

Monday, January 28, 2008

2008.01.28: Large Format Digital Scanning Back - first photo

Details to follow.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Equipment at 02:58

2008.01.25

I wander into a library for the first time in three years. I am kind of lost and I mosey about aimlessly for a few minutes. A librarian smiles at me and offers assistance which I respectfully decline. I settle into a muddy footprint-marked chair beside a middle-age homeless man sitting quietly with two backpacks and I eavesdrop upon a group of adolescents grouped in a nearby cluster of chairs who are quizzing each other on various academic topics. One young woman, accompanied by her friend, exits briefly for a cigarette. I've sat for five minutes. The homeless man stumbles back into his chair as he attempts to get up. He smiles at me coyly and this time he succeeds in freeing himself. At least three dozen people have passed by. Men in suits, fathers and daughters, more homeless people and numerous juvenile delinquents mill about without any obvious objective. A few people walk by briskly, purposefully gabbing on their cell phones. What am I doing here? I found my way to this library with plans to spend some time writing content for the relaunch of my printing website, PrintHuge.com which my neighbors and friends, 350 Designs, have been working on for the last little while. However, I find myself observing these alien surroundings and reminiscing of the years I spent in libraries from middle school through sentence to a post-secondary institution. In a sense little has changed - in junior high I spent a lot of time in the library reading materials unrelated to my coursework. In high school, I was often found by our librarian covertly eating my lunch in a library corner. And in university, most of my peers remembered following a stream of drool to my comatose body as I napped in a chair in the middle of the Winspear Library.

08.01.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Personal at 00:37

Saturday, January 26, 2008

2008.01.25: Welcome?

Indeed. Thank you to the artists who supported me in my decision to make this investment. Supporting hardware for a new BetterLight digital scanning back designed for use in a 4x5 view camera. Horseman LE, lenses, high CRI flickerfree fluorescent lighting, and additional wooden support hardware is still on its way.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Equipment at 02:32

Saturday, January 19, 2008

2007.10.24: Bridal Fantasy Magazine 2008 photos that didn't make it

Kasia (left) and Julie of Deja Vu Modeling captured with a Phase One P20, Rollei 6008 AF, Schneider AF Xenotar 80/2.8 PQS HFT. A Bowens QuadX 3000 pack driving two Quad heads, one boomed above and camera left with a Calumet Illuma Large soft box and an Illuma Small from the same part of the set but below the first soft box. Reflector front, camera right. Lower (and more accurate) contrast in a colour managed viewing environment. Hair and makeup by Avanti. Styling by Mandy Bilous and Gay Derk. Shoot assistant: Nick Croken.

Jana as photographed by Brandon White. Brandon's name was incorrectly spelled as "Brendan" even though it was submitted with the correct spelling. Another photo that he shot of Jana was a section title photo in the magazine. Thank you to both of you for the time and expertise you contributed on this day. Captured with the Fujifilm S5 Pro through the Nikon 17-55/2.8. Lighting provided by a single Bowens QuadX 3000 pack with a Quad head and a Calumet Illuma Small with a Lighttools 40degree Soft Egg Crate as the only frontal light. The Soft Egg Crate allowed us to maintain contrast even in the narrow stairway. Background lighting provided by a tightly spot-gridded Quad head shuttered with barndoors pumping light into an adjacent wall to illuminate the wood paneling behind Jana.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 01:54

2008.01.18: Studio Update

Lots of exciting new stuff is on its way:350 Designs is working on a brand new website for my large format, colour managed print service, PrintHuge.com. This new site will replace the embarrassment that I hacked together at around 3am one night three years ago.I've commissioned the construction of a 144 megapixel BetterLight true colour large scanning back. It should be on its way to Edmonton via FedEx Priority early next week.I'm ordering some high CRI dimmable fluorescent light banks from Flolight for the new fine art reproduction system and to add a new dimension to my lighting arsenal: continuous soft light.My first F-type paper is on it's way: Moab's Colorado Fiber Satine. Ordered through Vistek . . . hopefully it won't take too long to arrive.I may have had a hand in setting a new record for the world's youngest large format printer owner/operator by selling a fifteen year old local artist an Epson 9880 44" wide pigment inkjet printer.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Equipment at 00:57

2008.01.13: Bridal Fantasy Calgary 2008

Photos from my weekend. Photos from Bridal Fantasy Calgary 2008. See you at Bridal Fantasy Edmonton on the 20th of January. Fashion show choreographed by the one and only John Chwyl.All photos processed in Phase One Capture One 4. I love the software but I'm not impressed with Phase One's licensing strategy for its next generation RAW workflow software. "Get More from RAW" . . . but not yet if you shoot with the D300 and are waiting for an upgrade to Capture One Pro 3.7.x.I think I slipped onto the shutter release and took this shot. ISO 1600 @ F/2 on the D300 and 135/2 DC Nikkor.Yessss . . . little childre(ss)s . . .Shot of the finale. D300 and likely with the 135/2 Defocus Control Nikkor held with right hand and balanced on outside of left elbow anchored by D2X and Sigma 30/1.4 planted into hip.

Capture One 4 is the latest version of Phase One's Capture One LE software. It's a scale-down of Phase One's premier RAW workflow solution, Capture One Pro. Development has stopped for Capture One Pro 3.7.x, the software that has been at the core of my photographic business for the past three years. That also means that newly released cameras will not be supported by this software. Users of Capture One Pro are to wait for Capture One 5 which is the next generation of Capture One Pro. Unfortunately, as C1 4 isn't an upgrade to Capture One Pro, you can't upgrade Capture One Pro as an interim solution while waiting for the release of Capture One 5. That means no Nikon D300, D3, Canon 40D, 1D and 1Ds MKIII support for the version of the software with Color Editor and the ability to generate multiple

versions of the same RAW in a single processing pass. I'm using the trial and hoping that C1 5 will be out before it expires. I still have three weeks left on the trial. Dong is nearly out of his trial. Looking past the temporary workflow drawback, the Nikon D300 has been a joy to use. Snappy and accurate autofocus, excellent battery life even from the standard battery thus making it much lighter to work with in hand (if you can live without a vertical grip), usable ISO 3200, and, in the case of more staged shooting, Live View and contrast-based autofocus off of the sensor have not only impressed clients but have improved my photography. At around \$1850 plus GST at Vistek, short of a built in vertical grip, there's nothing about this camera that doesn't ooze "pro".

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 00:29

Friday, January 4, 2008

2008.01.04: Dream Shoot Wishlist

After shooting everything on this list I could probably lose my right hand and my eyes and die reasonably content. So, celebrities, if you would be so kind as to indulge me:Scarlett Johansson in lingerieAnthony Hopkins in an environmental headshotAngelina Jolie in an implied nude with wild felines in AfricaDavid Beckham in an unlikely formal wear shootAria Giovanni nude in a specific spa in a hotel in Penang, MalaysiaJon StewartJennifer Connelly's eyesI shall add to this list as concepts come to me.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Photography at 05:41