

# Lighting Small Objects

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October 6, 2020

# Background

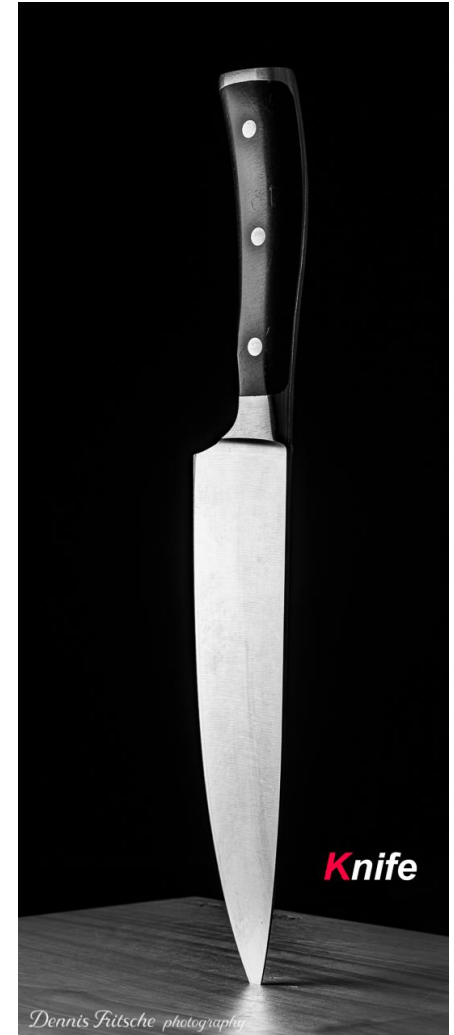
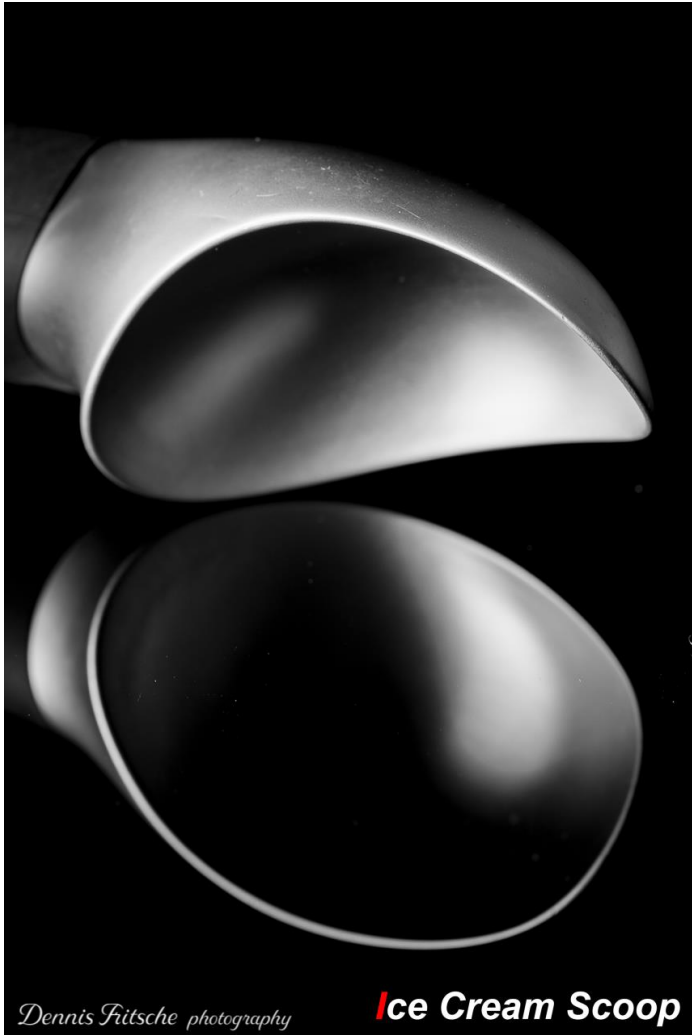
- During the lockdown, the weekly challenges from Dallas and Plano often have me photographing subjects around the house.
- Some of these required additional light and started learning a few things and became more elaborate as I went.
- I ended up assembling a “studio” and learned some lighting skills.
- My eventual setup is more elaborate than is necessary to duplicate these techniques and setups.
- This does not cover natural light techniques.



**Money**

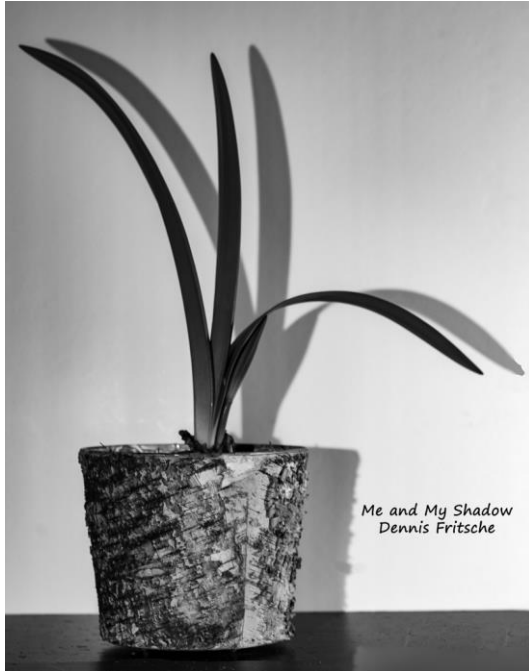


**Onion**



# Lesson 1

## Move away from the background



### Shadow

- Too close to wall
- Light almost in line with Camera



### No Shadow

- Moved away from the wall
- Light to side to cast shadow out of field of view



# Lesson 2

## Diffuse and Control the Light



# The Basic Requirements

- A room with controllable lights. Totally off is good.
- Light sources
- Light shaping and control
  - Baffles – white and black
  - Light shaping tools – snoots, barn doors
  - Diffusers
  - Reflectors
- Backdrop
- Camera and lens
- Tripod
- Table or a stand
- Objects

# My Room and Photo Gear

- An unused media room. Total darkness is possible. Can keep things setup.
- Backdrop stand with black and white backdrops
- A table and chair
- Black plexiglass for reflections. (Mirrors give double reflections.)
- D850 or Z7 camera and mostly 105mm macro lens. (longer lenses allow you to isolate the subject.)
- Tripod with center post and an easy to fine tune head (Arca Swiss D4)
- Tethering the camera to a laptop allows for immediate viewing in Lightroom. (*Tethering Tools*)





# My Lights and Control

- Lume Cube 2 kit.
- Light stands.
- Black and white baffles made from mat board and foam core taped to back to stand it upright.
- Diffuser made from a cut mat with freezer paper taped over the opening.
- Stand with arm to hold diffuser.

# The Lume Cube 2 Pro Kit

<https://lumecube.com/products/lume-cube-2-0-professional-lighting-kit-2-lights-all-diffusers-and-modifiers>



Securely snaps onto the front of the Lume Cube



Magnetically attach gels, diffusers, and modifiers





# Lesson 3 - Lighting Glass



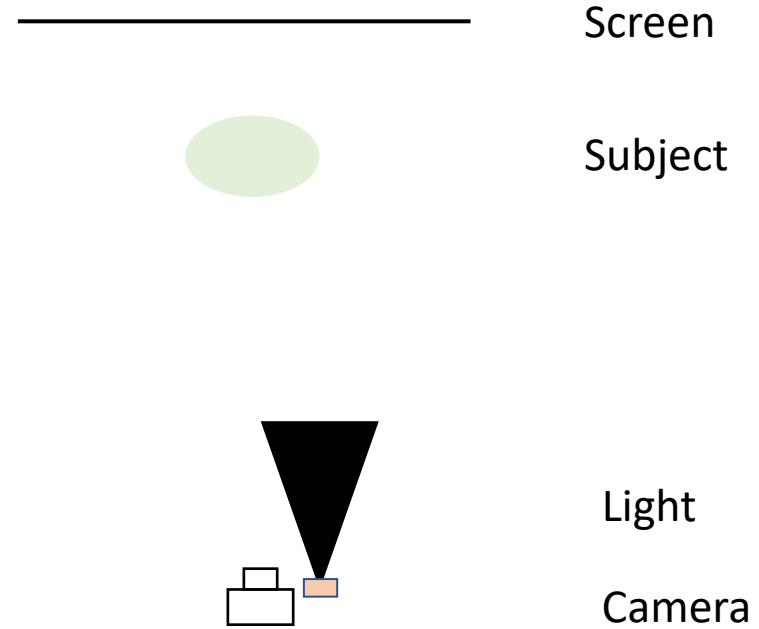
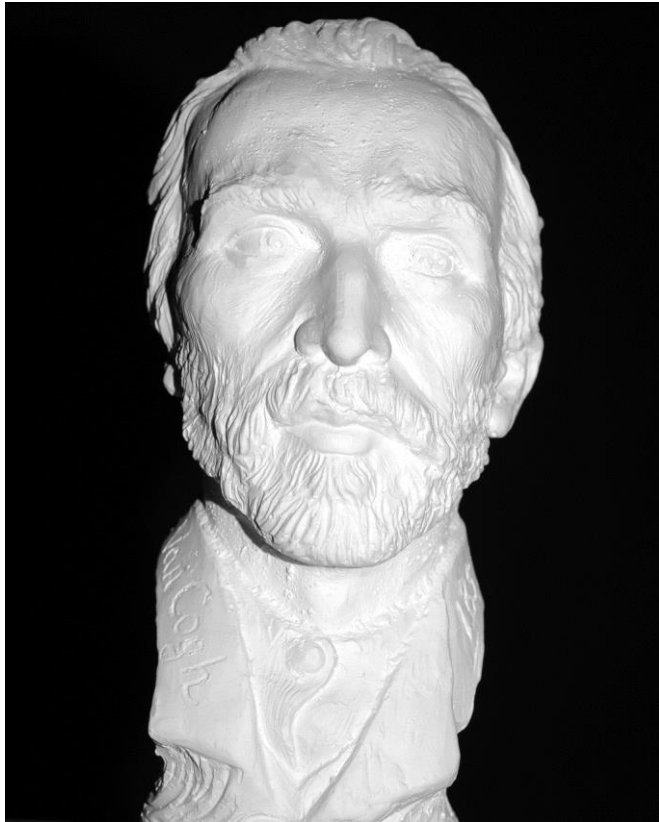






# Types of Light

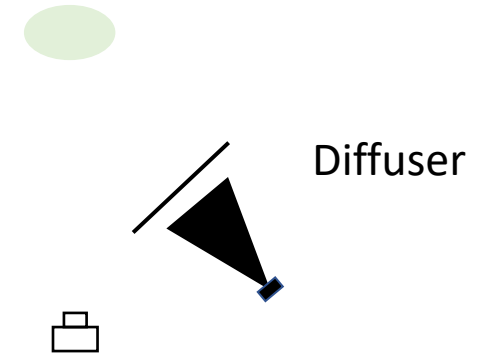
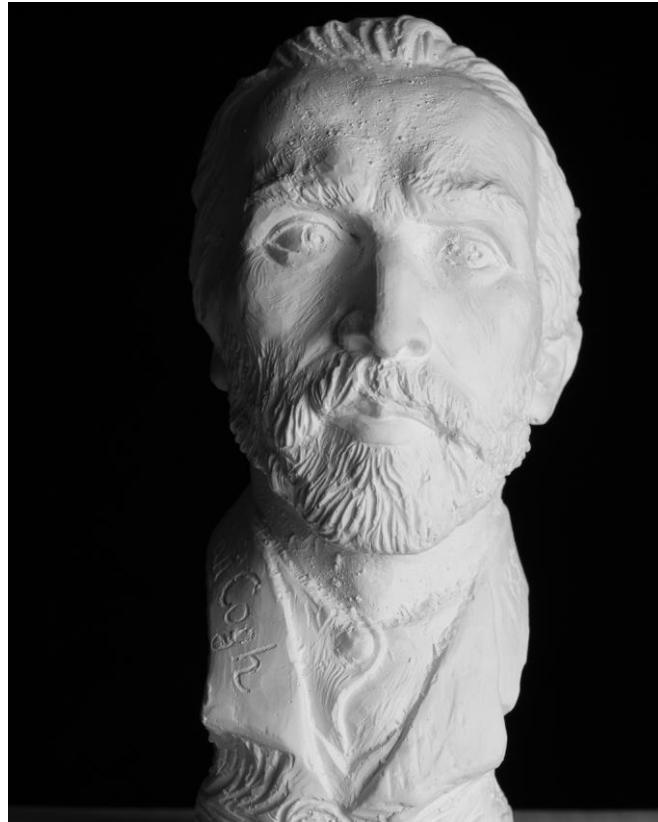
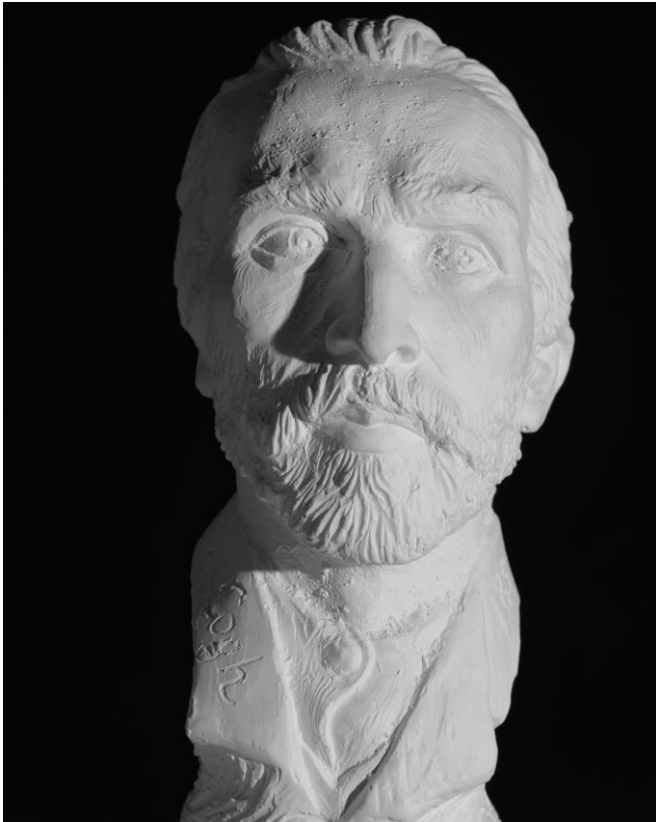
# Direct Lighting - Front



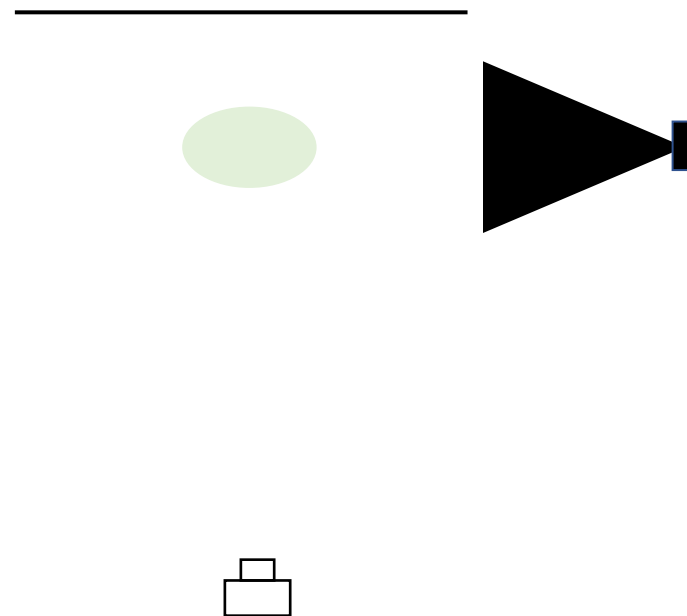
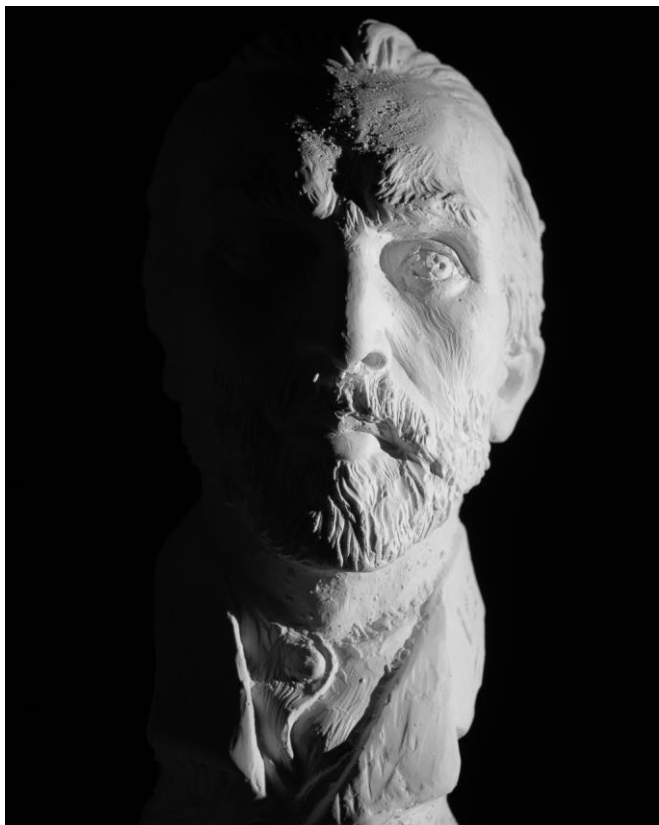
# Direct Lighting – Side

## Diffuse Lighting - Side

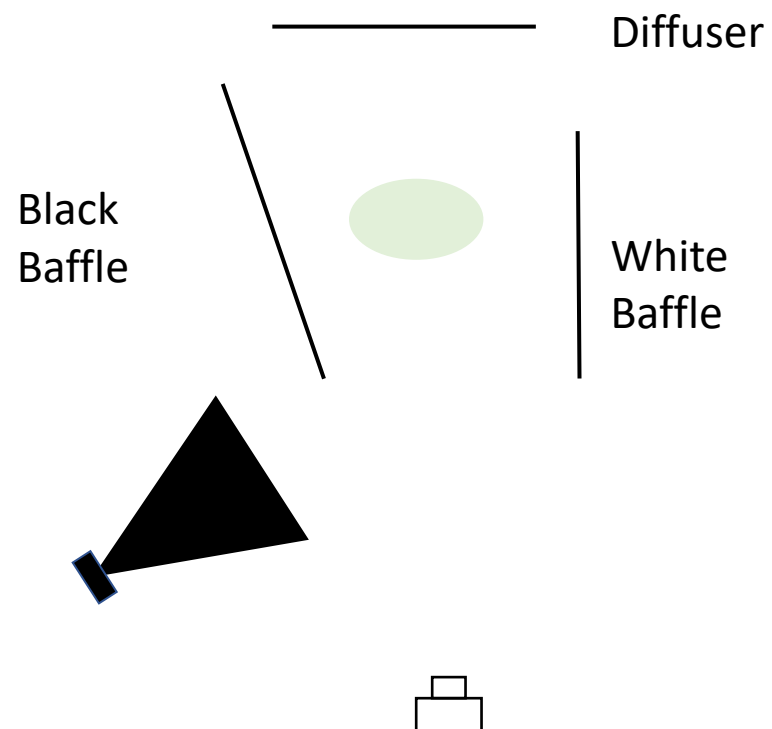
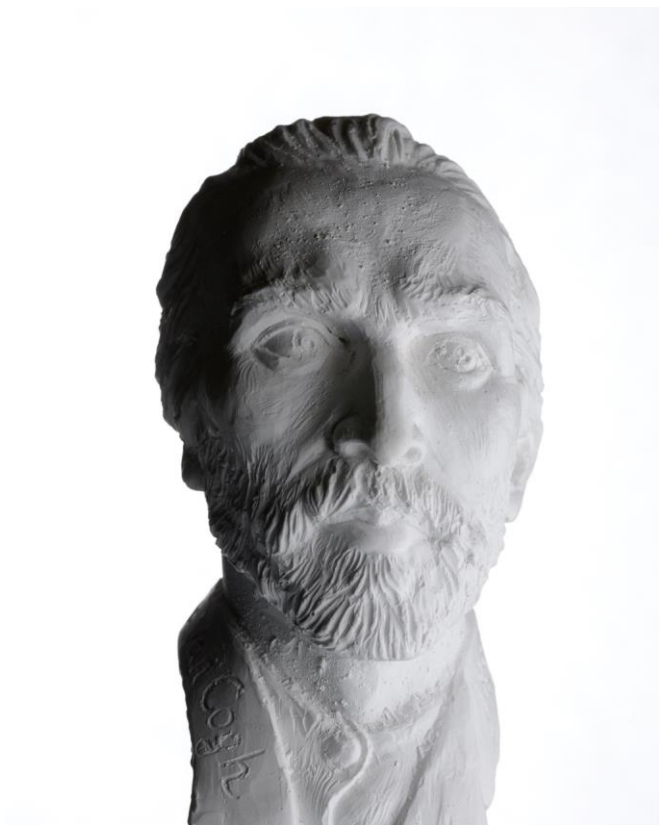
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# Direct Lighting – Dide



# Soft Bounce Lighting





# Focus Stacking

- May be required
- Take shots at different focal points
- Combine in software



27 Shots



10 Shots



# Other Considerations

- Color Balance

Set your camera to the color temperature of the source. A custom white balance may be required. (Lume Lights are Daylight).

Using warming gels need to balance with tungsten lights and set camera to tungsten.

- Processing

Use your normal workflow.

You need to darken black backgrounds and lighten white backgrounds

# Conclusion and Questions