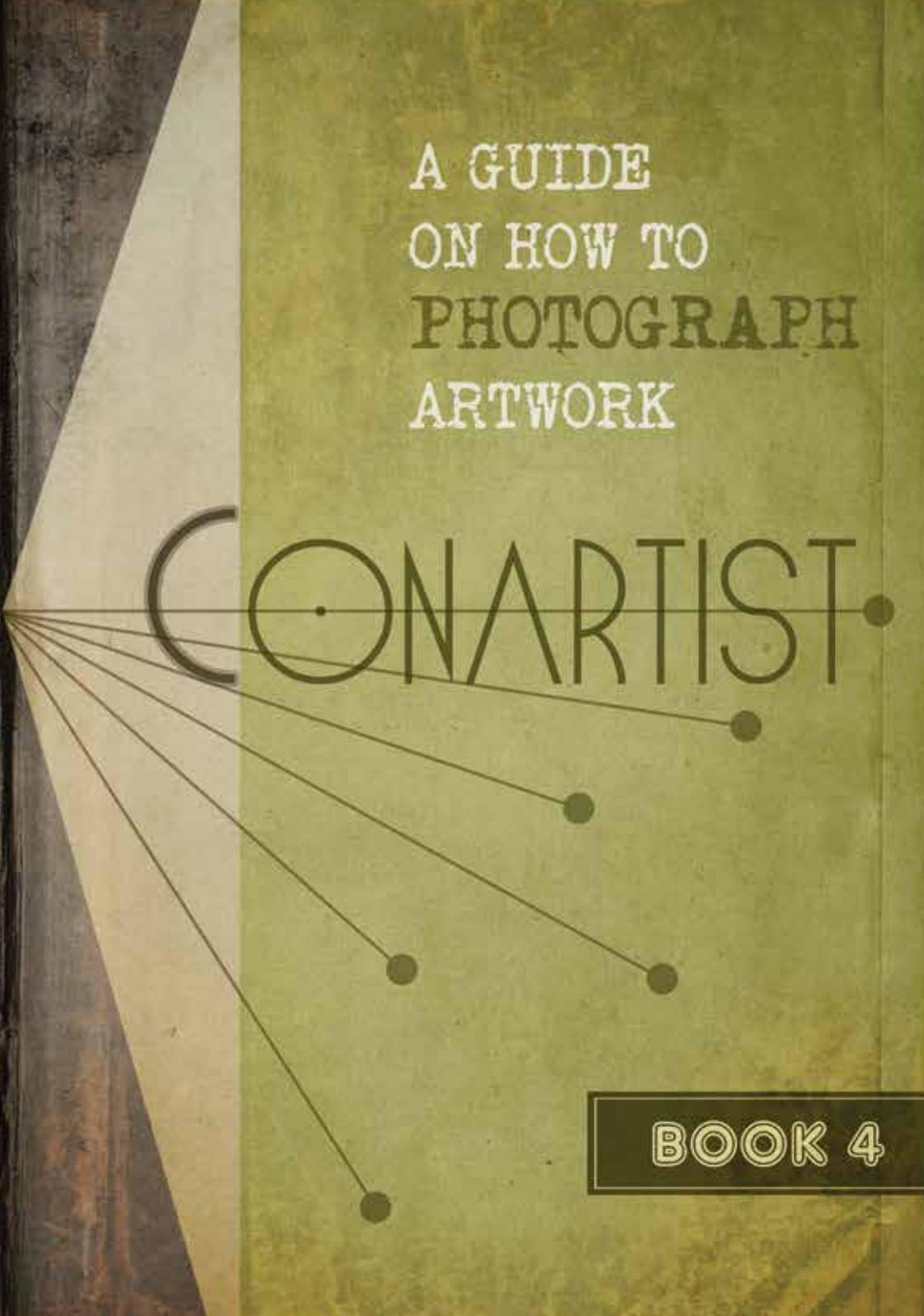


A GUIDE
ON HOW TO
PHOTOGRAPH
ARTWORK

CONARTIST.

An abstract geometric design on the left side of the cover. It features a large, light-colored triangular shape pointing to the right. From the right edge of this triangle, several thin lines radiate outwards to the right, each ending in a small dark dot. The background is a textured, olive-green color.

BOOK 4

Photograph Artwork

A basic guide for students who would like to
produce high-quality reproductions of their
artwork using digital photography

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This publication has been formatted using
extra-large print for easier reading.

The author recommends that further study on the subject matter discussed in
this booklet is required in order to gain a more thorough understanding of the
topic. Furthermore, the copying of any information (authorised or otherwise)
found in this publication is totally allowed without any threat of prosecution
despite that pesky copyright symbol above.
It's only really there for dramatic effect.

Many top photographers agree that a basic studio setup with tungsten lights can create more accurate photographic reproductions of original artwork than say, using natural light, flash or even desktop scanners. This basic set-up should include: two Tungsten lights, a tripod, a DSLR camera (8 megapixels or more), a light meter and a Step-Wedge card.

What to do

STEP 1.

Place your artwork on a straight, flat surface so that it stands or hangs perfectly vertical. Make sure it does not lean as this may create a 'warped' image.

STEP 2.

With the lights unplugged and switched off - position your two tungstens at 45 degree angles and a little more than arms-length away from the artwork. Adjust the height of each light so that the bulbs are roughly in line with the centre of the artwork.

STEP 3.

Cover each light with a sheet of baking paper (or tracing paper) in order to diffuse and soften the lights. Use a bull-dog clip to fasten the paper to the hood of the light.

STEP 4.

Mount your camera firmly onto the tripod. Position the tripod directly in front of the artwork and use your lens to zoom in as close as you can. Now step backwards with the tripod - away from the artwork until you have all the artwork in frame (within the viewfinder). By zooming in, you avoid shooting at a wide angle setting and distorting the image. Optimum focal length

is around 55 [?] 70mm. Ensure your camera is raised high enough on the tripod so that the lens is pointing at the centre of your artwork.

STEP 5.

Set your camera to Manual and select the following:

ISO:	200
F-STOP:	11
FILE TYPE:	RAW/FINE
WHITE BALANCE:	AUTO

Please Note: The shutter speed will be determined by the reading from the light meter in step 8.

STEP 6.

Turn off the house lights (room lights) and switch on your Tungsten lights. Ensure your artwork is evenly lit. You may have to shift the lights around a little. It's also recommended that you block out any ambient lighting (natural light) coming through windows, etc. A darkened studio is best.

STEP 7.

Switch on light meter and choose the following settings.

ISO:	200
F-STOP:	11
MODE	TUNGSTEN

STEP 8.

Stand next to your artwork (taking care that you don't block the light source) and hold the light meter just in front and centre of the artwork. Press the 'trigger' button to take a reading. Take note of the recommended shutter speed. Now take a reading from all four corners of the artwork. Your aim is to ensure that all five readings are the same. If not, adjust or shift your lights until all readings match.

Now match the shutter speed on your camera to the shutter speed recommended by your light meter.

STEP 9.

Position your Step Wedge directly in front of the artwork (or get a mate to hold it there).

STEP 10.

Focus and take a photo with the Step Wedge in shot.

Then remove the Step Wedge and take a second photo.

Some experts suggest taking a third shot that is slightly over-exposed just in case you need it. You can do this by simply reducing your shutter speed a little. For instance, if your shutter is set to .8 seconds, reduce it down to .6 seconds.

CONARTIST GUIDES

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