Portrait Photo Shoot - Narrative Portraiture Project

You will demonstrate your ability to create a portrait of another person that goes beyond the literal physical representation of a person and into the more conceptual portrait that reveals something human about your subject and captures the essence or personality of the person. You will also be shooting using natural light and settings.

Narrative portraiture tells a story about the subject. It reveals insight into their character, personality, and soul. You will create 2 narrative portraits:

1) Subject Only/Minimal Background: Narrative portraiture may focus solely on the subject or may use environmental and contextual details to reveal the subject’s inner qualities.

By focusing on the subject and omitting a contextual background, the photographer must rely on and use facial expressions, body language, lighting, viewpoint and composition to reveal the subject’s inner qualities.

2) Environment Portrait: Shooting your subject on location or in an environment can be very helpful in revealing insight into the subject. You may choose to shoot the subject where they live, work, play, a location they feel comfortable in, or a location they love or find inspiration in. You may also choose to have the subject use props. Once again pay attention to lighting, viewpoint and composition. You may shoot indoors or outdoors.

Requirements:

1. Find a client or clients who will be your subject.
2. Turn in 1 narrative portrait that is “subject only” that reveals insight into the character of the subject by using facial expressions, body language, clothing, etc. Indoor or outdoors, but background is minimal to non-existent. Include 3 shots of the same subject: Wide, Mid (3/4 shot), and detail (fill the frame).
3. Turn in 1 narrative portrait that is “environmental.” Use a specific location or environment, as well as props, costumes, etc. to capture the subject’s personality. Include 3 shots of the same subject: Wide, Mid (3/4 shot), and detail (fill the frame).

\*\*You will turn in 6 photographs in total

1. You must demonstrate at least 2 techniques from your list of 20 Portrait Tips. Refer to your sketchbook.
2. Demonstrate advanced photographic technical skill: in focus, appropriate exposure triangle, composition.
3. Demonstrate creative and advanced use of lighting (indoor or outdoor) and viewpoint and composition.

Reminders/Tips:

* The narrative portrait should tell a story and reveal personal qualities about the subject in a truthful and candid manner.
* You do not want the portrait to look staged or forced. The subject should look “natural” and that they belong in the environment.
* You may use the same subject for each portrait, or use 2 different subjects.
* You may shoot indoors or outdoors. Use light to your advantage.
* You may use Photoshop to edit.
* Consider using interesting background effects to frame the subject: bokeh, blurred movement in the background, slow sync flash, panning, shallow depth of field, play with shadows, etc.
* Vary your camera mode: manual, Shutter priority, Aperture Priority
* Use a minimum of 2 tips from your list of 20 Portrait Tips