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HDR Photography

"HDR" stands for ***High Dynamic Range***

Dynamic Range – The difference between, or ratio of, the lightest and darkest elements of an image.

Our Eyes can see many levels of light and can discern far more detail in both the darkest and brightest parts of a scene than a camera can.

High Dynamic Range – HDR images represent more accurately the wide range of intensity levels found in real scenes ranging from direct sunlight to faint starlight.

HDR is a Post-Processing Task consisting of ***combining multiple, varied exposures of the same scene, and adjusting contrast parameters*** ... all done in software.

HDR can also be accomplished with one RAW image, but with less flexibility.

There are two components to HDR Photography: the Camera technique, and the Software.

The Camera – Capturing an HDR Image

1. Use a D-SLR or high-end point-and-shoot that allows for RAW images.

2. Shoot ***RAW*** if possible.

3. Use the ***Auto Bracketing*** feature. Not required, but desirable.

4. A **Tripod** is a must.

5. Use a **Remote Shutter Release** or self-timer to reduce vibration from press of shutter release button.

6. Take ***3 to 9 bracketed images*** depending on the amount of contrast in the scene. Use a Δ of 1 to 2 stops per bracketed image.

7. Use ***Aperture Priority Mode*** to keep the aperture constant and the shutter speed variable. This keeps the depth-of-field constant.

8. Use the proper ***White Balance***

9. Set camera to ***lowest useable ISO***.

10. Manual Focus is preferable so there is no danger of focus shift.

11. Avoid scenes with movement

12. It's helpful to mark the start and end of a bracketed set by taking a picture of your hand before and after the set.

THE SOFTWARE

Adobe Photoshop CS2, CS3, CS4 not required to do HDR Photography! (but good for refining)

PhotoMatix Pro by HDRSoft ***(www.HDRsoft.com)***
(Standalone application plus plug-ins for Photoshop *Lightroom* and *Aperture*) Mac (Intel) and Windows

Topaz Adjust by Topaz Labs (www.TopazLabs.com)

Check Web sites to confirm compatibility with YOUR SYSTEM! Free Trials available!

HDR RESOURCES

www.StuckInCustoms.com

www.HDRSpotting.com

www.flickriver.com/photos/flyingpanther/

VISIT the EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY at www.EasternState.org

NOTES

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