

MONUMENTAL ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY

my top ten tips

FOR GORGEOUS FAMILY PORTRAITS



A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES OF ALL SIZES FROM TWO TO TWO HUNDRED



about my family portraits

Family portraits are part of a long tradition to capture a moment in time. I work closely with each family 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!

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 your family

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.

The next few pages are my top 10 secrets to help you

GOT QUESTIONS? EMAIL ME ANYTIME AT MONUMENTALARTS@OUTLOOK.COM

1

BRING MULTIPLE OUTFITS

If you choose a multi-out session, I highly recommend bringing 3-5 outfits to the shoot so we have lots of options to play with. Make sure to bring several changes of clothing, shoes, and accessories so we can mix and match for each family member. Avoid pastels, they are like white. Feel free to mix and match, but checks, large stripes, herringbone, little checks, and loud patterns are a no-no.

2

TO THEME OR NOT TO THEME

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? When trying to put together outfits for groups, try to coordinate, not match. Khaki pants and blue shirts, cream shirts with jeans. Matching jackets. Pick 3-4 colors. Layers are always a good idea (unless it's 100*) and provide options. Layers make it easy to remove an article of clothing and have a totally different look.



3

KEEP OUTFITS SIMPLE

This is a big one! Both both ladies and gentlemen: avoid logos, mascots, and lots of small patterns at ALL costs - logos and mascots tend to take the focus off of your beautiful self, and small patterns can blur on camera. If you do go with patterns, which can look fabulous, make sure they're simple, bold, and big. Send me a pic of anything you're on the fence about so I can give you good input well before the shoot.

4

MY KIDS/WIFE/HUSBAND WON'T COOPERATE

Toddlers and tweens are pretty easy going - I have plenty of ways to keep them engaged and entertained during a session. Teens, however, are teens - work with them to let them showcase themselves! As for a significant other not cooperating - let me work with the kids!

5

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

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. I can recommend the perfect spot for you. Monumental Arts offers both On-Site and Studio sessions - our studio is located near National Harbor, just 2 miles south of the Beltway. It is far better to select locations that add meaning and impact to the session.

6

DON'T STRESS ABOUT "I'M NOT PHOTOGENIC"

Knowing what not to stress about is just as important as knowing what is! For starters, if you don't feel like you get great pictures - that's why you work with a professional! We will work to not only find ways to relax but also to make you the most photogenic you've ever been! The point of a portrait is to capture the most authentic version of the real you. You'll look back on these images many years later and treasure these details.

7

DON'T STRESS ABOUT BLEMISHES

...and speaking of not stressing about things, there's no need to stress about blemishes either! If you wake up the morning of the shoot and your skin isn't looking 100% like you want it to, not to worry - I've got you covered (literally!). It's my job to make your skin look its very best in the final edits of your images.



8

HAIR/MAKEUP/MANIS/BROWS: SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

We'll be doing a lot of poses with your hands and a lot of close-up facial shots. If you need a brow clean-up or some help to make your nails look fab, don't shy away from having a professional work their magic on you before the session. Consider a professional makeup artist as well

9

WEAR CLEAR DEODORANT

The day of the shoot, make sure you wear a clear deodorant. We'll be playing with a lot of different poses, and having your underarms looking clean and beautiful is a must. If you need a recommendation on a brand, email me beforehand and I'll help you out!

10

GUYS, PLEASE SHAVE AND GET A HAIRCUT

Guys, trust me. You don't want to have a 5 o'clock shadow ruining your face close-ups. Please shave the morning before the session! Plus, get a haircut two or three days before your session - NEVER the day of!

