Impactful
Black and White Photography Processing and Printing

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Impactful Black and White Photography

- Converting from color to black and white.
- Processing for impact.
- Printing the image.
- Resources

Resources

- *Mastering black and white digital photography* by Michael Freeman

- *PhotographyLife.com* article "
How to Take Better Black and White Landscape Photos

- *Landscapes in Lightroom: The Essential Step-by-Step Guide* by Michael Frye

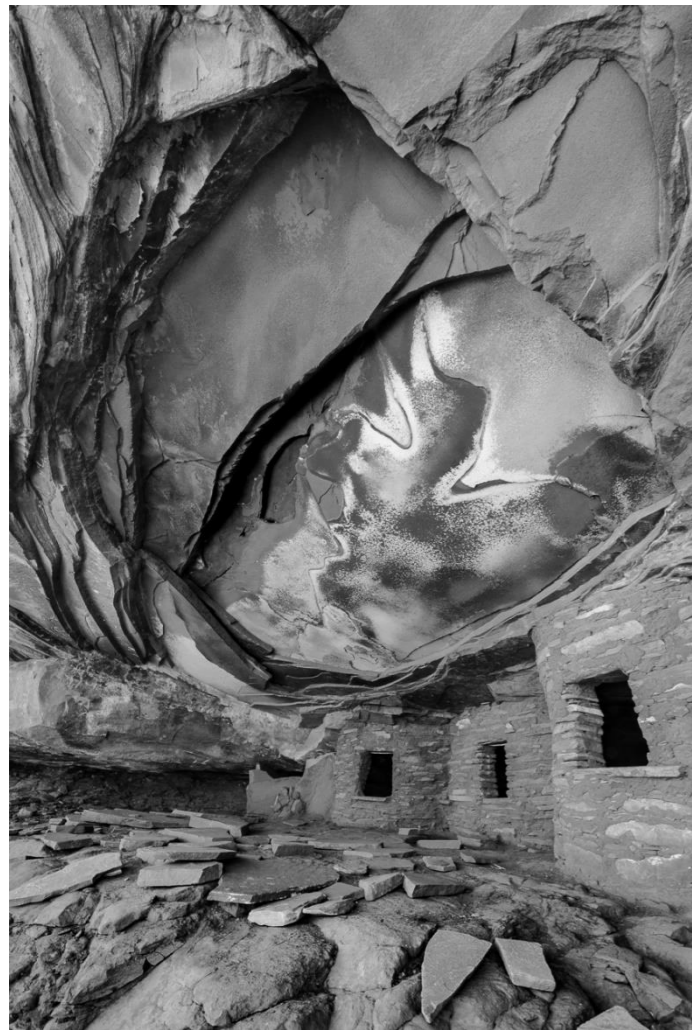- *Look at books – Ansel Adams, John Sexton, Edward Weston, etc*

Ansel Adams

Edward Weston
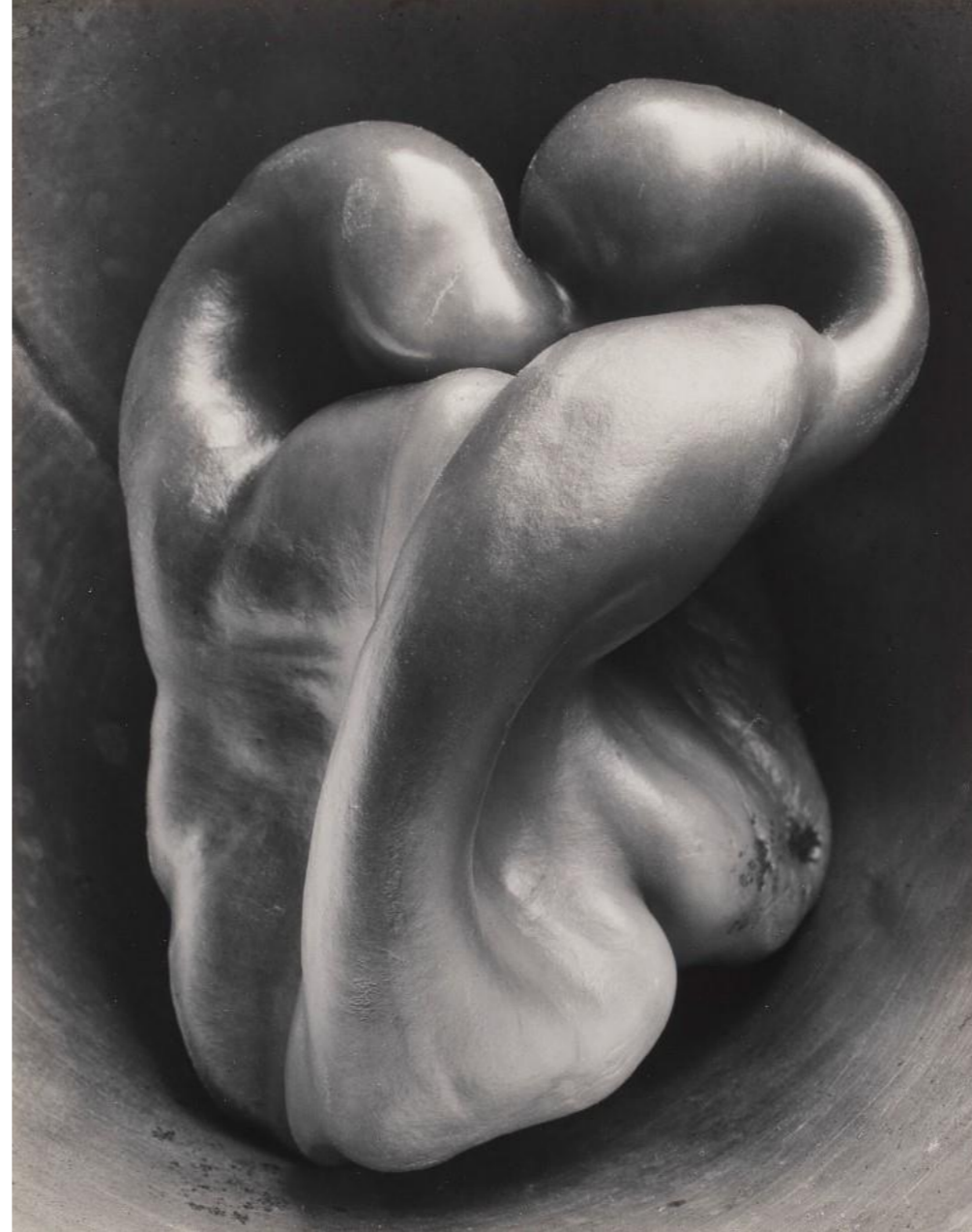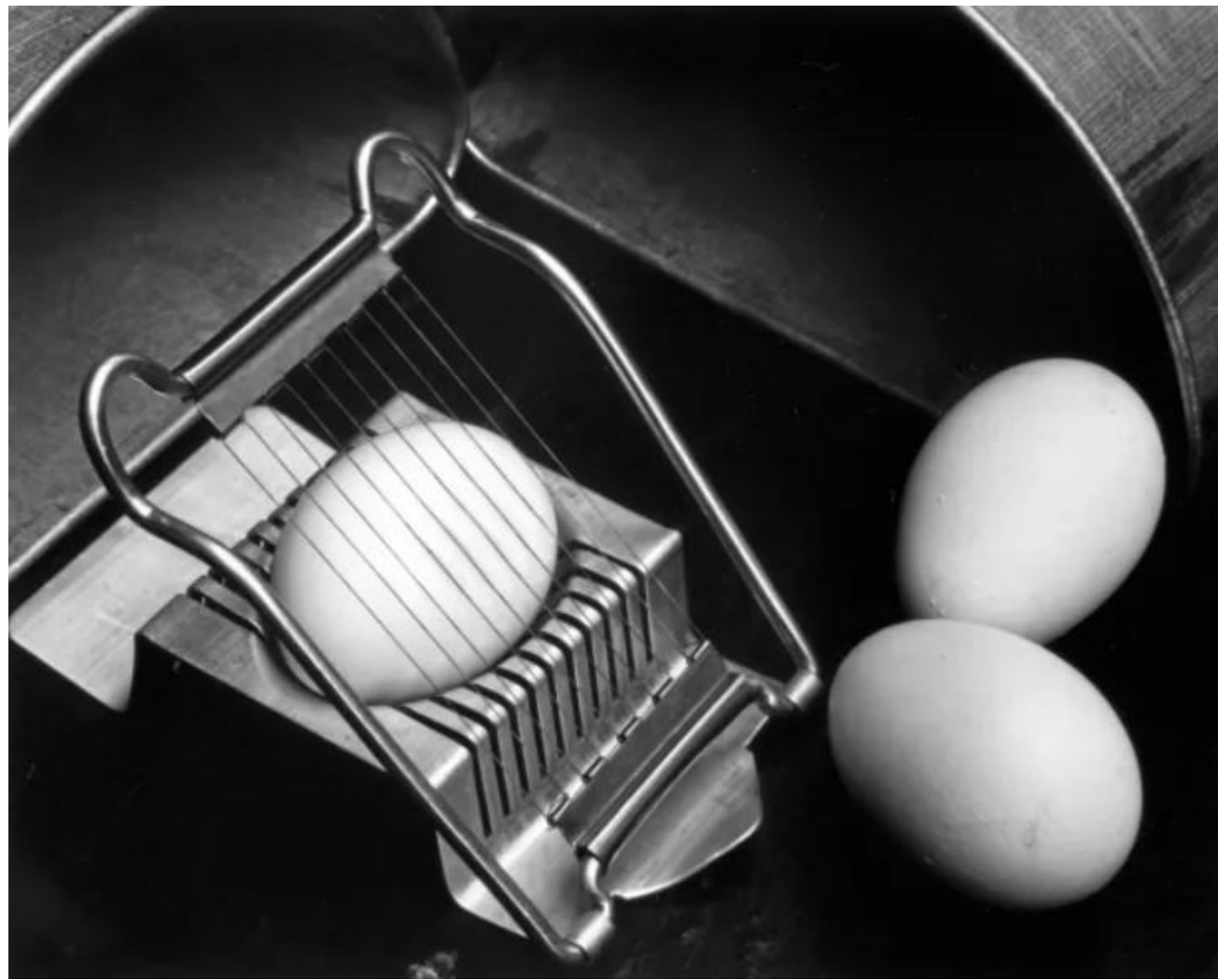
John Sexton

Dennis' Poor Tribute
to
John Sexton

Digital B&W Photography

- With film, conversion to B&W was done at the time of capture
  - Film choice for contrast, grain, tonal qualities
  - Exposure to maintain shadow detail
  - Filtration to set tones, especially the sky
- In the darkroom, developing and printing rounded out the vision of the photographer
- In the digital world
  - We expose to maintain the highlights
  - Many other decisions are then made at the time of conversion on the computer

Good Candidates for B&W

- Images
  - Where color does not add to the image and may even distract
  - Where tone, shape, texture, and geometry are significant elements
  - Where the subject can be better isolated

A Good B&W Photograph

- Well, it all depends on the subject, the lighting, the tonal range available, and mostly the intent.
- Before you start conversion, consider what you want the image to convey and then decide
  - What are the tools to emphasize your subject
  - The key you want – high, low, full range
  - How much contrast
  - How much detail
- Learn to dodge and burn to really exploit tones.

Contact Print Marked for Dodge and Burn
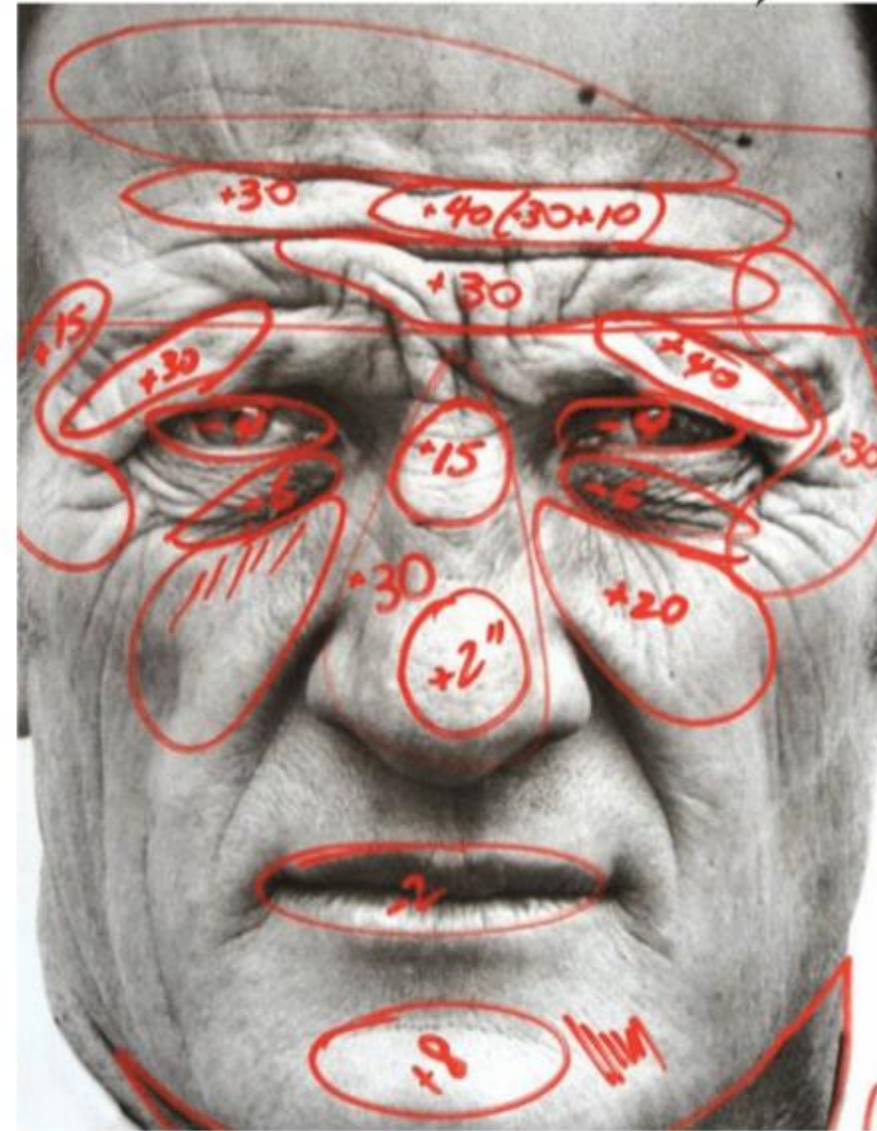
Dodge: Decrease exposure of negative onto the paper to lighten the print

Burn: Increase exposure of negative onto the paper to darken the print

Darkroom Dodge and Burn

All this is done while the negative is being exposed onto the paper.
It is done in seconds or minutes, not hours or days.

Digital Dodge+ and Burn+

- With our digital tools, we have much for flexibility.
- With Lightroom/ACR we have a wide variety of masking tools for making selections. (Photoshop is even more expansive.)
- We can change more than exposure. We can change all the basic panel adjustments plus curves, noise reduction, sharpening, color, and much more.
- And we can do it over hours or days.
- **Learn these tools and how to use them to add impact.**
- Local Adjustments and Masking in Lightroom Classic - Dennis Fritsche from 2023
  Part 1 PDF, VIDEO
  Part 2 VIDEO, LINK to a good demonstration of using local adjustments.

Demonstrations
Today and August 20