

Photography Certificate Complete Brings New Self Assignment

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This week concludes my program at the **Center for Digital Imaging Arts** in Waltham. It's been an exciting year and half as I pursued the Certificate of Professional Photography, attending class two nights and every other Saturday for the entire duration. The end of my studies brings with it the start of a professional vocation as a photographer, albeit part-time for now. I feel that the program at CDIA fully prepared me for this new path, and I've emerged confident and skillful, and ready to take on new imaging challenges.

As I immersed myself in photography technique I owe additional thanks to some "virtual mentors", especially David Hobby ("**The Strobist**") for his extremely helpful blog entries and DVD tutorial, **Joe McNally** for his helpful blog and **online training**, and **Zack Arias** for his online tutorials as well. (I just started following **Ryan Brenizer's blog** as a valuable resource, too.)

For the graduation ceremony, to be held in January at CDIA, I will be able to submit 4 framed images for display among all the images from my class. Many students submit work done during their time as students, but I would like to use this opportunity to challenge myself with a new project, specifically for the graduation show.

In this project, I want to exercise the best of all the strengths that I've gained by producing a collection of 4 environmental portraits done in the style of photographers I wish to emulate such as **Joel Grimes** and **Tim Tadder**, such that the portraits have a coherent theme and lighting style to bind them together. I've decided to call this first self assignment: **Alchemy: Series One**, a series having portraits that integrate the four natural elements, Air, Water, Earth, and Fire. More on this assignment later when its complete.

For now, I spent part of Thanksgiving in the garage practicing the technique and exercising all the moving parts.