Fixing Flawed Photos

From trash to treasure

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Rules of engagement

Boundaries, limitations, and ethics.

- All changes shown are possible in just Camera Raw.
- Or most other photo-editing programs.
- Would not disqualify from RMOWP competition.
- Only 5 minutes per example.
- Will not name the source. You may name yourself.

Three phases:

Rescue
Enhance
Vary

Rescue

Repair whatever bothers you most about the image.

- Tilted horizon.
- Blown-out highlights or murky shadows.
- Excessive noise.
- Too dark or too light.
- Flat tonal range.
- Sensor dust.
- Color cast.

- Soft focus.
- Converging verticals.
- Dull colors.
- Wrong shape for purpose.
- Chromatic aberration
- _____
- _____
- _____

Enhance

Clarify the primary subject and direct attention to it.

- Position the subject.
- Remove distractions.
- Subdue distractions.
- Reveal subtleties.
- Tune colors.
- Emphasize textures.
- Add depth cues.
- Reinforce leading lines.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Vary

Derive even more excellent images.

- Black and white.
- Duotone.
- High-key and low-key.
- Overall shape:
  - Portrait
  - Landscape
  - Diagonal
  - Cover
- Bend color.

- Subsections.
- Style: Gritty, Avant-Garde, Ethereal, etc.
- Painting
- For other audiences.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Get it right in camera

~~= produce the final image right out of the camera.~~

= capture what you need to create the best possible image.

In the field, shoot to edit.

Get right what's hard to edit	Compromise what you can edit.

• Basic composition.
  – Inclusion.
  – No mergers.
• Overall sharpness.
• Depth of focus.
• Complete tonal range.
  – No blown highlights.
	• Color balance.
	• Noise, within reason.
	• Exposure +/- 1 stop.
	• Minor distractions.
	• Sensor dust.

Technical aspects

Use the technology to get the most editable image.

Equipment

- Better sensor:
  - More pixels.
  - Wider dynamic range.
- Best quality lenses.
  - Pro-level lenses.
  - Primes, not zooms.
- Wider-angle lenses.
- Sturdy tripod.

Settings

- RAW, 14-bit.
- Set shutter speed to freeze motion.
- Set aperture for DoF.
- Set ISO for dynamic range, not just noise.
- Set white balance to auto or whatever.

Tools

Pick editing software to suit your goals and geekiness.

Lightroom by Adobe

Photoshop CC by Adobe

Photoshop Elements by Adobe } **Includes Camera Raw**

Photos by Apple

GIMP (Gnu Image Manipulation Program)

Picasa by Google

Learn your tools

Remember, it's not the tool but how you use it.

Online resources

- Lynda.com
- KelbyOne.com
- YouTube: search "How to _____ with <tool>"
- Web site of the tool vendor.

Books

1. amazon.com
2. Search books: <tool>

Classroom instruction

- Local community college, leisure learning, photo club, etc.
- Search: "learning <tool> in <city>"

If in doubt …

take the shot!

Someone may love it.

If you don't like your photo …

don't delete it

**Rescue.
Enhance.
Vary.**

Repeat
as
needed.

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