

## WORKING WITH LIGHT

*“I am constantly looking:  
‘Where is the light  
coming from? What  
does it look like?’”*  
—Annie Leibovitz

### SUBCHAPTERS

- Don't Focus on Equipment
- Using Natural Light as Your Teacher
- Keeping Your Kit Small
- Mixing Natural Light With a Strobe

### CHAPTER REVIEW

Annie started out as a photographer by studying natural light. It helped her learn how to see and it is what she still studies when she goes on a shoot.

She tries to emulate natural light. She uses ambient light and adds a small key light on her subject, usually in the direction the natural light is coming from.

Adding too many lights to a room will often take away what the natural light offers.

With digital, you can get away with shooting in lower light, but it changes the image. It can make your photograph diverge from the ambience of the actual setting of the photograph.

Annie keeps her equipment kit small so that she can be flexible and adapt to the moment.

She uses different techniques to manipulate light. Her goal is to achieve a balance between her strobe and natural light.

Annie favors working on overcast days, when she will mix the strobe with flat ambient light. She doesn't like to wait for the “golden light” at the end of the day. She likes to start working in the early morning, when she has soft light and the option to work longer if she needs to. Even so, “You hardly ever get the right time of day,” she says. You just have to learn to deal with what is available.

### LEARN MORE

- Annie tries to utilize natural light and she emulates it whenever she can. But that is not always possible. Discover what you should be aware of when shooting at night with these tips on shooting [landscapes](#) and [city scenes](#) after dark.

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### ASSIGNMENTS

- In order to develop a better understanding of light, take a photograph of the same subject in the same place at three different times of day: early morning, noon, and early evening. Notice how the light changes in each photograph. How does the different lighting change the mood of the image and why? Which one do you prefer?
- Experiment with a strobe. Take several photographs of a subject's face, moving the strobe around to see the difference in effect.

# PHOTO INDEX

## 9. WORKING WITH LIGHT



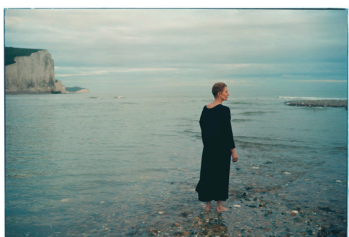
Jerry Garcia  
*New York City, 1973*



Paul Kantner, Grace Slick and China  
*Bolinas, California, 1971*



David Harris and Joan Baez  
*Los Altos, California, 1971*



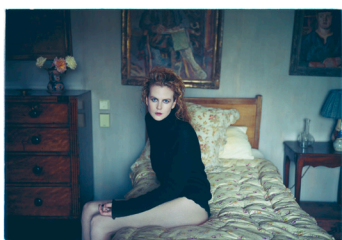
Vanessa Redgrave  
*Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex, England, 1994*



Adele  
*London, 2015*



Kristin Scott Thomas  
*Paris, 1997*



Nicole Kidman  
*Charleston, East Sussex, England, 1997*



Jack Nicholson  
*Mulholland Drive, Los Angeles, 2006*



Lucinda Williams  
*Austin, Texas, 2001*