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Discover how Digital Dreams are created!

by Dan Feildman

Gone are the days when photography was viewed as an arduous and expensive hobby, or even a profession to master. The introduction of digital cameras has successfully broadened the spectrum of photography aficionados, with the affordability and convenience it has brought into the field. With the use of electronic devices to capture images in binary data, digital cameras allow the photographer a plethora of time and money saving alternatives, where he can view his photograph even before he prints it out, sort through the images to only save the appropriate ones and delete the rest and even upload the images directly onto his computer. This invariably allows the photographer a lot more freedom to experiment and explore, while also saving on the amount of time it would have cost him to scan individual pictures to his laptop. Present-day digital cameras also offer a multitude of image and lighting options to the user, letting him achieve what he once regarded as very difficult or even impossible.

But before you learn how to shoot exceptional pictures on your digi-cam, it is vital that you first understand how exactly a camera works. Most digital cameras boast of a Liquid Crystal Display on the back, which functions quite like the viewfinder. In fact, it allows the user a preview of the picture, even before it is shot, to make the requisite adjustments and review the picture right after it is taken. Images shot with digital technology, comprise of thousand of mega pixels, each of which is the equivalent of one million pixels or picture elements. Digital cameras are also equipped with, what is known as a Shutter-release button, which must be pressed in two steps, once to lock the exposure and adjust the focus and then to actually take the photograph. Also, digital cameras are more susceptible to 'Camera Shake' which may result in the image being blurred and hazy.

Your camera will be preset to an automatic ISO mode, where the ISO will automatically be adjusted in tune with the light conditions. For a more customized effect, you can even choose to manually adjust the ISO, which will also let you cut down on the noise in the image. As the rule of the thumb, the more the brightness in the surroundings, the lower you need to keep the ISO. A higher ISO is applicable when the luminosity is lower than you would like it to be. If your image is distorted by what is known as noise, which means, your image is flecked with random pixels which detract from its clarity, you can choose to work on the image with the noise reduction tool. But doing this will mean that your picture detailing will not be as minute as it would have been otherwise.

Your camera, will automatically determine when a flash is to be used, as per the light conditions. However, if you like, you can even choose not to use the flash, but simply increase the room lighting. You can also opt to use an external flash unit which will offer you a lot more flexibility than a built-in flash mechanism. You can either attach these units to the camera. Or use them separately, with or without the use of a cable. If you are using an external unit, then you can also try to tilt the flash upwards to let the light bounce off the walls or the ceiling, thereby cutting down the harsh glare and shadows. You may also want to avoid backlighting unless you specifically want to create the effect of a silhouette. You can also use the Fill-in Flash effect to first illuminate the background and then provide an additional fill-in flash to highlight the subject.

If you are looking to capture a rapidly moving object, you can activate the 'Burst Mode' on your camera. This will let you take multiple pictures in a rapid sequence, while you simply press down on the Shutter Release button. You can also increase the intensity of the color while capturing your images, to produce more vivid hues. You may also want to activate the Macro mode if you want to click a close up of a small object. Closing in, without making this adjustment may bring your subject out of focus. Digital cameras are also enhanced with Optical Zoom, where the focal length of the lens extends and retracts to let the image be magnified by the lens itself, while keeping the resolution intact, to produce images of the finest quality.

It is vital that you learn the correct way to hold your camera to obtain the best results the camera is capable of. Many cameras offer you only the LCD without the little viewfinder. This makes it impossible to hold the camera to your face, as you would otherwise and compels you to take pictures while holding it at arms length. Needless to say, your image will be distorted as your hand is bound to be unsteady. This is one of the key points you need to bear in mind when purchasing your digital camera.

As they say, Practice makes perfect. This phrase is specifically relevant when it comes to learning how to handle

your digital camera. Also, the manual which comes along with the camera proves to be of invaluable assistance when it comes to grappling with the ropes. However, you need to plough through the complete, extensive manual instead of simply skimming through the basics from the Quick Start Guide, if you want to develop beyond a novice. You may also want to keep referring back to the manual for any hitches along the way, while experimenting with all that your camera has to offer. A digital camera spares you the expense of having to worry about how much you're spending on film. You can also reserve the photographs which display the techniques you want to work on, in the memory card of the camera itself or even your computer. The convenient size also means that you don't have to burden yourself with heavy bags every time you set out on a photography excursion. And if all this isn't enticement enough, simply grab your camera and snap a few pictures for yourself. You'll soon find that breathtaking works of art, which were once considered the hallmark of legendary studio artists, is now your very own niche!

About the Author:

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