect Light
- Flash and Outdoor Photography
- Relationship between Light and Color
- White Balance



DIRECT VS. INDIRECT LIGHT

DIRECT LIGHT IS A SINGLE LIGHT SOURCE WITH NO DIFFUSION, SUCH AS SUNLIGHT, FLASH, EXPOSED BULBS, ETC.



INDIRECT LIGHT IS ONE OR MORE LIGHT SOURCES USING REFLECTION, DIFFUSION, OR AMBIENT METHODS.





LIGHTING DEMO
SINGLE SOURCE REFLECTION AND DIFFUSION

HIGHLIGHTS OR BRIGHT SPOTS

LIGHTING STYLE, OBJECT PLACEMENT AND BACKGROUND REFLECTION CAN ALL IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS (SHINE, BRIGHT SPOTS, ETC)

NARROW EDGE TOWARD THE
LIGHT SOURCE



LIGHT IS TOO HIGH AND ON THE
BROAD SIDE OF THE PIECE



FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY



- Harsh light source
- Stark Shadows
- Inconsistent distribution
- Camera focusing issues
- Light fall-off at the edges of frame

WHEN IS FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IDEAL...?

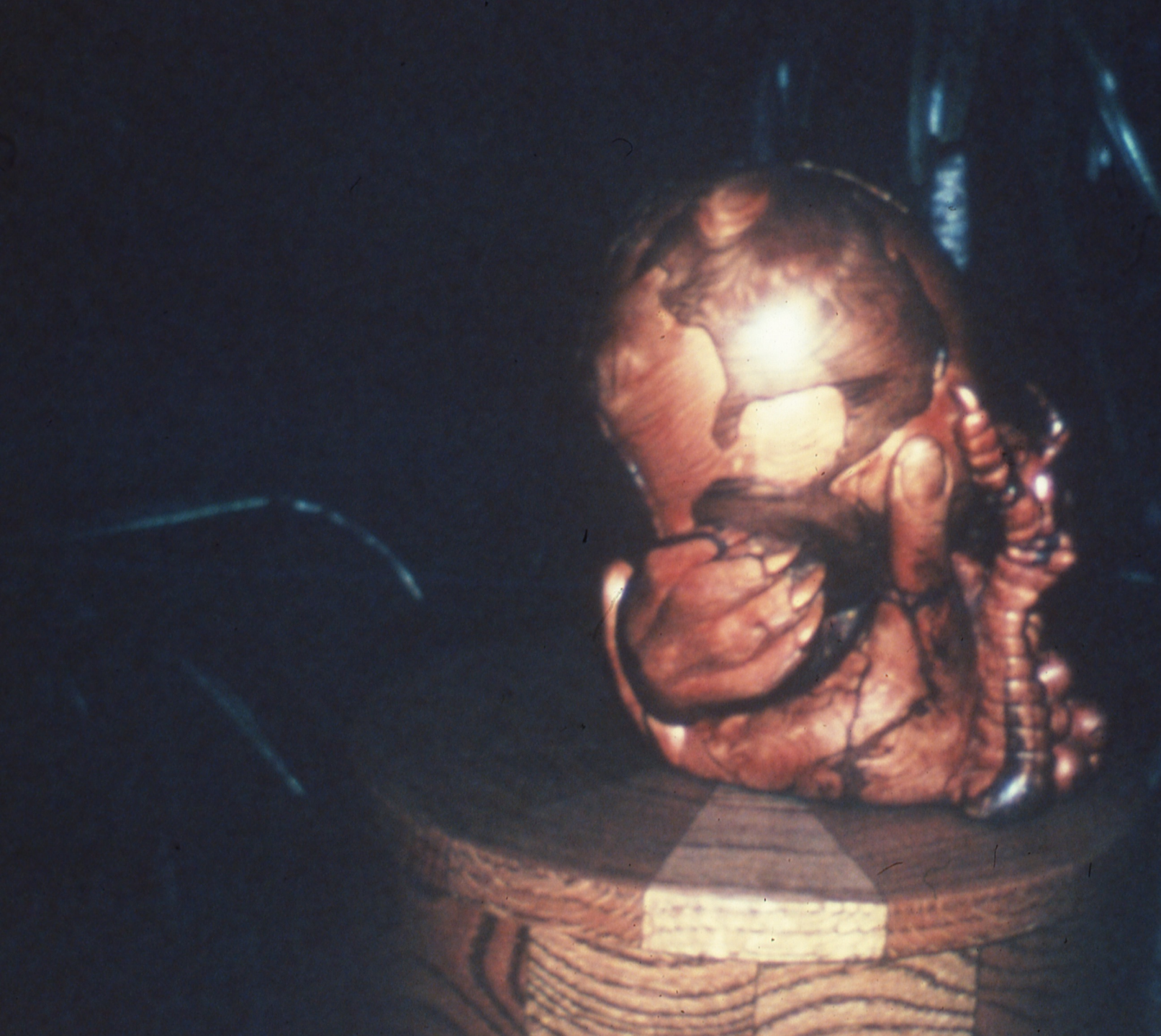
A photograph of a man and a woman in profile, looking out at a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water. A sailboat is visible in the distance on the left. The man and woman are in the foreground, their faces partially in shadow, looking towards the right. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

**BACKLIGHTING CREATES DARK SUBJECTS
AND CONFUSES THE CAMERA SENSOR**

TIPS TO ADDRESS BACKLIGHTING

- TRY PHONE CAMERA FLASH
- ZOOM IN ON DETAILS
- MOVE THE SUBJECT
- MOVE THE CAMERA
- CREATE A “BOUNCE”





TIPS FOR DARK ROOMS

- Even camera phones have a difficult time focusing their lens in the dark, when flash is required.
- Any hand movement will cause a blurry image and improper focus.
- Ambient light is better than no light. Turn on lamps and overhead lights indoors.
- Even a flashlight from someone else's phone is a better substitute.



CAMERA: BEYOND POINT AND SHOOT

- Camera phones/Digital cameras
- Lens perspective = Human eye
- Wide Angle = Distortion
- Framing and Focus
- Creating a Sharp Image



WHERE IS YOUR LENS
POINTING?

WHY IS LENS DIRECTION SO IMPORTANT?



THE CENTER OF YOUR LENS MUST BE POINTED AT THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE OF YOUR CARVING

DEPTH OF FIELD AND PORTRAIT MODE

- Depth of field draws interest to the sharpest point of the image.
- The closer the lens is to the object, the more dramatic the blur
- First step is to frame the image
- Adjust the object accordingly for maximum effect
- Tap the screen where the image should be sharpest
- Take the image





PHONE CAMERA TOOLS
RULE OF THIRDS AND LEVEL

IMAGE FRAMING

TIGHT FOR DETAIL



WIDE FOR PERSPECTIVE



CAMERA PHONE DEMO

SIMPLE PHOTO EDITING

- Cropping
- Exposure/Brightness
- Contrast/Shadows
- White Balance

Please take out your phones and open any image! We'll talk through some features together.



ORIGINAL

EDIT

Crop and straighten tool create symmetry. Exposure brightens the overall image. Contrast and sharpness increase grain definition. White point and Color tool correct White Balance.



PHOTO EDITING APPS

Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Photoshop, Enlight Quickshot, VSCO, Snapseed, etc.



QUESTIONS
AND/OR
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THANK YOU!

