

## **Photography Terms:**

**APERTURE: (f-stop)** an opening, such as a hole or slit; in a camera, a circular opening that limits the amount of light that can enter and expose the film.

**COMPOSITION:** the combination or arrangement of elements in a work of art, such as photograph, so as to achieve a unified whole.

### **COMPRESSION:**

**Lossless Compression:** is similar to what WinZip does. For instance, if you compress a document into a ZIP file and later extract and open the document, the content will of course be identical to the original. No information is lost in the process. Only some processing time was required to compress and decompress the document. TIFF is an image format that can be compressed in a lossless way.

**Lossy Compression:** lossy compression reduces the image size by discarding information and is similar to summarizing a document. For example, you can summarize a 10-page document into a 9 pages or 1 page document that represents the original, but you cannot create the original out of the summary as information was discarded during summarization. JPEG is an image format that is based on lossy compression.

**CONTRAST:** the difference in color and light between parts of an image. The difference between the shadow and highlighted areas of an image

**CROP:** to cut off or mask the unwanted parts of a print or negative.

**DEPTH of FIELD (DOF):** is a term which refers to the areas of the photograph both in front and behind the main focus point which remain in focus (sharp).

**EXPOSURE:** is the amount of light received by the film or sensor and is determined by how wide you open the lens diaphragm (aperture) and by how long you keep the film or sensor exposed (shutter speed). The effect an exposure has depends on the sensitivity of the film or sensor.

**FOCAL POINT:** the central or principal point of focus; in a photograph, the center of attention.

**INTERPOLATION:** (sometimes called resampling) is an imaging method to increase (or decrease) the number of pixels in a digital image. Some digital cameras use interpolation to produce a larger image than the sensor captured or to create digital zoom. Virtually all image editing software support one or more methods of interpolation. How smoothly images are enlarged without introducing jaggies depends on the sophistication of the algorithm.

**JAGGIES:** refer to the visible "steps" of diagonal lines or edges in a digital image. Also referred to as "aliasing", these steps are simply a consequence of the regular, square layout of a pixel.

**JPEG** (Joint Photographic Experts Group): The most commonly used digital image format.

Universally compatible with browsers, viewers, and image editing software, it allows photographic images to be compressed by a factor 10 to 20 compared to the uncompressed original with very little visible loss in image quality.

**MANUAL MODE:** you can set both the aperture and the shutter speed. This gives you ultimate control over the exposure. It can be useful to ensure that the same exposure is used for a sequence of shots or when shooting in special circumstances, e.g. shooting in direct sunlight

**MEDIUM:** an intervening agency or instrument by which something is conveyed or accomplished; a means or channel of communication, information, or entertainment, such as newspapers, radio, television, or photographs.

**MEMORY/STORAGE CARD:** (*Storage cards are to digital cameras what films are to conventional cameras*) they are removable devices, which hold the images taken with the camera.

**PHOTOGRAM:** is a photographic image made without a camera by placing objects directly onto the surface of a photo-sensitive material such as photographic paper and then exposing it to light.

**PINHOLE CAMERA:** is a very simple camera with no lens and a single very small aperture. Simply explained, it is a lightproof box with a small hole in one side. Light from a scene passes through this single point and projects an inverted image on the opposite side of the box.

**PIXELS:** the smallest item of information in an image.

**RAW:** Unlike JPEG and TIFF, RAW is not an abbreviation but literally means "raw" as in "unprocessed". A RAW file contains the original image information as it comes off the sensor before in-camera processing so you can do that processing afterwards on your PC with special software.

**RESOLUTION:** the number of pixels a digital image contains.

**RULE OF THIRDS:** One of the most popular 'rules' in photography. It is also popular amongst artists. **It works like this:** Imaginary lines are drawn dividing the image into thirds both horizontally and vertically. You place important elements of your composition where these lines intersect.

**SHUTTER SPEED:** the rate at which the aperture of a camera opens and closes to let in light and expose the film.

**TIFF:** (Tagged Image File Format) is a universal image format that is compatible with most image editing and viewing programs. TIFF is widely used as a final format in the printing and publishing industry.

**VISUAL LITERACY:** The ability to apprehend or interpret pictures or other visual images, with the result of understanding the message conveyed by the image.

**VIEWFINDER:** is the window you look through to compose the scene.

**WinZip:** is a proprietary file archive and compressor for Microsoft Windows, developed by WinZip Computing