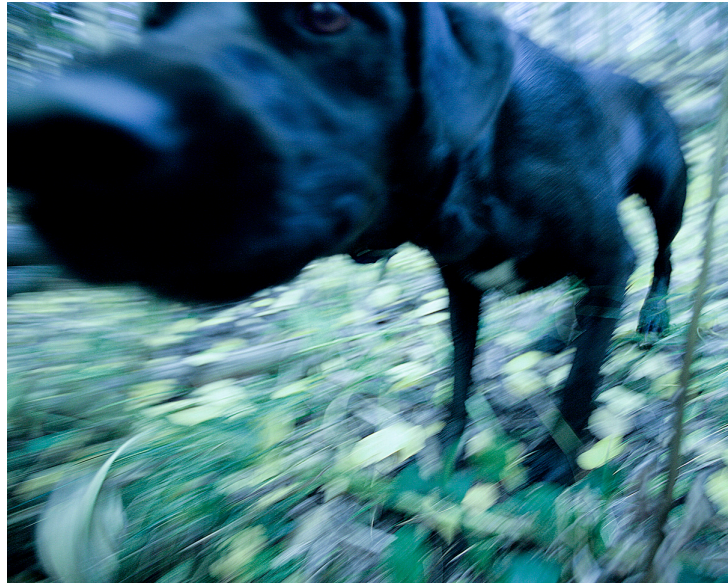


Photo Silly Advanced

Thursday, March 22, 2012



#7 Your Eyes



Because our eyes adjust to color so well we don't think much about the differences between all the different light sources we encounter. As photographers, this becomes critical if we want to have control over the color in our images.

Sunlight or Daylight is bluish when compared to indoor lighting, shade is even more blue and fluorescents tend toward green. All these differences show up in our photographs.

In a fully automatic mode your camera will analyze the light and make a correction just like it does with exposure. It usually gets pretty good results, but not always.

To make it easier to understand we can divide all the different sources we are likely to encounter in these six:

Daylight:	Direct sun
Shade:	Sky but no direct sun
Overcast:	Sunlight blocked by clouds
Incandescent:	Regular light bulbs
Fluorescent:	Tubes and the newer energy savers
Flash:	Very close to daylight but even more blue.

All but the most basic cameras will have these settings or a variation. They are in the menu under White Balance.

The Settings you will see on your camera may include: AWB (auto), Custom White Balance, Daylight, Shade, Overcast, Incandescent, Fluorescent.

If you want shots with a neutral color balance, where a white wall or fabric is truly white, you have three ways to achieve this:

1. Set camera to AWB, Auto White Balance. Works most of the time.
2. Set Camera to match the light source you are in: i.e., in your living room, set White Balance to Incandescent (the little light bulb icon).
3. Create a custom white balance. This is the most accurate because it takes into account all the different sources that might be mixing together.

How to do it: Take a white sheet of paper and shoot it in the same light as your subject. Make sure it fills the frame. Your Auto focus might freak out, so just use the focus hold trick. Navigate to "Custom White Balance" and select the image of the paper you just shot. You may then need to select Custom White Balance as your camera setting. Do this every time you are in a different situation. Read through your owners manual a couple of times.

Mix and match. You can use the white balance settings to get accurate color balance but you can also use them creatively. This is your assignment:

Shoot some living thing from a very low point of view and mix up the white balance. If you are outside, set the camera to Fluorescents for example. Try all the combinations and pick the image with the most feeling.