



WELCOME FROM MONUMENTAL ARTS

# *PORTRAITS GUIDE*

AN INTRODUCTION FOR ALL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS

LET'S GET STARTED

---

# YOUR PORTRAITS WITH MONUMENTAL ARTS

Portraits are part of a long tradition to capture a moment in time. I work closely with each Client to bring out the facets of their personalities in the form of visual art. Just as each human being is an individual, each photoshoot is also individual and combines to be more beautiful. This is my specialty!

Whether you are solo, a couple, a soon to be parent, a small family, or a large multi-generational family, I can exceed your expectations and capture your inner self!

I want to get to know who you are and what you love, and bring that out on camera. Your portraits should be a positive reflection of you and everyone else in the photos!

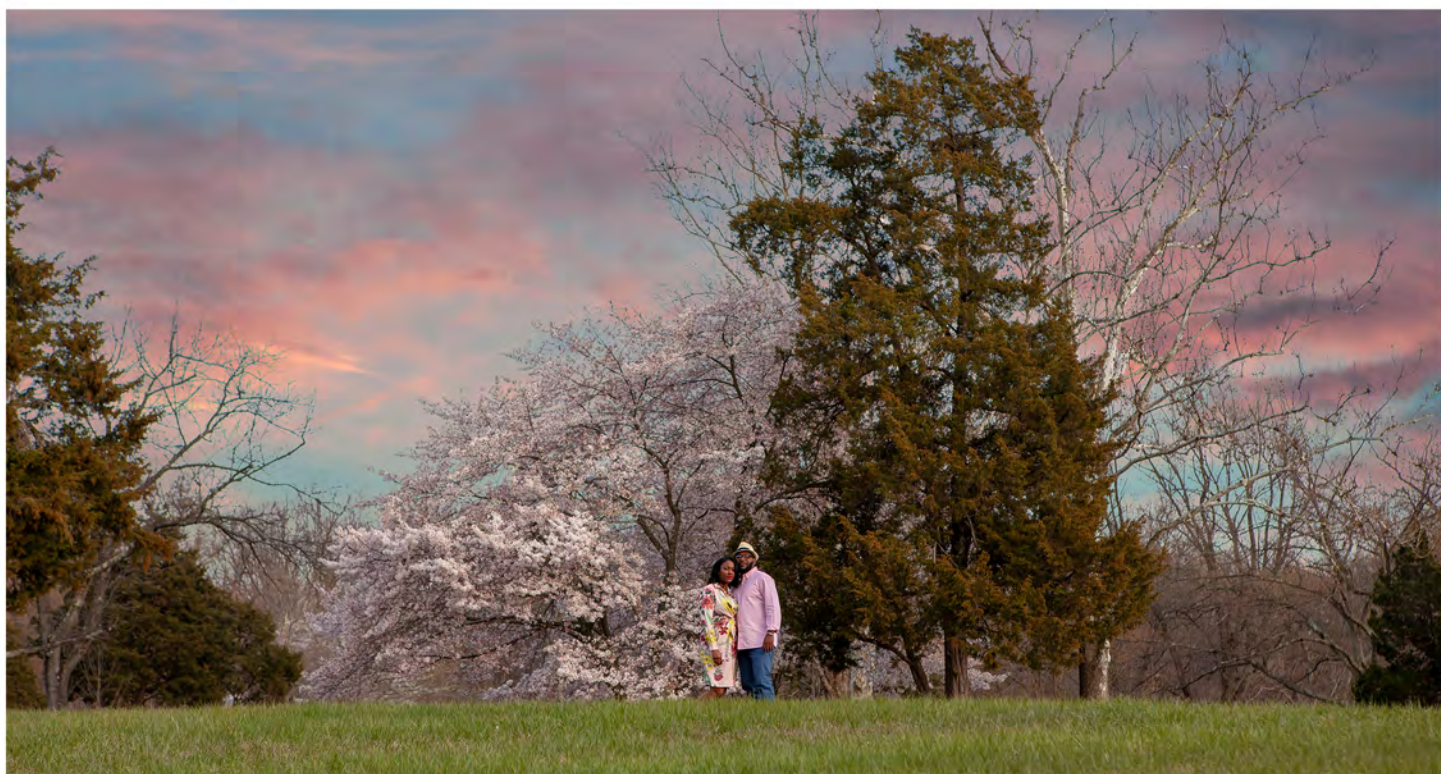
My style is natural and relaxed. I like to enhance what's naturally there rather than trying to create something that isn't you. Sometimes a studio portrait session is best, other times one in your home, though most often outdoors are ideal, weather permitting. I work directly with my Clients to choose a location that's meaningful and photogenic







# *FINDING THE RIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER*



# BEFORE YOUR SESSION: PLANNING

Even if it's a short-notice portrait session (which happen regularly), please take the time to communicate! Visit photographer's website immediately to see their work, then call them to talk, or email. If you also can, meet with your photographer ahead of time – consultations are ALWAYS FREE with Monumental Arts.

## *Setting Expectations*

The important thing is to communicate!

Discuss your needs and find out if this is a photographer with whom you would feel comfortable. A session can be a very revealing process in which you might feel vulnerable. When communicating with your photographer, be sure to express your desires and expectations – while we as photographers can read faces, I can't read minds, and if I don't know what you expect, then I can't exceed those expectations!

*Bottom line: If you aren't comfortable while having a cup of coffee with a prospective photographer, keep looking!*

## *Style and Types of Sessions*

When it comes to photography style, I always focus on an artistic view, and listen to you to ensure I capture every shot and every look you want!

I offer traditional/classic portraits, where everyone is looking directly at the camera – semi-formal/casual portraits, where everyone is looking at the camera but with more casual interactions – and lifestyle/candid portraits, where we take photographs capturing the moment with a semi-formal setup, often in an outdoor setting.

If you are looking for a formal, posed look, go for a classic portrait session; if you want a casual, informal look, go for a casual portrait session; if you want a total interaction in your photos "doing something", go for a lifestyle portrait session.

Finally, choose a location that best brings out those qualities you want to highlight during the photo session; studio sessions allow for the very classic look for traditional portrait sessions.



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM

# YOUR PORTRAIT SESSION

Whether you want a solo portrait, a couples session, a family photo session with the kids and grandparents, a senior photo, pet photography, or a large family reunion, your photo session should be relaxed, fun and enjoyable for everyone.

Depending on your tastes, we can schedule a lifestyle/candid session, a semi-formal session, or a traditional/formal session. And of course, whether you want a studio, outdoor, or an in-home session, we will work out the best place to schedule your session. Not sure? I offer lots of options to choose from, and I'm always open for your ideas! Planning is key, and we'll communicate regularly before your session!

I love to capture how families and couples naturally interact and enjoy each other. During a typical session, we spend an hour or so taking photos, and allow breaks for kids to have snacks, rest, or whatever it takes. Portrait sessions are never rushed, and each one should be planned out to make the best use of your time!

I hope this guide will help you make the best decision for your portrait photography session. Of course, I want you to hire Monumental Arts, but if you choose another professional photographer, I want to make sure you make that choice based on quality information and options.







# *PLANNING YOUR PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION*





# *PORTRAIT LOCATION: INDOOR, OUTDOOR, STUDIO?*

Location, location, location!

Monumental Arts offers both On-Site and Studio sessions – our studio is located near National Harbor, just 2 miles south of the Beltway. If you do not have a location in mind when booking your photo session, I can recommend a few places in the region and make sure we choose the perfect spot for you. It is far better to select locations that add meaning and impact to your session than just picking some random place!

## Studio Sessions

My unique specialty portrait studio is located in Ft Washington, MD near National Harbor, just 2 miles south of the Beltway. The Studio has everything you need for a session, and most importantly, it's family-friendly! Within the studio, you'll have access to a makeup table, bathroom, changing room, and secure storage for your personal items. There is a small area for children to play with supervision, but other limitations may impact your use of the studio. Studio sessions use flash and constant light to develop the ideal photo lighting for your session.

## Outdoor Sessions

The Mid Atlantic has a wealth of photographic opportunities. Parks, beaches, historic and national monuments, gritty urban areas, farmland, vineyards, and even your own backyard are all great locations for photos. Please see my DC, Maryland, and Virginia guides for ideas and options! Outdoor sessions use the natural backdrop of the location and on/off camera flash to produce the desired lighting effect.

## On Site Sessions – Home or Office

Sometimes, an on-site session is best.

On-site sessions, whether they are in your office or home, involve a fully-portable studio setup, and include white or black backdrops, lighting, and any other equipment needed. Other items can be provided with prior coordination. Other indoor locations, such as a hotel lobby or hotel room, use the natural backdrop of the location and on/off camera flash to produce the desired lighting effect.

## On Site Sessions – Other Indoor Location

Other indoor locations, such as a hotel lobby or hotel room, use the natural backdrop of the location and on/off camera

LITTLE THINGS, IMMORTALIZED

---

# DURING YOUR SESSION

I shoot a mix of both candid and posed photos. When we meet for your session, we'll chat first, then dive right in to your session. I'll probably make a fool of myself trying to make you feel comfortable in front of the camera. I will boss you around and tell you how to pose. I'll tell you to "turn slightly right" when I mean my right (your left) and confuse everyone. These are just things I do – but we'll laugh the entire time!

The first half of the session, I we'll try to get more posed shots (the one your grandmother wants). If your session allows for an outfit change, you'll change outfits and we'll begin again with more candid, natural shots. If your session allows for multiple locations, we'll drive to the new location, and repeat it all again!

Always know that if the session goes into over-time for delays that are my fault, there is no cost to you. All I ask is that you are on time and ready to go. Being late will cut into our valuable shooting time and cut down on your final selection of images.

Although every session is unique based on your plans, below is a typical timeline for an "average" session – yours may or may not follow this timeline, but if 12 years of photography has taught me anything, it's focus on the children together first, then the youngest to oldest, then mixing it up from there.





---

# PORTRAITS

## WHAT TO WEAR

There are plenty of things you can do ahead of time to make sure your session goes well. The most important advice I can give is this – it is YOUR photo session, wear what you like, what feels comfortable, and what you know makes you look good. Confidence is everything, so make it show! Decide on a theme – or not:

Questions to ask yourself - Do you want to have dressy formal session, traditional photos? Do you want to capture your casual, playful side? Are you looking for something stylized, vintage, or edgy? Don't forget, you can always bring a change of clothes.

It's always best to think color. Most often if you have light hair, complimentary colors are light blues and dark blues, lilac and plum, maroons, light greens and dark greens (red is powerful so be careful). Browns and warm colors are excellent with light and dark brown hair. With jet black hair, think winter colors with brilliancy.

Saturated colors (green, blue, red, purple, orange, yellow) really pop in your photos. I don't recommend too much white - it just doesn't do much for most people.

When trying to put together outfits for larger groups, try to coordinate, not match. Khaki pants and blue shirts, cream shirts with jeans. Matching jackets. Avoid pastels, they are like white. Feel free to mix and match stripes and small patterns, but checks, large stripes, herringbone, little checks, and loud patterns are a no-no. Pick 3-4 colors and mix them all in.

Layers are always a good idea (unless it's 100 degrees) and provide a lot of interesting options. Layers make it easy to remove an article of clothing and have a totally different look. Hats, scarves, jackets, boots, etc. All accessories are welcome.



*AFTER THE  
PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION*





HEY, WHY DO I NEED AN

# PHOTOGRAPHY VIEWING SESSION

As a full service photographer, I don't ever want you to just get your images and "I'm done with you." My goal is to provide top-quality Client service at a price you can afford.

Monumental Arts is extremely excited to provide you with a truly luxurious experience - your first opportunity to see your photos and a delightful time planning interior decor. I want to grace your walls with the most meaningful, brilliantly beautiful artwork you've ever seen.

I can't wait to share my passion with you for creating custom works of art telling your story! You can come to my studio, or I will bring a proof gallery directly to your home, carefully helping you to select your favorite images you can't live without!

I will also help you imagine different prints in different locations on your walls and atop surfaces. I'll keep notes on what you love, offer decoration advice, and guide you through this process step-by-step.

There is no time limit for the Viewing session. We will match any pace that is most comfortable for you and your family. I'm happy to work with your schedule to make our time together convenient and relaxing. At the end, we'll review notes together and make decisions on what images to order and choose gift prints for family members. Oh, it will be so fun!

If you have young children, have a plan so you can focus entirely on the beautiful images. And although it might be hard, no need for your cell phone! Be empowered - make sure every "decision-maker" is available for the Viewing Session. Have a "gift list" in mind for family members! Finally, have your credit card or checkbook handy - the last thing you want to do is search!

Of course, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

convenient online appointments  
[www.monumental-arts.genbook.com](http://www.monumental-arts.genbook.com) -> viewing

---

# ONLINE GALLERY & ORDERING

## Your Gallery

After your Viewing Session, you'll receive an email with information and instructions for accessing your secure online Gallery, where you can also place a la carte orders for albums and enlargements. USB/CD/DVD options are available. This Gallery can be shared with family and friends.

Finally, in the holiday months after your session, you'll receive the occasional email with discounts and specials for prints and additional images. Plus, you'll always receive a 10% discount on future sessions!

## Wait, I'm not local!

No problem! I'm used to working with Clients entirely over the internet. Your retouched images will go onto your secure Gallery, and you'll receive instructions via email on choosing and downloading your images, and selecting prints and enlargements.





REACH ME ANYTIME

---

# *CARING FOR MY CLIENTS*

Communicating with my clients is a huge part of what I love so much about my business. I remain friends with many of my clients long after I've finished our initial sessions together (and enjoy continuing to document their lives!). I want to be here for you in every way possible. I encourage you to ask questions, suggest ideas, and play a hands-on role in the planning process. The following is a list of ways to get ahold of me, so you always feel cared for.

E M A I L

[monumentalarts@outlook.com](mailto:monumentalarts@outlook.com)

P H O N E   &   T E X T

1-800-687-9350



THANK YOU SO MUCH

---

*MONUMENTAL ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY*

---

[WWW.MONUMENTALARTS.COM](http://WWW.MONUMENTALARTS.COM)