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Picture Perfect Posing: Practicing The Art Of Posing For Photographers And Models (Voices That Matter)



Synopsis

Photographer, author, and educator Roberto Valenzuela has a proven track record for teaching and explaining difficult concepts to photographers of all skill levels. His remarkable ability to break down complicated ideas into understandable, approachable elements that photographers can truly grasp “and then use their newfound knowledge to improve their photography” made his first book, *Picture Perfect Practice*, a breakout success. In *Picture Perfect Posing*, Roberto takes on the art of posing. For many photographers, after learning to compose an image and even light it properly, a portrait can still easily be a failure if the pose is not natural, elegant, and serving the needs of both the subject and the photographer. Instead of just showing page after page of poses “like most posing books on the market” Roberto actually breaks down the concept of posing by examining the anatomy, starting with the core foundation: the spinal chord and neck. Building from there, Roberto discusses every component of what makes poses work, as well as fail. How should the model hold her hands? Bend her elbows? Position her fingers? Should the model look toward or away from the camera, and why? It all depends on what the photographer wants for the shot, and Roberto discusses the entire process, from the intent of the photographer through the execution of the pose. For those who have been discouraged by an inability to pose their subjects, or who have simply not known where to start in order to “figure it out,” *Picture Perfect Posing* is the essential resource they need to learn how posing truly works, and how they can learn to direct the exact pose they need for the shot they want. Â

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Customer Reviews

If you're looking to learn more about posing, I can't recommend Roberto Valenzuela's new book enough. It's seriously AMAZING. Heck, I even recommend this book to brides who want to know the basics on how to better carry themselves, stand, sit, ect to look more amazing and flattering in their photographs. :) See, most posing books are a series of "example" poses- expecting you to memorize a certain number of "go-to" poses. But that's not true learning, that's a crutch for when you're in panic mode! (which is fine- it's good to have go-to poses- but there's SO much more to being stellar at posing!!) By contrast, Roberto's book actually goes into HUGE detail in breaking down WHY certain poses work or don't work. He goes step by step, breaking down each section of the body- for example, a whole chapter on hands, on weight distribution, etc. He even goes into the three main areas of the spine, and how each one plays into posing specifically! Basically, he gives you the TOOLS to "build" any pose you need. By knowing the principles behind excellent posing, you'll be MUCH better equipped. I've been shooting as a wedding photographer for nearly 10 years. And I'm already going through my old work and starting to see WHY this or that pose "looks wrong" or "worked". This way of looking at things is incredibly powerful- and, even better, it creates a foundation on which you can continue to build as you grow. To those who say: "Some of these people look like models"- yes, some of the examples- particularly the "before and after" shots- are models. But the VAST majority of the images in this book are Roberto's actual past clients- brides and grooms, etc.

"Picture Perfect Posing" is the most practically useful photography book I have ever read. So many books of this type are so non-specific, speaking in generalities so that very little actionable information is given to the reader. This book is very, very specific, pointing out posing problems and presenting the reader with a defined system for fixing them. The author uses his own photos as both good and bad examples of posing, which is very encouraging since it shows the reader that it is possible to get significantly better at posing subjects through practice. While reading about the bad examples, I could directly relate to the author and how he dealt with posing when he started out, which was trying to memorize thousands of poses, then forgetting all of them during a shoot and just shouting out random posing commands, hoping for something that works. I have been there. If you come to photography from an engineering background or you just have a logical mind, Picture Perfect Posing will be a very helpful tool because it is a specific system that addresses common

posing problems you will likely encounter, with specific solutions for fixing them. This is so helpful because it can be very difficult to look at a pose and figure out exactly why it doesn't work without this sort of information. For example, the author covers finger positioning, where and how hands should be placed, how noses should be pointed... all very helpful to give photographers a base to work from instead of just trying to create awesomeness from nothing. The author even touches on facial expression, although that isn't the primary focus of the book.

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