

HOW TO: Retouching Strategy

“Didn’t they know that the whites of the eyes are really gray?” Eye enhancement is about contrast and brightness.
<http://www.fmctraining.com/conferencenotes/TH-DP3.pdf>

- 1) who is your subject
 - what is important about the subject?
 - what stage in life, job, love, etc?
- 2) remove distractions
 - removal of in camera dust or dead pixels from the image
 - fly away hair
 - distracting backgrounds
- 3) enhance and improve features
 - removal of dark circles
 - removal of blemishes
 - removal of hot spots (shiny areas: nose, forehead, etc)
 - softening of lines in the face
 - removal of red eye (there should not have been red eye)
 - whitening of the teeth and/or eyes
 - shape the hair, mouth, eyes (liquify)
 - straighten teeth, make lips fuller
- 4) color correct image, enhance lighting
 - darken background
 - blur background
 - vignette the background
- 5) creative interpretation
 - add soft focus effect
 - sharpen features
 - color the hair
 - enlarge the eyes
 - selective color/b&w
 - painterly filter effects
 - borders, edge alteration
- 6) evaluate the image
 - you worked in layers so if you see a problem you should be able to rework without starting from the beginning.
- 7) the print
 - duplicate the image
 - flatten
 - sharpen
 - print

eyes
mouth
skin
hair

Sharpen eyes before softening skin

Work using layers
NON-DESTRUCTIVE