Lighting techniques
With Andrea Belluso
Andrea Belluso on the art of lighting

Andrea Belluso, also known as ‘The Light Shaper’, takes us behind the scenes on an exclusive fashion photo shoot and shares the details of the lighting techniques he uses. Learn about the tools used, from lighting equipment to lenses, and see the direct results of his techniques in the featured photographs.
Mixing hard and soft light

Technique no. 1

The best way to bring out detail with lighting is to use a hard light. This is because a hard light creates more contrast. The Fresnel Spot is a great light shaping tool, focusing light through the Fresnel lens that also provides a beautiful skin quality and tonal depth. The Softboxes are used alongside the key light to separate the subjects from the background in this low-key photograph.

Equipment used:

- A - XF IQ3 100MP Trichromatic
- B - 110mm f/2.8 Schneider Kreuznach Blue Ring lens
- C - 1 Fresnel Spot
- D - 2x 4x6 RFi Softboxes + soft grids
- E - 2x Profoto Pro-10 power pack
- F - 3x ProHead Plus flash head
  - Capture One
  - Capture Pilot

Exposure:

1. ISO 35 f/11 @ 1/250th
2. 7:1 lighting ratio
Conceptual, still life and commercial photographer, Vincent Lions, takes us behind the scenes on a photoshoot for Halios watches, showing us his creative process using the XF Camera System. Read about his workflow, equipment, and how Focus Stacking helps him create incredibly sharp images.

**CAMERA FEATURES USED IN THIS TECHNIQUE**

**AUTOFOCUS & RECOMPOSE (AFR) WITH ZOOM TO FOCUS**

Alongside AFR, the Zoom to Focus preview mode on the IQ Digital Back will automatically zoom the preview to the original location where you confirmed your focus. This provides visual feedback for you to verify your intended focus point, ensuring you can get the perfect image sharpness exactly where you need it.
Technique no. 2

Using two 4x6 Softboxes placed on both sides of the camera, we create a very soft light that eliminates shadows both from the models and the background. This is a very simple set-up for a clean light with no hard shadows. The soft lighting is great for featuring the soft and elegant strength of the skin tone, allowing the more saturated color features to really stand out.

Equipment used:

A - XF IQ3 100MP Trichromatic
B - 80mm Schneider Kreuznach Blue Ring lens
C - 2x 4x6 RFi Softboxes
D - 1x Profoto Pro-10 power pack
E - 2x ProHead Plus flash head

Capture One
Capture Pilot

Exposure:
1. ISO 35 f/8 @ 1/125th
2. 1:1 lighting ratio

Very soft light with no shadows
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**ZOOM TO FOCUS**

The Zoom to Focus preview mode on the IQ Digital Back will automatically zoom to the original location where you confirmed your focus. This allows you to verify your intended focus point, ensuring you can get the perfect image sharpness exactly where you need it.

**CAMERA FEATURES USED IN THIS TECHNIQUE**

**PROFOTO AIR TOOL**

With such a simple lighting setup, it’s important to get everything perfectly balanced. The two lights on either side of the camera need to be perfectly balanced and, if it’s necessary to turn them up or down slightly, it must be done in tandem. The Profoto Air allows Andrea to quickly and simply fine-tune this output without ever stepping away from the camera.
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“Tethering directly into Capture One puts me in total control.”

– Andrea Belluso, Portrait Photographer
Technique no. 3

This is a multiple light, low-key set-up to create drama. It includes studio generators as well as monolights and off-camera flash to create colors and shadows in a very creative and extremely intuitive way.

The set-up is created and the light molded once the models are on set and keeping their positions, since every light is very focused and narrow, each must be placed to build a very specific element of the overall balanced image. This is what I truly consider “painting with light.”

Equipment used:
A - XF IQ3 100MP Trichromatic
B - 150 f/2.8 mm Schneider Kreuznach Blue Ring lens
C - 2x Profoto B1X monolights
D - 2x Profoto Pro10 power pack
E - 3x ProHead Plus flash heads
F - 2x Zoom Reflector
G - 3x Grid and filter holder
H - 1x Fresnel Spot
I - 2x Profoto RFi 1x6 SoftBox + soft grid
1x OCF color gel kit (color effect gels)
Capture One
Capture Pilot

Exposure:
1. ISO 35 f/11 @ 1/125th
2. 5:1 approx. lighting ratio
CAMERA FEATURES USED IN THIS TECHNIQUE

HAP-2 W/FOCUS ASSIST LIGHT

Starting within a mainly dark studio and a black canvas supported by very low gelled modeling lights at a low power, the scene presents a considerable task for the XF Camera Autofocus. Using the new HAP-2 Autofocus system together with the camera’s AF Assist Light (amongst the other AF tools), the camera is sure to provide perfect focus time and time again.
About Andrea Belluso

Andrea Belluso is an Italian photographer based in London and in Stockholm, where he has his studio. He started working in London in 1983 when he did his first job for Italian Condé Nast. Since then, he has had Paris and Milan as home bases. Feeling at home both in the studio and on location, his long list of international clients has seen him travel all over the world on commissioned shoots. Andrea also works as a film director, producer and editor with many broadcasted television hours worldwide. Andrea also holds lectures and seminars across the globe, and he is also known as “The Light Shaper” by the main photographic lighting company in the world, Profoto, because of his unique expertise in photographic lighting. Apart from his commercial work, Andrea also publishes photographic art books and holds photographic art exhibitions.

You can see more of his work on his website http://www.belluso.com/
or on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/andreabelluso/
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