

# The Camera

## Its Controls and Functions

This unit is all about the camera. Some of the questions that we will discuss are the following.

- What is it?
- How does it work?
- Why do we need to understand how it works?
- How can we take control of the camera?
- What are the different types of cameras?
- What kind should I buy?

For this class, we will be using digital cameras. One of the more important things to remember when using digital cameras is to regularly format your memory card. Just erasing it is not good enough. If you don't want to lose the images that you just made, then format the card. I have made the habit of formatting my cards every time I download and back up my photographs. That keeps the card clean, and if you take care of your cards they should provide you with worry free shooting for a long time. This is not to say that you won't ever have a problem or lose a file, but it significantly reduces the chance of error. So remember, first and foremost, **FORMAT REGULARLY!**

The next thing to remember is to set your camera up to shoot the highest quality image possible. You can reduce the size later if needed, but you cannot increase the size or quality later. If you create a small file in the camera, that is what you get, a small file, good for internet viewing, but that is about it. We will discuss these concepts more in class, but it never hurts to hear it or read about it again. It is that



*By taking control of the creative decisions, such as the decision to capture the motion of the water instead of stopping it, our images can become much more personal... they can become works of art!*

important! What we really want to understand is that Photoshop is not a fix-it tool. It is an enhancement tool. If you start with crap (camera file), all you will end up with after Photoshop is enhanced crap. We want to start off with the highest quality image file possible, and that is what we will learn to do this year.

In this unit, you will also be introduced to some new terms. Photography has a language of its own, and for us to understand each other, we must speak that common language. Some terms that you need to know, and will be quizzed on during this unit are the following:

- ISO
- Depth of Field
- White Balance
- Shutter Speed
- Aperture
- Exposure

Along with these terms, you will learn the parts of the camera, so that as we discuss them and learn to use them, you will understand where and how to control them.

I know this sounds like a lot of work, but throughout it all remember that our number one priority is to **HAVE FUN!**

