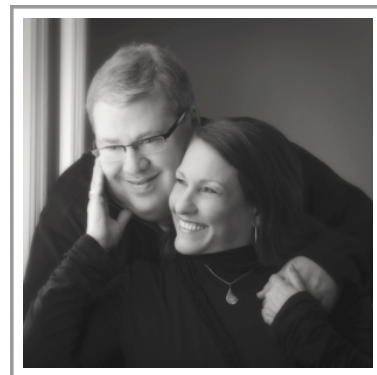


5 GREAT TIPS
for
POSING
THE WALDEN RELATIONSHIP PORTRAIT



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1. Use of primary and secondary subjects.



Why?

By highlighting one subject and shadowing others, it can tell the story of the relationship by showing the “star” of the portrait. The primary subject’s personality is on stage here.

Even when we do children individually, they are never really alone in a Relationship portrait. After all, how can you have a Relationship with just one person?

A parent, both parents or siblings become the “props” for the individual which adds an immense depth of emotion and if the child is very young, it is comforting to have parents close.

How?

Creating the dynamic of primary and secondary subjects can be accomplished several ways.

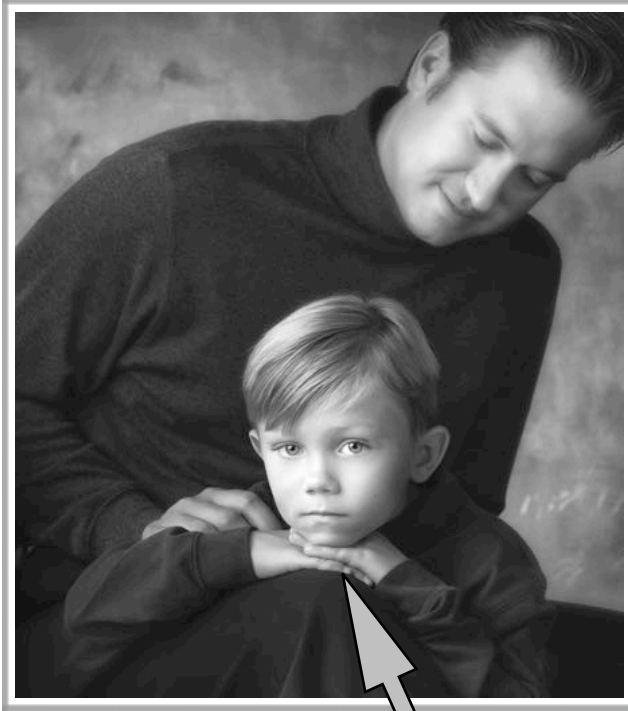
First, by putting the secondary subject in shadow and the primary in the light is a technique we often use.

Second, averting the eyes of the secondary subject by having them look down or at the primary subject works well.

Third, closing the eyes while they are also in shadow is very emotional. Think about the times you close your eyes with a loved one. When you hug or kiss your spouse or kids, you close your eyes. It adds to a very emotional moment.

Forth, by putting the secondary subject(s) in the background and in shadow, they are out of focus and all of the attention goes to the primary subject(s).

2. Use the parent's legs as a posing table.



Son's hands are on dad's knee.



Posing table

Why?

The BEST PROP in a Relationship style portrait are the parents' legs, though we also use stools of differing heights or Hanson blocks. The main reason is to get our subjects at the correct heights, not to show the props. We keep these portraits very simple in our approach and this tip is helpful to accomplish this.

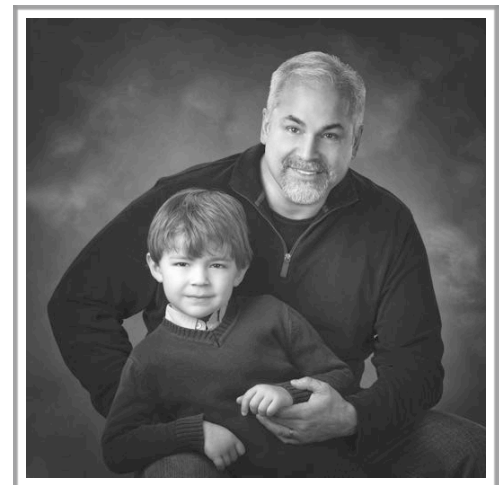
Since we ask the parents to dress in dark, solid clothing including slacks, their legs become our posing table which gets the kids close to them and gives us a comfortable and natural place to put the kid's arms/hands on or as a place to lean. It also adds a level of control if the kids are fidgeting.

How?

First, be sure to have your clients wear dark slacks, including the women. This will help you pose the children (and help control them) by having them stand between the legs of the parents, getting very close to the parents and snuggling, one of the main components of a Relationship portrait.

We have a tall stool that we use in every Relationship portrait. We set a parent on it and then we arrange the rest of the subjects from there on stools of different heights and the Hanson Blocks for additional adjustment of heights.

We can put the children on the Hanson blocks to get them at the right heights, scooting them between the parent's legs. The parent's arms then come around the child to hold them steady and create movement.



3. Creative cropping adds impact.



A formula for impact?

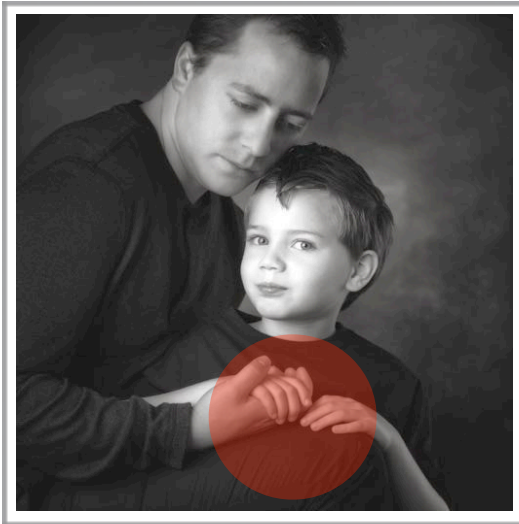
We came up with this formula years ago when preparing competition prints:

“Impact=strong composition PLUS unusual approach.”

When we started the Relationship brand, we found that this formula fit this style like a “hand in glove!”

We often crop into the head(s) to create an entirely new dynamic in portraiture. When it fits, we crop into faces as well. It is simply another way to spotlight a primary subject along with secondary subjects and it gives these portraits their unique trademark.

4. Touch...connect...snuggle!



Why?

These three components are trademarks of our Relationship style. It is all about the Relationship and the stories of our clients and it adds the E factor...EMOTION.

We used to hide the hands (too hard to pose) or pose them too formally...or even worse, when a client couldn't relax, they looked like claws!

When we connect the hands, it not only adds emotion, but a beautiful design element.

How?

In this style, with everyone in dark colors, the hands stand out, so you must be acutely aware of them.

Notice how we ALWAYS connect a child's hand with an adult's hand. In order not to hide the smaller child's hand, we always put the adult's hand facing the ceiling and under the child's hand. Then we bring the child's hand gently into the adult's hand with their fingers trickling over the front. So graceful!

And snuggling is such an important concept...when you ask a client to snuggle, it changes the body language and the portrait becomes truly authentic.



5. Provide Purpose



Establishing Image



Abbreviations



Moments

Why?

Our Relationship style has an intended purpose; they are not pics or snaps. These images are archival, tell the stories of our clients and are what we consider “legacy” pieces. We understand there is an immediate purpose, but there is also a long term purpose for our pieces and this adds such emotion and meaning to what we do!

We shoot each Relationship session with three products in mind and three different purposes. When you can give a product purpose, you increase its value in the client’s eyes.

How?

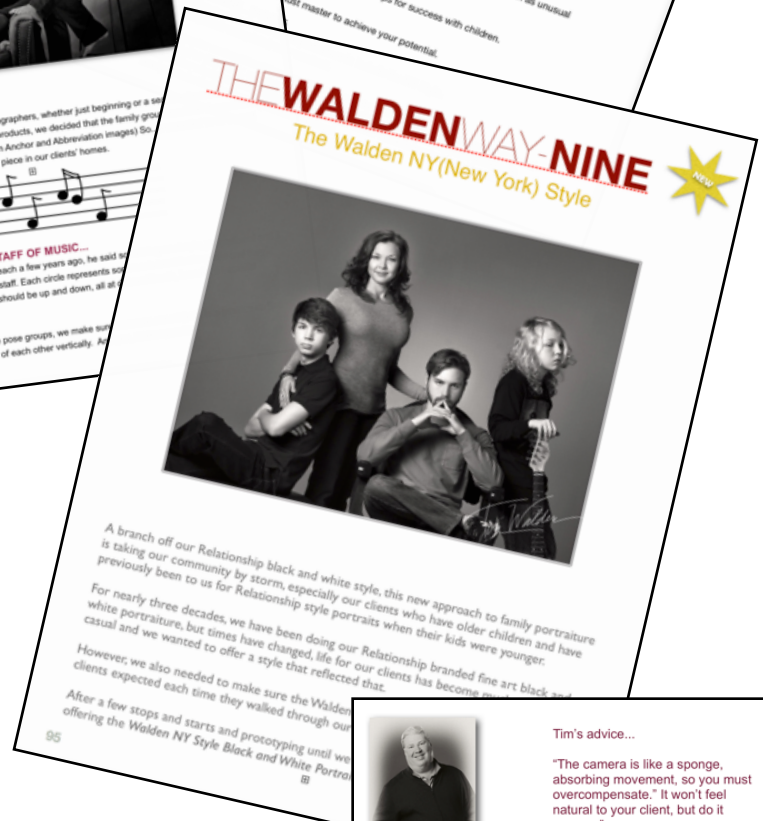
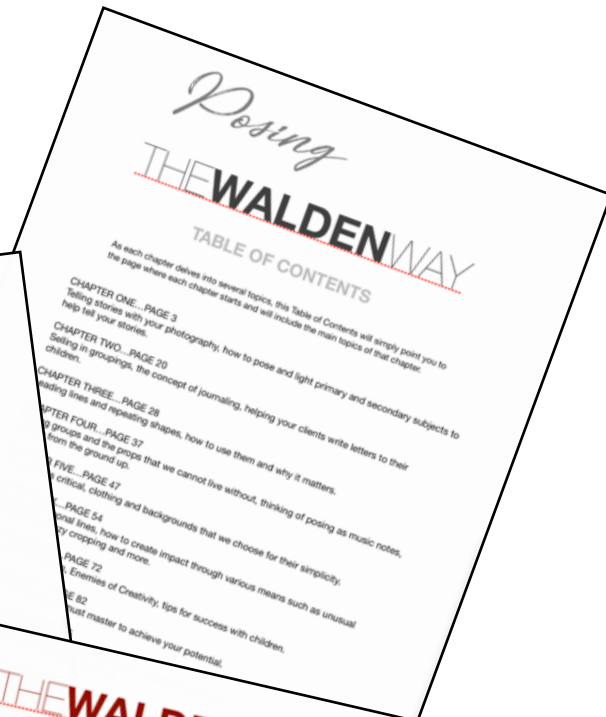
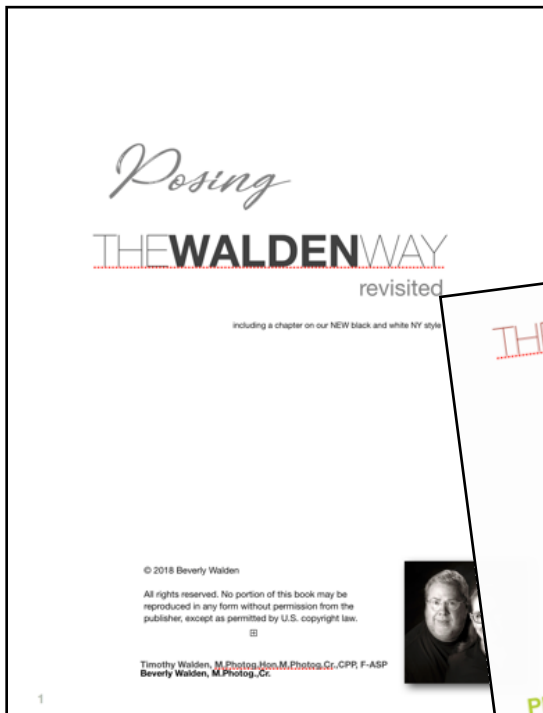
We structure these sessions with three outcomes in mind.

ONE: **The Establishing Image** which is basically the family portrait, is nicely posed with everyone looking into the camera. These are for the parents to hang in their homes from now on.

TWO: **The Abbreviation Images** are the individual portraits of the children, but with a Relationship portrait, these always include a parent(s) as a “prop.” We use the primary/secondary principle to achieve these portraits. The purpose of these is to give them away to the children when they are the appropriate age in order to pass down their legacy.

THREE: **The Moments Images** capture the quick, unscripted moments that happen during the shoot. These images are made into a “Moments” album for the whole family to enjoy for years to come as they remember that day.

Want to learn more about posing?



Visit our Store to purchase this E-Book:

<http://www.timwalden.com/e-books/posing-the-walden-way?imageID=0>

The original **Posing the Walden Way E-Book** has been updated to include our NY style portraits, including how they differ from the Relationship style plus brand new and exciting images from the Waldens.

The full-length version of this e-book is 100 pages long with over 230 images demonstrating tips and techniques on posing both black and white and color portraits. At the end of each chapter, you will enjoy tips from Tim to help you every day as you increase your posing skills.

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