

Want to make portraits like Miles Witt Boyer?

Enjoy this short recap of his Create With Me video



1

Don't pose, compose

Miles' first tip goes against what many portrait photographers have learned, but if ever there's a reason to broaden your horizons, it's for the chance to make better images. That's not to suggest either path is right or wrong – there's a time and place for both. But, when you're seeking the most natural results, there's an obvious choice.

If you're new to the non-composed approach, simply place your subjects in an environment that conveys the narrative you wish to depict, then let them exist under their own direction.

A narrower aperture and wider perspective will help retain more scene detail. Eventually, beautiful moments will present themselves within the broader image you've built.



2

Empathy rules

"Just as we are imperfect artists, they are imperfect people," Miles comments of his subjects. Through understanding this sentiment, we can create impactful portraits. The crux of the matter lies in being observant enough to see what a subject gives you, then willing enough to take it as it is.

Miles' example showcases a young girl at a wedding, undeniably bored and perhaps a little grumpy. Rather than pose her with a forced smile,

Miles quickly documented her genuine expression. Through his empathy as an image maker, the viewer is presented with the same opportunity to share in a subject's emotion



3

Add a cinematic feel

'Cinematic' is a buzzword of late, but as Miles sees it, it's a simple case of ensuring every moment is part of the action. Many portrait photographers will issue requests such as 'hold that pose', but when Miles offers direction, he urges those in front of his lens to keep going, keep feeling, and let the moment flow.

Unsurprisingly, following his previous tips, this results in non-conventional compositions – but ones that are packed with organic human interest. Here, we see a couple walking towards the bridge, as if the photo were a single stolen frame from a movie. Still, it's as important as ever to consider lighting, framing, perspective, narrative, and other technical details.

Closing date for entries to Miles' Challenge:
11:59PM EST December 31, 2022

View Miles'
Challenge

