

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

2005.11.28: Visiting Optical Clients

End of last week, Anthony, owner of Baker Optical (new site to be done by Jonathan soon, hopefully) informed me that the replacement lenses for my sunglasses had arrived. End of last week, Sumant, owner of Campus Eye Center informed me that a new supply of Day and Night contact lenses in my prescription had arrived. Monday I decided to take a walking trip to visit these two clients. Here are some photos of the trip. The J.F. Rey/Boz rep was at Baker Optical when I arrived. He brought in about three hundred Boz frames. Pretty funky stuff but perhaps just a little too edgy for a lot of Baker Optical clientele. Still, some fun stuff that I would personally be interested in. Cara (sp?) of Baker Optical trying on some really weird looking Boz frames. She figures that the design was inspired by dots on a lady bug. A sign that I printed for Baker Optical. Substrate was a 6mil polypropylene to allow for light to penetrate and illuminate the sign. This sign was about 40 x 52" roughly . . . coincidentally the size of the face of some of my softboxes. I thought that this frame and this photo was a little boring but Anthony insisted that we have both a male and female model for the display box on Jasper Avenue for balance. I remembered to switch the direction of the arrow when creating the sign. Campus Eye Centre. I created the ad from a photo shot during the summer with Tara Lynn. Tara's actually fourteen until December. The sign was printed on a high tech washable polyester in two pieces to straddle the frame of the window. The "free eye exam" text is visible from about a block away. The back side of the sign. Notice that printing is visible from both sides and during the day light is allowed to enter the premises. Even perforated vinyl would look "black" to viewers from inside the store.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Clients at 14:33

2005.11.26: Wedding Shoot

I typically avoid posting photos of private functions but I feel that the past weekend's wedding shoot with Dong was far from typical. I witnessed the marriage of a young hispanic couple and the associated festivities and throughout the course of the day I felt like I had been adopted into a culture I probably should have been born into. I was overwhelmed with the openness and love that I felt with all of the participants in this event. Everyone was so relaxed leaving no trace of doubt or anxiety. I tried to sense for any hints of self-consciousness and found none and its absence allowed me to lose my own within a few minutes. I have gathered a few photos from the shoot that aren't necessarily representative of what happened but help to convey the openness, comfort level, and joy that I was privileged to share with these humble yet noble people. You'll never guess where that baby powder is going! You know your ceremony is a bit too long when your own groomsmen . . . This scene later degenerated into borderline child p0rn . . . directed by parents holding cameras. I never once told either of these two how to pose . . . they were just so happy to see the camera. =) I'm sorry but one of your bridesmaids may have attention deficit disorder and had difficulty resisting the urge to turn around incessantly during your formals shoot. F/4, 1/20s, ISO 200 w/ D2X and 17-55/2.8. Illumination by a single Plume Wafer 40 x 53" soft box from above driven by a Balcar Iris head powered by a Balcar AQ Pack battery-powered flash pack. I swear that this happened after the ceremony. Little did she realize that this child was deprived of playdough and Mr. Potato Heads when he was younger. Ahah! And now onto the guy sitting next to you! Maybe Dong has the right idea when he said that from now on he'd reject wedding coverage requests from white people.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 05:08

Friday, November 25, 2005

Wedding Rehearsal: St. Joseph's Basilica

Dong and I are covering a wedding Saturday, November 26th. November 26th? High's +2degrees C or something like that. Scary thought. Anyway, here are some photos of the ceremony venue from today's rehearsal. All photos shot at ISO 1600 hand held with the Fuji F10. Aisle. Ridiculously high ceilings. You average about 1/30s at ISO 1600 F/2.8 in this location. During daylight we may get an extra stop but that's about it. I'll be bringing the Balcar AQ Pack, two Iris heads and a softbox and a reflector to light some family shots indoors. The balcony at the rear of the basilica. Alter. This area goes back about forty feet. Exposure here is about 1/30s at F/2.8 and ISO 1600 which is scary because we aren't allowed to use flash light for a part of the ceremony. In addition, the right side of the church is about half a stop darker than the left which is already pretty dark. And to top it off, the lighting temperatures are mixed. See the redder arch compared to the green of the rest of the arches . . . same fixtures but with varying bulbs.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 23:27

New toys for Leanna, new paper, my brother's stove

My first purchase of Kodak media ever. This is just a coated bond paper for making test prints, quick, draft quality prints for engineers and design students, and to plus black ink from the Epson 9600 when changing between black inks. Kodak boxes look so cool, though. I've not been a big fan of Kodak products in the past but I hope that this and a new sample that I should be getting in shortly will change all of that. While I'm no baker or cook, that lasagna was harder than it should have been to bake probably because my brother's Maytag Advanced Cooking System range was a bit too advanced. WTF is convection bake? A shot that Leanna's middle sister Jessica took with the F10 of me playing with her new convertible tablet, the Fujitsu P-1510D. It's 2.2lbs, has 7hr battery life, touch screen, 1.2GHz Pentium-M ULV processor, wireless networking and a whole bunch of other stuff all in a sub-\$1900 package. More on this later. Leanna's mom's new 17" LCD display by AG Neovo. One of the most unique-looking displays I've ever seen. Everyone in their household seemed very happy with the new toys. Now everything is silver.

Posted by Klyment Tan in General at 18:50

2005.11.23: Bill Rancic Speaks

Two days ago Bill Rancic, first winner of NBC's The Apprentice, Patrick LaForge, president and CEO of the Edmonton Oilers hockey club, Jim Dinning, past minister of Education and Provincial Treasurer of Alberta, LuAn Mitchell-Halter, Chatelaine and Profit Magazines Canada's Number One Female Entrepreneur three years in a row and chairperson of Mitchell's Gourmet Foods, and Kelly Hrudey, full-time analyst on CBC's Hockey Night in Canada and former NHL player with the New York Islanders, LA Kings, and San Jose Sharks, spoke at the Alberta Professionals & Entrepreneurs Conference. I've included some photos and a short video clip. Photos are a bit bigger than normal at 250px tall. They'll be back to normal once the excitement of shooting with a P&S camera that can produce dSLR-like photos wears off a bit. Wide angle environmental shot of the auditorium, Winspear Centre. ISO 1600, F/2.8, roughly 1/8s with Fuji F10 hand held from third balcony. People always have different interpretations for what is appropriate business attire. Here, LuAn Mitchell-Halter illustrates that it is really alright to wear a costume crown and Snow White's evil step mother's mirror. Maximum zoom on Fuji F10, F/5, ISO 1600, 1/75s from about 150' away. In the full resolution photo the speaker's face is recognizable. Whoever said that "there is no such thing as a stupid question" obviously never met the old guy to the right. Well, maybe his question wasn't as stupid as it was rhetorical or attention-mongering. Thanks for taking floor time away from people with more insightful questions. Like the one about whether or not Donald Trump's hair is real. Cover of a Queen CD less one person. Left to right: me, George who graduated from high school with me, and Scott who graduated from the U of A with me. Making hand-held self-portraits is a double-edged sword: one may think that they can do a better job than anyone else but when one does a shitty job, there's no one to blame it on. Man, I need a nose. Right click and save a short clip of Bill Rancic's account of his life as an entrepreneur during post-secondary school and beyond. Going into the conference, I wasn't sure what to expect. In fact, I'm not a big fan of Donald Trump and wasn't interested enough in the series description to ever watch an episode of The Apprentice. But now I'll be looking for the show.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Events at 18:10

Thursday, November 24, 2005

Xerox Phaser 7400 Woes Part 2

I answered phone calls and configured a new convertible tablet PC for Leanna's middle sister, Jessica, for most of the morning and then had an engagement shoot in the afternoon. In the evening I attended a conference keynoted by Bill Rancic, the winner of the first installment of Donald Trump's TV series *The Apprentice*. More about that and some fun photos to follow. Anyway, knowing what I had to do today, I knew that I wasn't going to be at the studio for most of the day and left a note with the Xerox service call centre to have the tech try my cell phone if they couldn't reach me at the studio. See part 1. Well, he didn't call my cell and called only the studio line. He left a message: `Xerox_tech_answering_machine_message.wav` Ugh . . . thanks Jeff from Xerox Service for calling and letting me know that you were going to call again after lunch . . . and then not call after lunch and not bother leaving a phone number to call you back. Maybe it's my answering machine outgoing message's fault for not explicitly asking Jeff from Xerox Service to leave a phone number along with your name and a message. Even when I was in grade two my dad would have kicked my ass if I failed to take a phone message.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Equipment at 06:25

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

Xerox Phaser 7400 woes part 1

I have difficulty making my own bed and you expect me to find a way to get all of this bubble wrap back into this box? I can't even figure out how so much bubble wrap came out of this box in the first place! The replacement toner arrived yesterday, shipped to the wrong address, attention to my name (spelled correctly) with the company name "Klimate.com Inv." The only way that I found the shipment was to call back to Xerox with a request ID to look up the tracking number for the package. Anyway, replacement toner went in. Looks like it's something else because now when I print blank pages I get black smears everywhere. Xerox thinks it's the fuser now and they are supposed to get a tech in here to service this thing. Hahah . . . this printer has about 100 pages on it. The Xerox tech support person that I spoke to insisted that I check how much life was left on the fuser to ensure that it was under warranty. 100% life left and 100,000 estimated pages remaining. She figures it's still under warranty so no charge for service this time. I love you guys, you're so generous! I guess that is to be expected after you pay about \$4000 for a printer and it can't print a page of regular black text. Anyway, back goes the original, probably perfectly fine toner cartridge. The photo to the left is of the box that the replacement toner came in. It's about the same height as the little box that the toner is immediately packaged within but about four times the width of the box. I'm guessing that they only make one box and it's usually used to ship all four toner cartridges. Anyway . . . I'm just having some fun with the Fuji F10 while waiting for some prints to come out of the Epson 9600. Ian Sheh put in his second order for prints with me on Breathing Color Sterling 300 which is an archival alpha-cellulose-based fine art paper. Check out his website. He's a shooter too and I believe that he shoots mostly weddings. Nikon D70 user with some pro glass and some Speedotron Brownline studio lighting (ewww). His blog isn't very well developed yet but he does have a pretty cool design portfolio though he could probably use some colour management and colour workflow guidance. Everyone to whom I have shown prints made on Sterling 300 have been very pleased and I am slowly converting people to a matte surface way of thinking. I'm currently printing it at just \$6/square foot. Check out the rest of the paper selection and services at this makeshift site.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Equipment at 05:40

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

New Printer: Xerox Phaser 7400

Photo taken with Fuji Finepix F10 at some ISO value that is probably beyond what most point and shoot cameras have a setting for. The Xerox Phaser 7400 arrived about a week ago but it has yet to do a full production run. Apparently the printer shipped with a defective fuser assembly which caused it to streak stuff across pages, especially thicker sheets. This problem was first misdiagnosed as a toner/imager problem when it only appeared in the black channel. Even after Xerox sent me a new toner cartridge at their expense, the problem persisted and subsequently worsened. Now black smearing happens in all four channels so there's a tech coming [hopefully] today but most likely tomorrow. This printer is spec'ed to do up to 36 pages per minute in full colour. It can handle 12 x 18" (and slightly larger) cut sheets of paper and banner lengths up to something like 40". Through the multipurpose tray, this printer is also designed to handle paper weights up to 100lbs or 270gsm and I have seen reports of people using 330gsm, 14pt card stock in this printer with no problems but I'm not going to try it. This printer will be used to produce trading cards, post cards, advertising mailers, and other similar products. All stocks ordered for this printer so far are relatively environmentally friendly and are at a minimum oxygen bleached in a chlorine-free process. Most of the stuff that I'll be running through this machine will be on Unisource's Save-a-tree paper line which is a 100% post consumer waste paper which is also oxygen bleached. The paper is more expensive than virgin pulps and usually isn't quite as white or have as perfect a coating due to the shorter fibres associated with a recycled pulp but the imaging characteristics of the paper are still excellent and I don't feel that I'm making a print quality sacrifice to gain the environmental advantages. The only problem so far is that the line only has a 96# cover stock that isn't especially thick or stiff which means that I'll be using Oji's Topkote product for trading cards until they develop a heavier product or I find a 100% recycled alternative. The Topkote line is oxygen bleached but as far as I know, it's a 100% virgin pulp. I can offer printing services with this printer economically up to about 1500 copies. At that point, it'll be cheaper to seek a traditional or digital press. Still, I suggest pushing the press operator to use a recycled stock unless you absolutely need to have a certain feel or caliper. I feel that, compared to most presses, the print quality from this printer is actually much better. Wider colour gamut and virtually invisible dot pattern. I know of a couple presses in the city that are still running sub-100LPI line screens for their plates or webs. This results in a really coarse rosette pattern that's visible to most people under thirty from about eight inches away. Some of the cheaper presses also ask only for sRGB JPEGs without bleeds and just tell you to deal with the miscuts that they may make. I feel that running a printing operation is something to be proud of and something that should be done well. Anything that should be printed should be printed well. I hope that I'm upholding this belief in my work.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Equipment at 16:18

New Tool: FujiFilm Finepix F10

A "screenshot" of the FujiFilm Canada's F10 mini site opening screen. After destroying countless F10's with drool I now have one of my own. I got one price matched at McBain Camera and I picked up a 1gig xD card with it . . . good for close to four hundred full resolution, low compression JPEGs. The camera produces cleaner ISO 1600 shots than my D2X and most dSLRs that I've seen. And it's a point and shoot that doesn't even have aperture priority or full manual mode. You could read most stuff about this camera on other sites. I suggest looking at FujiFilm Canada's F10 mini site (visit main website or scale down your window since clicking on the previous link stretches everything), DP review's review of the camera (it only got a "recommended" and not a "highly recommended", something that I don't agree with but it's not my review), and PBase's camera-filtered photo database. I found the camera to be incredibly responsive. Focusing was fast and shutter release lag was non-existent. I recall reading that it was clocked at 7ms which is actually faster than the D2X's 37ms which already feels non-existent. Balance and feel of the camera is very natural and everything just works the way you think it should . . . or at least the way I think that it should. Beautifully auto white-balanced JPEGs almost all the time even in quirky, artificially-lit environments. It also comes with a nifty little USB card reader that can store an xD within so that you can use it as a big memory key. Transfer rates are a bit slow through the included card reader. The camera feels so small and elegant that the "equipment" category almost seems to coarse and unrefined for this wonderous little camera.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Equipment at 04:43

Photo and Printing Deals

Calumet's Demo Clearance Sale official site. I also have a copy of the product list in which I highlighted interesting stuff. Some great deals on PocketWizard standard kits (\$199US instead of \$300+ US and includes one receiver and one

transmitter. Vistek's price for a Plus receiver and transmitter is over \$500CDN.), colour management tools, a Fuji GA645Zi (point and shoot medium format "compact" camera with zoom lens), and some great deals on some other medium format gear and some Bowens lighting. FujiFilm Finepix F10. Edmonton local shoppers can get McBain Camera to price match this price. Saves a couple bucks. The price-matched price ends up being about ten dollars more than what the F10 costs through niche market distributor Synnex/EMJ and you don't pay shipping and get in-store warranty. It's quite possibly the best point and shoot digital camera available to the North American market. Japanese shooters are getting the F11 which adds a few of the features that would have made the F10 kill anything within a 50% price radius of the camera. Stuff like aperture and shutter priority shooting modes and I think a fully manual exposure mode. Then again, it's a point and shoot . . . those of you that know how to use those other modes probably have an SLR or professional range finder anyway. Lexjet's clearance sale on lots of signage materials. Discounts average 50% off. I just ordered more water resistant satin cloth, Flagtex, water resistant matte, photographic polypropylene, and a clear polyester which I have no idea what it does but people have apparently used them to create negatives for offset printing plates. The Flagtex wasn't on sale, though but I needed it anyway. If you're in Canada be aware that their default shipping method is UPS. Instruct them to use FedEx Ground or any method other than UPS and also inform them that you'll reject any international package shipped UPS and will reverse credit card charges if they won't refund you. UPS charges exorbitant brokerage fees . . . if you ship via UPS economy, once brokerage has been accounted for you could have shipped via FedEx 2nd day international express for less since Express includes brokerage in the shipping price.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Photography at 00:36

Music: Ultimate Jesse Cook

Another Leanna and Klyment shopping entry. Leanna was waiting for some weird lab procedure to finish in the medical sciences building on the University campus and she joined me in searching for some discs. This trip was prompted by several complaints and somewhat negative responses to music I had available in my studio. Everything from Jonathan's burning a music CD on his PowerBook and popping it into my machine without asking and then offering to be my studio DJ any day to Huy's blatant complaint of having his energy completely drawn out by the repetitive drone pumped out by WinAmp to Meags not even venturing to complain about the abysmal lyrics of some song that was in my playlist (I swear it's not all mine). Anyway, we visited Blackbyrd Myoozik, Megatunes, and Southside Sound all on Whyte Avenue. From Blackbyrd I picked up a two disc Jesse Cook collection and a disc by Granddaddy which was definitely NOT what I thought it was. Nasty. The music on the Jesse Cook collection was awesome and it even came with a couple interesting features . . . Cover Art . . . doesn't actually look like the cover on the disc but it's fairly close. And I'm sorry . . . I love your music but you're uhhh . . . not very good looking. And I mean it in the nicest way possible. Hmmm . . . a disc with its own player. Cool. This keeps getting better: a disc with its own disc ripper and, *gasp*, lossless, rights managed audio extraction. Exciting. Save error? I love how EMI Music thought that it would be nice to help me protect myself from my own copyright. Well fuck you too. The next time I see anything from EMI that smells of copy protection it's staying on the shelf. Yup, I said that in that frickin' survey you linked to from this disc, too. Fuckers.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Music at 00:22

Sunday, November 20, 2005

Book: The Dark Side

These details are totally irrelevant for this entry but for those of you that care, this photo was shot with the Nikon D2X through the Micro-Nikkor 60/2.8 at F/8, ISO 100. Light source was a single Power Z head driven by a Balcar Nexus A3200 modified with an FX60 reflector and 20degree spot grid. Leanna and I were supposed to be baking cookies and banana bread today but scheduling got all screwed up. She recently received one of those mystery savings cards in the mail and we decided to take a trip out to Chapters. Savings range from \$5 to \$1000 but the clerk jinxed the card by saying that everyone gets the \$5 discount and he got a \$100 discount. Bastard. On the way, we noticed that Athabasca Books at 105 St. and 82 Ave. was doing their final clearance so we popped in for a look. Everything was 60% off and even the book shelves were for sale. The heartless business person in me scoffed at the closure and screamed "it's about time!" But I could hear the soft sobbing of another voice within me that sympathized with the independent book store owner. It felt her pain. But that didn't stop me from enjoying some nice discounts on some books. I just started reading the pictured book. It's subtitled "The Personal Price of a Political Life" and though I've barely cracked the cover I can already tell that it's going to be an interesting read. It's littered with witty, pessimistic quotes that would make Dr. E. L. Kersten proud. I've gotten through the preface and I'm going to stop here until later considering that I just got to enjoy the sunrise at the END of my day through my studio windows. Other books included a traditionally-bound copy of Emily Bronte's classic work Wuthering Heights in a matching bone board case, an early edition collection of Alexander Pope's minor poems, and Thomas Hobbes' most famous work, Leviathan. Total bill was about \$36 or about as much as what Leanna paid for Jack Welch's book Winning. Leanna got this book for me and I am very happy. Thanks Leanna for driving me out and reuniting me with some fun reading. I'm dedicating the new "Reading" category of my blog to you. During my four year degree program I read no more than 200 pages from the 10,000 or so required pages of text for my classes. So at this same rate, November 19th's purchases should keep me occupied until my 40th birthday. Then again, these books should be far more interesting those those books about supply chain management, performance and quality measurement, and that book that we had to read for that class that was filled with kids waiting for their parents to die so that they could inherit their parents' companies . . . I mean ORG A 488: Managing Family Enterprise. Anyway, there's no measure for the value of a good literary work but the business voice inside of me says it's a good deal. Athabasca Books will be opened until November 26th and at the end of that day it will close its doors forever. Don't miss the sale. The store is at 105th street and 82 Ave. A short walk from the high school that Leanna and I attended that will remain unnamed. While there we saw Justin, Jonathan's friend. I didn't recognize at first because he was wearing sunglasses . . . and it was really dark outside. Yeah, man, Leanna says you're hot. Or something.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Reading at 08:12

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

New old news: car fire

Dong forwarded these photos to me just over a month ago so I suppose there's nothing new about this news. But that makes four consecutive entries starting with "new". Here's the story as quoted from my request to Dong for commentary: "Well, it was the middle vehicle that started to smoke up just as the family pulled up and parked their van. Apparently the smoke came from the undercarriage . . . The vehicle to the left of it was a dark green Honda Odessey, one of our doc's car and the other one was a pathfinder, one of our senior therapist's car. The whole thing was whack!" Dong also adds that "[t]he photos were taken with a piece of shit 2.0 MP HP camera. Piece of shit is an understatement." From left to right: Nissan Pathfinder (Senior therapist's vehicle), what's left of a Dodge caravan (client vehicle that started the fire), doctor's Honda Odessey. There's a cop and a fire investigator checking out the client vehicle. A look inside of the client's vehicle. Doctor's vehicle. Senior therapist's vehicle.

Posted by Klyment Tan in News at 01:09

Tuesday, November 15. 2005

New Little German People

But of course being lazy and posting random links is just too easy. Those who like my ideas for new studio furniture may also like this site:<http://www.planetdan.net/pics/babies/index.htm>Enjoy.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Cool Sites at 04:31

New Love

Okay people, read this text before looking further so you don't get the wrong idea from the title. I discovered something that I really enjoyed doing when working with a young actress and visual arts student this past weekend. We were going to do something a bit different in addition to working on her headshots but in usual Klyment-style what could have taken a few minutes ended up taking several hours. The relaxed, thoughtful pace of the headshot session appealed to me and I think that it would make me happy if I did more headshots. In a way, fashion, glamour, editorial, and headshots are all very related . . . but I feel that working on a headshot with someone gives the photographer a brief glimpse into the soul of whom he or she is photographing. Often I see photos of people who I know in real life and normally find very attractive. However, I have difficulty transferring this attraction to the photograph. Something is usually missing. It's like the person in the photograph isn't speaking to me but is drifting in some distant bubble, filed away in a display case, untouchable. I see this in a lot of my own photos. I don't have a formal portfolio right now but the few traces of a portfolio that I do have right now will hopefully soon be replaced by photos that tell a viewer who these people are . . . and perhaps a little about myself as well. Breaking from the usual routine of laziness and half-assed attempts at making witty commentaries to some other sites, I have included a few photos from Meags' shoot. She is one of Rapid Fire Theatre's improvisors. All photos from the shoot were taken with with the Nikon D2X at ISO 100, 1/250s, and either the Micro-Nikkor 60mm F/2.8 AF-D (not latest generation) or the Carl Zeiss/Hasselblad 80mm F/2.8 Planar C T* with an adapter for F-mount. I suppose I have also discovered new love in the 60mm. I was prepared to sell it to Dong (get your frickin' content to Jonathan so he can finish your site already) because shooting with it only reminded me of the beauty that I lost when I left the Contax/Yashica mount and the Carl Zeiss 60mm F/2.8 Makro Planar and defected to the F-mount camp. All lighting was performed with a single Balcar Power Z head connected to a Balcar Nexus A3200. Light was modified with a Plume 40 x 53" Wafer. Light reflected with a 45" white reflector to the bottom left of the composure.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 04:14

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

New Studio Furniture

<http://www.liberatorextreme.com/http://www.bodybouncer.com/>

Posted by Klyment Tan at 04:32