

Short Subjects

Expert's Book Teaches Posing for the Camera

A book by a digital photography expert includes extensive information on posing that is also useful to costumers.



This new edition of *Corrective*

Lighting, Posing & Retouching for Digital Portrait Photographers by Jeff Smith discusses how to improve lighting, digital capture, and client posturing techniques in the

camera room so that less time is spent making computerized corrections in the digital darkroom.

It provides posing and lighting strategies for minimizing perceived faults in the client's appearance, such as under-eye circles, bald spots, and tummy bulges, along with techniques for gracefully addressing and resolving potential appearance problems without demoralizing the subject.

It also includes pointers for using Adobe Photoshop for the image problems that remain, including digitally removing

braces and smoothing stray hairs. You won't find any super fancy Photoshop techniques in here. Instead you will find techniques that quickly let you deliver a useful print.

Although aimed at professional photographers, it has a wealth of information that can help costumers work with photographers to make better pictures.

Published by Amherst Media, *Corrective Lighting, Posing & Retouching for Digital Portrait Photographers* is available from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and other booksellers.

High-Tech Needle Worker Leads Historic Project

MIT engineer leads over 250 volunteers to recreate an embroidered 17th century women's waistcoat for Plimoth Plantation.

Tricia Wilson Nguyen recently lead a 3-year project that resurrected 17th century needlework techniques and materials required to create an embroidered women's linen waistcoat for an exhibit planned by the Plimoth Plantation. She believes it is the most ambitious embroidery project since Queen Elizabeth II's coronation robes.

The jacket was based on two jackets in the London's Victoria & Albert museum. It is heavily embroidered with vines, silver gilt stems, gold sequins, gold and silver metal

lace, and a panoply of birds, butterflies, and botanical themes.



Photo by Ed Nute, Courtesy of Plimoth Plantation

A needlework aficionado for most of her life, Nguyen accepted the challenge from the Plimoth plantation. She started a blog and used other social media to recruit over 250 volunteers from around the world to come to the Plantation and work on the

jacket at their own expense. Many volunteers returned multiple times to contribute their skills.

Applications had to “audition” by completing a sampler kit, and were assigned work based on their skill levels. Even beginners and children were allowed to work on simpler parts of the jacket.

The project resurrected techniques and materials that had been lost for centuries. Nguyen worked with several European textile manufactures on recreating 16th century gilt silk thread for the project that are now back into production. She also did a forensic analysis of metal sequins on similar jackets in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and worked with a blacksmith to recreate them.

Sadly, the economic downturn forced Pimoth to cancel the exhibition and lay off many of the staff members who were key to the jacket’s creation. At a fundraiser on December 10 2009, a corseted Colonial role player modeled the jacket in a fire-lit room at the Plantation. They will loan the jacket to Winterthur Museum in Delaware for two years, and hope to do the show in the future.

For more information, see the [Boston.com](#) story and the [blog](#) that Nguyen created for the project. Visit her [web site](#) to learn about her work, upcoming classes, and to purchase authentic 17th century thread and other needlework accessories.

Hollywood Magic

The Reading Public Museum displays costumes from the Golden Age of Hollywood



Philadelphia-area TV personality and fashion designer Gene Landon has assembled a world-class collection of over 100 costumes, created by the film industry’s greatest designers, including Adrian, Edith Head, Elsa Schiaparelli, Walter Plunkett, Orry Kelly, Jean Louis, Helen Rose, Halston, and Bob Mackie. Landon co-curated the exhibit.

Joan Crawford started Landon on his amazing collection by sending him outfits from her screen and personal wardrobes, among them her shoulder pads. In 1989, the Ted Turner organization selected Landon to recreate the costumes from *Gone with the Wind* for its Golden Anniversary.

Specific display areas will be changed periodically, with each featuring a legendary star or movie as the theme.

“The Magic of Hollywood” is at the Reading, Pennsylvania museum through May 30, 2010. His GWTW recreations were also on display until February 15, 2010. For more information and a movie of co-curator Scott Schweigert discussing the exhibit, visit their [web site](#).

Return to the Roaring 20’s

The LACIS Museum of Lace and Textiles shows off vintage 1920’s fashions

The LACIS Museum of Lace and Textiles will mount it’s 2010 costume exhibit, “Night and Day: The World of the Twenties” at their downtown Berkeley, California location.

The exhibit uses material from the rich collection of LMLT to illustrate the range of clothing worn during the Roaring Twenties. According to Erin Algeo, who is in charge of the exhibit, it will include examples of clothing from all levels of 1920s society, from the common everyday housedress to the haute couture French imported evening ensemble.



Detail of shawl from LMLT 1920s exhibit

LMLT ‘s collection includes thousands of specimens from pre-Columbian Peru, the finest from the 17th c. European courts and

examples of machine lace exemplifying the 19th c. industrial revolution Their library has over 10,000 items of books, patterns, articles and other ephemera.

“Night and Day: The World of the Twenties” opens April 3, 2010 and runs through August 1, 2010. Visit their [web site](#) for information on LMLT and this exhibit.

A Century of Foundation Garments

The Lace Museum & Guild exhibits 100 years of historical lingerie & sleepwear.

Another exhibit of historical garments is at the Lace Museum & Guild in Sunnyvale, California, entitled “Night and Day: Lacy Lingerie and Sleepwear from 1860-1950”.

The exhibit features all things underneath, including petticoats, chemises, camisoles, corsets, corset covers, pantaloons, picnic pants, hoops, slips, teddies, night gowns, stockings, bustles and other lace trimmed undergarments. It is a fabulous show and it is so interesting to see how underwear changed as fashion changed.



“Night and Day: Lacy Lingerie and Sleepwear from 1860-1950” runs **January through June 7, 2010**. Visit their [web site](#) for information on LM&G and this exhibit.

Shoe-it-Yourself Projects

A book shows how to turn boring shoes into sassy footwear.

In her latest book, *Sassy Feet!*, shoe embellishing expert Margot Silk Forrest provides hands on information as well as tips and tricks for painting and embellishing shoes. Forrest is the self-proclaimed founder of the “shoe-it-yourself” movement.



Sassy Feet! is ideal for costumers who want to create novel and eye-catching shoe treatments, whether for historical, sci-fi, or fantasy genre. It is available, autographed, from the author’s [web site](#).

The book has color photos of more than 65 DIY shoe designs that you can copy or adapt for your own use. It also includes detailed how-to information on painting shoes, stitching and gluing on embellishments, brand-name product recommendations, and shopping tips.

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Whatzis?

A puzzling photo of a costuming related object. Can you guess what it is?

The answer to the challenge in the last issue: an adjustable wire dress form. This type of form was popular in the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950s. You can sometimes find vintage models for sale on eBay.

A wire mesh body hangs at the shoulders from cross-rods, which are attached to an adjustable vertical rod that is mounted in a floor stand. Wire ties between eyebolts along the vertical rod and the wire mesh body stabilize it during fittings.



To adjust it, unsnap the row of tabs in the front of the body and take it off the rods. Put it on like a jacket, and snap the tabs back up. Ask a friend to mold the mesh to your body. Be careful not to over-tighten, or the mesh will squeeze you and it will not match your shape.

Once adjusted, carefully unsnap it, take it off, remount it on the rods and floor stand, snap it back up, and connect the stabilizing wire ties. This type of form can be adjusted to your body more accurately than a solid form, even if your body changes shape.

Do you have an unusual photo? Send it, together with a description of what it is, to vc@siwcostumers.org.