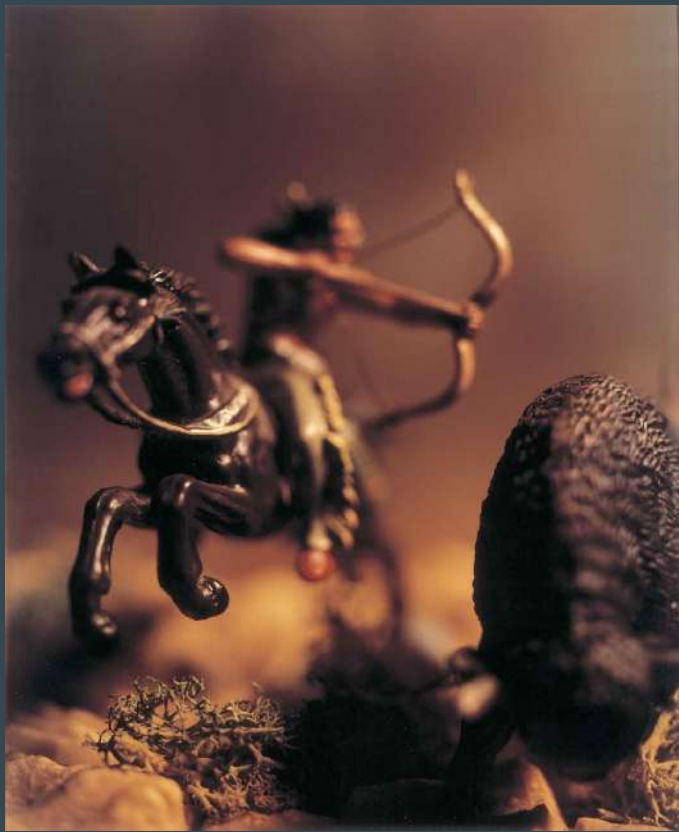# Toy Photography

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David Levinthal

Jean-Philippe Delberghe

Most toy photographs have at least some of the following aspects

- Shallow depth of field
- Forced perspective
- Interaction with environment
- Tells a story
- Mixing different kinds of toys
- Advanced: Photoshopping out supports

Shallow depth of field

Using shallow depth of field not only makes the toys stand out in a photo, but it also blurs out the background so it doesn't distract the viewer.

ON A CAMERA: put your setting on A/AV and choose a lower fstop. This is a good solution for Photo 1 students.
Or, for more advanced shooting (Photo 2 and above), set it to M and choose a lower fstop and then choose a shutter speed that gives you the proper exposure. Use your camera's light meter to check the exposure.

ON A PHONE: use the PORTRAIT mode to fake a shallow depth of field.

Maddy Litka

Johnny Wu

Vesa Lehtimäki

Forced Perspective

You can make a toy look huge by putting it very close to the camera. This is useful if you want to use it with normal sized people and large objects.

Brian McCarty

Ralph - Fascinating Amsterdam

Interact with environment

Instead of just having your toy just standing doing nothing (boring!), have it interact with the environment.

Maybe pick an environment that matches the toy.

And if you can't find a good environment, you can make one!

Heather Milne

Shelly Corbett

Maddy Litka

You can even make an environment yourself

Some toy photographers make scenes or dioramas as the environment

Tell a story

Have the toys interact with each other. And interact with other objects or props that you add to the scene. Make up a narrative. Pretend it is a scene from a made up movie.

Thomas Stephan

Mitchel Wu

Maddy Litka

Mitchel Wu

Mitchel Wu

Pierre-Jacques Ober

Jason Jerde

Danny Neumann

Here is a whole wedding shot with Legos:

https://www.boredpanda.com/lego-wedding-photography-chris-wallace/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Mix different kinds of toys

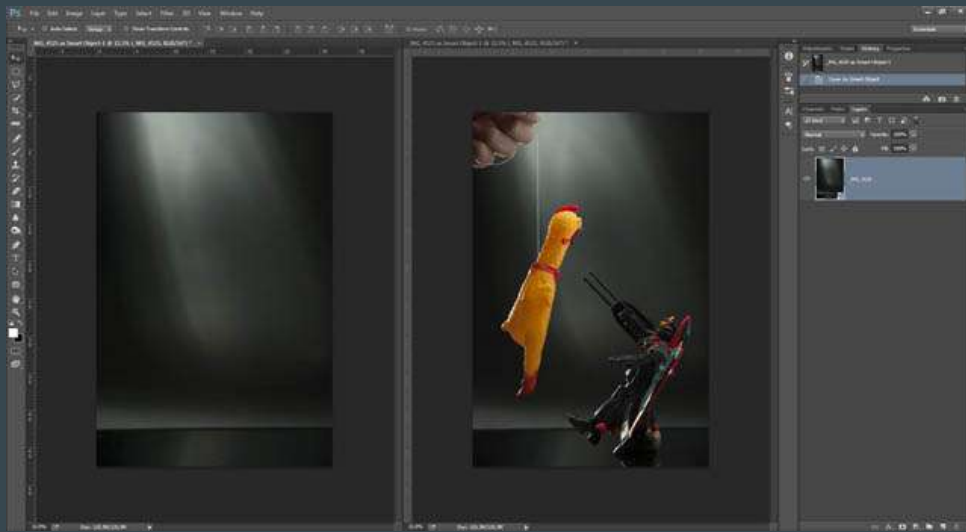Don't be afraid to mix different kinds of toys together.

Mitchel Wu

Jefferson Bongarthner

Jefferson Bongarthner

Advanced: Photoshop out supports

You can use string and wire to hold up toys or make them seem like they are floating in the air. Then use Photoshop, photopea.com, or an app like Snapseed to remove the wires.

Use layer masks or fixing tools to get rid of wires and other supports in the photo.

Your assignment:

Create one toy photo using some of the suggestions in this slideshow. If you don't have any toys, you can draw some eyes and a mouth on paper and tape them to something like a spoon. Or draw a face on an egg.

You MUST tell a story. Do not have toys just standing there doing nothing.

Interaction is the key to good storytelling. Having the toys interact with the background or each other will help you tell a story.

The photoshop techniques are more advanced. Only do this is you feel comfortable with those tools and if you are not having technical difficulties with Photoshop/photopea. On your phone, you can use the free Snapseed app. Click on TOOLS and then HEALING. Paint over the area you want to remove. On the Photoshop Express app, click on the band aid icon on the bottom to use.

OPTIONAL: Videos with extra advice

Photo
Challenge
At Home!

Week 1

Action Figues
& LEGO