

Tuesday, August 30, 2005

Delta Upsilon Fraternity Composite Finally DONE!

After months of learning and approval delays I printed off two copies of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity's University of Alberta chapter's photo composite for 2004-2005. All photos were shot on location in the basement of the frat house using a black muslin backdrop and two Balcar Concept Z2's connected to a Balcar Concept P4 power supply. Two white Balcar 42" umbrellas were used in conjunction with the Balcar FX60 reflectors. Very simple lighting setup with one light set high up and farther back as key and another near lens axis and stopped down about three and a half stops as fill. "Official" composite with everyone posing seriously. The fun composite where most people have some sort of goofy photo. This was my first composite but hopefully that doesn't show. I guess you can't see much on each anyway.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 06:37

Monday, August 29, 2005

Printing Gamut Mumbo Jumbo

As a connoisseur of mindblowing colour brilliance and accuracy in digital workflows I am the proud owner of a GretagMacbeth Eye-One Pro UVcut and ProfileMaker 5. I use these tools, sometimes in combination with a production raster image processor (RIP) to realize colour accuracy and colour gamut beyond what is available with a manufacturer's standard printer drivers and canned ICC profiles. I recently built profiles for Epson's PremierArt Water Resistant Canvas, Breathing Color's Brilliance I, II, and Chromata White canvases using the Eye-Pro UV/PM5 combination for my Epson 9600 Ultrachrome. I have been extremely happy with Breathing Color's Brilliance I and Brilliance Chromata White canvases and my eyes told me that colours are much more brilliant and contrasty on the Breathing Color canvases than on the PremierArt canvas. However, I wanted to check to be sure that this was the case. Using PM5's gamut viewer I compared several profiles including those above. A three dimensional (L*a*b) representation of three different medias for comparison purposes. The translucent blue is the PremierArt Water Resistant Canvas, grey is Breathing Color Brilliance I, and the red is UNCOATED, non-inkjet specific Fabriano fine art paper, profiled for professional graphic artist and printmaker Rina Chan. Oddly, Breathing Color's canvas which is advertised to have wider gamuts than many other canvases, sometimes with special note to PA's WR Canvas, actually has a noticeably smaller gamut and, at some points, even smaller than the uncoated Fabriano! PAC profiled with gloss black on an Epson 9600. The other two profiled with eboni (Matte) black. Qualitative tests seem to show completely different results. Could be the glare from the PAC. The widest gamut, strangely, came from my Premier Art's Water Resistant Canvas profiled followed closely Bill Atkinson's PA WR Canvas profile and then by Chromata White and then by Brilliance II and then Brilliance I. There were some points at which a high quality fine art paper which came uncoated and not designed for inkjet use actually demonstrated wider gamut than the special canvas with special coatings. If I showed you a series of prints of the same image varying only in substrate printed (and the associated printer colour profile), I'm sure that you'd very easily pick out one of the Breathing Color canvases as having the most vibrant colours, deepest blacks, and highest contrast and most detailed shadows. What's strange is that the plots show a very different picture. My inference is that all of the Breathing Color products profiled were matte finished and the Premier Art canvas was glossy and exhibited glare under most lighting conditions which reduced visual contrast. In short, the Breathing Color substrates look really awesome and much better than the Premier Art canvas even though the Premier Art canvas produces a profile with a wider gamut. I still have some Premier Art Canvas on which I'll print your work for a ridiculously low price. Check out my new large format printing service website. It's ugly right now but it has the information that you need to get accurate colour on a variety of papers in widths of up to 44" and unlimited lengths. For accurate colour in your digital workflow check out GretagMacbeth. I recommend the Eye-one Display and Eye-one Pro line of products for display and printer profiling. If you'd like a demonstration or would like to purchase GretagMacbeth products feel free to contact me as I am currently using some of their products in my workflow and I am also an authorized reseller.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Epson Stylus Pro 9600 at 05:12

Brian Zinchuk Nominated

Brian Zinchuk, the only photojournalist with whom I semi-regularly communicate, was just nominated for three provincial newspaper awards in the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association Better Newspapers Competition: Best News Story - Norma Jean Mooswa kills six at Cochin sentencing Best Hard News Photo - fatal semi accident at Battleford, semi jumps overpass Best Columnist of the Year He also adds that of the twenty four awards available at this level to him and his newspaper, his newspaper, Battlefords News-Optimist was nominated for nine awards and he was a significant contributor in the pieces involved in two of the other awards: Best Front Page and Best Overall Paper. I referred to Brian in a previous entry and he's also commented on it. I'm sorry Brian, you've told me before and you've repeated it . . . which newspaper do you work for again? I did a Google search for your name but it came up in some of the oddest places, the first hit was a link to this blog. Congratulations, Brian. Good luck with the awards. Edited: Added the formal name for the newspaper competition and also the name of his newspaper.

Posted by Klyment Tan in News at 04:54

Balcar AQ Location Lighting Test

This entry is out of chronological order - it should be before the entry with Jessica's shoot with an alleyway photo illuminated by the Balcar AQ Pack self-contained studio lighting system. Anyhow, here's a photo from my first shot with the Balcar AQ Pack. Nikon D2X, 2s, ISO 400, F/8, 17mm, one Iris head stopped down five stops on the Balcar AQ Pack,

focused at 20degrees w/ Balcar LFX 30 12" reflector and area of illumination further reduced with large set of barn doors. Processed in Pixmantec RawShooter Essentials 2005 and scaled and exported in Adobe Photoshop CS2. I don't enjoy having my photo taken but without a proper model I didn't have much a choice. I composed this photo and chose to showcase it in this entry for a number of reasons: it demonstrates how one can have accurate, effective control of lighting anywhere (all lighting, camera gear, a boom stand and a tripod were hauled up to the roof of the studio, up a ladder and through this roof hatch without assistance); it shows that artificial lighting can be achieved without the inconsistencies of using a standard TTL flash and without the harsh and difficult-to-control nature of such a flash; the flash can be used to achieve sharp detail with perfectly white-balanced colour for neutral skintones thus eliminating the need to unnaturally-alter the white balance of the photograph to achieve this neutrality and; I look so damn good in my hat. I am making this Balcar AQ Pack (1200W/s) available for rent with one focusable Iris light head, your choice of Balcar reflector and your choice of umbrella or softbox plus a light stand or boom stand for \$150/day or \$400 per week for the package. The pack allows power adjustment over a six stop range in 1/10th stop increments throughout which the pack holds colour temperature consistent within 1-2% variance of the median. Refreshes to full power in about three seconds and has enough power for about 200-250 full power flashes. In realistic usage I have yet to fully empty the battery even hafter a 350+ flash discharge with ample use of the modeling light and lots of idle time with the pack and fan on.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Lighting at 04:41

Another Edmonton Blog

My brother's uhh . . . female friend's blog. Rather organized-religion-oriented at the moment and may be for a while after but interesting to read nonetheless. Yes, fasting during Ramadhan sucks especially in a muslim country cuz everyone's cranky. I like food. Check out the associated, currently crappy photoblog. She linked to it with that name . . . just repeating it. I hope these Atom feeds are working properly.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Cool Sites at 04:17

Sunday, August 21, 2005

2005.08.14 - Shoot with Jessica

Jessica, a schoolmate from high school and a friend of Leanna, wanted to do some fashion- and glamour-oriented shooting. We scheduled a shoot for a Sunday and arranged to have Maurice as her makeup artist. What you see below is merely a wafer-thin cross section of the output of the 10+ hour (!!!) shoot. We shot both in studio and on location in a back alley just off Rice Howard Way, a few steps from where the photo of Leanna with the green background that's on my business card was shot. Here's a wide angle shot of the lighting setup used to achieve most of the photos that were shot in studio. Two Balcar V-PLB 65's, one on each side about 15 degrees behind the subject and a single silver umbrella for frontal fill. This will likely be my last shoot with my beloved Balcar Concept lighting system. It will now be sent in for upgrading and then sold to Dong. Back alley photo. Ever since I got the Nikon D2X I found myself doing significant amounts of editing of my photographs to achieve anything that I was even remotely happy to show to people. I don't know what's up with this camera or if it's because my values in photographic imaging have changed. Photograph was lit with two Balcar Iris heads attached to a Balcar AQ battery-powered studio pack. 1s exposure at ISO 400 to bring out ambient lighting.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 18:23

2005.07.26 Klondike Days Documentation - Blue Willow Restaurant

The grandson of the owner of Blue Willow Restaurant commissioned me to document their new, used concession trailer. This concession trailer was purchased off of Tony Roma's and is this grandson's pet project. The owner's grandson, Patrick Mah, is a university buddy of mine. He has about another year left in his bilingual Bachelor of Commerce degree since he decided to go on exchange to France and then travel southeast Asia last year. Blue Willow, like many other independent restaurant and food thingies, got shafted this year by the organizers of Klondike Days. They were placed in an area with no real rides, just a couple of carnies and garbage bins. They were also stuck paying the same price per square foot for rent for the ten day event. Image is a composite of about half a dozen other photos. The fireworks display looked awful from this area due to the poor location and the density of the display was very low. D2X tripod mounted with roughly 1/2 to 1s exposure times at ISO 100 and maximum aperture. Two cool carnies. I don't know what game they were operating but they wanted prints of this photo and exchanged a few stuff toys for the prints. Thanks Patrick for handling the exchange.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Events at 18:14

2005.06.22 - Tara Lynn, Campus Eye Center window ad

My friend and father of a former business partner commissioned me to shoot an eye catching scene for a 3.5 x 10' window sign for his store, Campus Eye Center. The store is on street level on the main floor of the Campus Suite Hotel which is located just across the street from the Telus Professional Development Centre on the University of Alberta Campus. This store's window is prime advertising space and it was a good idea to get a sign up in it as there is a lot of pedestrian traffic. The sign is taking a lot longer than usual since optical stores feel it appropriate to consult with the optical sanctioning body to approve verbage for their signs. This sign is going ahead after not having received a response about the verbage for about two months. This photo was selected for use in the window ad. The grass and sky will have to be grown and stretched to accomodate the odd aspect ratio of the window ad. I haven't built the ad yet but we may have to compromise on its size. Hopefully not, though. Model is Tara Lynn. Makeup by Maurice. Shot in the same field I shot Leanna in but this was before any grains started showing up. Just wanted to experiment with some fabrics. Maurice helped with the fabrics to get them to drape better and something really weird happened. According to Maurice, Tara dug her nails into the back of his head and he reacted by pushing her forward, thus creating this image.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 18:05

2005.07.15-17 Grand Prix Edmonton

Jonathan Puckrin's client, On Location Pictures decided to get a booth at a large, international motorsports event. The client's business model is to shoot and print on location for both wallet-sized souvenir identification cards and larger group photos in a mock-up of the grand prix winners' circle with one or two models. My photographer's release prevents me from posting photos from the booth itself but here are some photos taken outside of the booth. As you may have

guessed, shooting in the booth meant no shooting cars. But the entire group was great to work with and I was fine not being able to watch any of the races. I don't know who these two people are but they were nice enough to pose for me for several photos. Looks like fun. =P It was raining pretty heavily on the second day and there was mud everywhere. Our two models, Tiffany (left) and Sarah, hitching a ride with some dude driving a golf cart. On the third day, Jonathan got at least one paddock pass from a press photographer that had done enough shooting for the event. Seemed like the sentiments were fairly similar between many of the press photographers - two days seemed to have been enough for most of them. Anyway, that's my observation and I'm sticking to it so I don't feel bad for not having shot any racing.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Events at 17:53

2005.07.09 Leanna in my neighbor's grain field

I was out with Leanna one Saturday and we decided to take some photos. Actually, we didn't decide to take them that day. Rather, I believe that Leanna WANTED to take some photos and I had to think of something or else we'd be stuck doing tourist photos by prominent land marks or photos in a booth. =P One of the properties neighboring my family's acreage is a large farmer's field. It rotates between being a hay field, canola field, and grain field. I think this year it's barley. Here's one of the photos from the shoot. Shot with Nikon D2X. ISO 100, aperture priority, exposure compensated -0.7EV. 1/4000s, F/2.8. Processed in Adobe Camera RAW 2.4-ish. Grass changed from deep blue-green to yellow to balance the rest of the photo. Sky and grass colour saturation increased and hue/saturation layers were masked off to retain neutral skin tone in subject.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 17:40

Tuesday, August 16. 2005

Recent Events

It's been well over a month since I updated this blog. I've been avoiding the update because Rapid Fire Theatre's page is linking to the main part of my blog and not to specific blog entries about RFT events and I haven't been able to contact the person that I normally talk to about photographic content. But it's time for an update so here are a selection of photos from recent events: A photo from Perugia Salon and Spa's launch of a photography and stage-specific makeup line called "Smashbox". Three female models were selected the day before the shoot and I have no idea where Jarrett came from but he made the shoot a lot easier to do. It was lots of fun. A shot from Derks' first fashion show of summer 2005. It was Grand Prix-themed. Mostly casual stuff . . . I wasn't impressed with the clothing but the lighting was interesting and gave me a good opportunity to get acquainted with the D2X at ISO 800 and above with the 70-200/2.8 VR. A photo from my convocation from the B Comm program at the U of A. The guy to my right is laughing because University president Rod Fraser just asked what I'll be doing for work and I responded by saying I was a pornographer. Dr. Fraser didn't find it quite as funny as I did. Neither did my girlfriend. But she took this photo. A photo of Leanna and her middle sister, Jessica, on the day of Leanna's convocation from the B Sc. program at the U of A. Photo taken in the mini rock garden between the administration building and SUB. There were two weddings during my absence from my blog. One wedding produced mediocre results due to poor lighting conditions and locations the entire day. The other wedding had a large number of very beautiful photos.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Events at 19:16