

PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTFOLIO



BY: MARIYANA MILEVA
STUDENT №: 482676
CLASS: CB-01



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1. INTRODUCTION

Introduction

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Introduction

WHO AM I?

My name is Mariyana Mileva and I am second semester Media Design student from Bulgaria. This is my photography portfolio collecting my best work during the photography segment of Media production classes.

All images without referal link are my own original photos!

All pictures including other people are taken and used with their consent!



2. EQUIPMENT

Equipment

THE CAMERA



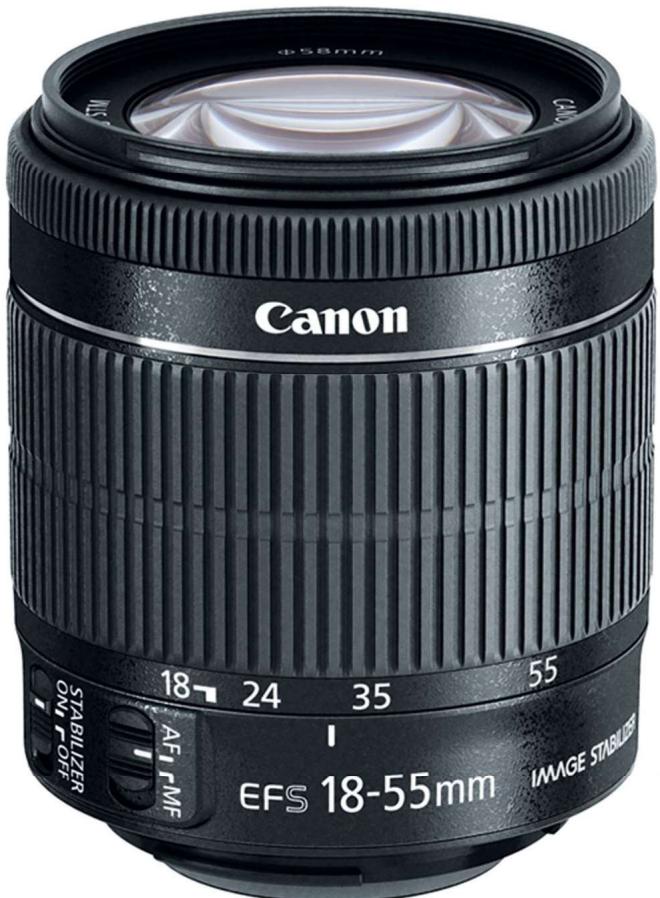
The camera that was provided to me by Fonty's ISSD is Canon EOS 650D.

This camera also known as the Canon EOS Rebel T4i in some

regions, is a digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) camera that was released in 2012. It was also the first DSLR camera to feature a touch screen that allowed users to control focus and settings with their fingertips. You can find more detailed specifications below:

- Sensor: 18-megapixel APS-C CMOS
- Image processor: DIGIC 5
- ISO sensitivity: 100-12800 (expandable to 25600)
- Autofocus system: 9-point wide-area AF
- LCD monitor: 3-inch Vari-angle Clear View LCD II touchscreen
- Video recording: Full-HD with manual controls and continuous AF
- Built-in flash: Yes, with Integrated Speedlite Transmitter
- Continuous shooting speed: up to 5 frames per second

THE LENSE



The lens that came with the camera is Canon's EF-S 18-55mm lens which is a standard zoom lens designed for Canon's crop-sensor DSLR cameras. It has a focal length range of 18-55mm, which is equivalent to a 29-88mm focal length on a full-frame camera. The lens is part of Canon's EF-S series, which is designed specifically for crop-sensor cameras and is not compatible with full-frame cameras. You can find more detailed specifications below:

- Focal Length: 18-55mm
- Maximum Aperture: f/3.5-5.6
- Minimum Aperture: f/22-38
- Lens Mount: Canon EF-S
- Angle of View: 74°20'-27°50'
- Minimum Focus Distance: 0.25m / 0.8ft
- Image Stabilization: Yes
- Autofocus: Yes

3. Hidden Faces

Hidden Faces

Hidden Faces

The task

For this task we had to go around and look for objects or buildings that have elements that form a face - two eyes and a mouth.



This hidden face is located on the facade of the Victoria Hotel. The two round windows serve as the eyes and the small detail above the sign serves as the mouth.

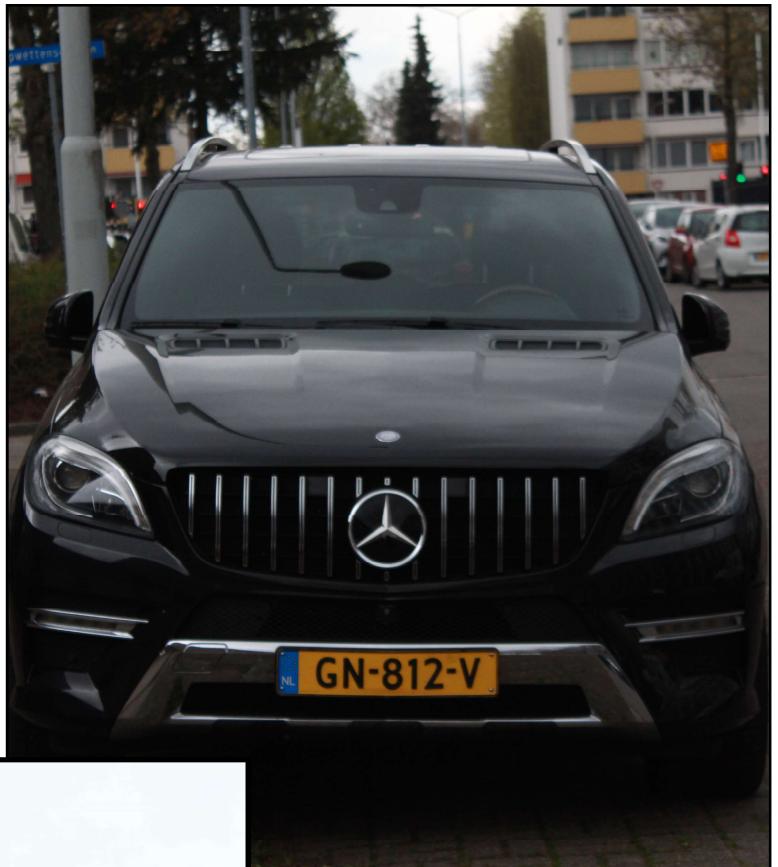
This picture was taken at the Grand Place. The hidden face here is located on the Beer Museum building. Here the two windows on top form the eyes, where the round window is the mouth. Those elements form an impressed face.



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Hidden Faces

For this picture I was looking for a hidden faces that are not located on a building. I noticed that the car's headlights and the bumper form a more "femine" looking face.



This is my first "Hidden faces" themed picture that I took. It is located right in front of my university. This was also the first picture that I edited in Adobe Lightroom. I tried to give the picture more "urban" look using the presets in this software.

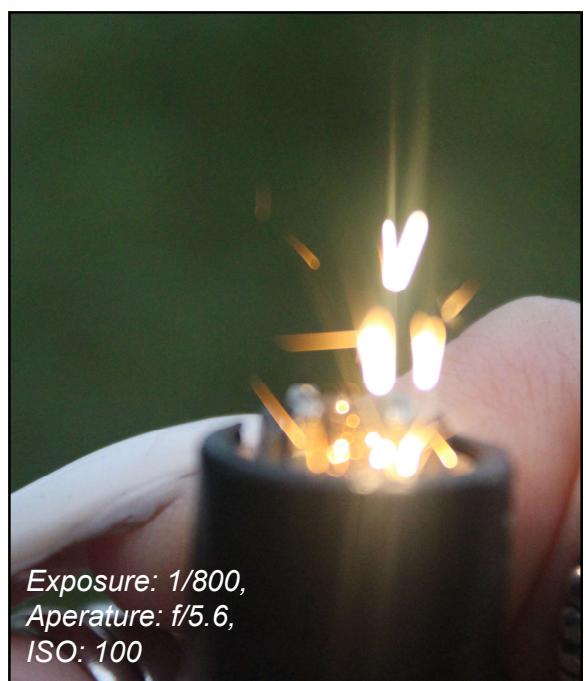
4. Programs

Programs

Shutter Priority AE

Shutter Priority AE (also known as Tv mode) allows you to manually set the shutter speed while the camera adjusts the aperture for proper exposure. This mode is useful for controlling motion blur or freezing action in your photos.

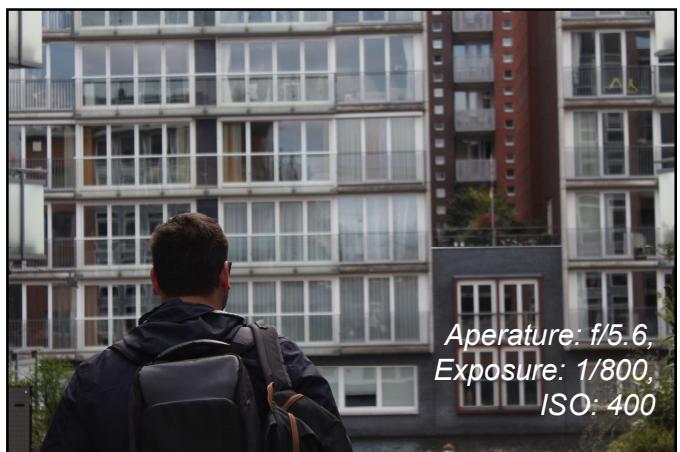
For this mode is recommended to use tripod as even the smallest movement will make the image blurry and would lead to unsatisfactory result.



Aperature Priority AE

Aperature Priority AE (also known as Av mode) allows you to manually set the aperture while the camera adjusts the shutter speed for proper exposure. This mode is useful for controlling depth of field and can be used to create photos with blurred background while keeping the main object in focus.

If low aperature levels are being used the image will come out with nice blurred background with the focus being on the object in front where if hight aperature levels are being used then both the object at the front and the background would be in focus.



Marco Mode

The macro mode allows you to take pictures of objects that are at a very close distance while keeping the image sharp and detailed. This mode is useful for taking pictures of small objects like insects, flowers or objects of which you want to capture textures and small details.

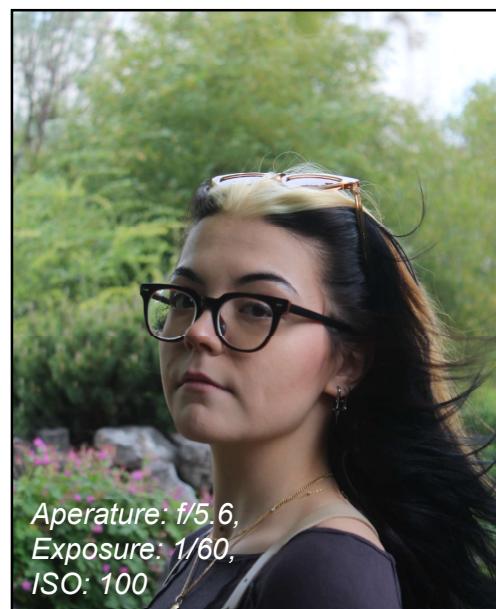


Sport Mode

Sport mode allows you to take pictures of fast moving objects while maintaining sharp image with optimal exposure. As the name suggests this mode is used in sport photography, but you can use it as a simpler alternative for the shutter priority mode as this mode takes not one but multiple shots at once. The picture on the left was taken with sport mode on.

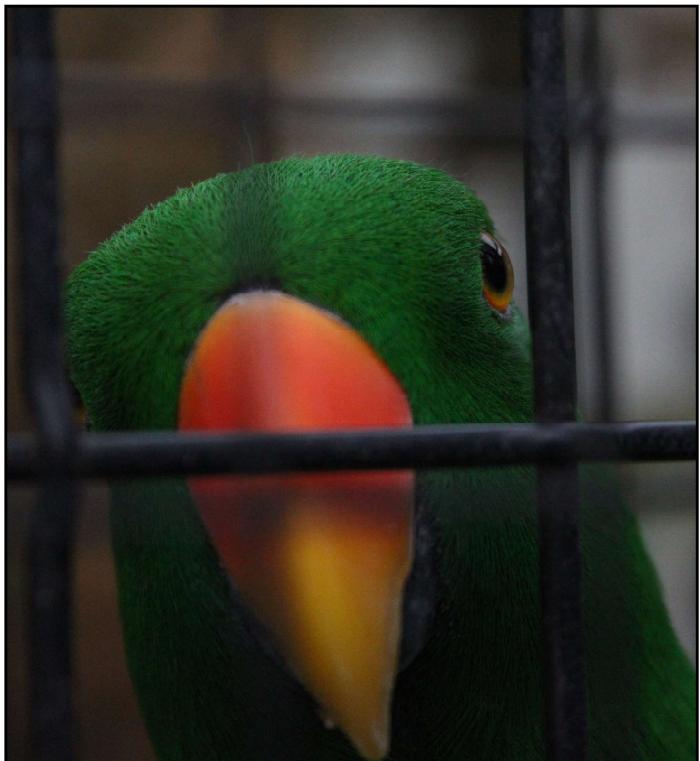
Portrait Mode

Portrait mode allows you to take portrait pictures of the subject. This mode will blur the background while keeping the subject in focus. This mode will also add enhancements to the subject in order to clear small imperfections that might occur when taking the picture. Depending on the light the mode might trigger the flash which if not used properly might produce unwanted effects such as Red-Eye or add unflattering light on the subject.



Programs

Pictures that surprised me



For this picture I was trying to take a close up shot of the parrot. What surprised me in this picture is how the subject is well focused and the bars in front and those in the background are blurred which puts even more focus on the bird. I also liked the overall "dramatic" effect that the picture has. The picture was achieved with the following properties:

Shooting mode: Manual

Aperature: f/5.6

Exposure: 1/4000

ISO: 3200

For the following pictures we wanted to give a darker more and a little bit more fairy vibe of the pictures, so I edited the picture in Lightroom. I applied "Portraits: Light Skin - PL04" and lowered the exposure. It might not be perfect but we were satisfied with the end result.



Before edit



After edit

5. Waterfall effect

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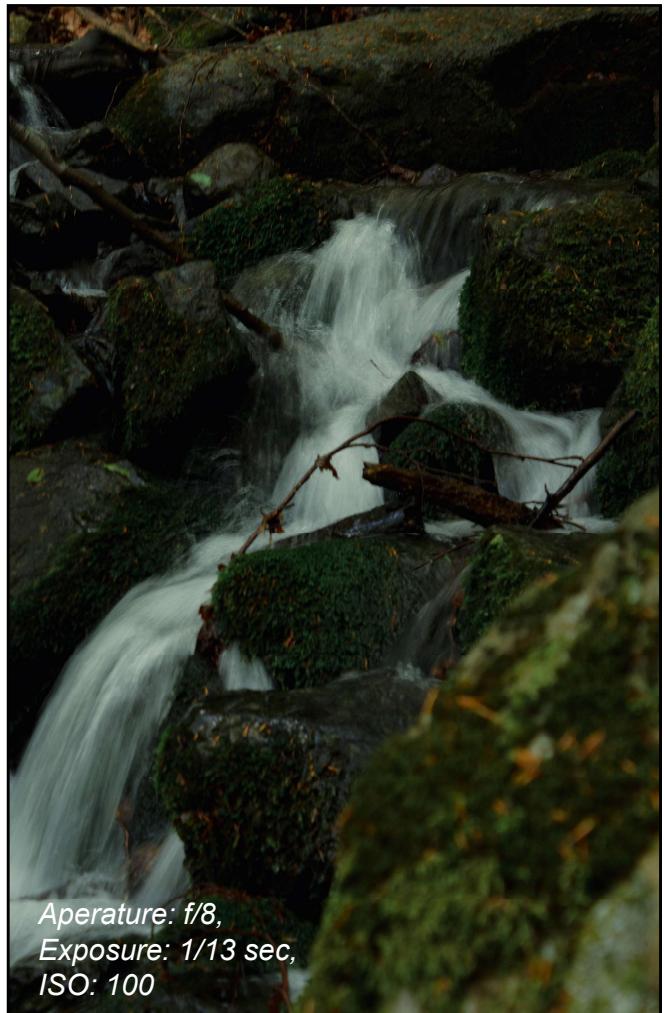
Waterfall effect

Waterfall effect

The task

For this task we had to explore the so-called “Waterfall effect”, which is when the shutter speed is set to very slow allowing a longer exposure of the sensor which leads to overlapping many frames on one image. The end result is very smooth and clean capture of the flowing water.

In order to achieve this effect you can use the shutter priority mode and set a high shutter speed (The exact speed depends on the level of desired blur - the higher the speed the blurrer the water flow would look like). It is also recommended to use a tripod as even the smallest movements will affect the image.



On the picture below you can see I was able to apply the waterfall effect using the stop lights from the passing by cars



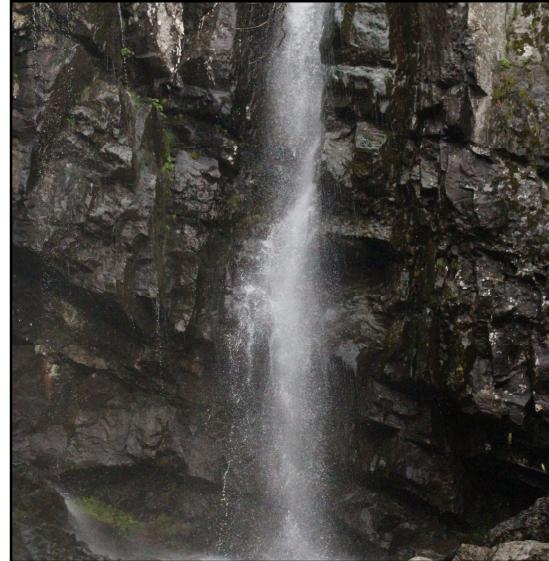
Waterfall effect

Waterfall effect

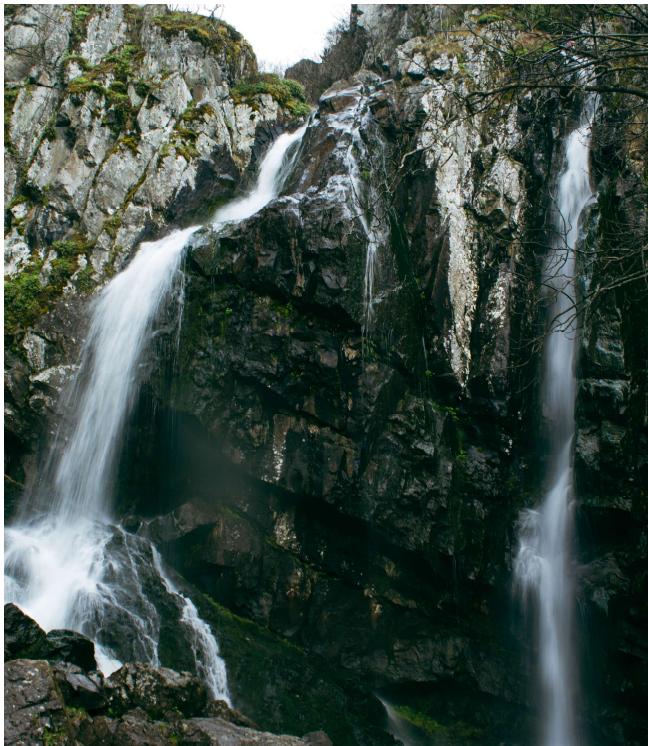
Low VS High Shutter Speed



Low shutter speed



Hight shutter speed



Personal favourite

This is a picture of Boyana Waterfall. I was able to capture a nice waterfall effect for both parts of this waterfall. The only problem was that I was unable to use a tripod and the image is not as focused as I wanted it to be. The properties I used to create this picture are:

Shooting mode: TV
Aperature: f/8
Exposure: 1/13 sec.
ISO: 100

6. DOF

What is DOF?

Depth of field or simply “DOF” in photography refers to the range of distance in a scene that appears acceptably sharp and in focus.

Example: The pictures below are an example of a large depth of field and a narrow depth of field. As you can see the picture with larger depth of field, both the subject and the building in the background are in focus. This is useful if you want everything in the frame from the subject to the background to be sharp and detailed. This can be achieved with aperture of f/16 or higher. On the other hand, the picture with narrow depth of field, the focus is on the subject where the background is blurred. This is useful if you want to draw the attention on the subject and underline specific details. This can be achieved with aperture of f/2.8 or lower.



Large DOF



Narrow DOF

These are the properties used in order to achieve both images:

Image 1:

Shooting mode: Aperture Priority
Exposure: 1/60 sec.
Aperture: f/32
ISO: 6400

Image 2:

Shooting mode: Aperture Priority
Exposure: 1/60 sec.
Aperture: f/5.6
ISO: 200



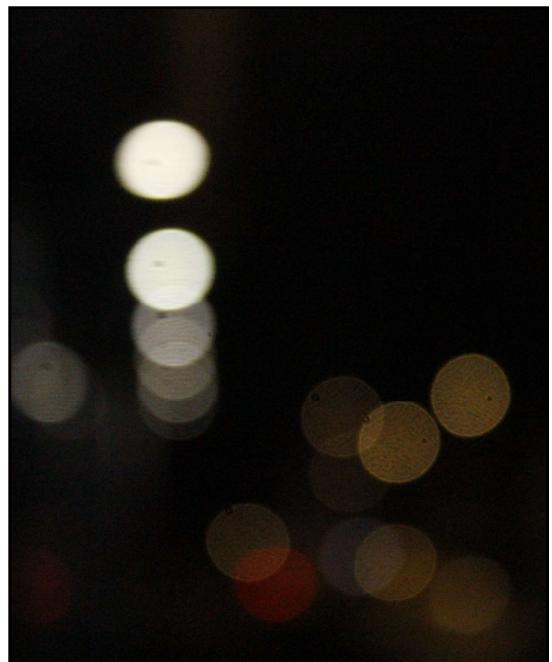
6

DOF

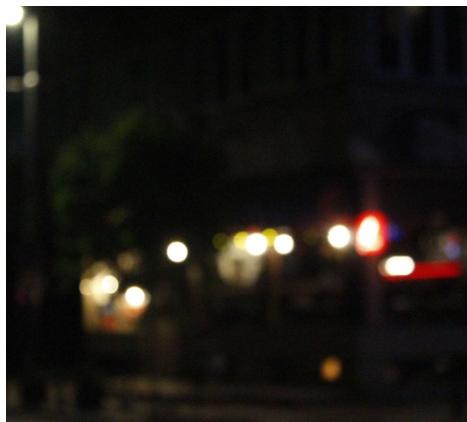
DOF

Bokeh

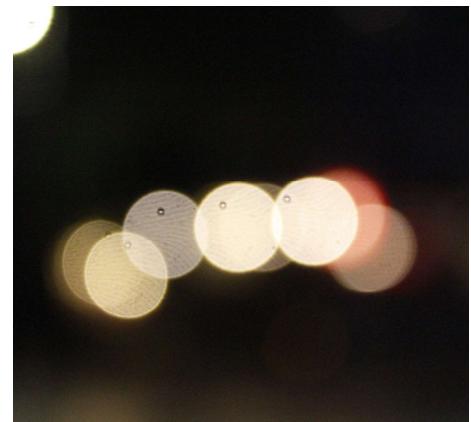
Bokeh refers to the aesthetic quality of the out-of-focus areas in a photograph, particularly in the background. It describes the appearance of the blurred and often circular or rounded highlights created by out-of-focus lights or specular reflections. Bokeh can range from smooth and creamy to more defined and textured,



Focused



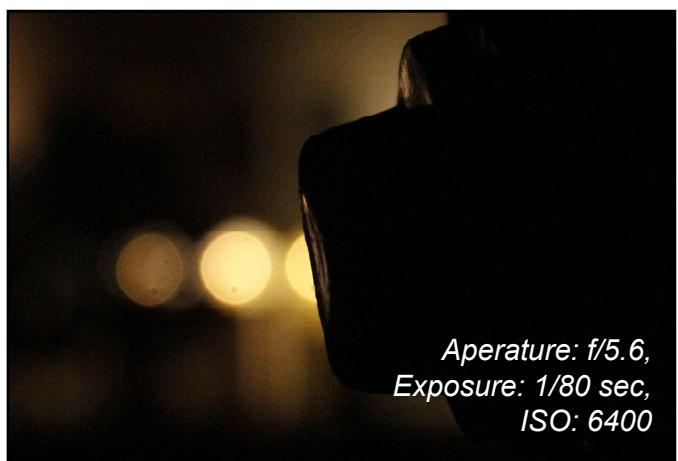
Disorted



Highly disorted focus

Personal Favourite

This is an image of a fire hydrant. It is my favourite because of the lights in the background forming the bokeh effect as well as how the silhouette of the hydrant adds additional effect to the picture

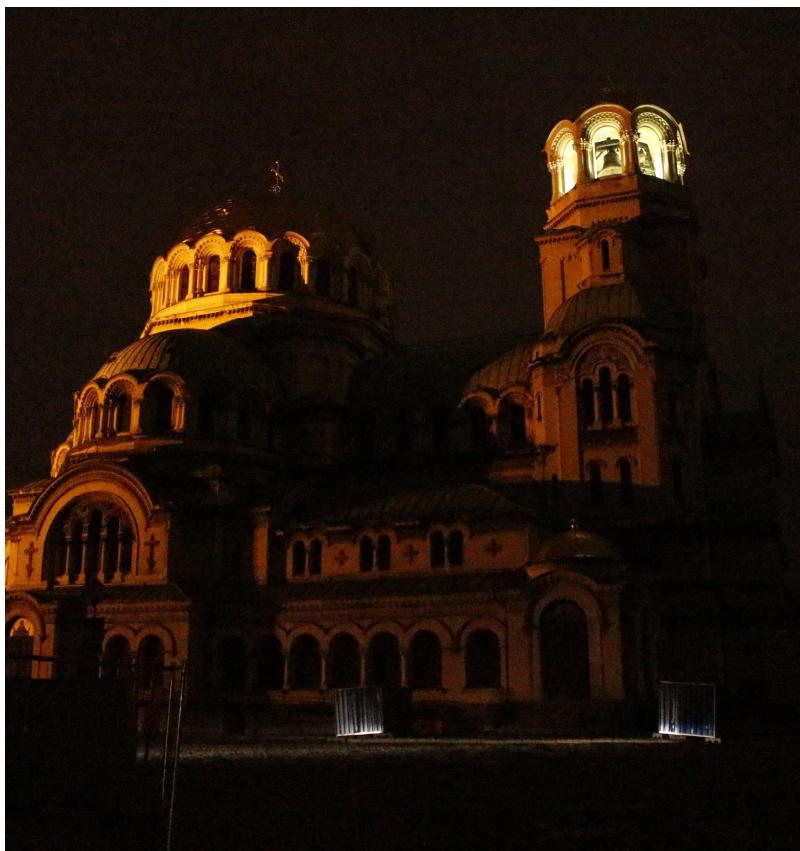


*Aperature: f/5.6,
Exposure: 1/80 sec,
ISO: 6400*

7. NOISE

WHAT IS CAMERA NOISE?

Noise in photography can be defined as a random variation in the image signal. Noise can be caused by a number of factors, including poor lighting conditions, high ISO settings, long exposure times, and heat. Noise can also be introduced into an image during the editing process.

**What is ISO?**

For digital photography, ISO refers to the sensitivity of the camera's sensor. The ISO setting is one of three elements used to control exposure. The higher the ISO the more noise would be produced on the picture. The picture on left was taken with an ISO speed of 128000 as a result a noise can be seen appearing in the sky above the cathedral. Overall noise can be seen easily on bigger pictures.

On this picture, because of the low light and high ISO speed,a noise is appearing on the subject.



Noise

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Noise

ISO SPEED COMPERISON



ISO-100



ISO-1600



ISO-12800

As you can see from the example above using a higher ISO speed makes the sensor more sensitive to light which allows us to capture images in low-light environment. However using higher ISO speed will also add a significant amount of noise in the picture which will make the image appear as if it's in low quality. However using the proper ISO speed will produce a good-looking picture with enough light and acceptable amount of noise.

My attempt

I believe that in this picture I manage to find the right speed of the ISO so that the picture is not too dark and the noise is not as visible as in other examples. It also helped me that there was a street lamp shining on the cathedral



8. Picture composition

WHAT IS PICTURE COMPOSITION

Composition in photography can be defined as positioning and arranging the objects in the frame in such a way that the viewer's eye is automatically drawn to the most interesting or significant area of the capture. There are several composition rules:



Frozen movement

Frozen movement is using the camera settings in order to freeze a movement happening on the picture.

The picture on the left was taken in the zoo in Amsterdam. I was able to capture the bird in mid-flight.

Image properties:

Exposure: 1/1600 sec.

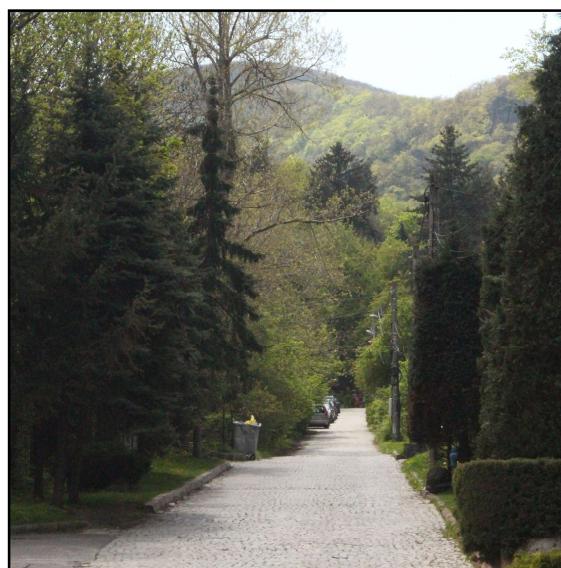
Aperature: f/6.6

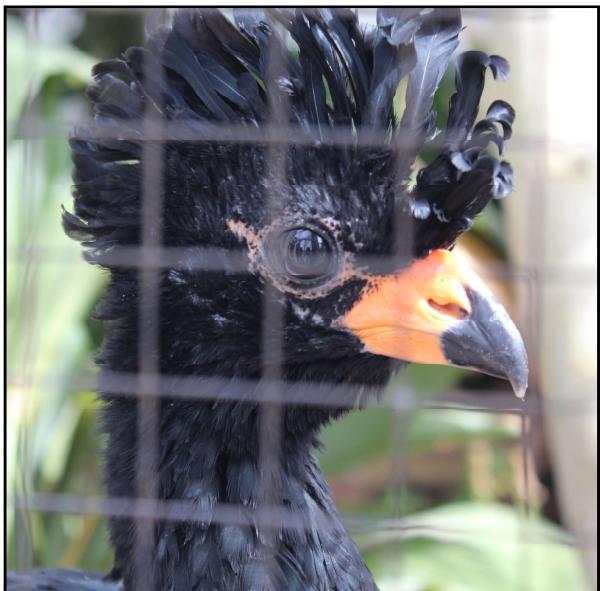
ISO: 6400

Lines and Surface

The Lines and Surfaces composition rule in photography involves the use of lines and surfaces to create a sense of depth and interest in the photograph.

The road on this image form the so called "leading lines" which are part of the lines and surface rules of picture composition





Foreground / Midground / Background

Both pictures have elements in the foreground (the people and the cage), middleground (The tram and the bird) and background (the buildings and the flowers).

Symmetry

Symmetry in photography refers to the visual balance and harmony created by arranging elements within the frame in such a way that they mirror or correspond to each other across an axis or a point. The picture on the right is good example for the symmetry as the whole building is covered in the same size windows.



9. White balance

White balance

WHAT IS WHITE BALANCE?

White balance in photography refers to the adjustment of colors in an image to accurately represent the true colors of the scene. It ensures that white objects appear neutral and that other colors are rendered correctly, regardless of the lighting conditions under which the photo was taken. The color temperature is measured in Kelvin (K). Newer cameras allow you to manually set the color temperature to your liking and the environment. Unfortunately Canon EOS 650D does not come with this extra but still provides different presets as well as a custom option. Below you can find the presets present on Canon EOS 650D



Daylight
around 5200K

Shade
around 7000K

Cloudy
around 6000K

Tungsten
around 3200K

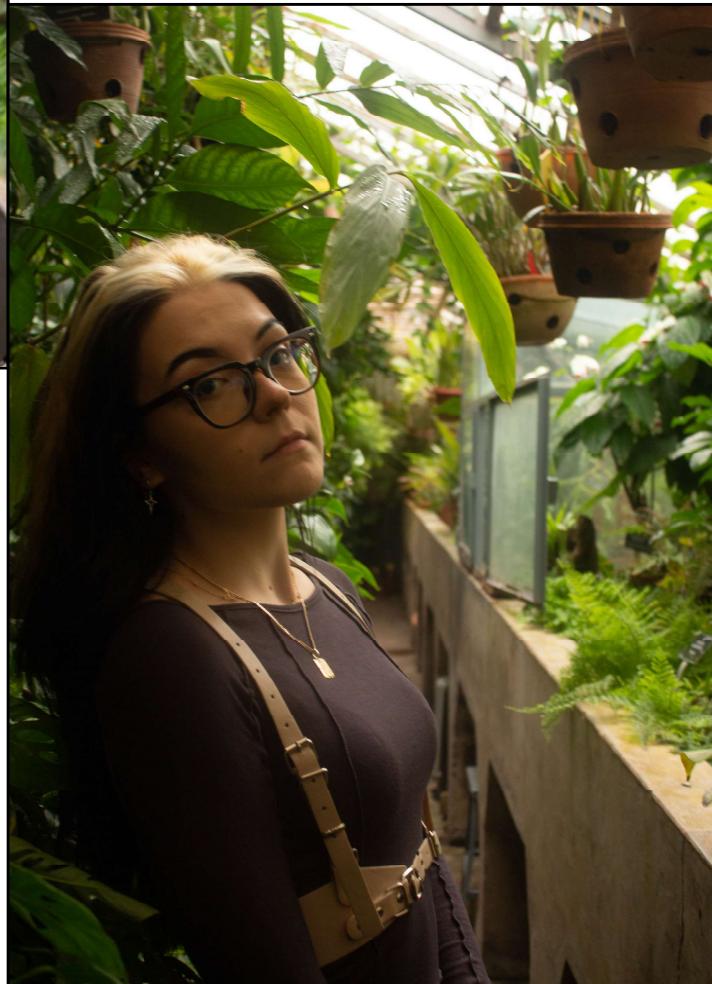
Fluorescent
around 3000K -
5500K

White balance

MORE EXAMPLES



The picture on the left was taken in the botanical garden in Sofia. Here the white balance is set to auto. This way the colors looks natural, even though it is not a bad image we were looking for a different vibe so we experimented with different white balance presets.



For the picture on the right we were inspired from an image where the subject was again surrounded by flowers and trees but the colors looked more green-ish or yellow-ish so we tried using the preset on the camera for cloudy environment. We were satisfied with the added effect of using this preset

10. Portraits

The task

For this task we had to take portrait shots of a person. We had to find interesting portrait ideas from which we can get inspire for our own shots.



For the first portion of portraits we chose the floral vibe. We went to a botanical garden where we experimented with camera options, set ups and props. All images are edited in Lightroom as we wanted to achieve more of a "fairy" effect of the pictures rather than natural look.



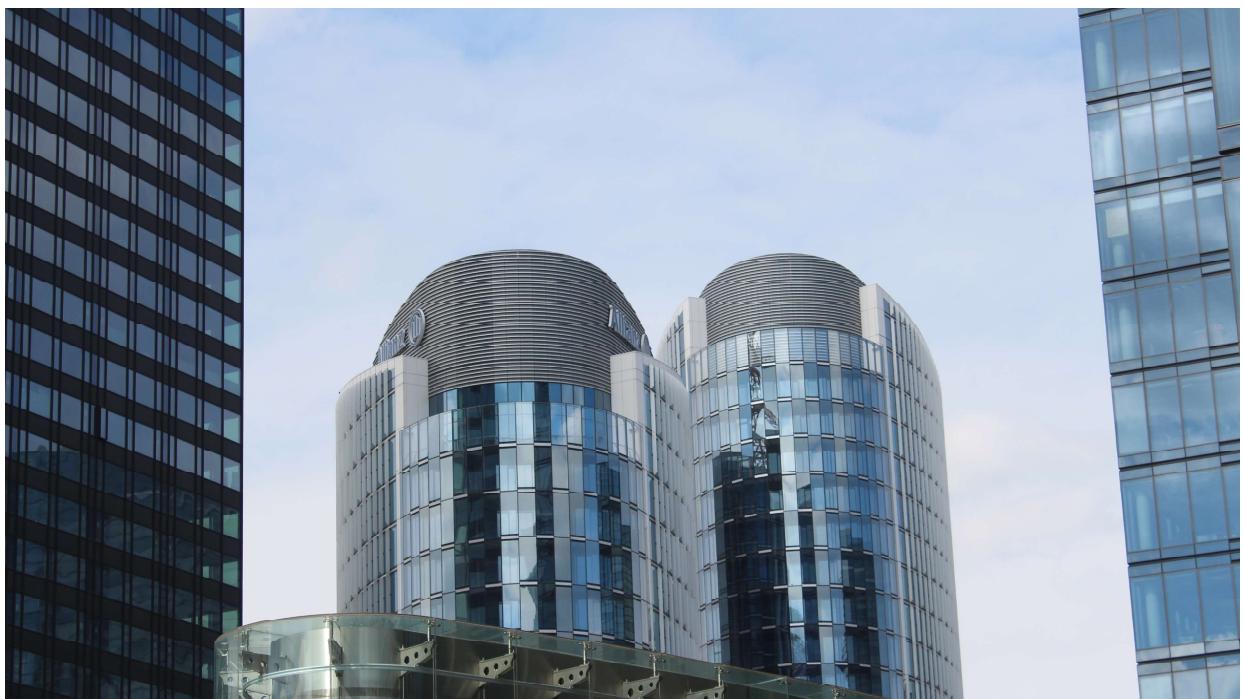
For the second portion we went for the “balkan urban” vibe. I didn’t edit the pictures as the already dark atmosphere was perfect for this vibe.

Conclusion

Taking portraits was very interesting task. We were able to think of our one stories and vibes that we want to deliver through the shots. Both me and my subject had great time during this task

11. Landscape / Architecture

Landscape/Architecture photography is a genre of photography that focuses on capturing the beauty, grandeur, and unique characteristics of landscapes and architectural structures. It involves photographing natural environments, such as mountains, forests, coastlines, and deserts, as well as human-made structures, including buildings, bridges, monuments, and cityscapes. There are several techniques for this style of photography.



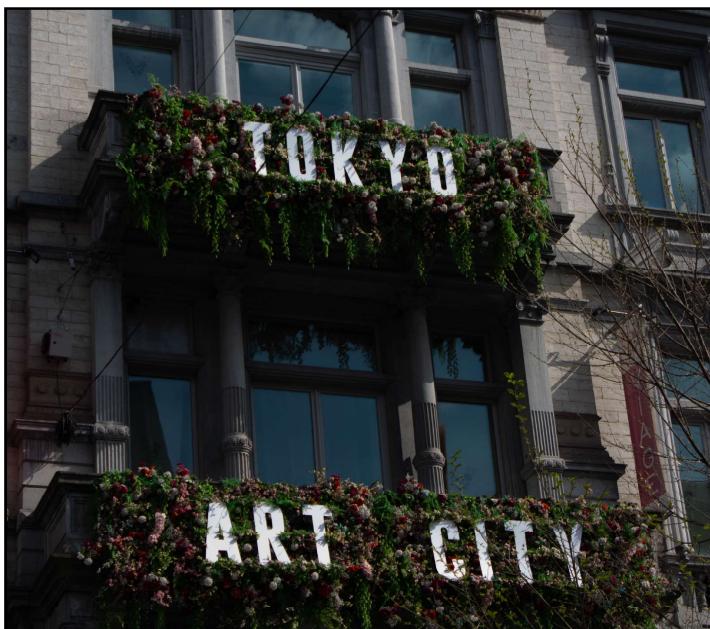
Framing

Framing in photography refers to the intentional act of using elements within the scene to create a visual frame around the subject. It involves using objects, lines, or other elements in the foreground, background, or edges of the frame to enclose or surround the main subject, drawing attention to it and adding depth and context to the image. As you can see on the image on top the round buildings are positioned between another two building which form a side frames around the round buildings.

Landscape / Architecture

Viewpoint

Viewpoint in photography refers to the position and perspective from which a photograph is taken. It involves the photographer's physical location, height, angle, and distance in relation to the subject. The choice of viewpoint has a significant impact on the composition.



Exposure

Manually setting the exposure settings allows you to darken or brighten the images in order to make certain elements pop up. For example for the picture on the left, there was a lot of light shining on the building so I had to manually lower the exposure in order to make the letters pop up and not fade in with the background



12. Background compression

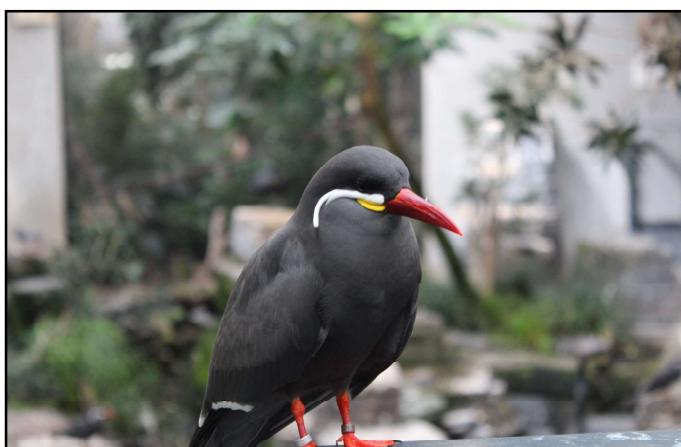
Background compression

WHAT IS BACKGROUND COMPRESSION?

Background compression in photography refers to the visual effect of making the elements in the background of an image appear closer to the subject than they actually are. It is achieved by using a longer focal length lens, also known as a telephoto lens, and positioning yourself farther away from the subject.



As you can see on the first image there are a lot of things happening in the background, for that reason the subject is no longer in the focus. On the second picture thought a background compression is applied, making the subject the main focus on the picture.



This is another example of background compression

Background compression

MORE EXAMPLES



Personal Favourite

I like this picture because my subject is slightly off-center, but still the focus is on them

13. Light painting

WHAT IS LIGHTPAINTING

Light painting is the art of creating photos by setting long exposure times on a camera and using a moving light source to “paint.”



In order to create those photos I used the Shutter priority mode and set the exposure to 6 sec. From there we started experimenting with different shapes and light sources.

Firstly we tried to create a circle and a heart which we managed to achieve with 4-5 tries for each shape

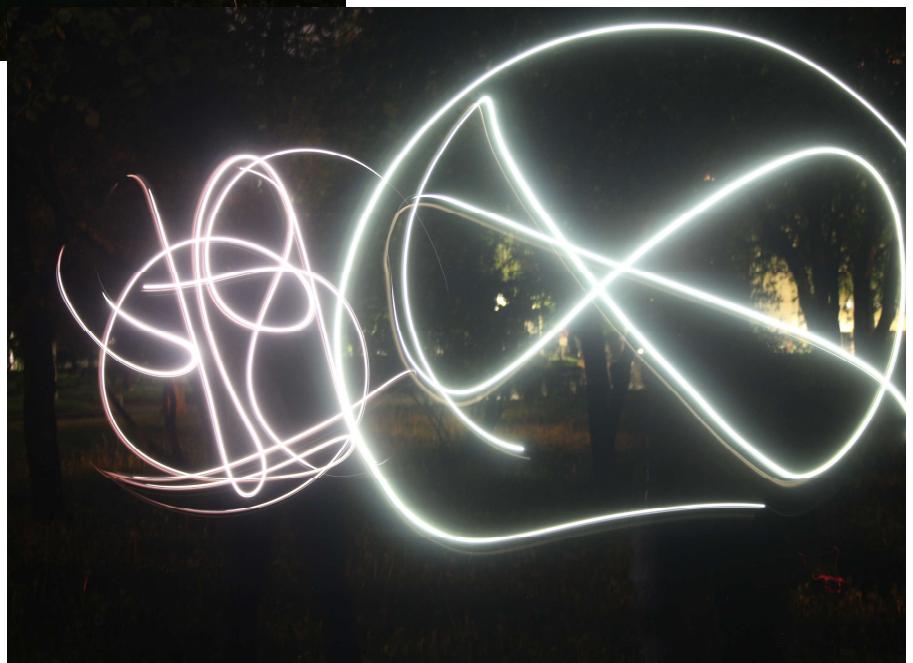


Light painting



Here we tried to draw circles with two people standing one behind the other each of them using a different light source

On the picture on the right we tried to have more chaotic movement of the light. The end result turned out looking good and interesting.



Personal Favourite

This picture is edited externally in order to hide the people and make the background black. I am really satisfied with the end result.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Hidden faces: Looking for hidden faces was indeed a very interesting task to do. For most of the pictures I used the Auto Mode as the main focus was to train our eye in finding different shapes and forms in the surrounding environment. The most difficult part of this task was to find something original. I also sometimes struggled with the position from which I am taking the photo as sometimes the buildings were too far or too high so I had a hard time putting the focus on the part with the hidden face on it.

2. Waterfall effect: This was another task that I had a lot of fun doing. The outcome of this task is that the higher the shutter speed the smoother the flowing of the water would be. Also using a tripod is mandatory if you want sharp and focused images and this was the challenge for me in this task as when I was taking pictures of the waterfall I was not able to use a tripod because of the stony area, so the pictures came out a little bit blurred.

3. DOF effect & Bokeh: The bokeh effect was one of the harder tasks for me as I wanted to have a focused subject in the foreground and lights forming the bokeh effect in the background. The conclusion for this task is that wider aperture leads to more shallow Depth of Field with focused object and blurred background where narrower aperture keeps both the subject and the background in focus. Sometimes it was really tricky to find the right aperture in order to achieve some of the pictures.

4. Portraits: Portraits were the funniest task to do as I was able to work on it with my close friends and explore different ideas on how to make the portraits more interesting. The only challenge for this task was that it was nearing the end of the botanic garden's opening hours, so everything had to happen a little more expeditiously than expected.



OVERALL CONCLUSION

Did I enjoy photography? Yes, as I've always been interested in photography so this segment was really something I was looking forward to do. I learned many new and interesting things from the photography field.

THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!