

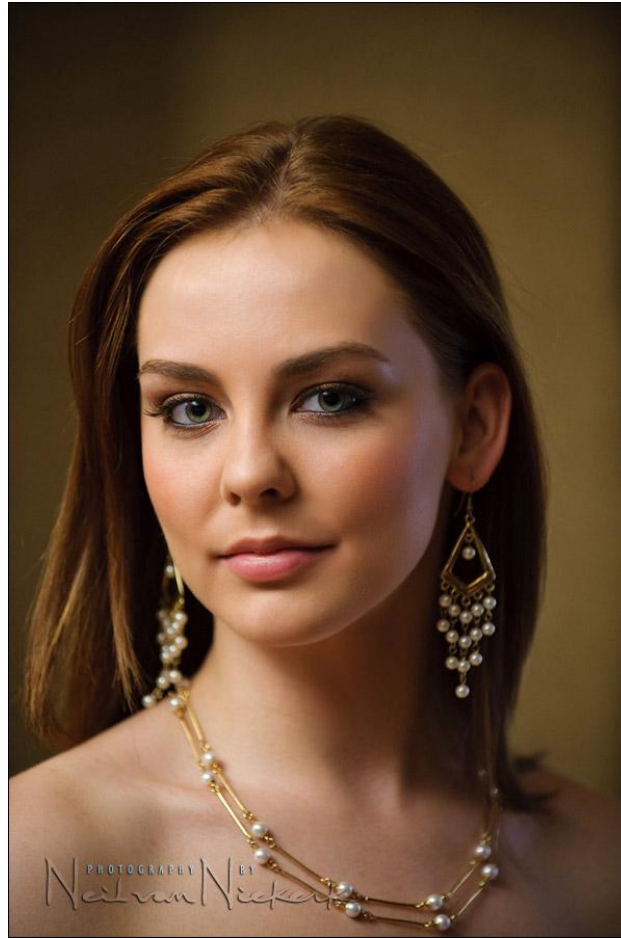
Creative Photography Techniques

- Flash Photography & Low-Key Photograph



FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

"Creating and controlling your own light."



What is Flash Photography?

- Flash photography uses an artificial burst of light to illuminate a subject.
- Control lighting
- Freeze motion
- Add catchlights
- Fill shadows
- Balance ambient light
- Improve image quality indoors
- Daylight equivalent



Types of Flash (1)

- **Built-in Flash**
- Convenient
- Limited power (GN 12)
- Fixed direction
- Hood may get in the way
- **Speedlight**
- More powerful (GN 42)
- Portable
- Adjustable
- Can be bounced



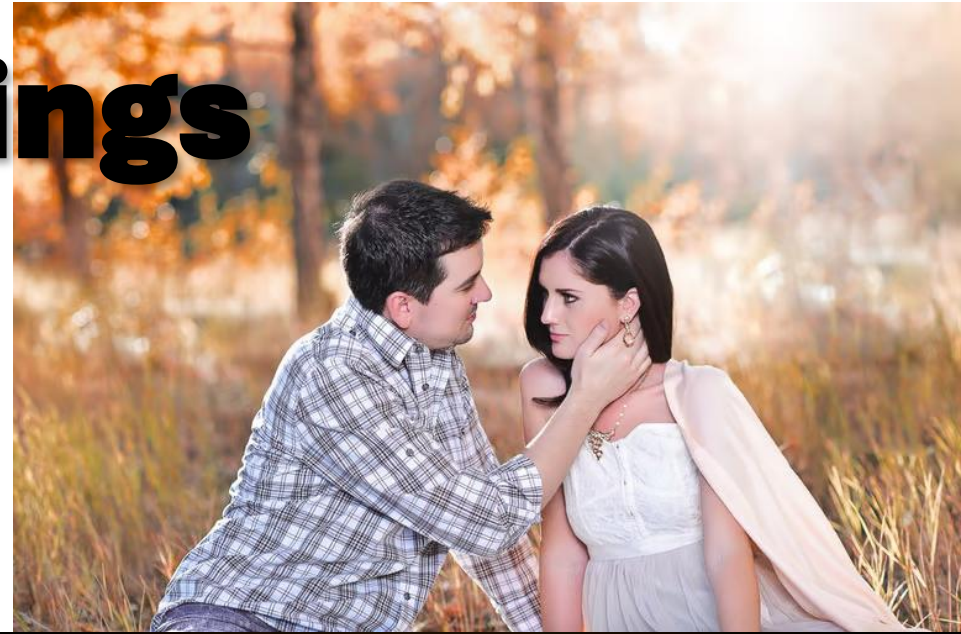
Types of Flash (2)

- **Studio Flash**
- Higher power (?)
- Softboxes
- Umbrellas
- Flash trigger (wireless)
- Flash Meter



Camera & Flash Settings

- ISO 100–400
- Aperture f/5.6–f/11
- Shutter 1/125–1/200 sec
- **Flash**
- TTL
- Manual Power
- Flash Compensation
- Rear Curtain Sync
- High Speed Flash



Lighting Techniques

- Direct flash
- Bounce flash
- Off-camera flash
- Fill-In flash
- Softboxes
- Umbrellas
- Diffusers



Lighting Techniques

- Rembrandt
- Split Lighting
- Loop Lighting
- Butterfly Lighting



<https://photographylife.com/when-to-use>
<https://photographylife.com/photography>

Lighting Techniques

- **REMBRANDT LIGHTING:** Rembrandt lighting is achieved by placing the light close to 4 or 8 o'clock. The light source should be far enough to allow the shadow from the subject's nose to extend toward the shadow from their cheekbone. This technique also results in an upside-down triangular light patch under the eye opposite the main light.
- **SPLIT LIGHTING:** Split lighting is produced by setting a single light at either 9 or 3 o'clock, resulting in one side of the subject's head being illuminated. While this technique can create interesting contrast, it may not always be the most flattering choice.
- **LOOP LIGHTING:** Position the main light just above eye level at approximately 5 or 7 o'clock to get loop lighting. This creates subtle shadows on one side of the subject's nose and is generally pleasing for most people. If their nose bends to one side, putting the light on the side that their nose bends toward will typically make their nose appear straighter.
- **BUTTERFLY LIGHTING:** Place a light source slightly above and in front of your subject at 6 o'clock to produce butterfly lighting. The resulting shadow under their nose and nostrils is supposed to resemble a butterfly, but let's be real, not everyone sees it. If you place the light too high, you can end up with dark shadows covering their eyes or no catch lights. If this happens, turn on the modeling light and lower the light source until you see a reflection in their pupils.

Creative Applications (1)

https://www.instagram.com/reel/Db1bIGMvOiK/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

- Portraits
- Weddings
- Macro
- Wildlife
- Sports
- Product photography
- Fill flash outdoors



Creative Applications (2)



Common Problems & Solutions (1)

Problems

Red-eye

Harsh shadows

Flat lighting

Overexposure

Underexposure

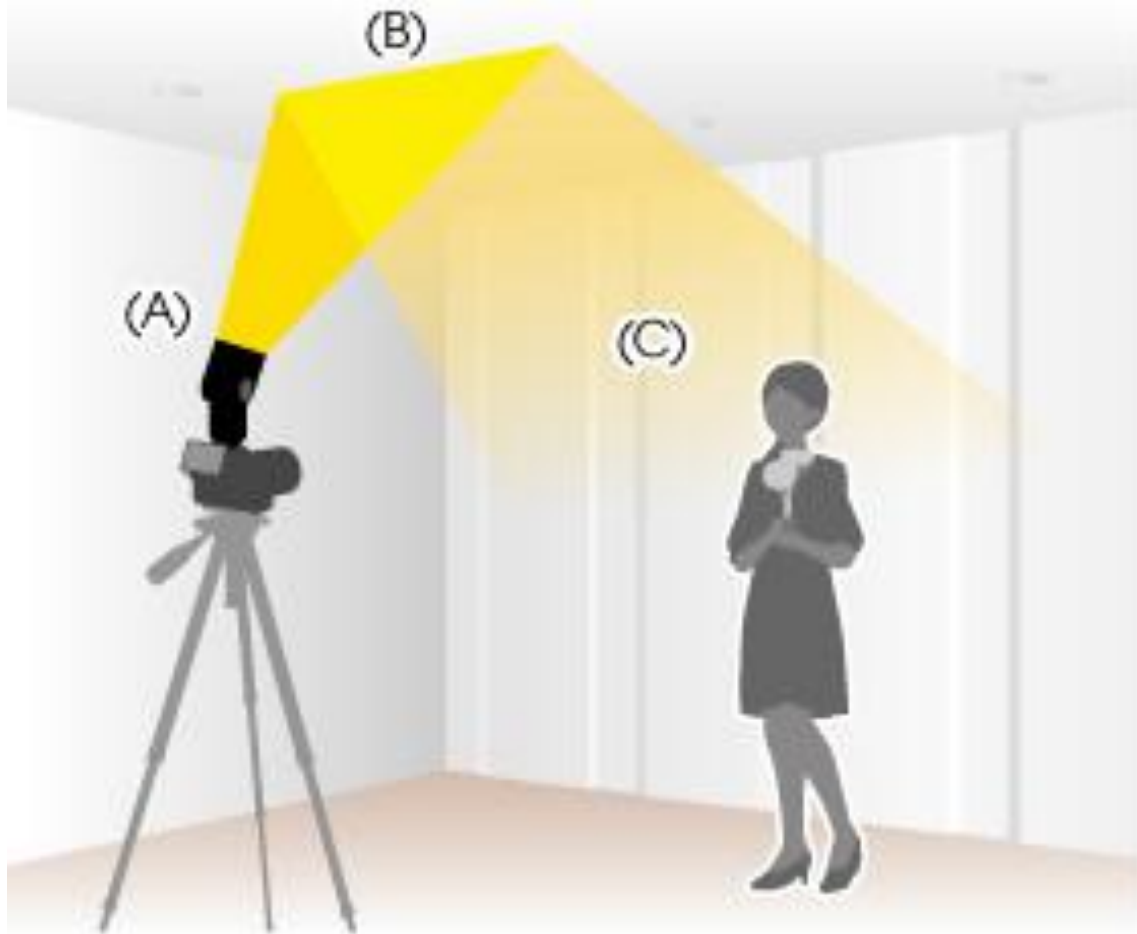


Solutions

- Bounce flash
- Diffuser
- Flash compensation
- Modify flash angle
- Increase subject distance



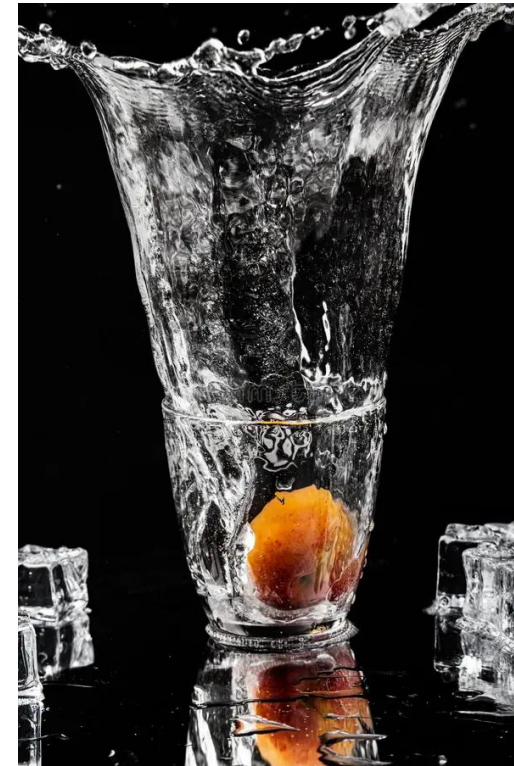
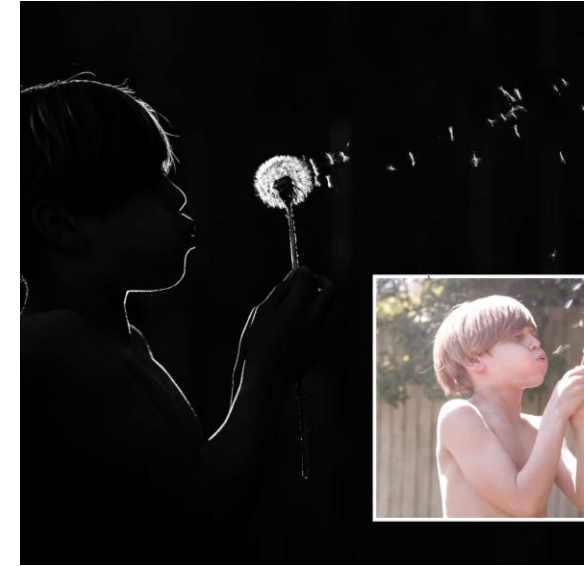
Common Problems (2)



Summary of Flash Photography

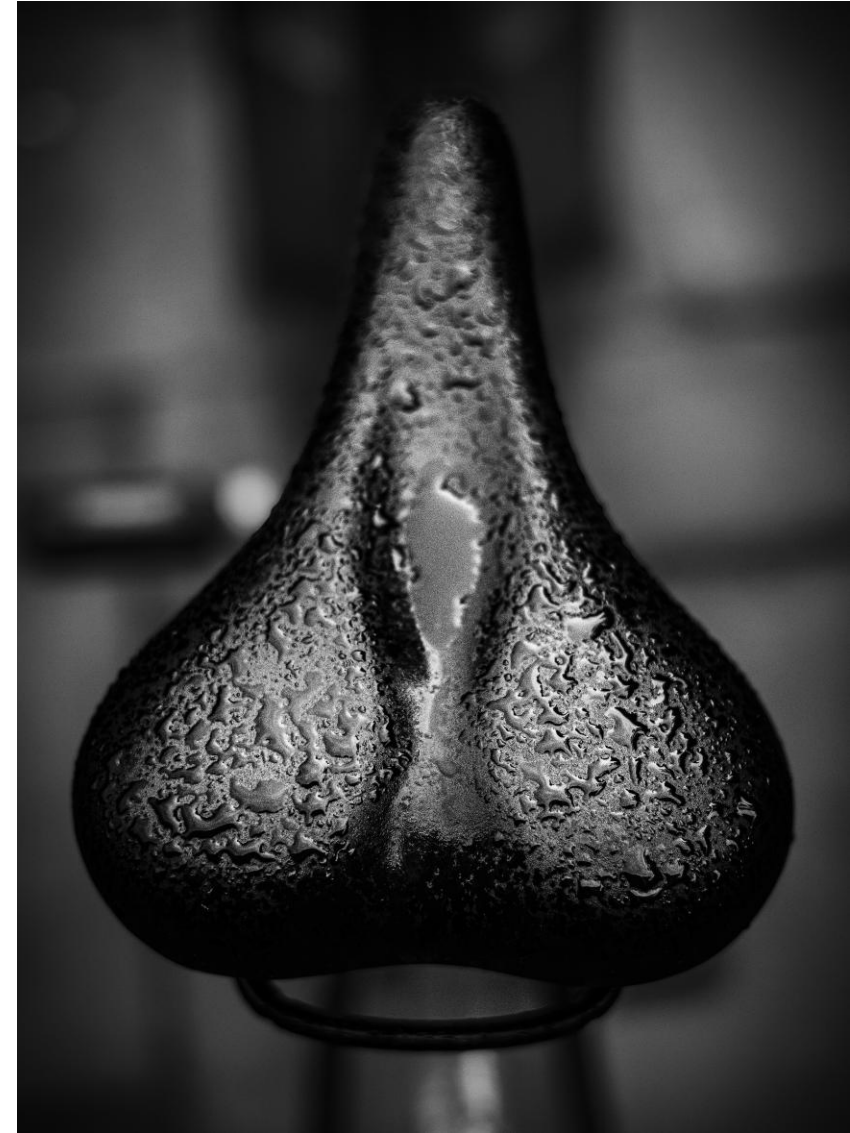
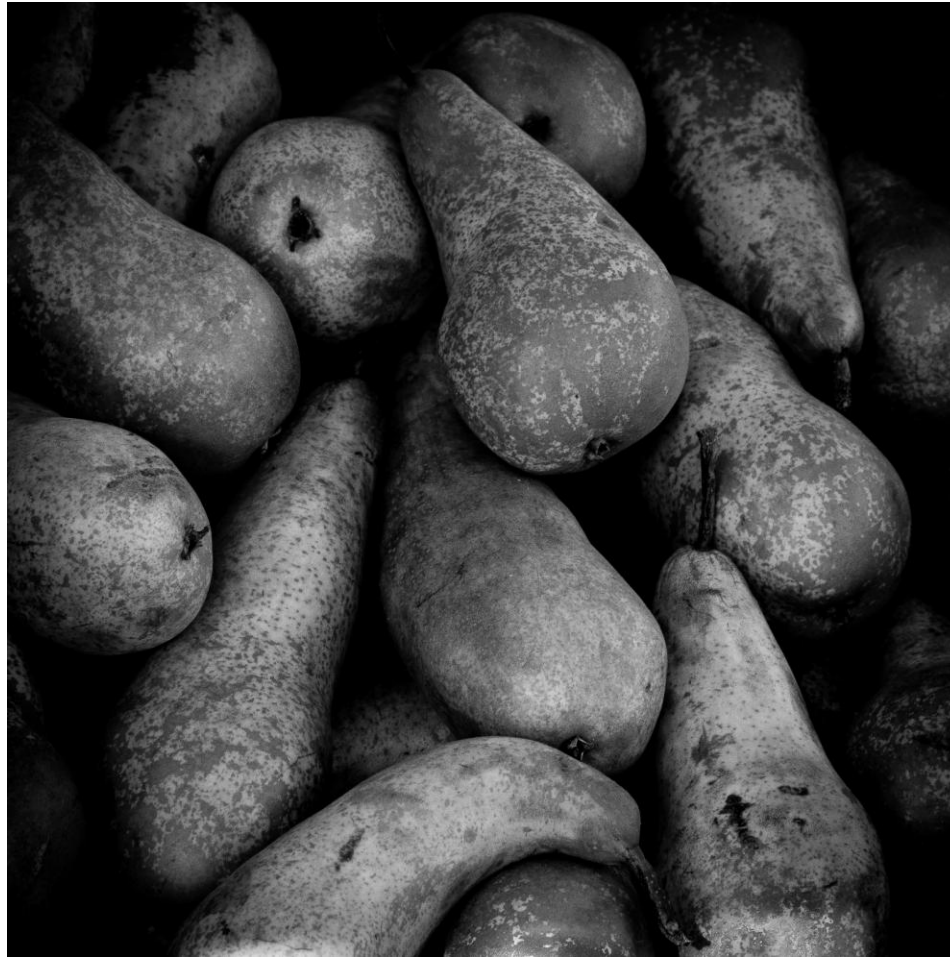
Key Points

- ✓ Control your own light
- ✓ Balance flash and ambient light
- ✓ Use modifiers
- ✓ Practise manual flash
- ✓ Experiment with lighting angles



LOW-KEY PHOTOGRAPHY

"Using darkness as a creative element."



What is Low-Key Photography?

Low-Key photography deliberately uses predominantly dark tones.

- Deep shadows
- Strong contrast
- Minimal highlights
- Dramatic mood
- Selective lighting



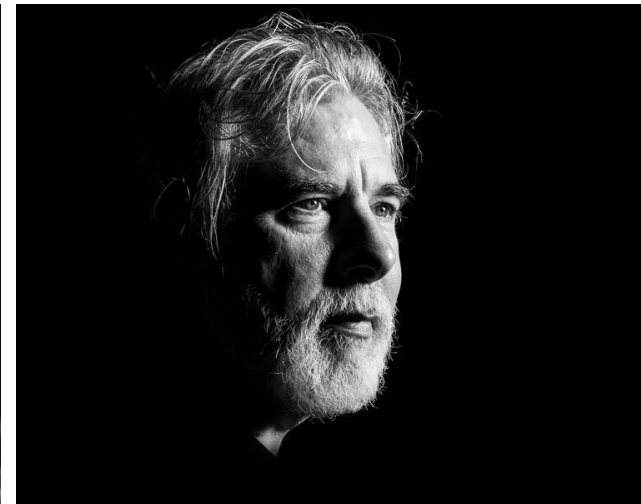
Equipment

Recommended

- Camera
- Fast lens
- Tripod (optional)
- Flash or LED light
- Softbox
- Black background

Useful accessories

- Flags
- Reflectors
- Snoots
- Grids



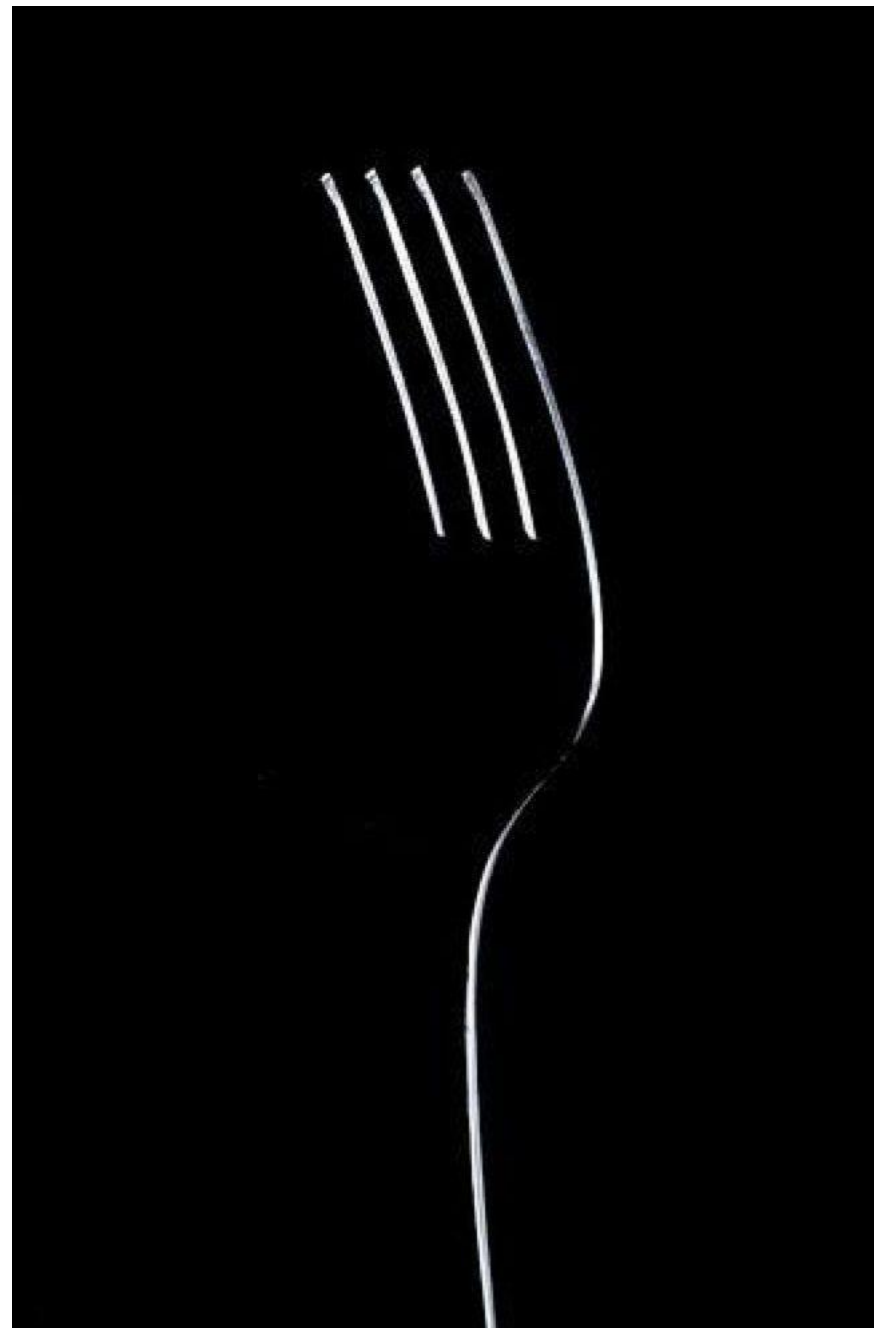
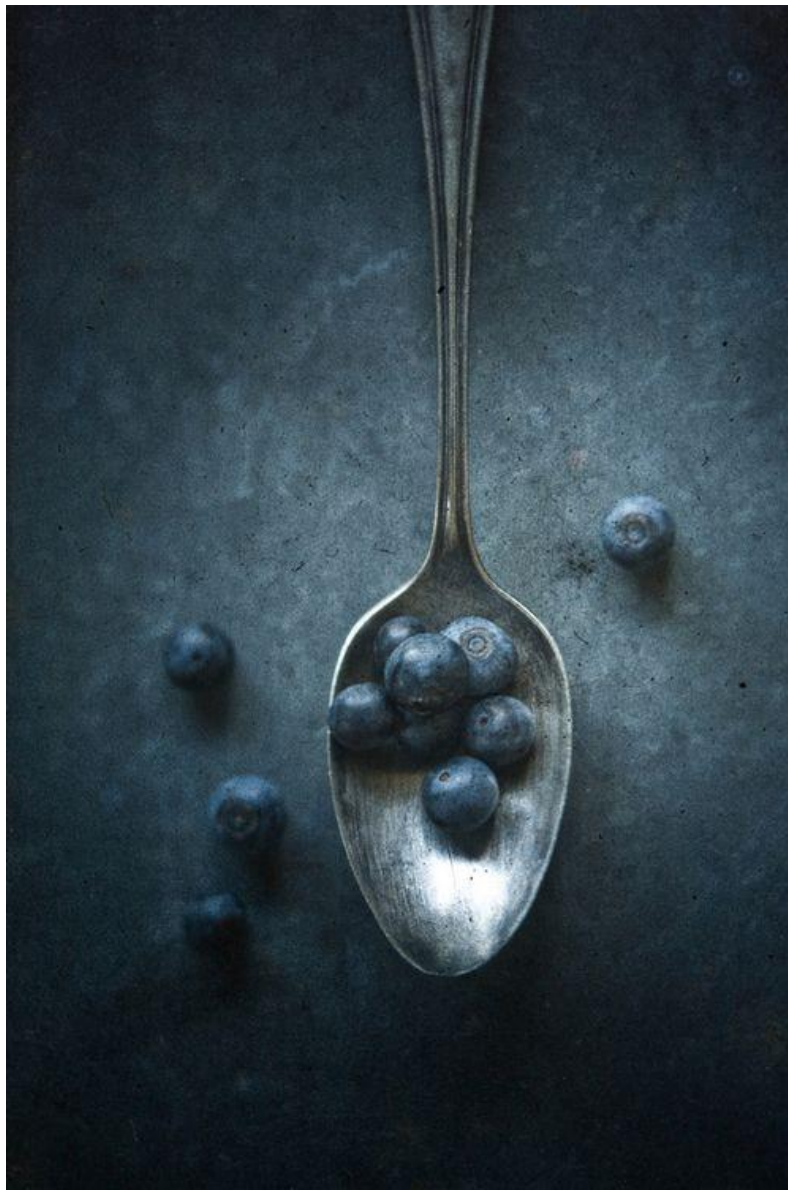
Creative Applications

- Portraits
- Musicians
- Dancers
- Wildlife
- Still Life
- Food
- Fine Art

Image collage.



Creative Applications



Composition & Mood

- Negative space
- Selective highlights
- Eye emphasis
- Texture
- Shape
- Simplicity



Common Problems & Solutions

Problems

- Background too bright
- Loss of subject detail
- Flat lighting
- Image noise

Solutions

- Reduce ambient light
- Control spill
- Lower ISO
- Histogram check
- Directional lighting
- Before and after comparison



Summary of Low-Key Photography

Key Learning Points

- ✓ Darkness is part of the composition
- ✓ Control the light
- ✓ Preserve highlights
- ✓ Simplify backgrounds
- ✓ Create mood and atmosphere



Questions & Discussion

Questions?

"Photography is the art of painting with light—and sometimes with shadow."



Let's Do It!!

