

MONUMENTAL ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY

my top ten tips



FOR GORGEOUS SOLO PORTRAITS



A GUIDE FOR PORTRAITS



about my solo portraits

Clients looking for solo portraits are strong and beautiful people with special energy. I work closely with each 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. This is my specialty!

I want to get to know who you are and what you love, and bring that out on camera. Your solo portraits should be a positive reflection of who you are.

My style is natural and relaxed. I like to enhance what's naturally there rather than trying to create something that isn't you. I work directly with my Clients to choose a location that's meaningful and photogenic, but of course a studio session may be better for your needs too!

The next few pages are my top 10 secrets to help you take the best solo portraits ever!

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

1

BRING MULTIPLE OUTFITS

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 on the day of your session.

2

TRY ON OUTFITS BEFOREHAND

A lot of my clients like to take selfies in the mirror about a week beforehand to ask for my advice on their choice of wardrobe, and I'm always very happy to give tips and pointers. If you do get a new outfit or two for your photos, it's super important for you to try them on - and possibly wear them for a full day - well in advance to make sure the fit is perfect and they're comfortable for you.

Comfort is key to getting great images!



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 moire 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

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.

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 solo 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 youthful 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

TAN LINES. JUST NO.

Ladies, this is HUGE! If you happen to have tan lines from enjoying those days in the sun, make sure to choose outfits that strategically cover them up. Nothing ruins a beautiful photo more than a glaring tan line on your arms or back. If you do have a tan line or two, hit me up the week before your session so we can strategize on outfits and poses together.

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!

