

Shooter Profile



Michael Bodycomb

Four decades. That's plenty of time to master your craft. This

expertise is evident in Michael Bodycomb's portfolio of work. Shooting for 41 years, beginning at age 13 "on assignment" for his local high school newspaper, this photographer eventually found his true creative path.

Michael is a renowned art photographer, specializing in the arenas of fine art, commercial, still life, architectural and museum projects. And it was his museum work that led to his partnership with Digital Transitions. In 1998, when making the transition to digital, he began with a PowerPhase scan-back, and then graduated to a Phase One H 20 on a Fuji 680. Last year, armed with the council and support of the Digital Transitions' team, he upgraded to the Phase One P 45+ on a Hasselblad H2.

He shared with us, "The Digital Transitions team enabled me to flawlessly incorporate the Phase One system into my workflow in aspects such as software efficiencies, shortcuts, and color expertise. I knew Digital Transitions has what it takes to develop the most successful digital photography program for the museum community."

For Michael, the primary advantage of working digitally is quality and control. His retouching is not

dependant upon labs; there is also less redundant work, and the ability to shoot multiple shots of one element and meticulously piece them together. Additionally, he is able to secure curatorial approval even when the department is on set.

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BEFORE



AFTER



“When clients witness the difference between film and digital, they clamor to be part of the digital photography family.”

For the museum, the benefits were clear: Digital assets will be more easily catalogued, and will offer an efficient strategy of migrating collections from older to newer systems, affording them access, convenience, and enabling conservation.

Michael required a partner that could support and advise on those facets of digital photography. He noted, “Digital Transitions consistently provides guidance when needed, and that was the primary factor in establishing such a trusting relationship.”

When Michael chose to work with Digital Transitions, he did so because he wanted a commitment, not a short-term relationship. He needed an industry leader because making the switch to digital had to be done right. He got all that, and much, much more.

The Clodion Clock, with its mixture of reflective surfaces, would require several photographs to detail its level of complexity. This was achieved by combining the flexibility of digital photography with the powerful tools of Adobe PhotoShop. Compiling multiple exposures and lighting variations in Layers, adding Adjustment Layers, Masks, and Alpha Channels (Selections) then blending opacities enabled Michael to achieve spectacular results without the agonizing process of conventional one-shot film photography.

About the Division of Cultural Heritage

As the country’s leading integrator of digital imaging systems for collection-based materials, the Division of Cultural Heritage helps institutions develop comprehensive solutions and strategies, which preserve and extend the reach of their collections. This specialized area of Digital Transitions is headed by Peter Siegel, who has been working with museums, libraries, archives, and cultural institutions for over 15 years.

PHOTOGRAPHER Michael Bodycomb
STYLE Museum Photographer
HARDWARE Phase One P 45+
Hasselblad H2
SOFTWARE Capture One PRO
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