

DIGITAL

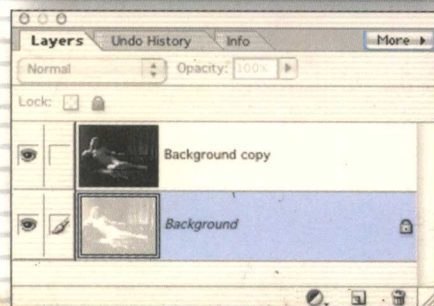


# nude photography

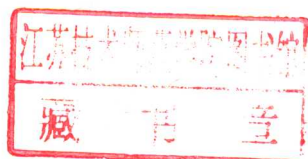


A step-by-step guide to creating perfect photos

RODERICK MACDONALD



Jel/w<sup>20</sup>



DIGITAL



# nude photography

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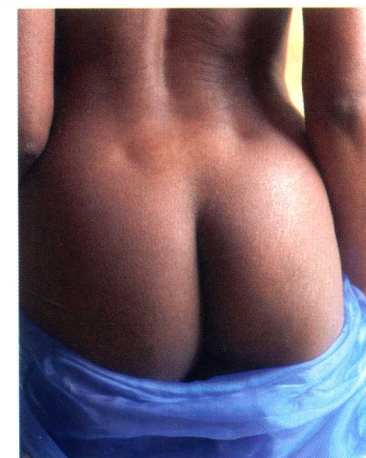
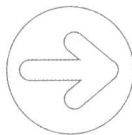
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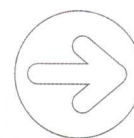
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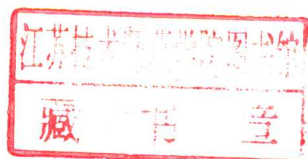
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MUSKA & LIPMAN  
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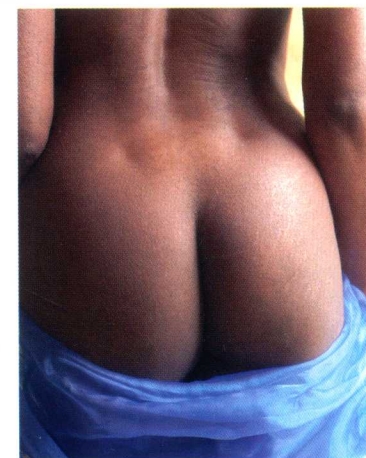
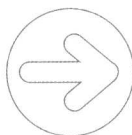
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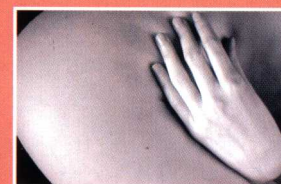
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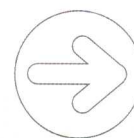
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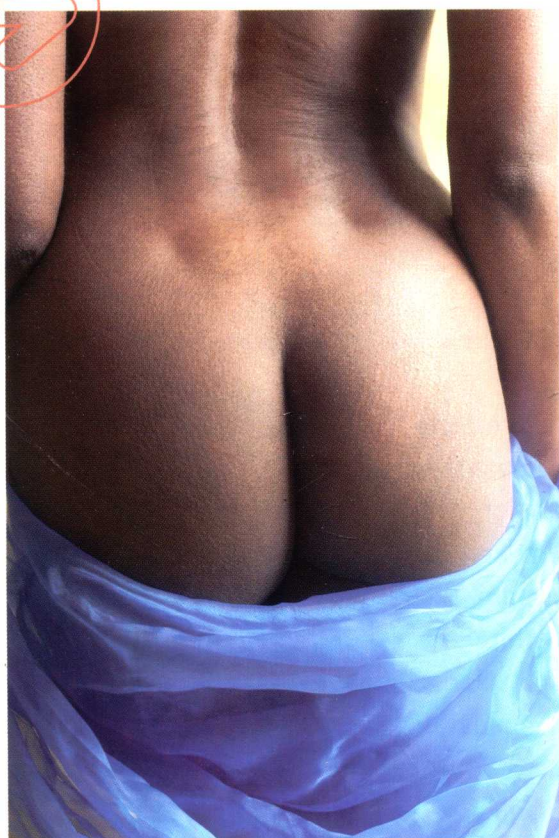
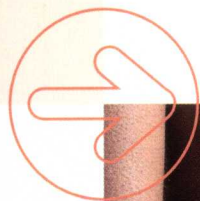
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# Introduction

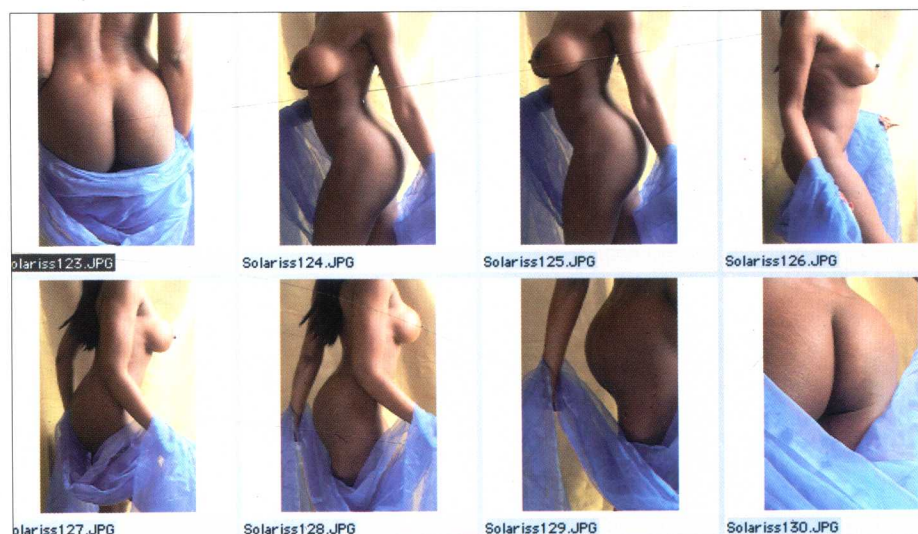


Oblique lighting and intense hues give vitality to this image, in which no attempt is made to glamorize the model by softening or removing her slight imperfections.

Part of a spread of thumbnail images generated by a computer, which can be used just like a photographic contact sheet.

An amusing "double take," easily and seamlessly assembled using image-editing software.

The nude is a long-established photographic subject. Images of the naked human form, while sometimes the subject of controversy and debate, remain popular with photographers and viewers for their power to move us. Digital photography has in many ways given new life to this theme, particularly for amateur photographers. This book discusses the whole process of making images of the nude using digital technology: from finding a model and a location; shooting and editing the pictures; to exhibiting your work.







Digital photography has a number of advantages over traditional film photography, but the most important is the sense of immediacy that the medium brings. This is particularly appropriate when shooting the nude.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- Digital photography is immediate. With a digital camera, you can see what you have shot as soon as you've taken it, make any adjustments, and reshoot it until you've obtained the image you want.
- Digital photography is powerful. Once you've taken your digital pictures, you move them from the camera onto the computer, where you can edit and manipulate them. This means not only tidying the image up (cropping, removing distracting details, fixing blemishes, etc), but altering it creatively. Your computer enables you to create effects that would be difficult or impossible to achieve even in the most expensive darkroom.
- Digital photography is flexible. You can show your pictures in many different ways:

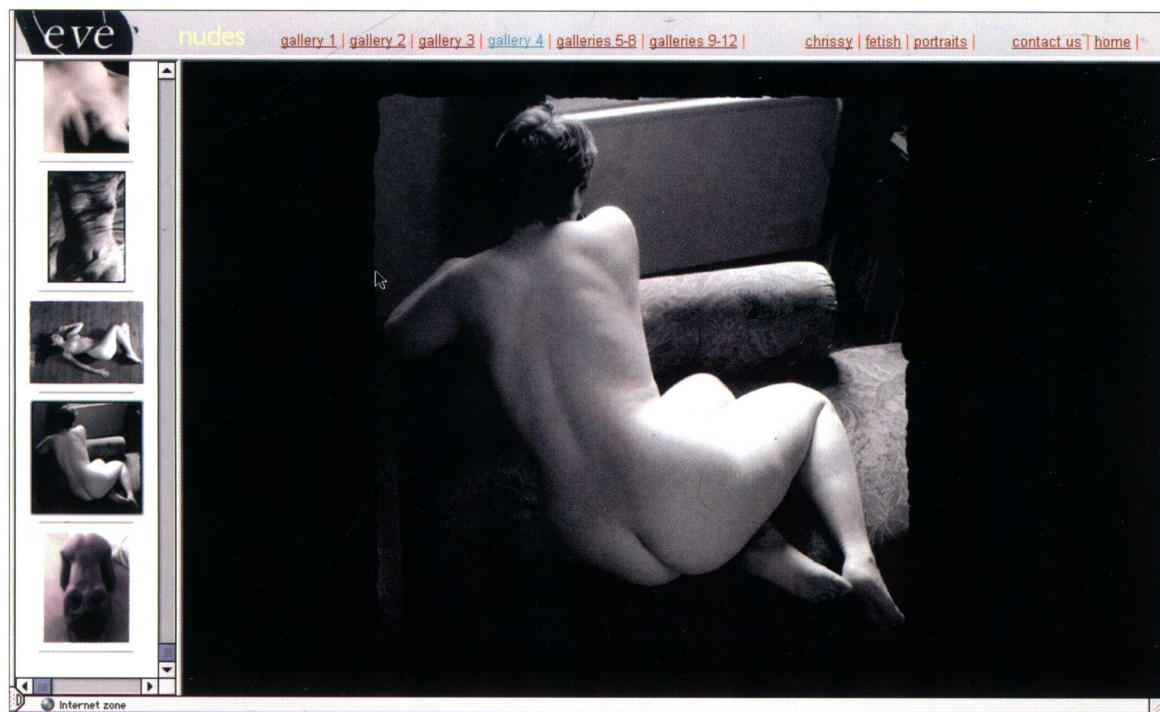
you can print them on a good-quality printer, then frame and exhibit them, as you would conventional photographs; you can e-mail them to friends; or you can display them over the internet in a number of ways (see page 137).

► Digital photography is cheap to run. It's not cheap to set up (see page 8), but once you've bought the equipment, you don't pay for film stock or processing. This means that you can take more pictures than you might with a film camera, which in turn frees up your imagination to take more chances and be more experimental. When you print your work, your paper costs will be low. You will print a picture only when you are certain, from what you see on the computer screen, that the picture is exactly how you want it—there is no need for

test prints. If you decide to show your work on the internet, you have no materials costs (apart from phone charges).

► You can use the computer to work on images taken with a film camera. Using either a film or a paper scanner, you can create a digital version of images on film (negative or transparency, color or black-and-white) or prints, and then edit them on the computer.

► Digital is all under your control. You don't have to rely on processing labs to handle your film properly and make your prints the way you want them. And—with nude photography—you don't have to worry about the processing lab handling your work discreetly. You have complete creative control over every phase of the process.



■ An example from my website. Note the black background on which the main image is displayed.

# Introduction

## THE DRAWBACKS OF DIGITAL

► Digital is not cheap to set up. The arrival of digital cameras in the marketplace has driven down the price of many high-quality film cameras, but digital cameras of reasonable quality are still quite expensive. Also, if you don't already have access to a computer, you'll need to buy one to edit your pictures. But, as explained already, digital photography is cheap to run compared to film photography, and prices for digital cameras and their peripherals, while still high, are falling all the time.

► Buying a digital camera can be confusing. As well as traditional camera-makers like Olympus and Nikon, companies with a background in other technologies (Sony, Minolta) now produce high-quality cameras. New cameras appear all the time. Choosing a digital camera requires familiarity with a new technical vocabulary. However, there are good magazines and websites available that can help you decide which camera to buy.

Some viewers might find this image confrontational, as it draws attention to the lifestyle and values suggested by the model's choice to have her nipple pierced—and the photographer's decision to work with her.

This image uses strongly contrasted elements of black and white in a composition that matches shapes (the gloved hand and the high-heeled shoe) and patterns (the parallel lines of the model's thigh and shin and the shadow of the hand).



## THE SCOPE OF THIS BOOK

This book is not about "glamor" or "adult" photography, but about the many different forms of nude photography that exist outside of them. These forms employ the same resources—light, camerawork, location, composition, the model, the pose, the moment, manipulation of the image—to create a visual form based on the human body that moves the viewer through its form, skill, and beauty, rather than simply being sexually arousing.

The kind of photography that has these ambitions is often monochrome, as a way of simplifying form and pattern and separating the image from the "real" world in which it was made. Yet color can add its own interest, as later examples will show.

This book also draws on the range of alternative lifestyles that exist in Western cultures today. Some of the images in the book use models who are tattooed or have body-piercings. These alterations to the body are rarely the central feature in the image, but their presence can add an extra, often quite provocative element to a nude image.





Moving to digital photography does not need to be expensive, and the long-term benefits are enormous. In addition to cheaper production costs, digital photography offers scope for infinite experimentation.



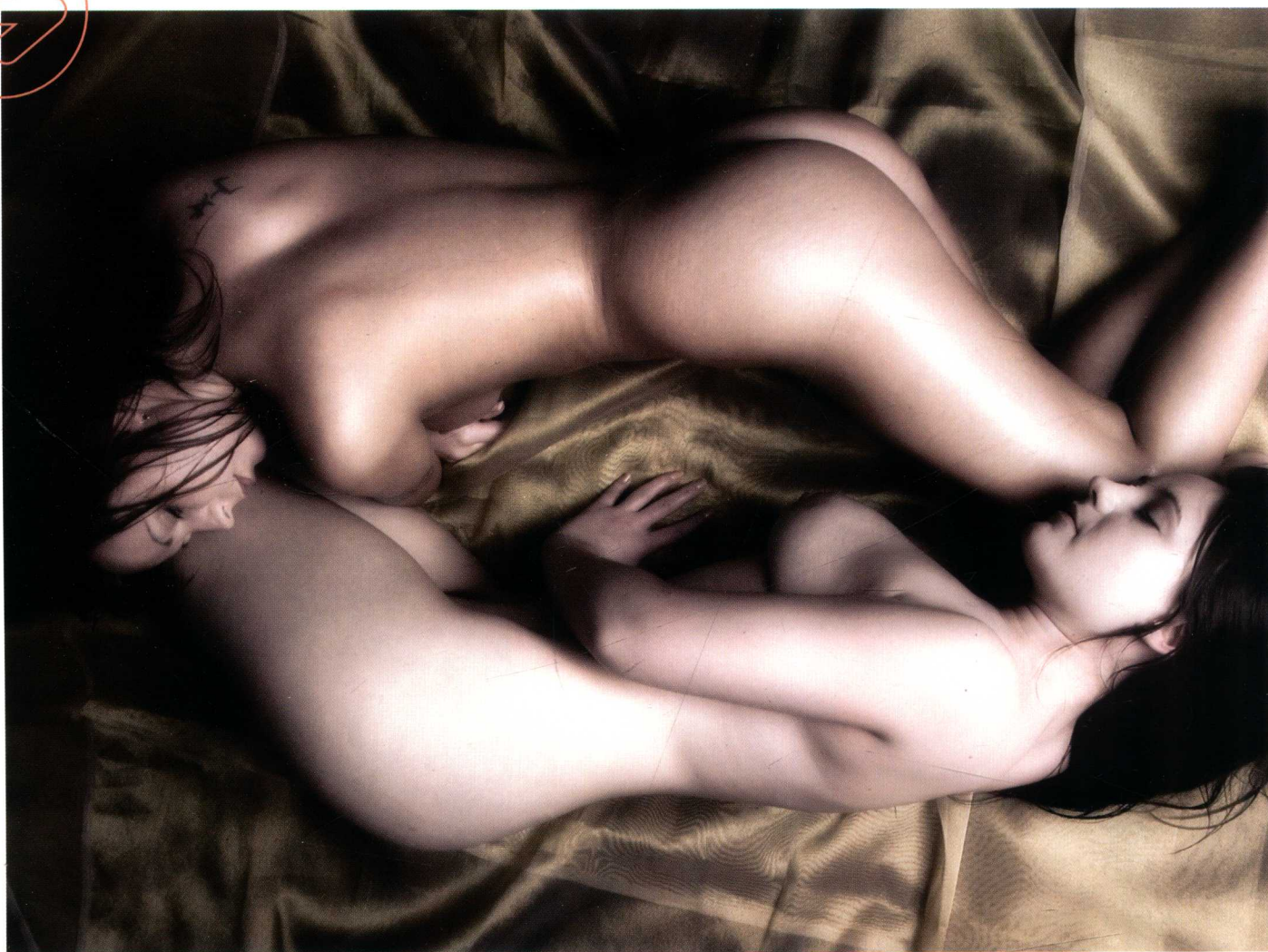
▼ This image relies for its impact on the symmetry of the model's pose and the strength and confidence of her gaze, combined with very even lighting in a featureless white studio space.

▼ This photograph transforms the body into a pattern of monochrome light and shade, formed by the model's limbs under the lighting conditions that the photographer has created. No attempt has been made to make the model look more "perfect" by removing the birthmark below her throat, although this could easily have been done on the computer.






# Introduction



## THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND THE MODEL

In this book you'll see pictures of individual female and male models, and shots that use two models together. Working with different models and combinations of models provides a continuous challenge to the photographer. Pages 34–39 look in detail at selecting and working with models.

 *Working with two models enables you to explore new worlds of symmetry, similarity, and contrast.*



The relationship between photographer and model is not altered by digital photography. In fact, the opportunity to produce thought-provoking, evocative images has been increased by the flexibility of digital techniques.



Traditionally, most nudes have been taken by male photographers using female models, but there's a growing number of female photographers whose subjects include the nude. These two examples are by American photographer Doreen Alvarez.









# 1

## Your digital camera



The digital camera market is a fast-moving one. In this chapter, we discuss what to look for when buying a digital camera. The main focus is on cameras with non-detachable lenses and what you can expect from them. Here we also consider light sources, from available light, reinforced with homemade reflectors, to flash heads and continuous light sources. Other important issues discussed in this chapter include exposure, focusing, resolution, and white balance.