

Making the Most of Your Portrait Session

Memorable portraits take careful planning. The clothing you choose can be very helpful to the success of your portrait. These guidelines will help you make proper decisions concerning the choices of your dress attire.

About Clothing, Color, Tone, and Style

The goal of any fine portrait is to direct the viewer's attention to the face or faces in the portrait. Simple, long-sleeved garments in medium to dark tones of brown, rust, burgundy, green, blue and some reds are pleasing choices when photographed against a dark background.

Your background will be a canvas hand-painted blue with hues of brown. It looks like a very soft cloud filled blue sky.

Proper clothing allows the face to dominate the portrait. All other elements should be secondary.

Bold stripes, plaids, checks, and prints are confusing and do not photograph well.

Especially bright colors, such as yellow and orange, will completely overpower the face and result in a less appealing portrait.

Light-colored clothing calls attention to itself and away from the face. Avoid light colors that approximate flesh tones such as beige, tan, peach, pink, white, and yellow. Darker shades are more flattering and slimming.

Light colors are appropriate against a white or pastel background, or with a dark background when an interpretive "pictorial" study is planned.

Tips On Clothing Style and Accessories

Very simple garments always photograph best. Turtlenecks or V-necks are flattering provided that neither is exaggerated in style. Avoid very wide or particularly deep V-neck garments as well as bulky cowl neck sweaters that completely hide the neck.

Long sleeves are essential for teens and adults, as bare arms call attention to themselves and will overpower the face.

Men should have their hair cut about one week before the portrait session. Women should be photographed whenever they are happiest with their hair in relation to the time it is styled.