

CREATE A PHOTO PORTRAIT



SHAN Wallace, 2020. Photography by Mitro Hood

SHAN Wallace is a visual artist who uses photography to uplift communities, highlight personal stories, and celebrate Black culture. Her exhibition, *SHAN Wallace: 410*, demonstrates how she approaches her work with familiarity, pride, and love for her hometown of Baltimore, Maryland.

In this project, you'll create photo portraits and learn ways to help the person you are photographing feel comfortable with you. You'll also get pointers on how to spotlight their personality or interesting details about them.

TIP: Choose a location with good lighting, like outdoors in the late afternoon or inside in front of a window. Make sure the participant is facing the light and the light is not behind them.



MATERIALS: A camera or cell phone and a participant



THE INTRO

Q: Can you tell me a little about yourself?

A: My name is Terrance and I am from Baltimore.

Ask a friend or family member if you could take their photo as part of your photography project. If they say no, it's okay; this is part of the process. Ask another person. When you find a participant, choose a safe and relaxed location. Ask how they're feeling to help them get comfortable. Once the conversation is going, take some full-length photos of the person in their environment.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Q: What is something that made you happy today?

A: It's my mom's birthday today. I'm excited to celebrate.

Your participant's personality may be starting to come through. Notice how your conversation influences the photo. Do you want them to smile? Ask them what they're excited about. Keep taking photos as they become more open and expressive.

NOTICING THE DETAILS

Do any details stand out to you? Perhaps you notice their jewelry or how they cross their legs. Photograph these details.

When the photo shoot is complete, thank the person for participating. Review the photos and choose three of your favorites to send to your participant as a thank-you.



We'd love to see your work! Snap a picture of your final creation and share with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using the hashtag #ArtBMAFromHome for a chance to be featured.

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