Contents

CHAPTER 1 Black-and-white Vision 3

Why Black and White? 4

Creating Black-and-white Images 6

Visualizing in Monochrome 7

Selecting Your Images 9
- Creating photographs 9
- Previsualization 9
- The problem with digital 11

Timing the Moment 11
- Hurry up and wait 12
- Create perfect timing 16

When Should You Use Black and White? 18

Finding Photos Wherever You Are 21

CHAPTER 2 Photography Fundamentals 27

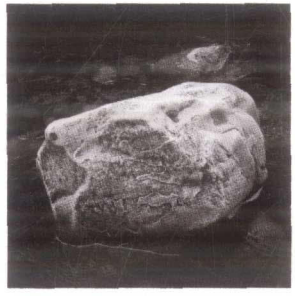
Exposure 28
- Learning the histogram 30
- Overexposure 33
- Underexposure 38
- Exposure compensation 41

Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO 43
- Aperture 43
- Shutter speed 47
- ISO 49

White Balance 53

Composition 55
Rule of Thirds 56
Balance and symmetry 56
Exploring design 57
Shape and simplicity 57

Your Unique Point of View 58
Get close to your subject 58
Anchor your photos 58
Find natural framing 59
Get high and low 60



CHAPTER 3 Getting the Most Out of Your Camera 63

Read the Manual 64

Knowing the Controls 66

Using the Exposure Modes 67
Reading the histogram 70
Exposing to the right 73

File Settings 74
Image quality 74
Raw + JPEG 76

Adjusting Tone and Contrast in Camera 78

White Balance Questions 79

Using Filters 80
Black-and-white contrast filters 80
Polarizing filter 83
Neutral density filters 83

Settings to Start with 85
Everything is a situation 85
Portraits 86
Landscapes 86
Still lifes 87
Street photography 88

CHAPTER 4 Working With Light 93

Metering and Exposure for Black and White 94

Zone System Basics 95

Learning Your Metering Systems 98
Center-weighted meter 98
Averaging, Evaluative, and Matrix meters 99
Spot meters 101

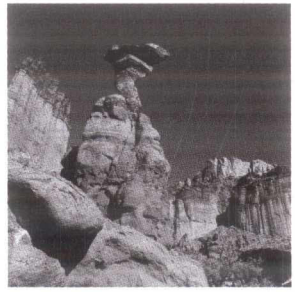
Light Direction 103
Frontlight 103
Sidelight 104
Backlight 106

Light Quality 108
Hard light 108
Soft light 110

Looking for Landscape Lighting 110

Great Light for People and Portraits 112
Reflectors and fill light 113
Shade and even light 115
Lighting groups 116

Dealing with Tones at Twilight 117
Black and White After Dark 119



CHAPTER 5 Tools and Toys 123

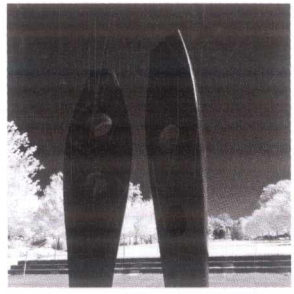
Infrared Digital Photography 124
IR filters 124
Dedicated IR cameras 125
Shooting in IR 126

Lensbaby 128

Black and White by Your Side 130
Camera phones and effects 131
Point-and-shoot black and white 132
dSLR specialty cameras 134

Strobes 136
Off-camera flash 138
Studio strobes 139

Tripods 140
Getting the most for your money 140
Tripod heads 141



CHAPTER 6 Tonal Quality in Black and White 145

Colors in Black and White 146

Tones and Contrast 147

Working with Shadows and Contrast 149

Light Quality 151
Soft light 151
Hard light 153
Light direction 154
Time of day 156

Dealing with Weather 157
Opportunities in bad weather 157
Making the most of where you are 158

Looking for Highlights 159

Building Depth in the Shadows 160

CHAPTER 7 The Black-and-white Digital File 163

Converting to Monochrome 164

Learning from Film Filters 166

RAW or JPEG? 169
Do I need to shoot a RAW file? 169
Black-and-white mode from the camera 170
Maximizing RAW + JPEG 171

Digital RAW Black-and-white Conversions 171
Adobe Camera Raw 171
Lightroom 172
Aperture 176
Digital Negative 177

Canon Digital Photo Professional 180
The Nikon Software Suite 180
Photoshop 180
Photoshop Elements 183

CHAPTER 8 Working in the Digital Darkroom 189

Understanding Local and Global Changes 190

Multiple RAW Processing 191

Working with Adjustment Layers 195
Levels 195
Curves 196
Setting black points and white points 198

Dodging and Burning 202

Layer Masks 205

Shadow and Highlight Tool 208

Additional Filters and Tools 210
Nik Silver Efex Pro 210
Plug-ins, actions, and presets 211
Gradients 216

Selective Effects 218
Tones 218
Sharpening 220
Color 220
Brightness and contrast 222

Film Simulations 222

Create Your Own Workflow 223
Create a protocol for storing images 224
Process your images 225
Manage your images 225

CHAPTER 9 Toning, Coloring, and Special effects 229

Old-process Effects 230

Adding Tints and Tones 233
Sepia 233
Selenium 234

Split Toning 235

Coloring Monochrome Images 237

Infrared Effects 238

High Dynamic Range 240

Compositing New Images 241

CHAPTER 10 Output: Printing and Presentation 249

Inkjet Printers and Papers 250

Calibrating your Equipment 253
Monitors 254
Paper and printer profiles 255

Creating Black-and-white Prints 256
Printing contact sheets 257
Making test prints 258
Your final print 260
Creating your own book 263
Archival printing and storage 264

Digital Output Options and Ideas 264
Creating digital contact sheets 264
Building Web galleries 265
Sharing images online 269

Glossary 273

Index 278