

A Photobook

By Westley Mata



Content

Page 2

Depth

Page 4

Perspective

Page 10

Fine Art

Page 16

Portraits

Page 20

About Me

Depth

Depth is everything. It's what makes the focal point stand out, and it's vital to portray varied depth throughout your photography in order to keep attention and effectively use visual hierarchy.

I learned to use different apertures to achieve varying levels of depth in my own photography. I learned to take photos from shallow, to deep focus with my camera. These photos use different aperture settings, both high and low numbers ranging from f/16 - f/3.5.

These photos are taken around my apartment complex and of a building on my college campus. The repeating patterns and focus came easily. They made for great subjects for aperture examples.

The brick texture is one of my favorite shots. I was able to get the whole wall in focus, which took quite a bit of time and repeated tries.

The tan building is the Spori building on the BYU college campus. It showed me that natural, beautiful colors can be captured in a photo using editing.



Perspective

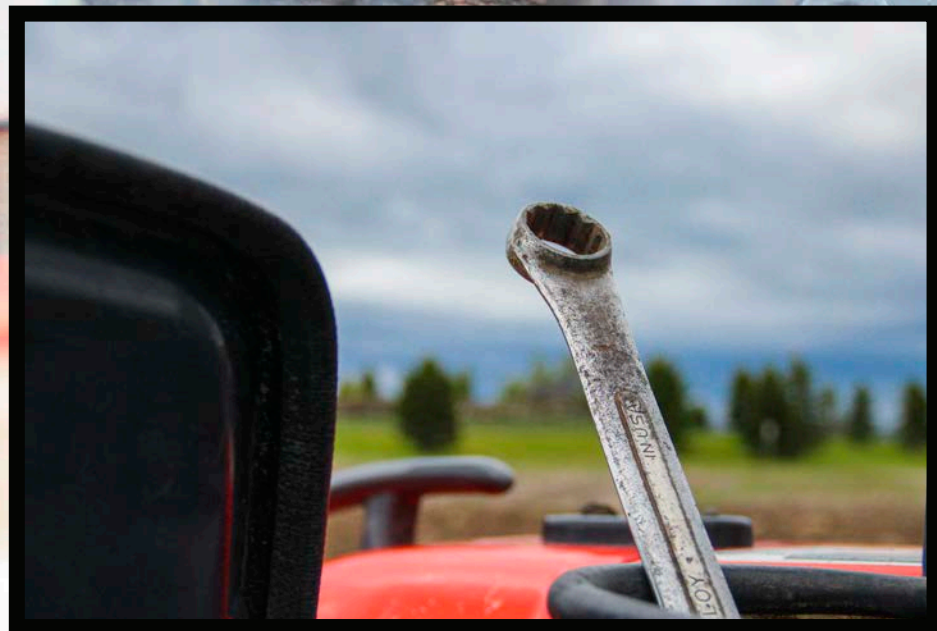
For just one object, there are hundreds, maybe thousands of perspectives to see it from. In order to challenge myself, I shot a tractor from a few different perspectives, changing the composition each time.

I enjoy the landscape shots I got out of it and was able to humanize a shot by getting a barefoot in the soft soil. Nature is so beautiful, and the bright orange/red really made these focal points so easy.

While the sky was mostly overcast, I got a great shot that same day of the sky peeking out from the clouds. I'll make that a bonus photo. The beautiful rolling hill in the background made for such a good backdrop, I couldn't resist taking a few landscape shots.

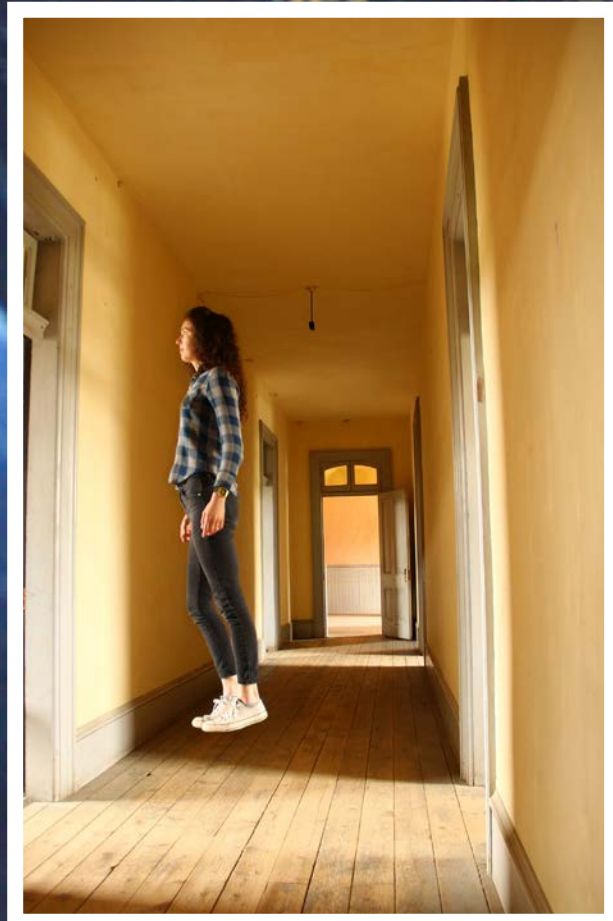
I had to get dirty to get the humanized shot. I used my own foot and twisted my leg in an awkward angle to take the photo from the front of me. I got pretty muddy on this shoot, but it was all worth it as I got to explore various perspectives. I believe that picture brings in a whole different, less mechanical and more biological, feeling to this series mostly made of tractor shots.







Fine Art



Fine art shots are some of my favorite. These shots were mostly taken at Bannack, MT, the only exception being the rose (which was taken afterward). It's a ghost town full of great props and a real Old West vibe. It's a photographer's dream scene. As the props are everywhere, it can be a bit overwhelming at first when looking for an ideal shot.

By practicing at Bannack, my eyes learned to look for good scenes. The biggest part of being a photographer is being able to find natural compositions quickly and to take advantage. It has been difficult to train myself to do this, but here I was surrounded by so many that it made it easier.

I looked at inspiration before starting this photography excursion. I tried to keep my shots simple to make the focal point stand out. I edited the photos afterward with Adobe Bridge, Lightroom, and Photoshop.

I tried to capture a more western aesthetic. Each of the following photos took a bit of effort finding, but I'm extremely satisfied with how they turned out.



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Portraits

Everyone with a phone has done a portrait shot of some kind; be it a selfie, or of their best friend. After learning my camera, I felt equipped to take photos of models. Directing people is another important skill a photographer needs when taking any photos with a human element.

I used speedlights, reflectors, and LED Dimmables, as well as natural light. By creating a triangle between me, my subject, and the light source, I was able to capture some clean, natural looking portraits.

Photos were also taken at Bannack, MT, and BYU-I gardens and each model was a volunteer and hobbyist. They enjoy bringing this ghost town to life and do a killer job at it. I learned to pose them to effectively take photos.





Photo Credit: Emilee Wright

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www.westleymata.wordpress.com/

My name is Westley Mata, and I thank you for looking through my photobook. It took many hours of work and organizing to put it together. I hope you enjoyed seeing my work.

I am a Visual Communication student at Brigham Young University - Idaho hoping to rebrand companies and/or create advertisements to market organizations and their products.

I do graphic design and play/create art with the Adobe products for fun. I use Illustrator, Photoshop, AfterEffects, InDesign, Bridge, Lightroom, and Camera Raw for my personal projects that I do on my spare time to stretch myself and stay updated on the programs.

I have enjoyed learning photography and the Adobe programs associated with photo editing. I look forward to doing more photography work in the future and expanding this skill more.

Thank you once again for looking through my photobook. If you have any questions about my process or equipment, you can contact me with questions, and I'll do my best to answer them.

- Westley Mata

All photography, writing, layout, and design work done by Westley Mata.

