

Ardent Images

Home of **Mythography Creations**® Fantasy Art
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Photo Session Guidelines **For Models and Portrait Clients**

COMPLETE PLANNING AND PAPERWORK

- During Design Meeting, discuss image goals, styles, clothing selections, location logistics, and any other preparations needed to assure a successful shoot
- Assure privacy options are understood and a level is agreed upon (see [Al's Privacy Policy](#))
- If applicable, discuss any special considerations regarding nudity and [decency standards](#)
- Please complete and sign a [Commission Agreement](#) or [Model Release](#) for each session

APPLY YOUR BEST EFFORT

Jeff works hard to help 'set the stage' by creating an atmosphere appropriate for the goals of the images being made. You can help get the most out of your photo session by coming with an open mind, and a desire to do your best. Try to stay relaxed and focused. Don't hold back or think of it as 'just another picture'. Take advantage of this chance to create something new and interesting. Use it as an artistic departure from the routines and struggles of daily life.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

A successful photo session results from collaboration between the photographer and subject(s). If you have creative ideas, poses, props etc. you would like to try, please don't hesitate to ask. You can also discuss or bring other images you may have found inspiring.

BE PATIENT and OPEN-MINDED

Creating fine portraiture and artwork takes time, concentration, and flexibility. Often, several exposures are made of each pose, because subtle nuances can make all the difference between a good image and a great one. Plans are sometimes adjusted on the spot to try new ideas or work with the dynamics of the moment. Good photo sessions need to be planned, but the best results happen when the subject and photographer are also free to 'go with the flow'!

DON'T BE EMBARRASSED

Unless you're an experienced model it is natural to be a little nervous or self-conscious about your portrait or modeling session. You may be wondering if your poses will feel awkward, or if you will look OK in the images. Rest assured you need not feel embarrassed: your privacy is respected, and Jeff is very finicky about selecting and optimizing images to look great.

IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, PLEASE ASK!

If you are hot, cold, thirsty, want different music, or anything else to make your session more comfortable and successful, please speak up!!!

...and, most importantly,

RELAX AND HAVE FUN!!!

It isn't a torture session! Let's make it as fun, creative, and enjoyable as possible!

Some additional tips especially for intimate portraiture, figurative art, etc:

- It is best if we have time to meet in person prior to the shoot, preferably at a separate consultation appointment. It is hard to be relaxed and focused during the session if you just met me 5 minutes prior!
- Decide whether the subject would like to have a trusted friend or relative attend the photo session, or would prefer greater privacy with only the subject(s) and photographer present. One option is to have someone accompany the subject to the appointment, and remain nearby but out-of-sight (for example in the next room) while the photos are being created. For a successful photo shoot, it is essential for the subject to feel comfortable and secure, and not overly self-conscious or distracted. However, if the subject prefers having someone special attend the session, they are welcome and encouraged to do so.
- Unless the plan calls for something else, the subject's skin should obviously be clean and perhaps moisturized with clear lotion (especially in winter) to avoid any visibly dry areas. Hair should usually be mostly done and ready upon arrival for the appointment, though 'touching up' can be done at the last minute. If special make-up, body paints, hair treatments, or other preparations are needed please allow additional time.
- Avoid wearing any clothing or undergarments that have tight waist bands, elastic cuffs or socks etc. for at least 1 hour prior to the photo shoot. This is to avoid the unsightly indentations and discolorations these things can temporarily cause in skin. Make up, if any, should be discussed and planned before the shoot.
- No "regular" undergarments should show, including around edges or under other materials (this guideline even applies when the subject is fully clothed, too!). It may sound picky, but it looks tacky and unprofessional and detracts from the artistic effect of the image to have "everyday underwear" showing through. If modesty is a concern, there are other ways to preserve it with draping material, clothing/costumes, poses, etc. The objective here is to avoid a "discount store glamour" look, and instead aim for a truly elegant, artful look that will stand the test of time.