

2011

# TUNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Express Yourself  
Creatively

## *January 2012*

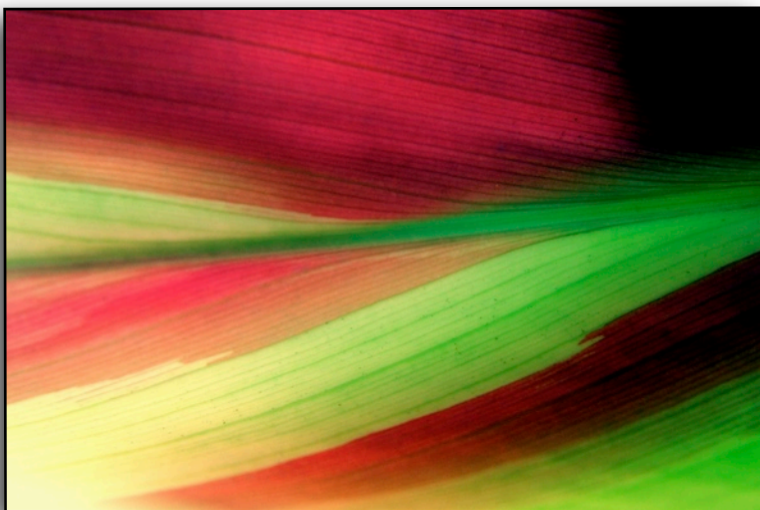
Here's some my thoughts about becoming a better photographer in 2012.

### ***Time is limited! Get Busy - Create!***

Photographers create. Period. Photography is about creating images and the best photographers I know focus on creating. They're all about *action* and getting things done. The best photographers do not sit around thinking about taking images, reading all the rumor blogs or buying more equipment. They're out creating on a regular basis. If you've been thinking about taking photos of something for longer than two weeks forget it and move on. Life is short, death is long.

### ***Find new friends!***

Talented photographers seek out, hang out and learn from other talented photographers. If you want to be better at what you do, then begin finding and working with



other talented people. Look for photographers that see the big picture, are opened minded and are willing to share ideas, techniques and skills. Less talented, small-minded photographers have secrets and aren't willing to share. They're worried that you'll learn what they already know. Hang around photographers who are givers, not takers.

## It costs how much?

In the photography arena you need to be known for the *value* that you deliver, not the *price* you charge. Deliver better than expected value and better than what your competition deliver to illustrate why you charge what you charge. Figure out what makes your style unique then deliver lots of it.

## Perfectionists are a big snooze.

Everyone makes mistakes, even the best photographers. Like it or not we learn and improve through this process. The idea is to experience a mistake so you know what not to do the next time. Instead of looking at mistakes as a failure, look at them as learning opportunities, then move on. We make a big deal out of being perfect and never making mistakes. Experience is the outcome of what happened to you as you were trying to accomplish something else. Trying new techniques, experimenting and learning are the steps to improvement. Perfectionists rarely try anything new.

## Reduce the distraction.

Quit taking so much gear with you. Simple is better. The more photography gear you take the more you have to keep track off and the

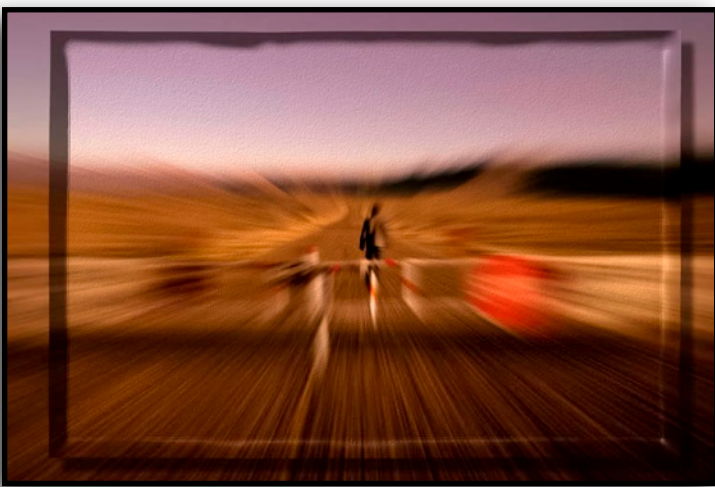


more distracted you become. Plan your photo sessions in advance so you know what equipment you'll need then focus on creating photos.

## What's the point?

Every photograph needs to have a Center of Interest (subject) and the Center of Interest needs to be creatively placed in frame. Your first question is, "What is the Center of Interest?" the second question is, "Where should the Center of Interest be placed?" and the last question is, "Why did I decide to take this photograph?

What captured my attention?" This is a creative step forward.



## Before the click.

Great photos are created! They don't happen by mistake. Photography isn't about being lucky or just showing up at the right time. Great photographs are the result of a through understanding of *light*, *color* and *composition*. True story! Work on developing your own visual language, style and vision. Remember "everything before the click of the shutter is photography and everything after the click is post-processing." Develop your "before the click knowledge" and appreciate the beauty of your creative output.

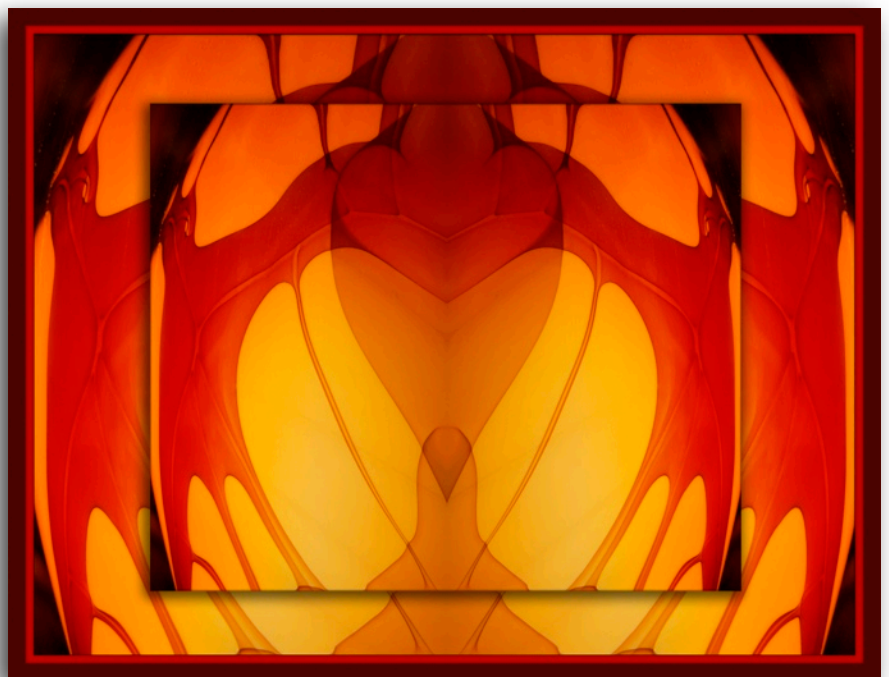


## Forget being different!

Don't worry about trying to be different. Anyone can be different. Different isn't being creative, it's just different. Standing in a different spot to take a photograph doesn't make me more creative, it's just a different spot. It doesn't take a lot of brain-power to take a photo differently. Talk about boring. Creative photographers develop their own *vision*, *style* and *visual language*. That's the opposite of boring!

## Listen to your own advice

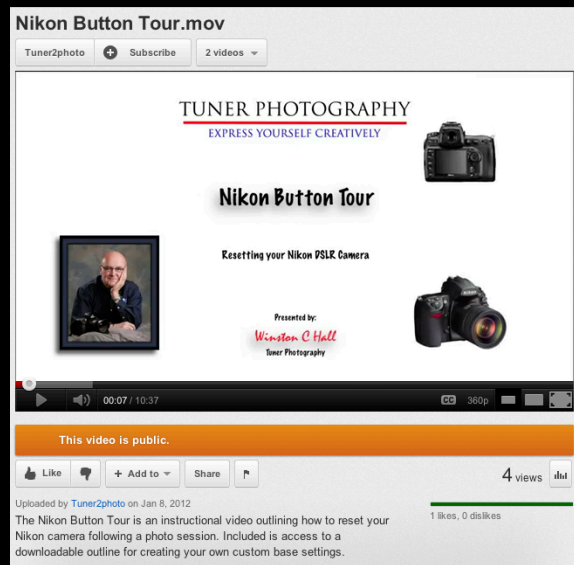
Don't always follow the advice of the experts. Follow the advice that comes from knowing what your visual language would say to do. Be your own expert. Just because an "expert" is using a certain piece of software doesn't mean it's the right choice for you. Think! It's only right if it fits your style, vision and workflow habits. It's not that the expert is incorrect, it's the fact that this process "is about you and *your* creativity." Besides, experts lack creativity, because they're too busy being the expert.



## *Nikon Button Tour and January 2012 Videos*

During my photography workshops I always demonstrate the importance of resetting the camera at the end of a photo session. Workshop participants have asked for a tutorial for the Nikon Button tour, so I developed a 10 minute training video about this process. [Click here](#) to view the Nikon Button video on You Tube.

You can also download the Nikon Button Tour outline from my web site at [Tuner Photography](#) > Assorted Stuff > Nikon Button Tour.



The **January 2012 Monthly Training Video** has been posted and is ready for viewing.

Topics for January 2012 include:

- Capture NX 2 - Version 2.3.0 update
- Auto Retouch Tool
- Levels and Curves - RGB Channels Revisited

[Click here](#) to view the training video on You Tube. [Click here](#) for an alternative location for viewing the training video.

[Click here](#) to view the **Basic Workflow Techniques** video.

Tuner Photography is on Facebook. Find out about new videos as soon as they are posted. [Click here](#) to like Tuner Photography.

## Capture NX 2 Update

Nikon released a major Capture NX 2 update 2.3.0 on 20 December 2011. Here's the link to download the update: [http://support.nikonusa.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/17542](http://support.nikonusa.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/17542)

### The following modifications apply to *both* the Windows and Macintosh versions

- Lens information is now displayed in the Metadata palette for images captured with the Nikon 1 V1 or Nikon 1 J1 using the Mount Adapter FT1 and a CPU lens.
- Support for images captured with the Nikon 1 V1 and Nikon 1 J1 using the Mount Adapter FT1 has been added.
- An Astro Noise Reduction option has been added to Noise Reduction in the Camera Settings portion of the Develop section in the Edit List palette. This option reduces the randomly spaced bright pixel that occur in images of stars captured with long exposures.
- An Auto2 option has been added to New WB under White Balance in the Camera Settings portion of the Develop section in the Edit List palette. This option is available with RAW images taken with the COOLPIX P7100.
- When white balance is changed to Auto2 and a settings file saved, a white balance setting of Recorded Value will be applied if the settings file is used on a RAW image that does not support the Auto2 white balance setting.
- When Set Gray Point was selected from White Balance in the Camera Settings portion of the Develop section in the Edit List palette, and the image clicked to specify a portion to use as the gray point, the point selected was sometimes not accurately reflected in the resulting white balance if the image had first been rotated. This issue has been resolved.

### The following modifications are for the Windows version of Capture NX 2.

- This software now operates as a native 64-bit application under the 64-bit versions of Windows 7 and Windows Vista.
- An Embed Preview When Saving NEF/NRW item with Thumbnail and Preview and Thumbnail only options has been added to the General panel of the Preferences accessed from the Edit menu. In addition, preview images can later be added to NEF/NRW files saved without embedding them using the new Update Preview option in the Browser palette context menu and File menu.
- The default setting for the Use Image Cache option in the Cache Settings panel of the Preferences, accessed from the Edit menu, has been changed to off (not checked). When Capture NX 2 Ver. 2.3.0 is installed with the Use Image Cache option enabled (checked) with the previous version of Capture NX 2, Use Image Cache will be disabled (unchecked) and cached data will be deleted.
- An issue that resulted in inconsistent display of images in the Browser palette and images inside the folder selected in the Folders palette has been resolved.

*Continued*

## Capture NX 2 Update

- ✓ When Set as Default Printer was applied to some printers with Windows, a Capture NX 2 stops working error message was displayed when Capture NX 2 was exited. This issue has been resolved.
- ✓ When tone curves were edited using Adjust menu>Light>Levels & Curves, Adjust menu>Color>LCH, or Quick Fix in the Develop section of the Edit List palette, positions of anchor points changed unexpectedly. This issue has been resolved.
- ✓ When the mouse cursor was positioned over the Set Black Point button in the Levels & Curves dialog, accessed via the Adjust menu>Light, to display an explanation of the feature, white point information was displayed. This issue has been resolved. (French version only)

## Additional modifications to the Macintosh version

- ✓ This software now operates as a native 64-bit application under Mac OS.
- ✓ An Embed Preview When Saving NEF/NRW item with Thumbnail and Preview and Thumbnail only options has been added to the General panel of the Preferences accessed from the Capture NX 2 menu.
- ✓ In addition, preview images can later be added to NEF/NRW files saved without embedding them using the new Update Preview option in the Browser palette context menu and File menu.
- ✓ The default setting for the Use Image Cache option in the Cache Settings panel of the Preferences, accessed from the Capture NX 2 menu, has been changed to off (not checked).
- ✓ When Capture NX 2 Ver. 2.3.0 is installed with the Use Image Cache option enabled (checked) with the previous version of Capture NX 2, Use Image Cache will be disabled (unchecked) and cached data will be deleted.
- ✓ When the selection brush was used to edit an image with the image window displayed at a large size (1980 × 1080, 1512 × 1008, etc.), Capture NX 2 sometimes quit unexpected. This issue has been resolved.

**NOTE:** If you own the NIK Color Efex Pro 3.0 filters, they will operate in version 2.3.0 but only in 32-bit mode. *NIK filters are not supported in 64-bit mode.* For instruction on how to switch from 64 to 32-bit mode and the new preference settings in 2.3.0 watch the Monthly Training Video for January 2012 by [clicking here](#).

Here is the response that I received from a NIK representative about the Color Efex Pro 3.0 and Capture NX 2 2.3.0 update

“Thank you for contacting Nik Software. Please register your Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2 product key at NikSoftware.com. Once the key is registered, you will be able to click on the Color Efex Pro 3.0 link that is created to download version 3.003. After installing the update, you will need to open Capture NX 2 in 32-bit mode. We do have a 64-bit update to Color Efex Pro 3.0 planned for release early in the new year. Though, for the next few weeks, 32-bit mode is the only option.”

### Other Updates:

Nikon D7000 camera - 1.03 update is available for B bank. [Click here](#) to download the update.

Does the histogram go with the photo on page 11? Yes.

The wait is over and I'm excited about the new D4. The release of Nikon D4 has been announced and is due to be shipped in late February 2012. If you're thinking about purchasing the D4 and want to get your name on the list for shipment I'd recommend contacting Jeff Moore at Robert's Camera in Indianapolis, IN at 800-726-5544 or 317-917-7078. His email is [jmoore@robertsimaging.com](mailto:jmoore@robertsimaging.com). Jeff has years of Nikon sales experience with Robert's and he'll take of you. Let him know that I referred you.



*At the heart of the image ...*

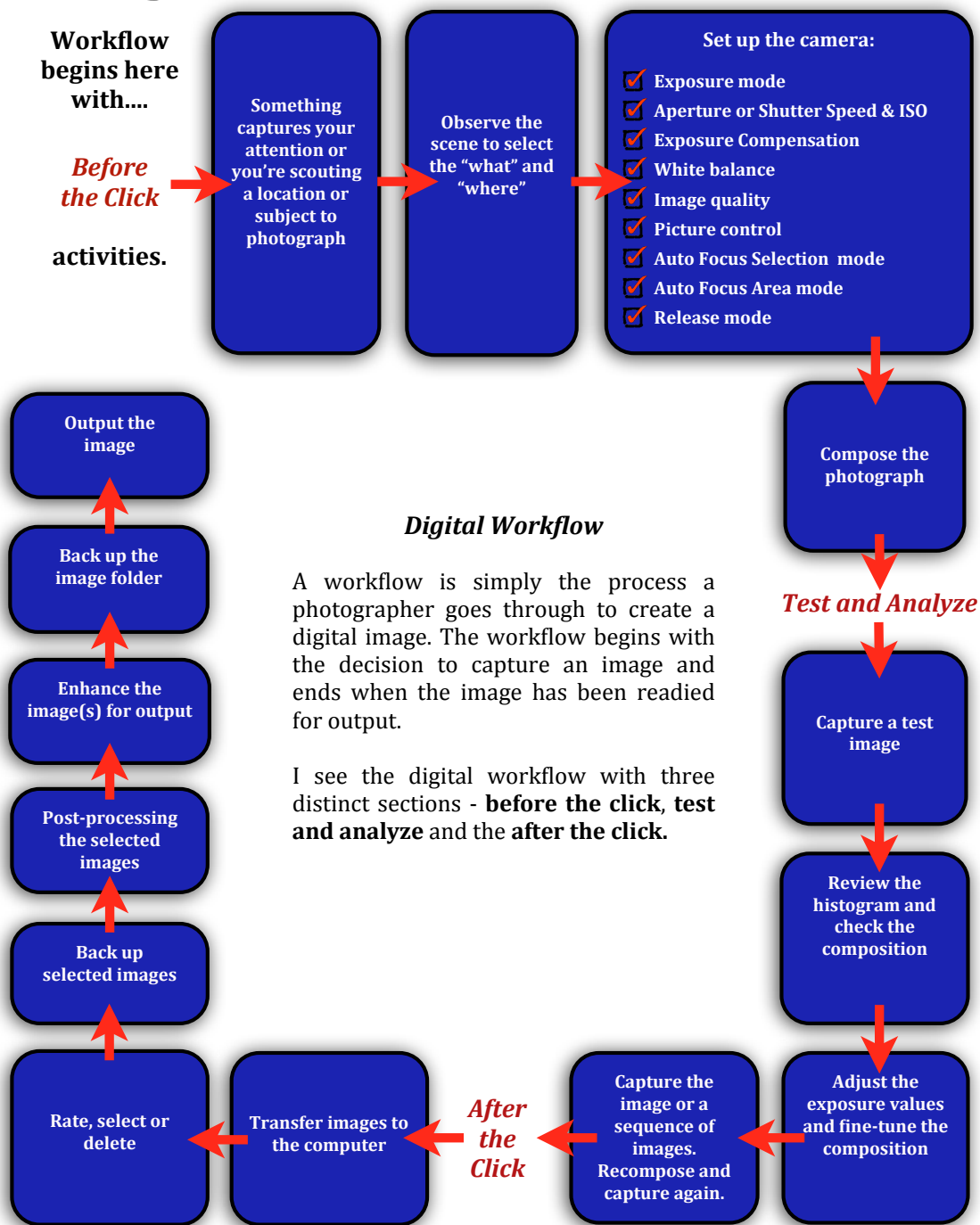
TOTAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
IMAGING  
MACHINE



**D4™ REDEFINING EXPECTATIONS  
ASTONISH WITH EVERY ASSIGNMENT**

In the October 2011 newsletter, I introduced the Digital Workflow overview. While I divided the workflow into three sections; **Before the Click, Test and Analyze** and **After the Click** (shown below) in this newsletter, I want to explore the **After the Click** section by establishing the enhancement needed to establish a basic workflow.

## Digital Workflow Overview



## After the Click - Digital Workflow Overview

January is a great time to think about developing an **After the Click** digital workflow. When it comes to establishing your own workflow, photographers can easily become overwhelmed because there are so many software programs, plug-ins, and techniques to consider. The focus shouldn't be an attempt to design the *perfect* workflow. The fact is, your workflow will never be perfect but it should be effective and streamlined, not overly complicated. A digital workflow is a work in-progress.

The workflow presented here outlines the *basic* enhancements needed to begin developing a more extensive workflow. Start with the basic steps then build your workflow overtime. Start by selecting an Image Editing software program (Capture NX 2, Photoshop, Lightroom, Aperture, etc.) that fits your needs. Resist the temptation to purchase or try every software program that's available.

### Digital Capture - The Foundation

Quality Digital Capture is the foundation of any workflow. Capturing a properly exposed image is essential to creating your digital workflow. What's a proper exposure? To me a proper exposure means two things. First and most important does the exposure fit inside the gamut of the camera's dynamic range, in other words the highlights and shadows have not been clipped. Second, the image has a wide range of tones from black to gray to white. If the image is properly exposed, I can focus on "enhancing the image" in post-production. If the image isn't properly exposed then I'll be forced into "fixing the image." If you have to stop and figure out how to "fix" every image from a photo session, you'll quickly become frustrated with the amount of time you spend in post-production and unhappy with the final image.

#### ***Properly Exposed Image + Basic Enhancements = Efficient Workflow***

With a properly exposed image you don't have to spend large amounts of time trying to correct a bad exposure. Your mindset should be to *enhance* not *correct* the image.

### White Balance

Enhancing the White Balance is critical. Exposure makes sure the tonal range is captured correctly and White Balance makes sure the colors are represented correctly with no color cast. The two best ways to make sure the white balance is correct is to use a digital gray card to create a reference photo during the photo session then enhance the white balance during post-processing. The second method is creating a PRE custom white balance in-camera. If the lighting changes, you'll need to capture another reference photo or PRE custom white balance setting.

#### **Properly Exposed Image (tones) + Correct White Balance (colors) = Base Image**

**Start by capturing a properly exposed image add in the correct white balance and you'll be 75% of the way to create the image you visualized.**

### Contrast

Enhance the Contrast – Most digital images would benefit from improved contrast. Contrast is the difference between the brighter and darker tones in the image. When contrast is added, the tonality and colors tend to pop, but it's very easy to overdo contrast.

## Saturation & Warmth

Enhance the Saturation/Warmth – Saturation is the intensity of a hue and like contrast, most digital images would benefit from a *slight* improvement in color saturation. Warmth is the addition of amber to the scene. Like contrast, these two adjustments can be easily overdone. Adding a small amount of saturation or warmth will make the colors look more vibrant and alive; too much and the colors look like you live on another planet.

## Dodge

Enhance by Dodging – Dodging is a technique that is used to open up the darker tones in the image. Dodging is applied as a local adjustment and is accomplished by selecting an area with the dark tone and applying a Levels and Curves adjustment to that area to make the tones brighter, the texture and detail more visible. Darker tones are those tones to the left of the mid point of the histogram.

## Burn

Enhance by Burning – Burning is a technique to make the brighter tones darker. Like Dodging, Burning is applied as a local adjustment with the Levels and Curves adjustment tool.

**The final two steps in the workflow are to resize and sharpen the image.**

## Resize

Resize the image for output – The image needs to be changed from it's naïve size to the desired output size. Select the Size and Resolution or Image Size adjustment to alter the height, width and resolution of the image.

## Sharpening

Sharpening is always the last step. Digital images need to be sharpened after resizing has been applied. Like any other adjustment sharpening can be easily overdone and a little bit goes a long way. Select Unsharp Mask and try the following settings as a starting point:

### **Portrait settings** - starting point:

- Intensity: 20 to 30%
- Radius: 5 to 8%
- Threshold: 8 to 10

### **Landscape or Nature** - starting point:

- Intensity: 60 to 75%
- Radius: 5 to 8%
- Threshold: 3 to 5

When you add additional enhancements steps or plug-in features they should added into one of the basic enhancements categories listed here.

This article outlines the basic workflow steps. Now it's time to develop your own.

**Final thought:** A digital workflow doesn't exist in a vacuum by itself. It needs space to develop and grow as your skills develop and grow over time. Don't limit your workflow by making it inflexible as your skills change so should your workflow.

**[Click here](#) to watch the **Basic Workflow** video on You Tube or [here](#) for Screencast.**

Does the histogram go with the photo?



Does the histogram go with this photo?

For the answer look at the bottom of page 6.

Does the range of tones in the image match the histogram?

High or low contrast.

Watch the January 2012 training video to see how this image was enhanced.

Notice how the histograms all have the same shape? This is an indicator of no color cast.

