

The Classroom Collection

Aesthetics of Exposure

“The camera basically is a license to explore”

- Jerry Uelsmann

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Aesthetics of Exposure



Exposure is the amount of light that reaches the camera's sensor.

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Aesthetics of Exposure



-3

-2

-1

Normal

+1

+2

+3

Technically exposure determines how light or dark an image is captured.

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Aesthetics of Exposure



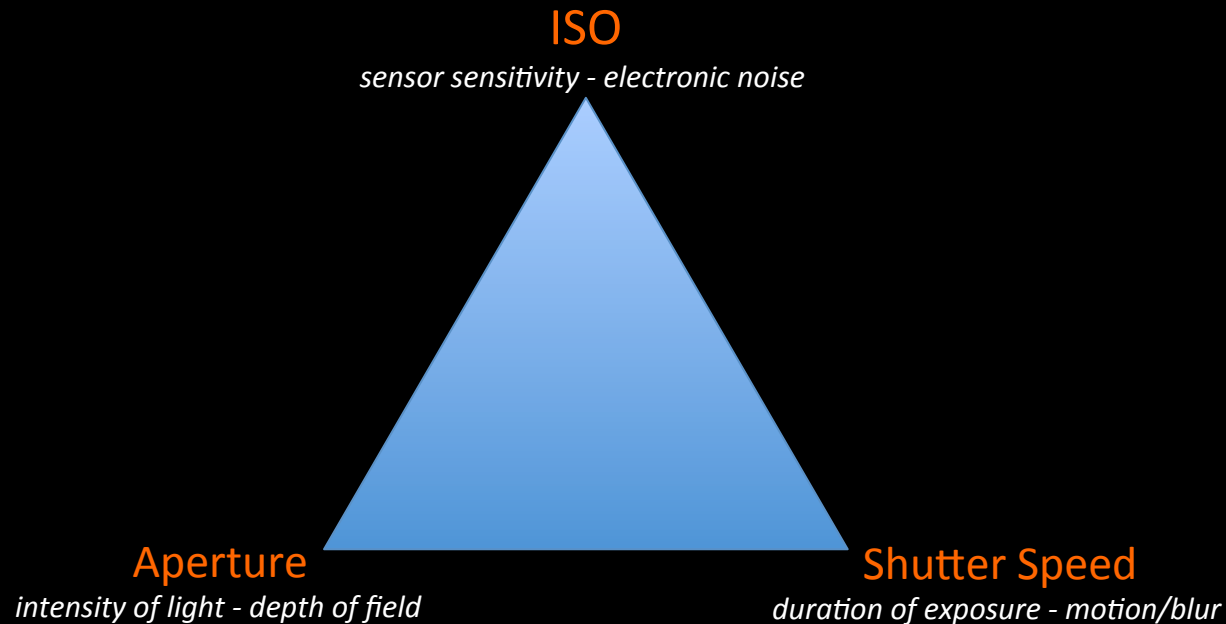
8 seconds @ f/22 ISO 100

Beyond just achieving the correct image density the controls of exposure can have a major aesthetic influence on your final image.

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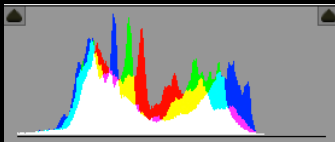
Exposure is solely controlled by the shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. **Making creative decisions** on what aperture, shutter speed, and ISO to use is necessary before firing your shutter.

Aesthetics of Exposure



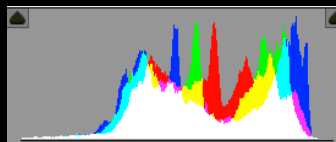
400 11 ISO 100

Meter indicates -1 stop



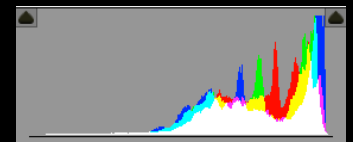
200 11 ISO 100

Meter indicated exposure



100 11 ISO 100

Meter indicates +1 stop



Understanding the tools available for calculating and interpreting exposure is essential.

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1/50 sec @ f/4.5 ISO 3200

Selecting an ISO of 3200 allowed for a shutter speed of 1/50 sec. freezing most subject movement in the low light environment.

Aesthetics of Exposure



1/400 sec @ f/2.8 ISO 100

Selecting an aperture of $f/2.8$ reduces the depth of field, focusing the viewer's attention on the area of sharpness within the scene.

Aesthetics of Exposure



Your in-camera meter, histogram, and camera's blinking highlight warning are very useful tools when calculating exposures.

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1/1250 @ f/2.8 ISO 100

Selecting an aperture of f/2.8 when calculating the exposure allows for the separation of the subject from the background.

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1/400 @ f8 ISO 100

In difficult light metering situations applying the “Sunny 16 rule” can be helpful.

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1/125 @ f/5.6 100 ISO

Understanding exposure equivalents and the tradeoffs of each equivalent will assist in both technical and aesthetic decisions.

Equivalents: **1/500 @ f2.8 = 1/250 @ f/4 = 1/125 @ f/5.6 = 1/60 @ f/8**

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1/25 sec @ f/5 ISO 3200

Selecting a shutter speed of 1/25 sec. allowed for both subject blur and background blur while panning.

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1/125 @ f/9 100 ISO

Balancing subject blur with depth of field was necessary in calculating the correct exposure combination.

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1/640 @ f/3.5 ISO 100

Selecting an aperture of f/3.5 when calculating the exposure allowed for the shallow depth of field when focusing on the foreground.

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1/320 @ f/11 ISO 100

Setting the camera to aperture priority automatically calculates the exposure based upon the selected aperture.

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1/800 @ f/4 ISO 100

Aperture priority is very useful when controlling depth of field.

Aesthetics of Exposure



1/1000 @ f/4 ISO 100

Setting the camera to aperture priority automatically calculates the correct exposure based upon the selected aperture.

Aesthetics of Exposure



1/500 @ f/7.1 ISO 100

Setting the camera to shutter speed priority automatically calculates the exposure based upon the selected shutter speed.

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1/200 @ f/8 ISO 100

When photographing architecture depth of field is a primary consideration when calculating exposure.

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1/800 @ f/2.8 ISO 100

A tilt shift lens used wide open allows for very selective focus control.

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1/50 @ f/2.8 ISO 400

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Aesthetics of Exposure

Review – Exposure

Exposure in photography is the amount of light that reaches the camera's sensor.

Aperture priority calculates exposure based upon selected aperture.

Shutter speed priority calculates exposure based upon selected shutter speed.

Exposure equivalents are reciprocal exposures resulting in identical image density.

“Sunny 16 rule” method of calculating exposure without a light meter.

Aesthetics of Exposure

Vocabulary Study Words

Exposure

Reciprocal exposure

“Sunny 16 rule”

Metering

Aperture

Shutter Speed

ISO

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Content created by Christopher Broughton

Christopher is a faculty member at Brooks Institute teaching courses in both the MFA and BFA Professional Photography program specializing in the History of Photography, Optics in Fine Art, Digital Photography and the Zone System. More of his work can be viewed at www.christopherbroughton.com

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5301 N. Ventura Avenue, Ventura, CA 888.276.4999