Winston Churchill by Yousuf Karsh

Portraits:
Photographing people, pets and other animals

Audrey Hepburn by Yousuf Karsh

Humphrey Bogart by Yousuf Karsh
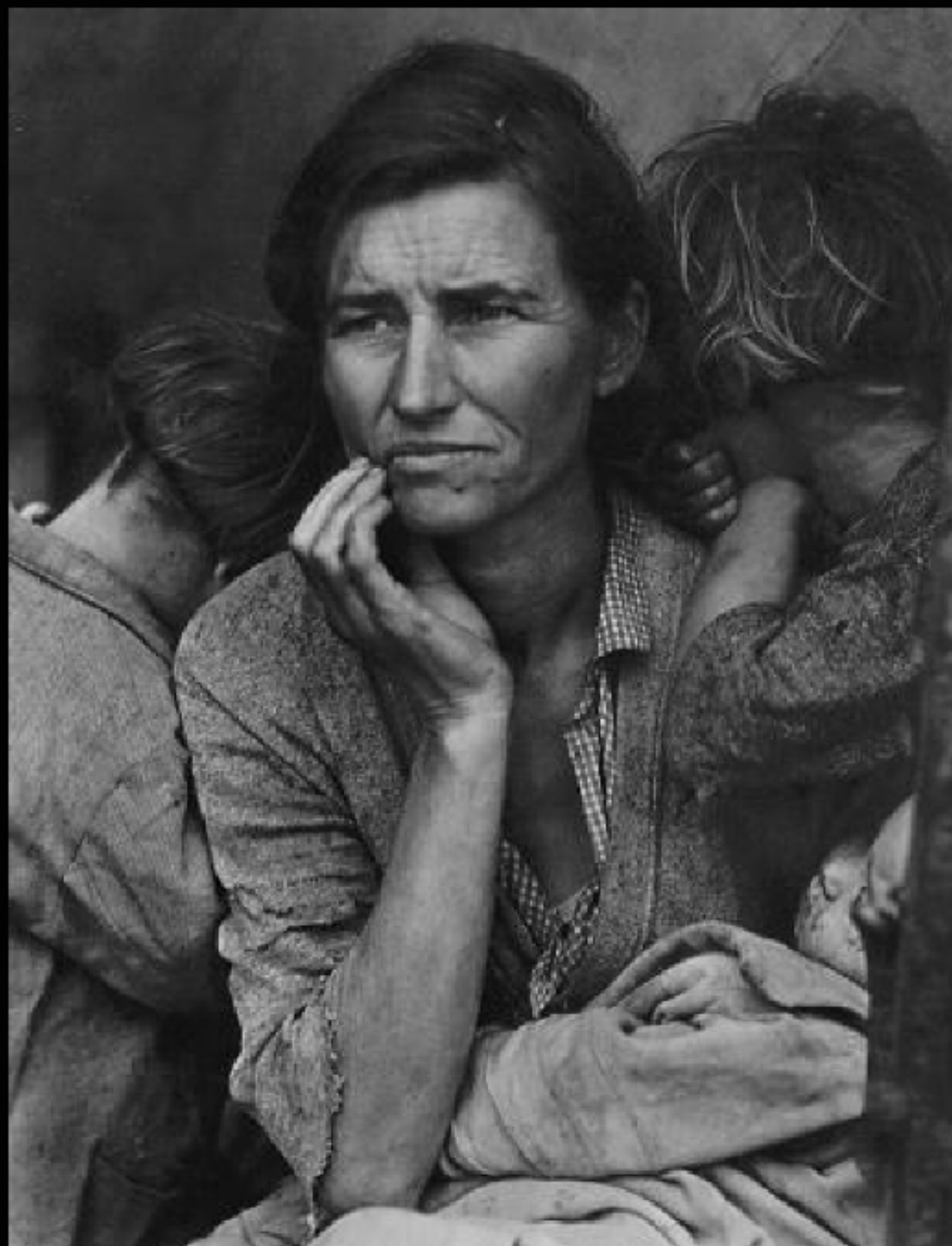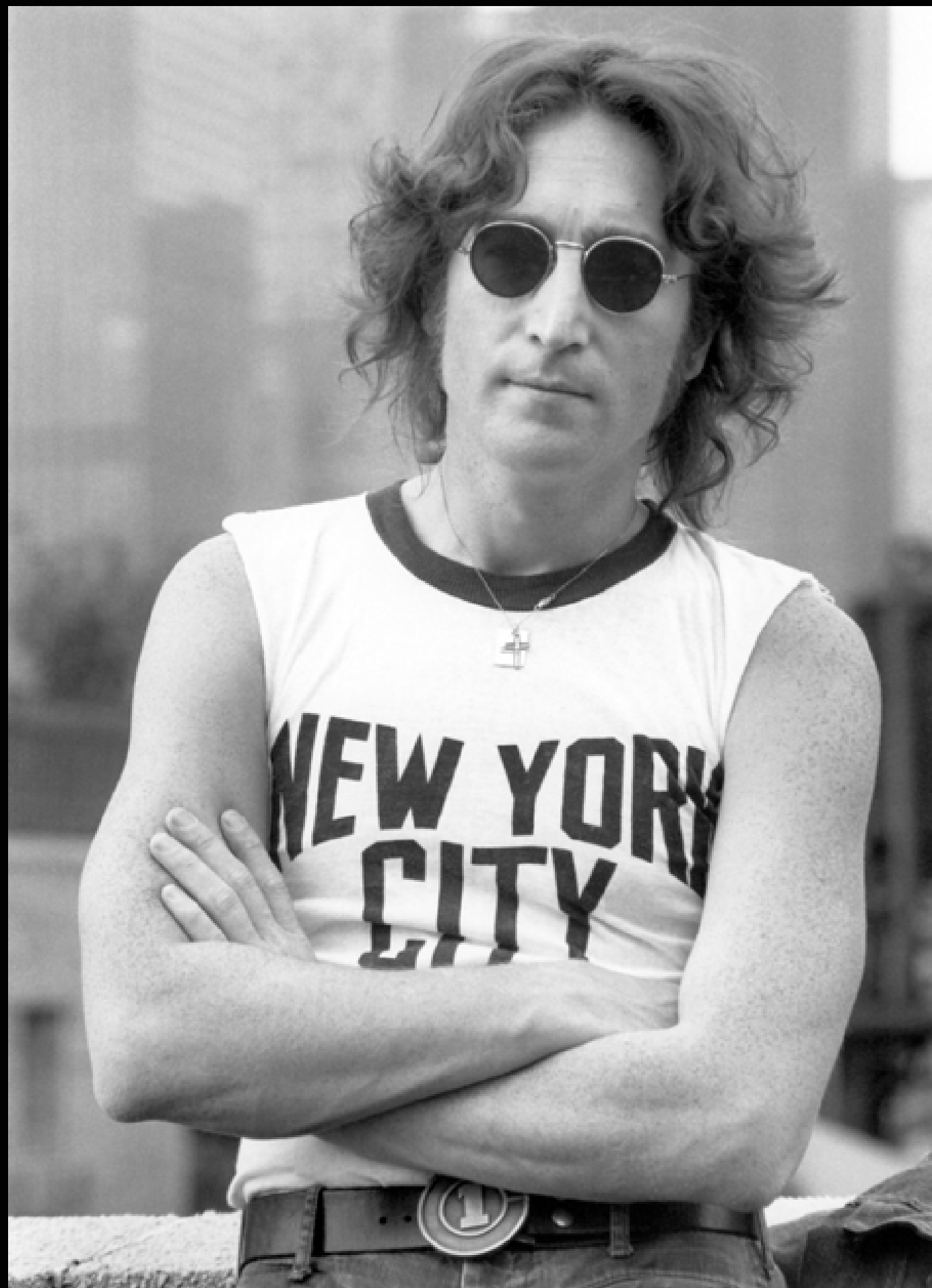
Joan Crawford by Yousuf Karsh

Photo by Dorothea Lange

Photograph by Steve McCurry

Photograph by Bob Gruen

Foreigner Gets Good, Stones Get Great, Simon & Garfunkel Get Back

Rolling Stone

MERYL STREEP

Annie Liebowitz

So much for the masters.

What about the rest of us?

Nice smiles,
but what's wrong with this picture

- Missing head
- Too much clutter in background

- Missing head
- Too much clutter in background
- A vertical composition, rather than horizontal, would have solved both problems

COMPOSE SHOT

Frame in close

Select POV
(horizontal or vertical*)

Simplify background
- Plain background
reduces distractions
- Low f-stop will blur
background, but beware
of sharpness loss

Stanley & Cynthia Cronig

* Vertical is usually best for headshots and full body shots.

Rule of thirds

Shallow depth of field

Posing

Sit up straight
(use stool or edge of chair)

Turn head and body slightly, 3/4 pose
(slims subject, creates lines, depthj)

Men use masculine pose
(Slight tilt of head toward far/low shoulder)

Women use masculine or feminine pose
(fem pose: tilt toward high/near shoulder)

Henry VIII

Henry VIII   George Washington

Henry VIII   George Washington   Jack Welch

Focus on the eyes

Try for catch light
(fill flash will help)

Tilt of the head puts facial features on diagonal lines, creating more visual interest.
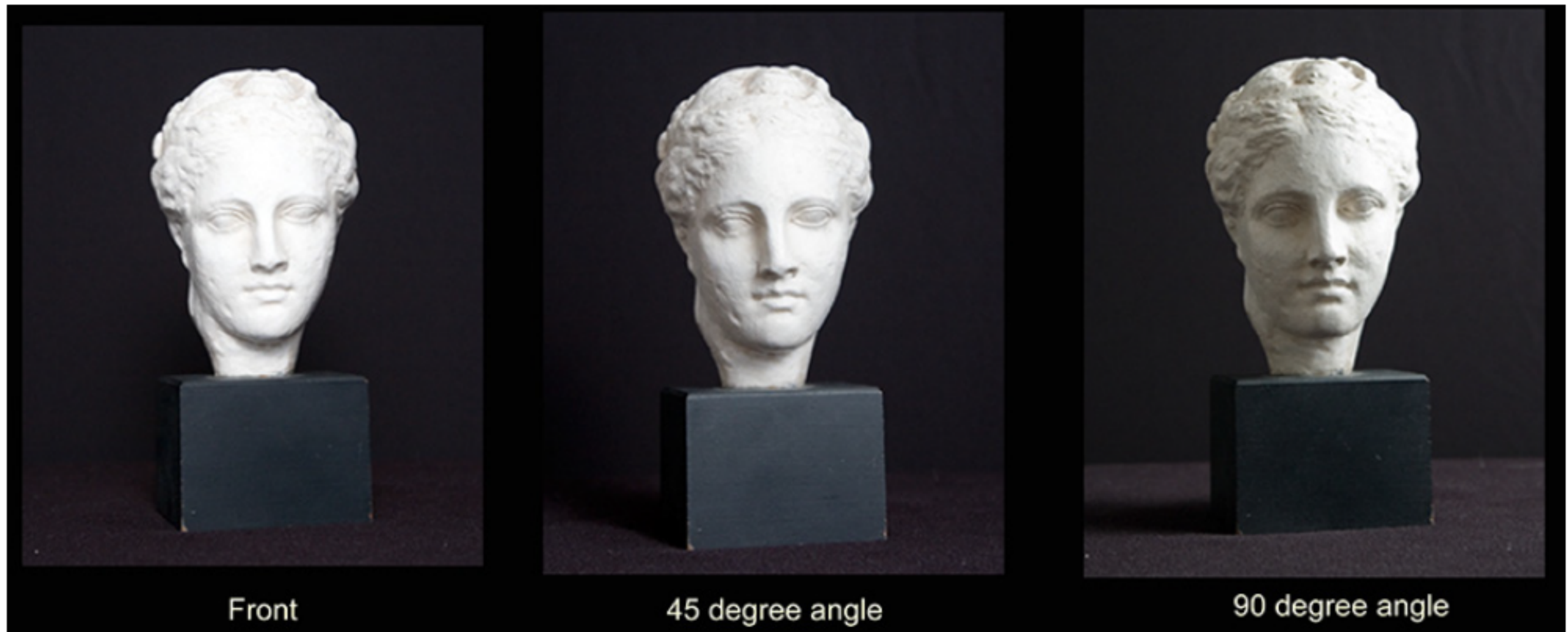
Eyes to the camera

Nose inside cheek

Say "Cheese!"

Or...
Eeee
Ahhh
Oooo

Photograph personality

Tell a story

Front   45 degree angle   90 degree angle

Light affects the look

Front Lighting:

When light comes
from direction
of camera

Front Lighting:

When light comes
from direction
of camera

45 degree angle

Front Lighting:

When light comes
from direction
of camera

45 degree angle

90 degree angle

Broad Lighting

When side of face closest to camera gets the lighting

Broad Lighting

When side of face closest to camera gets the lighting

Short Lighting

When side of face away from camera gets the lighting

Short lighting

Short lighting

Broad lighting

Short Lighting/Rembrandt Lighting

Broad Lighting

Head

in upper third

Broad Lighting/Side Lighting

Head
in upper third

Crop between
joints

Light: Natural is often best

Check the quality
-- hard or soft?

Check the direction
-- front, back or side?

Position subject for best light
- Inside: near windows or door
- Outside: Avoid direct light
Diffuse light is best
(overcast/light shade)
Avoid sun in eyes

Adjust subjects for better lighting

Backlighting

Backlighting with fill flash

Environmental Portraits

When setting helps define the subject

Environmental Portraits

Environmental Portraits

Environmental Portraits

Portraits . . .

Not always about faces

Portraits...
Not always
about people

Kids & Pets

- Get down
  to their
  eye level
- Fast shutter speed
- Use props

Snapshots

Portrait Summary

Get in close

Focus on eyes

Head in top third of frame

Shallow depth of field

Flash - of-camera is best.
Bounce off wall. Use diffuser.

Side/angled lighting usually works best

Crop between joints

Use vertical (portrait orientation)

for basic one or two person portrait