



# Photographing Textures

and

# Texture Lighting

Texture is the feel, appearance or consistency of an object or scene.

A good texture photograph will reveal how soft or rough it is to touch, whether it's glossy or matt, a sense of its dimensionality, the subject's weight and bulk, appearing new or worn out, young or aged.

The trick to capturing texture effectively is to accentuate any surface undulations, or lack of them.

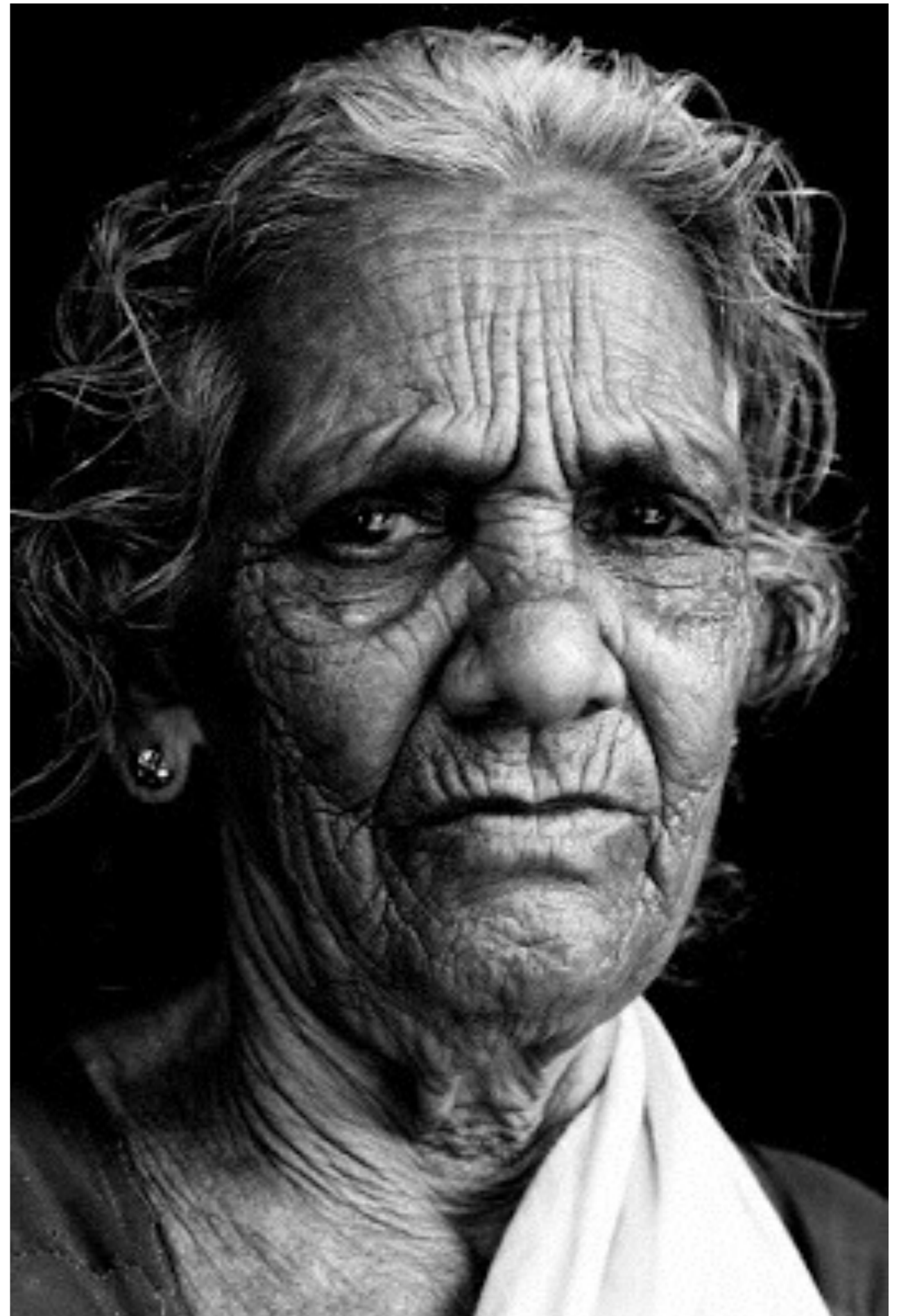
There are four major factors that reveal texture:

1. Details
2. Patterns
3. Colour
4. Depth

## Finding interesting Textures

Texture can be found on all objects if you look closely enough:

- wrinkled face of an older person
- metal
- wood
- plastics
- rust
- paint
- fabric
- brick walls
- surfaces of fruits and vegetables
- grass
- rocks
- sand
- concrete



## Capture Depth and Details

1. Make sure you have sufficient depth of field by using a small aperture (f8, f16, f22, f32), so that most of the frame has acceptable focus.
2. For close-up and macro shots, use a tripod and shutter release cable to avoid camera shake and blur.
3. Use a low ISO if possible - 100, 200



## Angle of View

Align your subject and camera so that the subject is parallel and at right angles to the camera sensor, and make sure that most of the texture falls on the plane of focus.

This serves two purposes:

1. It ensures maximum use of depth of field
2. It renders undistorted texture



## **Avoid low light when shooting Textures**

Textures are better revealed in bright light; it also makes colours more vibrant and renders crisp images.

### **Turn off your on-camera Flash**

Light from an on-camera flash is very harsh and it also comes at the same angle as that of the lens. This will render the image flat and devoid of colours.



## Perfect lighting to shoot Textures

The flattering, soft light used for photographing people is not appropriate for photographing texture.

To maximise the visibility of texture, light needs to cast shadows into the furrows and dips in the surface, and highlights on the ridges so the light source should be direct, not diffused.

When the surface is reasonably flat, the light rays just need to rake across the surface at an acute angle.

In most cases side lighting the subject is the best method to capture texture.



## **Work with Contrast**

Contrast of tone and colour both highlights and reveals the details even more.





## Composition Tips

Textures can be composed in many ways:

1. The most commonly used method is to move in close to magnify the surface irregularities of the object.
2. Capturing texture on a large scale when it is part of a broader scene, as with the rippling surface of sand at a beach.

Like patterns, many texture photos work well when they appear to extend beyond the frame of the picture.

Always remember to keep the composition simple by excluding anything that may break the pattern or spoil the rhythm.



*Thank You!*

Q & A

This presentation will also be available on the

WillinghamPhotoClub

website:

[www.WillinghamPhotoClub.org.uk](http://www.WillinghamPhotoClub.org.uk)