

Dave Montizambert's Lighting Philosophy

When people ask what I do for living I'm almost reluctant to tell them that I'm a photographer. It's not that I think there's anything wrong with being a photographer, in fact I love being a photographer, it's just that when you tell someone you're a photographer they naturally assume that you take pictures. Now I do take pictures, but picture taking is only a portion of my imaging process. Rather than capture moments I'm more about creating moments—I spend considerable time sculpting my subjects with light, and when I've got that lighting absolutely perfect I record what I created with my camera. You could say that my art is light sculpting, and my medium is photography. To me lighting is the essence of photography, I use it to interpret my subject—to tell my subject's story.

In photo education today, the world over, lighting is almost always taught in such a way that it turns out photographic cooks who use lighting recipes. What I want to do is turn these cooks into chefs of lighting. A chef creates, a cook repeats.

Creating With Light - 4.5 Day Program

In this 4 1/2 day program participants will learn an incredible lighting thought process that was originated by Dean Collins and that draws from the teachings of Leonardo Di Vinci and from many of the world's greatest cinematographers. This foundation of light control allows you to create or mimic any style of lighting you see or imagine for photography. Participants will also learn how to create a standardized digital workflow where exposure, processing, and output are bolted down once and for all. In addition to this many tips and tricks of the trade—such as accurate metering, simulated sunlight for cloudy days, mixed lighting, multi-light setups, lighting glass, liquids, and chrome, plus how to use ambient, strobe, and constant light—will be revealed in detail.

From this program participants will learn:

- All controls for creating and controlling light quality and light quantity.
- How to use light to convey mood.
- Light challenging surfaces such as chrome/silver, glass, and liquids.
- Pop and drag movement-blur techniques for fashion & portraits.
- Create low-key and high-key dramatic lighting.
- Simulate sunlight on cloudy days using only one light.
- Create imaginative backgrounds with nothing but light.
- How to set up & use 3 to 5 lights for multi-light lighting.
- Create multi-light setups using only one light.
- How to get a perfect exposure in digital.
- How to Master metering & lighting ratios.
- To control & predict with absolute accuracy, highlights and shadows for perfect prints every time.
- How to light & shoot objects & people for Digital Light Painting.
- Masking techniques in Photoshop for Digital Light Painting.
- Image processing techniques for Digital Light Painting.
- Hi-speed facial retouching.
- Retouching faces with Frequency Separation.
- How to profile DSLR's for optimum image color.

Each lecture portion of the program incorporates Dave's patented lighting breakdown and image buildup slide show presentation to show participants how to create—step-by-step—incredible lighting on anything and everything.

DAY 1

Morning: Lecture: Intro & Lighting Philosophy

Lecture: The mosaic - how digital works & affects how we light.

Lecture: Dynamic Range, Bits/Bitmap/Bit depth—how this affects lighting.

Demo: Profile DSLR.

Lecture: Optimum Digital Exposure.

Demo: Optimum Digital Exposure test.

Lunch: Eat lots of great Texan food!

Afternoon: Lecture & Demo: Light Quality - Shadow control with live demos with class participation (3 Dimensional Contrast - Shadow).

Workshop: Setting up lighting gear, main light placement, lighting patterns, & lighting controls.

Demo with class participation: Lighting backgrounds evenly & avoiding background/main-light contamination.

Workshop: Dramatic fine-arts B&W shoot with one light, ceiling light.

Workshop: Participants break into groups & perform the above fine-arts B&W shoot.

DAY 2

Morning: Demo with class participation: Basic metering.

Demo with class participation: High-key fashion shoot of female model against pure white background using only one-light.

Workshop: Participants break into groups & perform the above 1 light shoot.

Demo with class participation: Low-key one light portrait shoot of female model

Lunch: Eat some more great Texan food!

Afternoon: Demo with class participation: Advanced metering.

Workshop: Participants break into groups & perform the above low-key one light portrait shoot.

Demo with class participation: Simulated sunlight portrait of female model outdoors (overcast sky or fake it in the shade).

Workshop: Participants break into groups & perform the above sunlight portrait.

DAY 3

Morning: Lecture: Ranges of Contrast - reproduction limits of print, web, and press.

Lecture & Demo: Light DoF with grids.

Lecture & Demo with class participation: Controlling backlighting, metering backlighting—skip-light phenomena.

Demo with class participation: B&W Dramatic Body Light Sculpting for male body builder or fighter against dark background using multiple studio strobes lights.

Workshop: Participants break into groups & perform the above male body builder/fighter shoot.

Lunch: Eat even more great Texan food!

Afternoon: Demo with class participation: Fashion shoot with male model outdoors in direct sunlight using studio strobe with HyperSync for complete control of ambient and strobe lighting. Weather permitting.

Demo with class participation: Business portrait of male model using Pop & Drag techniques in studio using projected image as background.

Demo with class participation: Mixed light fashion shoot of male model using Pop & Drag techniques with tungsten light in studio.

Workshop: Participants break into groups & perform the above Mixed light fashion shoot of male.

DAY 4

Morning: Lecture: Lighting controls & theory for creating stunning images of difficult to light highly reflective objects (3 Dimensional Contrast - Specular) Part 1.

Demo with class participation: Photographing liquids, champagne bottle shoot.

Lunch: Yet more great Texan food!

Afternoon: Lecture: Lighting controls & theory for creating stunning images of difficult to light highly reflective objects (3 Dimensional Contrast - Specular) Part 2.

Demo with class participation: Tabletop photo of chrome product in a desktop still-life.

Workshop: Participants break into groups & light/shoot a shiny object.

Demo with class participation: Lighting & shooting miniature sets with one light & multiple reflector light sources.

DAY 5 (half day)

- Morning: Lecture: Lens or Perspective - Lens Trick perspective principles.
- Lecture & demo: Meter broken, turn your DSLR into a flash incident meter.
- Lecture & demo: High-Speed facial retouching.
- Lecture & demo: Frequency Separation retouching.
- Lecture & demo: Digital Light Painting of tabletop still life.
- Lecture: Digital Light Painting figure study.
- Wrap-up with final Q&A

Bio—Dave Montizambert

Dave Montizambert owns and operates Montizambert Photography located in downtown Vancouver. For the past 30 years Dave has created photographic images to aid various organizations and companies with their communication needs. He has created images for clients such as: McDonalds Foods, Motorola, Atlanta Scientific/Nexus Engineering, Toyo Tires, Tri-Star Pictures, Warner Brothers, Constantine Films of Germany, Chevron Canada, Cuervo Tequila, the C.B.C., J&B Scotch, Hong Kong Bank, Chimera Soft-boxes, B.C. Lottery Corp., Blackcomb & Whistler Mountains, Tsing Tao Brewery of China, B.C. Hot House, No Fear Sports Gear, and Canada Post.

Dave Montizambert lectures internationally on lighting, digital photography, and Photoshop. He is also a published author, columnist, a beta tester, and creator of training DVDs on Photoshop & lighting for PhotoshopCafe & Software-Cinema. He also is part of the Adobe influencer program and the Adobe beta program for Photoshop and Lightroom. For the past 22 years Dave has been teaching a 5 day digital imaging and lighting course at the Western Academy of Photography in Victoria, BC.

Dave has written a how-to book on lighting “Creative Lighting Techniques for Studio Photographers” and his second book on lighting and image manipulation for digital photography “ Professional Digital Photography” both published by Amherst Media in Buffalo NY. Dave has a regular photo column in Professional Image Maker magazine (an international photo-magazine based in the U.K.) and contributes several articles a year to Rangefinder Magazine in the USA. Dave’s knowledge was gained primarily from training with Dean Collins at Finelight in California and from training at SINAR in Switzerland.

Dave’s work and articles have also appeared in, Professional Photographer & Digital Pro Magazine in the U.K., British Institute of Professional Photography Magazine in the U.K., Photo Life in Canada, Professional Photographers of Canada Magazine in Canada, Professional Photographer Storytellers in the U.S.A., PhotoMedia Magazine in the U.S.A., Studio Magazine in the US and Canada, in Dean Collins/Kodak's Global Notes and in Kodak's Pro Passport Viewfinder. Despite the commercial climate that he works within, he photographs many people. He creates portraits of executives for annual reports and shoots dramatic B&W images of musicians for C.D. covers. He also does celebrity portraits for the film industry.

Dave’s images have won Georgie, Lotus, Hemlock, Studio Magazine, and Graphex awards.

You Tube links to sample Dave speaking:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FemeHUkUm0Q&list=LLhZdSpe4kp5wo-lzZjxp50g&feature=mh_lolz

<http://youtu.be/scumCKCLbbk>

References

- Giuseppe Scozzi Italy ceo@europeanphotographers.eu
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Email Testimonials:

- Hi David,

Thanks for an amazing course at the Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel. You are a true artist in art of light manipulation - "Dancing with Light". It was really nice meeting you and having dinner with you, and a real privilege.

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[hAQHIWaCFAQEveCGqMhA6btuJKQ0tUvX4m9kbCWmyiw43hQ/](http://www.facebook.com/l/hAQHIWaCFAQEveCGqMhA6btuJKQ0tUvX4m9kbCWmyiw43hQ/)

www.chrissterlingphotography.com

- Dear Dave,

Thanks again for the very inspiring and informational workshop in Gmunden Austria! We loved the workshop so much that we purchased 2 tutorial DVDs right after the workshop.

- Dramatic Lighting

- Dramatic Illumination Techniques

Thanks again

Sincerely,

Marc Muehlberger

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•SWPP feedback: (this is from a lighting presentation I did in London, the SWPP is the organization that put it on).

Speaker Knowledge – 10 /10

Speaker – Technical – 10/10

Speaker Presentation – 10/10

Speaker – Other comments

Dave was extremely knowledgeable regarding lighting, and having worked as a commercial photographer was able to cover many areas of photography, his teaching style was extremely interesting and fun – demonstrations were set up step by step so everyone could follow and ask questions. All questions were answered in full with in-depth knowledge. Dave is a modern day Dean Collins - I personally would love to see a week long course with Dave Montizambert in the UK in the near future.

NEIL WARNER fbipp, fmpa, mqep, f i p p a C r

To Whom It May Concern: June 28th 2012

David Montizambert is one of the world's outstanding photographic educator's. His ability to impart complex and sophisticated lighting and design concepts to students with very simple language is truly outstanding. He is respected worldwide and the photographic books that he has produced have been used by many a photographer as the foundation for their lighting.

I initially met David at a lecture in Cheltenham in the United Kingdom. Subsequently I have heard him lecture in Orvieto in Italy, Gmunden in Austria, Galway in Ireland and Whistler in Canada. One common thing through all his lectures was his simplicity of language, his quirky sense of humour and his ability to truly impart sophisticated and complicated concepts in a manner totally accessible to his students.

As President of the 50,000 strong Federation of European Photographers I, wholeheartedly recommend David Montizambert for any educational position for which he may apply. His business experience, his design experience and his incredible knowledge of lighting are all bundled into one excellent educator.

I would be pleased to confirm this reference by telephone at any stage.

Neil Warner

President

Federation of European Photographers

Lecture Highlights:

2015

Jan - 2 day workshop Victoria BC

March - 3 day workshop Vancouver BC

March - Federation of European Photographers' Convention, Gmunden Austria

April - I AM PHOTOGRAPHER convention lecture Tallinn Estonia

April - Photographic World Cup Montpellier France

2014

January – GNPP 2 day lecture & workshop Paris, France

January – SWPP Convention 3 day lecture & workshops London, UK

January – GNPP 1 day workshop Paris, France

February – Western Academy of Photography 4 day workshop Victoria, BC

May – Painter's Lodge 2 day lecture & workshop Campbell River, BC

June – Bitcongress World Congress 3 day lectures & workshop Dalian, China

Sept – San Diego Photoshop Users Webinar

January – Western Academy of Photography 4 day workshop, Victoria BC

March - WPPI Convention, Las Vegas USA

April - Dutch School of Photography, Netherlands

April - Federation of European Photographers' Convention, Gmunden Austria

April – 1 Day Workshop for SWPP, Dublin Ireland

April – 1 Day Workshop for SWPP, Belfast Ireland

April – 1 Day Workshop for SWPP, Glasgow Scotland

April – 1 Day Workshop for SWPP, Birmingham England

April – 1 Day Workshop for SWPP, London England

Sept thru Dec - 13 weeks at Capilano University, North Vancouver BC

2012

January - SWPP Convention, London UK

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop

May - Painters' Lodge Workshops Vancouver Island

June – Vancouver Photo Workshops

September - Vancouver Photo Workshops

Sept thru Dec - 13 weeks at Capilano University North Vancouver BC

2011

January – Western Academy of Photography 4 day workshop
February – WPPI Convention Lectures Las Vegas
March – Keaau Fine Art Center Workshop Hawaii, Big Island
April – Lighttools Workshop Edmonton Alberta
April - Painters Lodge Workshops Vancouver Island
May - 2 day workshop San Diego California
June – Lightrein Workshop Edmonton Alberta

2010

January – SWPP, London UK
February – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
February – 1 day workshop Vernon BC
March - Pacific Digital Photography Lecture Vancouver BC
April - Vancouver Photo Workshops
May – Painters Lodge Workshops Vancouver Island
May - Vancouver Photo Workshops
June - Vancouver Photo Workshops
September – Photoshop World, Photoshop Café lectures Las Vegas
October – Toulouse France Workshop

2009

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
January – Calgary
January – Oahu, Hawaii
January - Art Centre, Pasenda CA
April – Lighttools/Lightrein Workshop
May - Art Centre, Pasenda CA
May – Painters Lodge Workshops Vancouver Island
June - Vancouver Photo Workshops
August – Lighttools Lecture Edmonton Alberta
September – PPABC Annual Convention Workshop Ucluelet BC
September – Photoshop World, Software-Cinema lectures Las Vegas
October – Lightrein Workshop Edmonton Alberta

2008

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
January – SWPP, London UK
January – SWPP, London UK – international judge
January, Irish PP Association, Galway Ireland
February – FEP, Valencia, Spain
March, Orvieto Fotografia, Orvieto Italy – international judge
April – Painters Lodge Workshops Vancouver Island

2007

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
April – Painters Lodge Workshops Vancouver Island
August – Ophthalmic Fundus Camera Dept. University of Wisconsin

2006

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
January – SWPP, London UK
April – WPPI, Las Vegas
November – Int. Conference, Phanos Cyprus
December – San Francisco, Software Cinema, Live.

2005

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
February – Los Angeles, Software Cinema, Live.
February - FOCUS , Birmingham UK
March – Dublin Ireland, Apple Ireland + IPPA
March – Orvieto Fotografia, Orvieto Italy
March – Naples, Italy, guest speaker

2004

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
March – Orvieto, Italy, National Conference
March – Milano, Italy, guest speaker
October – New York City, PDN Photo East.

2003

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
March – Orvieto, Italy, National Conference
March – Gmunden, Austria, Austrian National Conference
May – Whistler, Canada, Canadian National Conference
July – San Diego, Software Cinema
December - San Francisco, Software Cinema, Live

2002

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
February – Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Conference
February – Winter Paradise, Bahamas
March – Orvieto, Italy Italian National Conference
April – Moscow, Russian National Photo Conference
April/May – Dpix conferences, Chicago and New York City
August – PPOC, Canadian National Conference, Toronto
September/October – Dpix conferences, San Francisco, Los Angeles

2001

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
February- Connecticut State Photo conference
March – WCPP, Orvieto, Italy
April - Hasselblad, Sweden, Global Digital Department
April – BIPP, Leeds, England
April – Gmunden Days FEPP, Gmunden Austria
April - Irish Professional Photographers' Association in Dublin.
August - PPA National Chicago

2000

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
January – PPA Power Tools, Las Vegas
February – PMA/DIMA, Foveon, Las Vegas
March- WPPI, Las Vegas
May - Australian + New Zealand National, AIPP, Melbourne
August - Imaging 2000, PPA, Las Vegas
October - Photokina, Cologne Germany
November- Photo East, PDN, New York

1999

January – Western Academy of Photography 5 day workshop
March - Triangle Institute of Professional Photographers, Pittsburg, PA
April - New Hampshire Professional Photographers' Association.
May - Professional Photographers' Association of British Columbia in Kelowna BC
June - Photo West, Photo District News, Los Angeles, CA
July- Professional Photographers' of America Atlanta, Georgia
July - Saskatchewan Superschool, Regina, Saskatchewan
July- Ad School, Miami, Florida
October- PDN Photo West, New York City