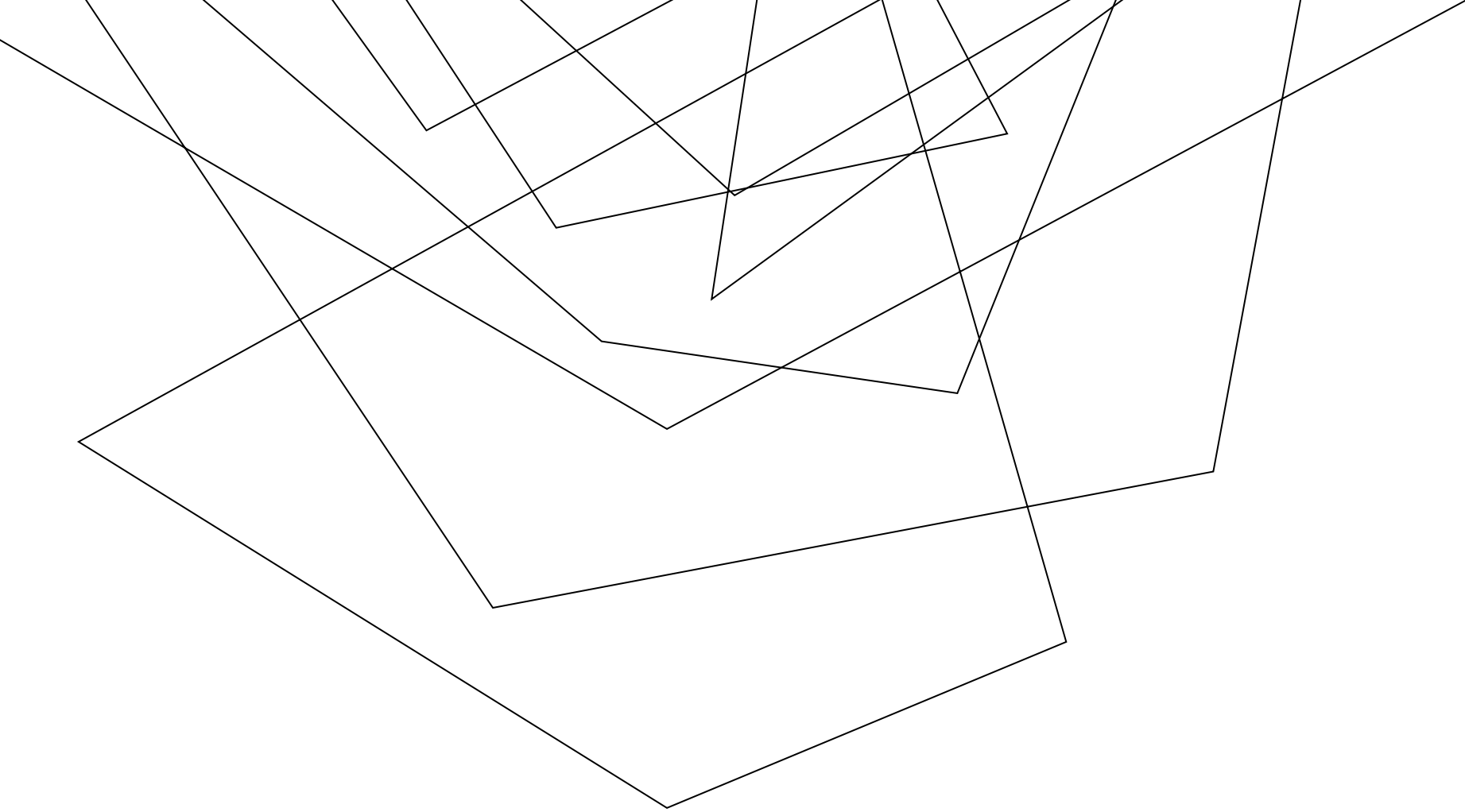




LIGHT WORK

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AGENDA

Introduction

Learned Techniques

Image analysis

Areas of growth

Summary

INTRODUCTION

Lighting is one of the most important elements of photography, and it is particularly crucial for portrait photography. Proper lighting can greatly enhance the visual appeal of a portrait and convey the desired mood, emotion, and message.

PRIMARY GOALS

Natural Lighting

Ambient Lighting

Studio Lighting

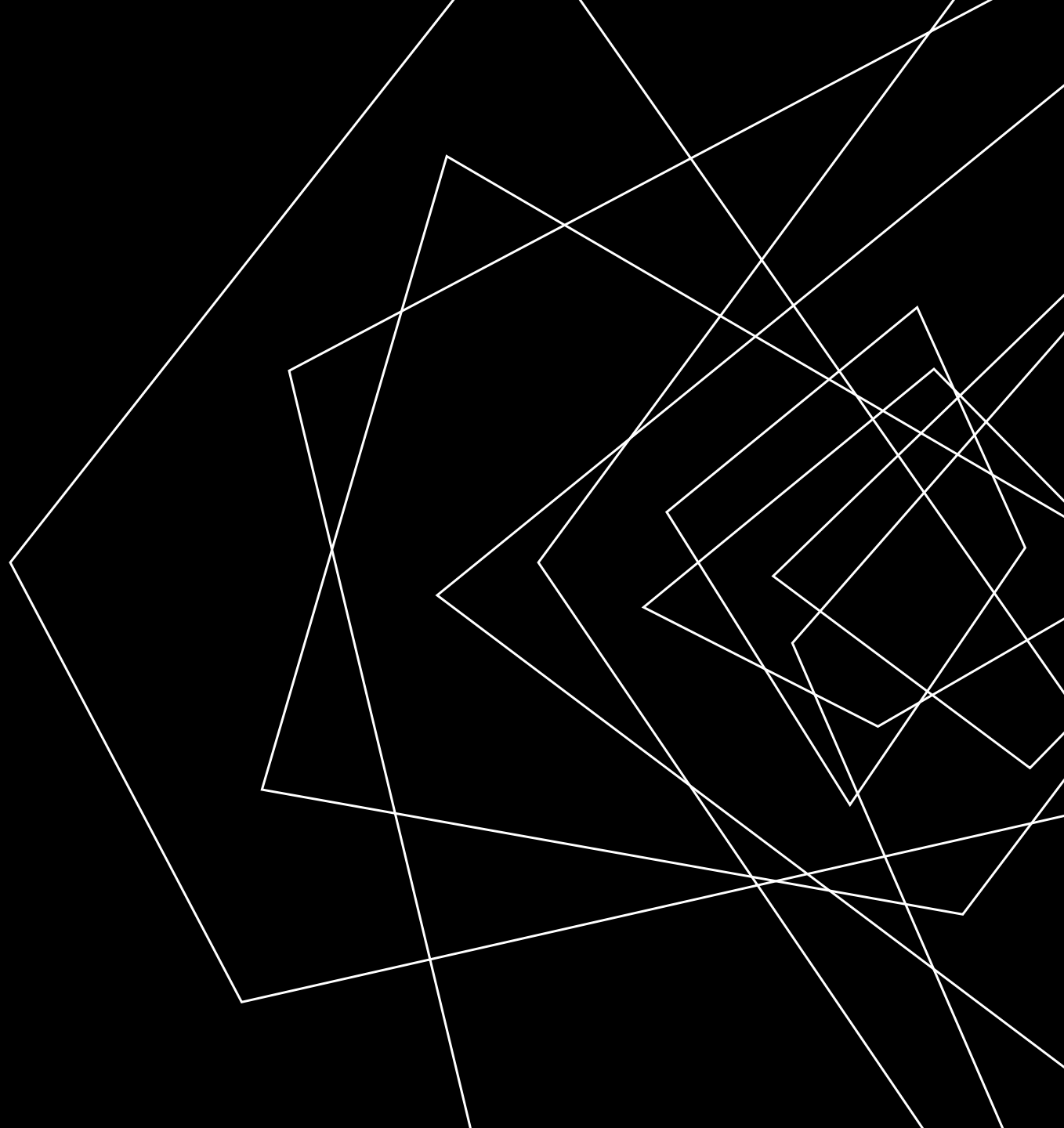
Off-camera Flash

Artificial lighting

Back Lighting

Hard Lighting

Soft Lighting



Natural Lighting

————— This refers to using the available light in a scene, such as sunlight or moonlight. Natural lighting can be used to create a sense of realism or to capture the beauty of the natural world.

Studio Lighting

————— This is where artificial lights are used to illuminate a subject in a controlled setting, such as a studio. Studio lighting can be used to create a wide range of moods and atmospheres, from dramatic and high-contrast to soft and natural-looking.

Soft Lighting

————— This is when the light is diffused and creates soft, even shadows. It is often used for a more natural and subtle effect.

Hard Lighting

————— This is when the light is harsh and creates strong shadows on the subject, it is often used for dramatic effect.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHTING A PORTRAIT OR PHOTOGRAPH CORRECTLY IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Lighting is one of the most important elements of photography, and it is particularly crucial for portrait photography. Proper lighting can greatly enhance the visual appeal of a portrait and convey the desired mood, emotion and message.

- **Mood and emotion:** Lighting can greatly affect the mood and emotion conveyed in a portrait. For example, soft, diffused lighting can create a sense of warmth and intimacy, while hard, dramatic lighting can create a sense of tension or drama.
- **Flattering the subject:** Lighting can be used to enhance the subject's features, by highlighting their best angles and minimizing any flaws. For example, using a Rembrandt lighting can give a sense of depth to the portrait and accentuate the subject's cheekbones and jawline.
- **Setting the stage:** Lighting can be used to create a sense of place and time in a portrait. For example, using natural lighting can convey a sense of realism, while using artificial lighting can create a sense of fantasy or dreamlike quality.
- **Providing contrast:** Lighting can be used to create contrast and depth in a portrait. Shadows and highlights can be used to create a sense of dimension and depth in an image.

REMBRANDT LIGHTING TECHNIQUE

Rembrandt lighting is a type of lighting technique that is named after the famous Dutch painter, Rembrandt van Rijn, who frequently used this lighting style in his portraits.

Rembrandt lighting is characterized by a triangle of light on the subject's face, typically just below the eye on the cheek. The triangle is created by the interplay of the key light, a fill light, and the shadow cast by the subject's nose. The key light is usually placed at a 45-degree angle to the subject and slightly above their eye level, and the fill light is placed on the opposite side of the subject to the key light, but at a lower intensity. The shadow cast by the nose creates the third point of the triangle.

This type of lighting can create a sense of depth and dimension in the portrait, and can be used to accentuate the subject's cheekbones, jawline, and eyes. It also creates a sense of movement and dynamic in the portrait by creating shadows and highlights on the face.

Rembrandt lighting can be used in any type of photography but is very effective in portrait photography. It can be used to create a sense of drama, intensity, and mystery in a portrait, but it can also be used to create a more natural and subtle effect.

It's great to use on a variety of skin tones, and it can be adjusted to suit the subject's face and the mood of the portrait.

REMBRANDT WITH SOFTBOX LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Rembrandt lighting can be achieved using a softbox, which is a type of light modifier that diffuses and softens the light coming from a flash or continuous light source.

To achieve Rembrandt lighting using a softbox, you would typically place the softbox at a 45-degree angle to the subject, and slightly above eye level, just like with the traditional technique. The softbox can be adjusted to create the desired triangle of light, depending on the subject's face shape and the mood of the portrait.

The use of a softbox can create a more natural and subtle effect compared to the hard light created by a traditional light source. Softboxes are also great at creating a flattering light that can help reduce harsh shadows, minimize wrinkles and blemishes, and create a more even illumination of the subject.

The softbox can be adjusted in terms of size and distance to the subject in order to control the intensity and the spread of light. The closer the softbox to the subject, the more intense the light will be, and vice versa.

REMBRANDT WITH HONEYCOMB LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Rembrandt lighting can also be achieved using a honeycomb grid, which is a type of light modifier that attaches to the front of a flash or continuous light source.

A honeycomb grid is essentially a grid of thin metal or plastic bars that directs and shapes the light in a very controlled way.

To achieve Rembrandt lighting using a honeycomb grid, you would typically place the light at a 45-degree angle to the subject, and slightly above eye level, just like with the traditional technique.

The use of a honeycomb grid can create a more focused and directional light than a softbox, while still maintaining a level of softness and diffusion. The grid helps to control the spread of light and focus it on the subject, which can create a sense of depth and dimension in the portrait, and also can be used to add drama and mood to the picture.

REMBRANDT THROUGH BROLLY LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Rembrandt lighting can also be achieved using a Brolly, which is a type of light modifier that attaches to the front of a flash or continuous light source.

Achieving Rembrandt lighting with a brolly (umbrella) light modifier is relatively easy. The brolly is placed to one side of the subject, at a 45-degree angle, and slightly above them. The light from the brolly should be directed towards the subject's face, creating a triangular shape of light on the cheek and jaw on the shadow side of the face.

Using a brolly light modifier to achieve Rembrandt lighting will create a softer and more diffused light than a hard light source such as a bare bulb or a reflector. This can create a more natural-looking and pleasing image, with the shadows being less harsh and the highlights being less intense. Additionally, the light will spread more evenly across the subject's face, providing a more balanced exposure and reducing the risk of over-exposing or under-exposing certain areas of the face.

REMBRANDT SHORT LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Achieving Rembrandt lighting with a short lighting set-up is similar to using a brolly light modifier. The main light source is placed to the side of the subject, at a 45-degree angle, and slightly above them. The side of the face towards the camera is in shadow, while the side facing the light source is illuminated, creating a triangular shape of light on the cheek and jaw on the shadow side of the face.

Using a short lighting set-up to achieve Rembrandt lighting will create a more dramatic, moody, or sculptural image, as the shadows and highlights will be more pronounced than if a diffused light source was used. This can create a more striking image, with the shadows being more defined and the highlights being more intense. Additionally, the light will be less evenly spread across the subject's face, which can create a more dynamic image.

The effect of Rembrandt lighting on a photograph when achieved with a short lighting set-up will be similar to when achieved with a brolly light modifier. It will create a sense of depth and dimension, highlighting the texture and shape of the subject's face, adding a sense of drama and mood to the photograph by creating contrast between the lit and shadowed areas of the face, and flattering the subject by minimizing the appearance of any facial features they may consider as flaws. The main difference will be the contrast of the image which will be more pronounced with short lighting set up.

SPLIT LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Split lighting is a lighting technique where the main light source is placed directly in front of the subject, but only one side of the face is illuminated. The other side of the face is in complete shadow. This creates a strong contrast between the lit and shadowed areas of the face, and can be used to create a dramatic or moody image.

Using a split lighting technique will create a very striking and dramatic portrait photograph, with the shadows and highlights being very pronounced. The side of the face that is illuminated will be well-lit and detailed, while the shadowed side will be dark and mysterious. This can create a sense of tension and drama in the image, and can be used to convey a specific mood or emotion. Additionally, split lighting can be used to create a sense of depth and dimension, and can be used to flatter the subject by minimizing the appearance of any facial features they may consider as flaws.

However, it is important to note that split lighting is not suitable for every subject or situation, as it can create an unbalanced image and can make the subject look uneven or lopsided. It's also important to consider the subject's features and the message you want to convey with the photograph before deciding to use the split lighting technique.

SPLIT/SHORT LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Split lighting and short lighting are slightly different techniques, but they can be combined to create a specific effect on a portrait photograph.

When using a combination of split and short lighting, the main light source is placed to the side of the subject, at a 45-degree angle, and slightly above them. The side of the face towards the camera is in complete shadow, while the side facing the light source is illuminated, creating a strong contrast between the lit and shadowed areas of the face. This creates a dramatic image with a high level of contrast, emphasizing the texture and shape of the subject's face.

The effect of using a combination of split and short lighting on a portrait photograph is that it creates a sense of depth and dimension, highlighting the texture and shape of the subject's face. It also adds a sense of drama and mood to the photograph by creating a strong contrast between the lit and shadowed areas of the face. Additionally, this technique can be used to flatter the subject by minimizing the appearance of any facial features they may consider as flaws. However, it's important to note that this technique can create an unbalanced image and can make the subject look uneven or lopsided, so it should be used carefully and with consideration for the subject's features and the message you want to convey with the photograph.

SPLIT/BROAD LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Split lighting and broad lighting are different techniques, but they can be combined to create a specific effect on a portrait photograph.

Broad lighting is a lighting technique where the main light source is placed in front of the subject, and the side of the face towards the camera is lit.

When using a combination of split and broad lighting, the main light source is placed in front of the subject, but only one side of the face is illuminated while the other side is in complete shadow. This creates a strong contrast between the lit and shadowed areas of the face, and can be used to create a dramatic or moody image.

The effect of using a combination of split and broad lighting on a portrait photograph is that it creates a sense of depth and dimension, highlighting the texture and shape of the subject's face. It also adds a sense of drama and mood to the photograph by creating a strong contrast between the lit and shadowed areas of the face. Additionally, this technique can be used to flatter the subject by minimizing the appearance of any facial features they may consider as flaws on the shadowed side. However, it's important to note that this technique can create an unbalanced image and can make the subject look uneven or lopsided, so it should be used carefully and with consideration for the subject's features and the message you want to convey with the photograph.

KEY WITH CLOSE SOFTBOX LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Key lighting is the primary light source used in a photographic setup, and it is typically used to illuminate the subject's face. Using a close softbox as the key light source can create a very pleasing and natural-looking portrait photograph.

A softbox is a light modifier that diffuses the light, spreading it out evenly and creating a soft, natural-looking light. When the softbox is placed close to the subject, the light will be more intense and will create a more defined shadow, which can create a sense of depth and dimension in the photograph. Additionally, the light from a close softbox will wrap around the subject's face, creating a more pleasing and natural-looking image.

The effect of using a close softbox as the key light source on a portrait photograph is that it will create a soft and natural-looking image, with a subtle and pleasing transition between the lit and shadowed areas of the face. It will also create a sense of depth and dimension in the photograph, highlighting the texture and shape of the subject's face. Additionally, using a close softbox can be used to flatter the subject by creating a more natural and pleasing light on the face.

It is important to note that the size of the softbox and the distance to the subject can affect the final look of the photograph, so it's important to experiment with different setups to find the one that works best for the desired outcome.

LOOP LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Loop lighting is a lighting technique used in portrait photography where the main light source is placed slightly above and to the side of the subject, creating a loop-shaped shadow under the subject's nose. This technique creates a sense of depth and dimension in the photograph, and can be used to flatter the subject by creating a subtle shadow on the side of the face furthest from the light source.

The effect of using loop lighting on a portrait photograph is that it creates a sense of depth and dimension, highlighting the texture and shape of the subject's face. Additionally, the loop-shaped shadow under the subject's nose can help to define the subject's facial features and create a more three-dimensional image. This lighting technique also gives a sense of balance and harmony to the image, as it is less harsh and more pleasing to the eye than other lighting techniques like short or split lighting.

Loop lighting is considered as a classic lighting technique in portrait photography, and it can work well for a wide range of subjects and situations, from headshots to full-length portraits. It is also versatile and can be adjusted to create different moods and styles. It's important to note that the size of the light source and the distance to the subject can affect the final look of the photograph, so it's important to experiment with different setups to find the one that works best for the desired outcome.

BUTTERFLY LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Butterfly lighting is a lighting technique used in portrait photography where the main light source is placed directly above the subject and slightly in front of them, creating a butterfly-shaped shadow under the subject's nose. This technique creates a sense of depth and dimension in the photograph, and can be used to flatter the subject by creating a subtle shadow on the side of the face furthest from the light source, while also providing a sense of balance and harmony to the image.

The effect of using butterfly lighting on a portrait photograph is that it creates a sense of depth and dimension, highlighting the texture and shape of the subject's face. Additionally, the butterfly-shaped shadow under the subject's nose can help to define the subject's facial features and create a more three-dimensional image. This lighting technique is often used to create a sense of elegance, beauty, and refinement in the image, and is considered a classic lighting technique in portrait photography.

Butterfly lighting is versatile and can work well for a wide range of subjects and situations, from headshots to full-length portraits. It is also suitable for creating different moods and styles. However, it's important to note that the size of the light source and the distance to the subject can affect the final look of the photograph, so it's important to experiment with different setups to find the one that works best for the desired outcome.

FLAT LIGHT LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Flat lighting is a lighting technique where the main light source is placed directly in front of the subject, and the subject is evenly lit with minimal shadows or highlights. This creates a low-contrast and low-dimensional image and reduces the sense of depth and dimension in the photograph.

The effect of using flat lighting on a portrait photograph is that it creates a low-contrast and low-dimensional image, reducing the sense of depth and dimension in the photograph. This can make the subject appear flat and two-dimensional, with little or no texture or shape to the face. Flat lighting can be used to create a more naturalistic or documentary-style image, but it's not commonly used in traditional portrait photography as it does not flatter the subject, it can also make the photograph appear dull and uninteresting.

Flat lighting can be used in specific circumstances when the goal is to show the subject in a naturalistic way, such as in a photojournalistic setting or when the goal is to show the subject without any manipulation or enhancement. It's important to note that the size of the light source and the distance to the subject can affect the final look of the photograph, so it's important to experiment with different setups to find the one that works best for the desired outcome.

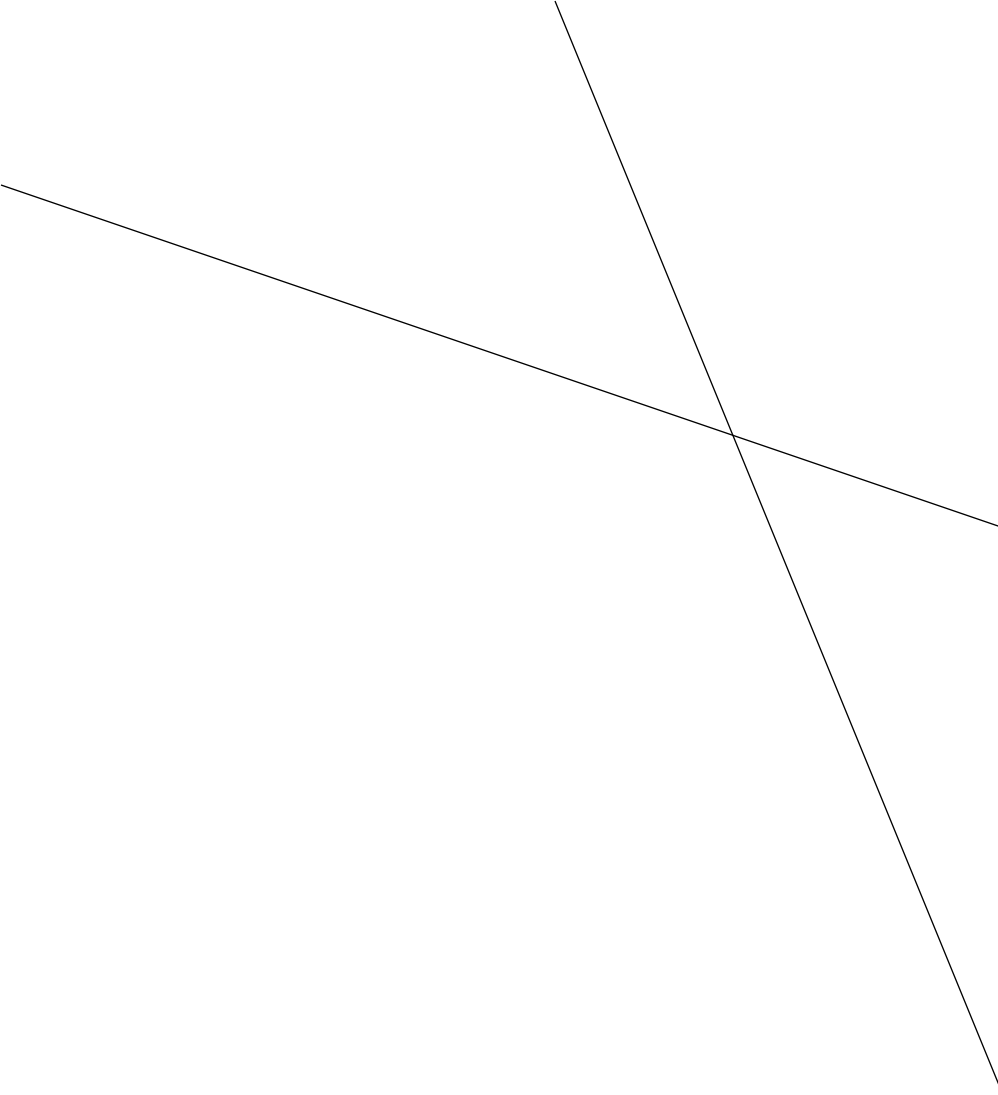
CLAMSHELL LIGHTING TECHNIQUE



Clamshell lighting is a lighting technique used in portrait photography where the main light source is placed above the subject, and a reflector is placed below the subject's face. The combination of the main light source and the reflector creates a "clamshell" shape of light on the subject's face, with the top of the face being well-lit and the bottom of the face being in shadow. This technique is used to create a sense of depth and dimension in the photograph, and can be used to flatter the subject by creating a subtle shadow on the side of the face furthest from the light source.

The effect of using Clamshell lighting on a portrait photograph is that it creates a sense of depth and dimension, highlighting the texture and shape of the subject's face, while also creating a subtle shadow on the side of the face furthest from the light source. This lighting technique is often used to create a sense of elegance, beauty and refinement in the image, and it is commonly used in fashion and beauty photography.

Clamshell lighting is versatile and can work well for a wide range of subjects and situations, from headshots to full-length portraits. However, it's important to note that the size of the light source, the distance to the subject, and the size and positioning of the reflector can affect the final look of the photograph, so it's important to experiment with different setups to find the one that works best for the desired outcome.



SUMMARY

In conclusion, lighting techniques play a crucial role in portrait photography. Each technique has its own unique effects and can be used to create a specific look or mood in the final image. It's essential for photographers to understand the different lighting techniques and how to use them effectively. Experimentation is key in finding the right lighting technique and the best way to achieve the desired results. It's also important to consider the subject's features and the message you want to convey with the photograph before deciding which lighting technique to use. Photography is all about capturing the mood, the moment and the subject in the best possible way, lighting is one of the most powerful tools that photographers have to achieve this. With the right lighting, a portrait photograph can become a work of art.