

Table Top Photography

“TTP”

TTP – What is it?

- A subset of Still Life Photography
 - Can include product, food, small-object, close-up, and macro photography

- Definition
 - Any type of photography that uses a stationary surface (table, floor, window sill, etc.)

TTP – The Big Myth

- You need specialized, expensive equipment (e.g. special cameras, expensive and complex lighting, unique subjects, fancy backgrounds, etc. etc.)
- You need to have a specialized studio dedicated only to photography

Do you need this much equipment?



How much do you really need?

- What do you want to photograph?

Five Light Setup



One Light Setup

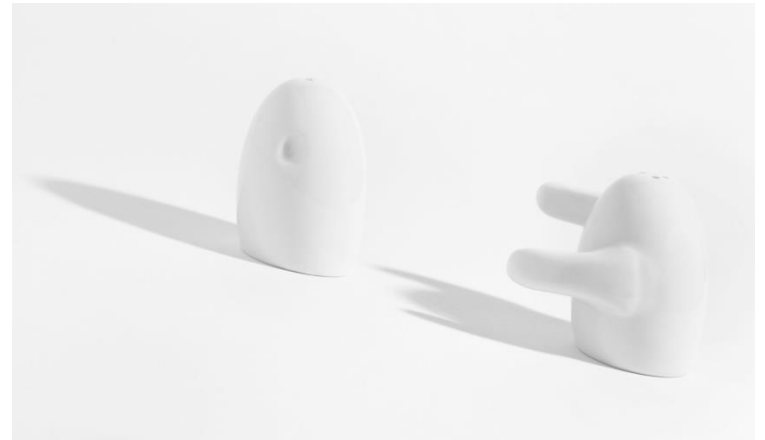


Ron's Special TTP Studio



Really...!!!???

Studio Setup



Stovetop Lighting



Ron's 12 Steps to TTP Perfection

1. Make a Plan

- Do what interests you, but choose your subject carefully

2. Get Inspired

- Review books, articles, videos, other photographer's work

3. Know your Camera!!!

- Read your manual
- Know what your camera can and **cannot** do

4. Start Simple

- Choose single, simple objects
- Avoid glass and shiny objects, at least to start

5. Get Steady

- Tripod, bean bag, other secure structures
- Stands, clamps, tape

6. Learn about Light

- Most important element in TTP
- Natural and artificial light
- Intensity, direction, colour, duration

7. Focus on the Subject

- Use simple backgrounds that complement the subject
- Keep the space around the main subject uncluttered

8. Think in 3-D

- Three-dimensional subject vs flat image
- Play with light and shadows to create dimension

9. Apply the “Rules” of Composition

- Second most important element in TTP
- Determine the defining features of the subject (what makes the subject unique)
- Use leading lines, negative space, depth of field, angle of view, selective focus, light and shadow

10. Go Slow

- What's the rush? Take your time.
- You will very rarely get the best photo the first 10-100 times.

11. Keep it Up

- Do not take your photo set-up down straight after you ***think*** you have the best shot. You will probably have to re-shoot after viewing your photos on a larger screen.

And, finally.....

12. Experiment

- Never be satisfied. Try something completely different.
- Be creative.
- **GO CRAZY!!! (*ignore the first 11 steps*)**

Let's do a few demos...

