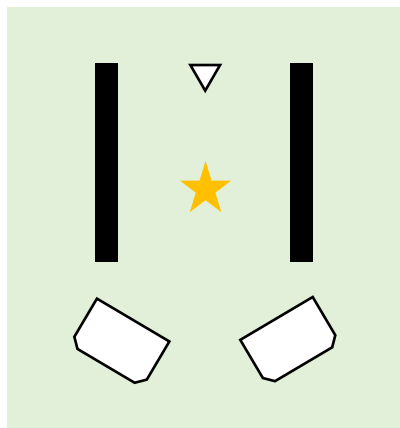


Light Work

Task 1 Produce a studio lit portrait

For this task, I wanted to recreate the lighting techniques used in Martin Schoeller's [CLOSE UP](#) portraits. These portraits entail using hard lighting to bring out the details of the subject's face. The photos are also taken from close-up, creating a subtle warped effect.



This lighting set-up uses 2 soft lights (f5.6 on both) pointing diagonally onto the subject, creating a full lighting on the face. 2 blackout board on both sides of the subject to block out the light hitting sides of the face, giving a narrowing effect. Single continuous lighting to highlight the background.



Martin Schoeller, *Angela Merkel*



My Recreation

I think my attempt at recreating Schoeller's technique was quite effective. Having said this, there is definitely room for improvement. The lighting on the face isn't nearly as harsh as it is in Schoeller's photo. To resolve this, I could introduce an additional soft light point directly at the subject's face. Also, the backdrop appears a lot darker compared to Schoeller's example.

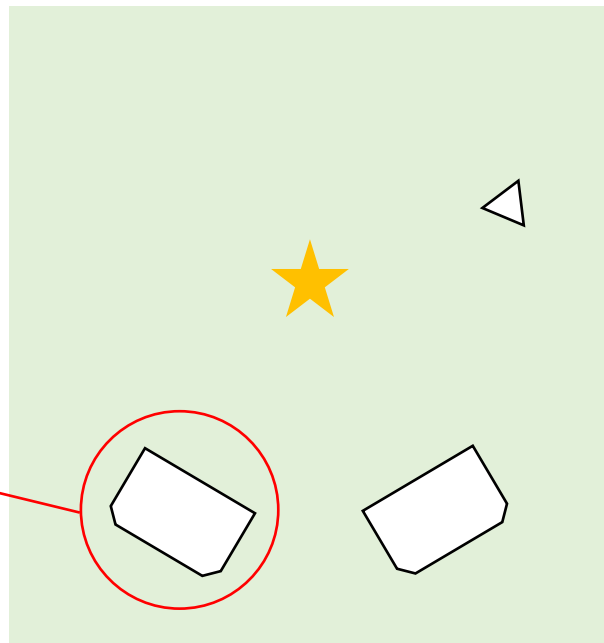
Increasing the brightness of the continuous light could solve this or adding a second continuous light.

I booked the studio to experiment with some more traditional lighting set-ups.

These were some of the outcomes.



From f5.6 to **f2.3**



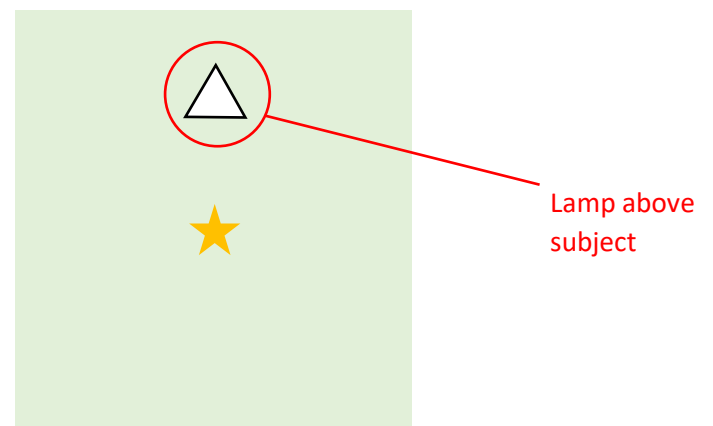
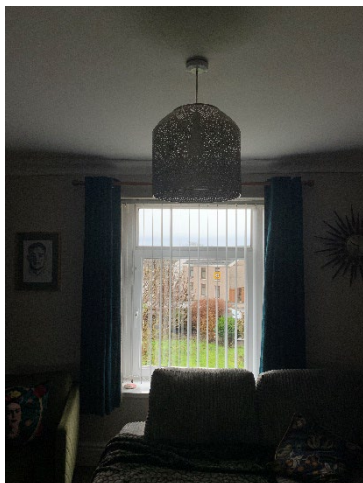
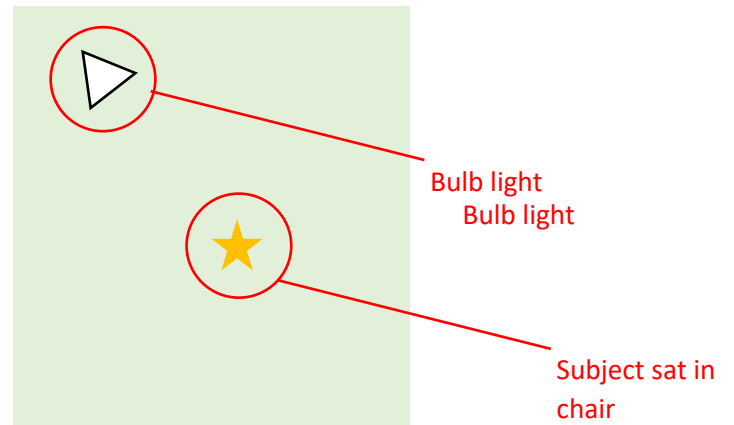
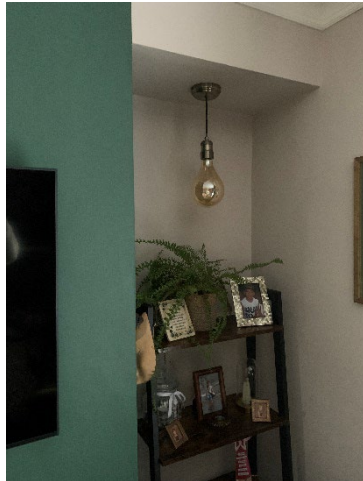
I really like the framing of this photo and the gesture the subject was giving, so I decided I want to further manipulate this image.

I think this photo would work well in black and white. I also want to see what the scarf would look like if I completely blocked it out by increasing the contrast.

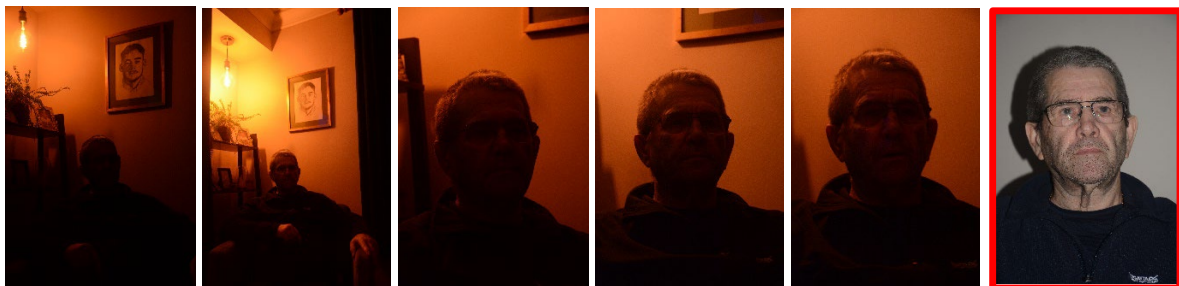


Task 2 Produce an on-location portrait using artificial lighting

For this task, I wanted to use available light sources from around my house to create lit portraits. In TASK 1, my final outcome was a monochromatic portrait; I will try and experiment with colour for this task.



The lightbulb lighting in the first image emits a warm light onto the subject. Whereas the lamp in the second image gives a more neutral tone, similar to studio-grade lighting.



This lighting set-up didn't work as well as I expected. This probably because the light was hitting the back of the subject as apposed to the front, causing the subject to appear underexposed. I tried lowering the shutter speed and increasing the ISO, as well as using white paper to reflect the light, however this was unsuccessful.

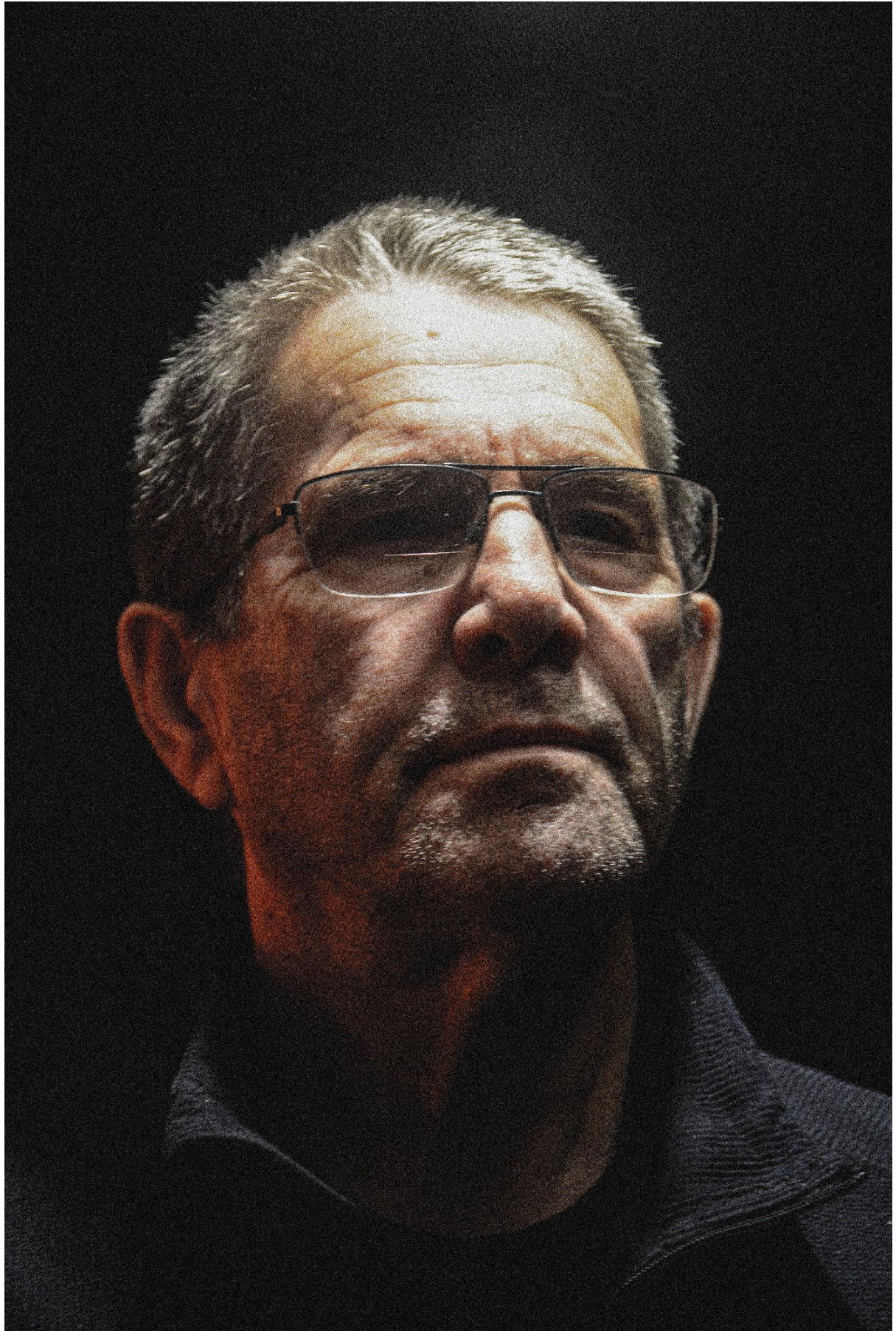


The problems with this set-up were very similar to the first one. However, the lighting in the third image of this set work very well and I think I want to take this further.



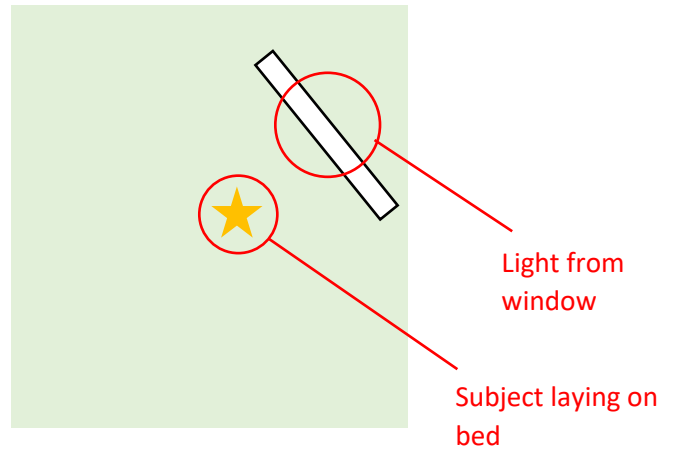
The highlighting in the image is effective. When I further manipulate this photo, I will try and lower the highlights or lower the contrast, as the highlighting on the forehead seems overexposed.

I also appreciate the composition and framing of this photo. I may use the dodge tool to bring out the details in the subject's shirt. I could also use tis tool to brighten the eyes as they appear quite dark in this image.



Task 3 Produce an on-location portrait using ambient lighting

For this task, I am going to use my bedroom window as a source of ambient lighting. There are many windows in my house that could also use which I will see if I can experiment with.

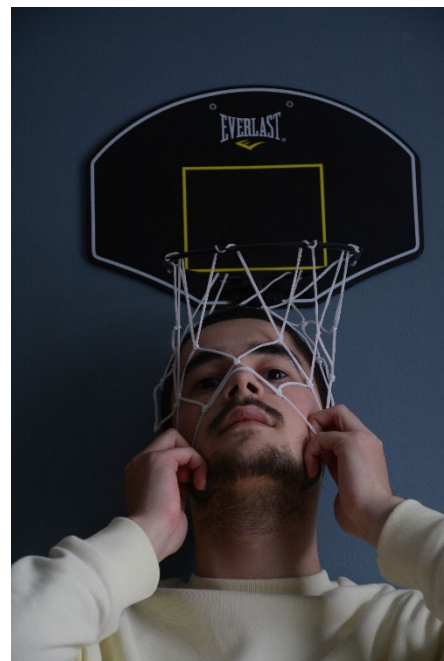
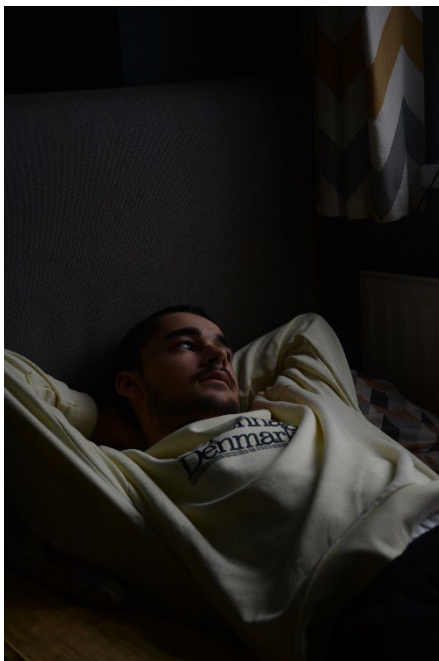


My last 2 outcomes have been of other people as subjects. For this outcome, I want to have a go at self-portraiture as the location these photos are going is quite personal to me. If I want to achieve this, I will need a tripod so I can adjust the framing of the image before shooting, and I will need to set a timer on my camera so I will have enough time to get into position.



Experimenting with the net of a basketball mini hoop

I think the lighting coming from the window worked very well in creating a sort of dramatic feeling to the photos. There was a bit of trial and error when adjusting my camera settings. Because I was using a tripod, I was able to use a lower shutter speed, as apposed to increasing the ISO which can create a noisy texture on the image.



I'm drawn between these two photographs. The composition of the image on the left is well executed. However, the photo on the right extrudes character and I think shapes made by the net create a surreal aspect to the image. I will further manipulate both images, compare and then decide on a final outcome.



After editing both images, I've decided that I am going to choose the photo on the left as my final outcome for this task. I think the photo works better as a composition compared to the other. Also, the hoop on the right photo is slightly off center, which I find quite distracting; maybe it could have worked better if it was shot closer to the face.

