

'Mood' photo creates feeling

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A few weeks ago, I discussed the two most important ingredients in making a photograph. The first is you, the second your subject.

A photograph becomes a visual expression of the relationship between you and the subject.

And there's no better area in photography to optimize this relationship than in making mood pictures. The scenic photographer will take a picture and say, "This is what I saw." The mood photographer, on the other hand, takes a photograph and says, "This is what I felt."

WITH A LITTLE practice, you can develop a sensitivity for moods which will lead you to a new, almost delicate approach to your photography.

To begin with, you must take time to examine your environment, looking for the inherent beauty in the smallest of weeds as well as the magnificence of a towering forest.

Study your subject carefully and get to know it well, always keeping in mind you're building that all-important relationship between you and the subject.

Practice by viewing your subject from every angle, in close and far back. Never rush into snapping the picture.

Study how the light affects form and texture. View your subject at different times of the day especially in different kinds of weather.

With experience, you'll find your photography shifting from the literal recording of a scene to an artistic expression of mood.

NATURE'S ELEMENTS are among

photography

Monte Nagler

the key ingredients you can capture in making mood photographs.

Fog, mist, water and sunlight skimming through soft foliage all present conditions suitable for obtaining mood in your pictures.

Early morning or late-afternoon light offer the best opportunity for capturing shadows and textures. Use side or backlighting which will give your pictures a certain sparkle and help place the emphasis on the main subject. Fog and mist will subdue unwanted backgrounds and will produce soft, subtle colors.

Water can give you different moods in your pictures. Reflections in a still lake will give a feeling of seclusion and quietness. Splashing waves result in an exciting mood while flowing water captured during a long exposure (you'll need a tripod) gives a peaceful, serene mood.

When making mood photographs, pay particular attention to depth of field. A wide aperture will produce shallow depth, which will isolate the main subject by throwing everything else out of focus. Your depth of field preview button or built-in scale on your lens will help you determine the depth you want.



Moving in close and isolating the lily results in a mood of tranquility.

NO ONE FILM is best for capturing mood.

However, make sure that the ASA is satisfactory for the subject and weather conditions. In subdued light you may need a faster film, so always keep a few rolls handy.

Don't forget people's faces, either. They are fertile fields for capturing moods such as joy, excitement or pensiveness. Natural light on an overcast day is the best lighting that can be used. Or use sunlight filtering in

through a window to capture that special mood.

Most important, become involved with your subject no matter what it may be. Build a good relationship which in turn will give you a mood picture of which you can be proud.

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