

P E T E R P A Z U C H A

*High Contrast Monochrome Human Landscapes*

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT PHOTOSHOOT CONCEPTS



# A Few Words About Photoshoot Concepts

When I approach a model about a photoshoot the model often wants to know my ideas for their shoot. I appreciate the model's interest in knowing what she to expect. But, that's a question that might better be asked of some other photographer. I don't try to fit models into concepts, I try to let the concept originate within the model so that the "concept" wraps around her like skin. I work in the moment with that the model presents at that instant.

Let me explain.



My work is not about makeup, nor elaborate sets, nor fancy wardrobe. My work is not runway, nor high fashion, nor glamour -- though it occasionally contains those elements.

**Primarily**, my work is about **the human landscape**. It makes no difference whether the model be housewife, accountant, full time model, aspiring model, male or female. My models vary widely in age, size, and proportion. My work is about Individuality, form, light and texture.



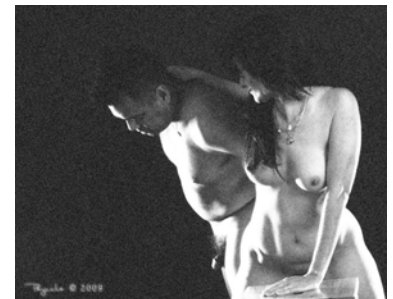
During ANY TFCD photoshoot I always do headshots, fully clothed and some lingerie -- primarily to give the model images that they can actually show to their friends or use in a portfolio -- but my purpose in shooting is specifically to extend my human landscape work. That does NOT mean that every shoot is nude -- quite the contrary -- but it does mean that skin is always a part of what I do. I do classy non-sexual nudes -- I am quite unabashedly in love with the human form.

While shooting, my models OFTEN allow her face and eyes to express more of her personality while we are shooting nudes than when they are trying to pose clothed. As a result, many of the best headshots I get are done in the middle of a nude shoot, and I often find myself shooting headshots while the model is nude for just that reason -- when one part of the body starts to communicate that's where I put my attention.



## Individuality

Some photographers do shoots that are about concepts, or specific wardrobe, or elaborate sets. **MY images are about individual humans** not about concepts. My sets are almost always quite simple. But I am LOOKING FOR things that make my models unique; and I work to emphasize the form, structure, or texture that goes into making that unique individual. As a result, until you walk in the studio on one particular day, having a good hair day or a bad hair day, at your current weight and with your current skin tone -- until I see who you are in that moment -- I never make up my mind what I'm going to shoot.



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Looking at your portfolio, or at images re-touched by another photographer only tells me whether you have qualities that inspire me. Those qualities are usually face, general shape, and an emotion or feeling that your images have conveyed in the past. That is my jumping off point.



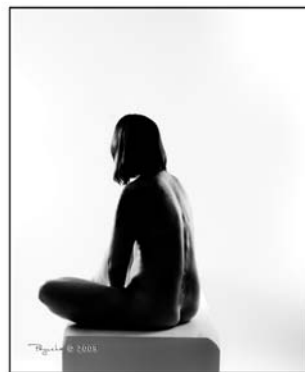
Every differently shaped model will look wonderful in poses that would look horrible on another model. You each have different skin texture, the length of your limbs in relationship to other body parts varies, your skin coloration changes from season to season -- all of these traits are to human landscapes what the sun's position on a landscape, the casting of shadow by a tree, or the time since the last rainfall are to scenic landscapes.

### Art Shoot / Model Shoots

I usually do a couple art shoots a week. **ALL** my model shoots are TFCD or TFP. I never pay models in \$ but the model will walk away with several hundred dollars worth of images in exchange for their time.

### Human Landscape

It's hard to say just WHAT I might shoot. In the same way that walking out into a field of sunflowers offers a thousand image choices, so also sitting down on the other end of the studio behind my tripod presents me with a myriad of image choices based on THAT model at THAT moment in time.



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I will and do shoot almost every body part with the right model. Depending on muscle tone, or height, or depth, or body fat -- all these and more details will determine which direction I pursue with them for THAT session. I might shoot 100 images of one model's back and only 2 of someone else's. The same may be true of any body part.

Let me use two body parts as examples: backs and breasts.

### **Backs**

Some backs are lush and smooth, other backs clearly show the outlines of bones and the definition of muscles. Poses that would look wonderful with a trim personal trainer will lack detail on a model carrying an extra 5 or 50 pounds. Similarly, the model **with** a little body fat can make some of those classic old-world poses look glorious and sumptuous while the well defined model might make them look quite ungainly.

### **Breasts**

Similarly with breasts -- everyone has 'em but the differences are myriad. How I approach you as a model is not about whether you have large ones or small ones. It is only about color, shape, texture, gravity, the size of aureola, the prevalence of fine hair, the presence of scars, etc. I want you to look your best so whether I do 2 images or 100 images will depend on how you present in that moment.



The same applies to every other body part. I'm searching for images that are unique, beautiful, and which speak to THAT model as a person.

### **Conclusion**

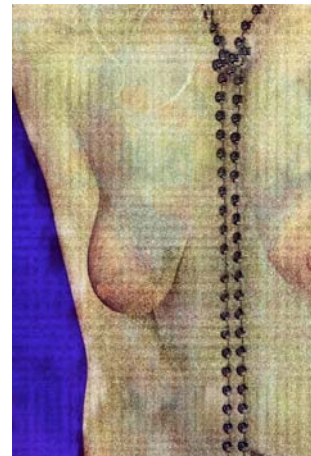
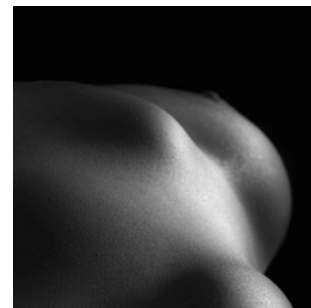
My point is this. I'm a **photo-artist**. I regularly use artist's models to create unique and beautiful images. Much of my work involves skin, so if you are not open to nudes or if you have specific limits -- tell me before we schedule so that I can adjust my approach from the beginning.

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