

# Who is the Best Photographer for You?

by Quiet Graces Photography



## PHOTO STYLE QUIZ

knowing your style makes picking a photographer easy

## PRESERVING TIME

fine art heirlooms

## BABY ELOISE

a peek at her first year

## THE PORTRAIT PROCESS

from shoot to print

## ALSO INSIDE

- ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOU
- LETTERS FROM YOU
- MY PHOTOGRAPHY STORY

# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW BABY

# LETTERS FROM YOU



Melissa Aldrich, owner of Quiet Graces with her husband, Derek, and their babies: Aeralind, Bronwyn, & Sedryn.

Having a baby is overwhelming; there seems to be so many things we have to get 'just right.' Here's a little secret I've learned as a parent: there is no one 'just right' for everyone. Your family is a unique organism and the things that work for you may not work for your friends.

Theodore Roosevelt once said "Comparison is the thief of joy." Don't get caught up in the trap of comparing what you are doing as a family to what others are doing. Instead look at your child's needs, your needs, and your unique values to set goals as a framework for all of your parenting decisions. Let everything rest on that framework of intentional living and let go of the parenting comparison and guilt cycle before it starts.

Whew! I know I just went to an emotional deep level for a guide on choosing a photographer for your baby, but those are words that I needed to hear before my little ones came along. I really can't help encouraging new parents, but I also want this guide to help you choose a photographer based on your family's needs, values, goals, and wants. So let's get started with an introduction.

I picked up a camera at 9 years old and never put it down. As an introvert, the camera gave me a way to express my thoughts and feelings while simultaneously showing others the beauty I found in them.

I'm married to an amazing man named Derek and have three children: Aeralind, Bronwyn, and Sedryn. They were all born within 25 months (the girls are twins). My introduction to motherhood was wild and intense, but it's become one of the most lovely adventures that I wouldn't change for anyone. We are messes, but our mess is beautiful.

My goal today is the same as when I first picked up a camera: to show you and your family the beauty that is inherent inside you, your relationships, and your unique and glorious messes.

Melissa Aldrich

QUIET GRACES PHOTOGRAPHY



BRENDA IBARRA

*We've had newborn portraits done and have been hooked ever since! Not only are the images stunning, but it's truly a gifted talent she has with the babies AND moms! Cannot even begin to stress the care, patience and most of all motherly touches she has when guiding a session!*



BRITTANY PHILLIPS

*Melissa was so patient and worked with our newborn to get the best shots! The environment in the studio is calm and relaxing for baby. The props that Melissa used were very complimentary to all the different poses she so expertly arranges for baby.*



LAUREN LYNCH

*We were drawn to Melissa's use of neutral backgrounds that highlight the subject, your baby! We truly couldn't be more thrilled with our choice. Years of experience, skill with newborns/baby whispering, and a whole lot of patience are just a few of her qualities that ensure she will get those incredible shots you will treasure forever.*



RHODA NORTON

*Melissa's a true professional whose impact is more than just taking beautiful pictures. She took gorgeous pictures of my whole family. I did not think it would be possible to get any good shots of my kids but she did, as well as great family portraits of us. She loved on my kids the entire time and, was an encouragement to my husband and I with our newborn.*



MELISSA KENDALL

*I was quite nervous about our newborn session and let me just say, it was so hard! Our little one refused to sleep, pee and POOPED everywhere! There were tears from her and myself...but somehow Melissa was about soothe her and capture all the right moments! Our photos turned out beautiful and you would never know how messy our session got!*



CHELSEA PRICE

*Melissa was very calm and patient. She made the experience fun for the big kids and worked quickly so that they wouldn't lose interest. She soothed the baby until he was fast asleep and happy to comply. I was very impressed with how comfortable and efficient she was getting him to sleep because I didn't feel like I even knew his tricks yet! The whole experience was a nice repose for me- peaceful and relaxing*

SPOTLIGHT ON  
BABY ELOISE



## BABY'S FIRST YEAR

Justin and Sarah came to me with their first baby, Everett. They wanted to capture every little moment as they had walked a long road of infertility to bring Everett home.

A little less than two years later, surprise baby Eloise arrived. Justin and Sarah wanted to celebrate the unexpected joy that Eloise brought to their family with a newborn, sitting milestone, and one year photo session.

Sarah has impeccable style and she always brought something beautiful for Eloise to wear in addition to borrowing from my extensive studio wardrobe.

Sarah also does a really great job of preparing her little ones for photos. They know what to expect at the studio, what good behavior looks like, and

what treat they'll get for good behavior! Even so, sometimes funny outtakes occur and become favorites.

Sarah creates amazing gallery walls in her home from beautiful bits and pieces and her session images. She chose a lovely oval Photoblock to compliment her gallery wall from Eloise's one year session.

WANT TO SEE MORE NEWBORN  
& BABY SESSIONS?

*Check out our website at [quietgraces.com](http://quietgraces.com)  
for recent shoots, session information, and  
current packages.*



## HOW FAMILY PORTRAITS BOOST YOUR CHILD'S SELF-ESTEEM

A revealing study was conducted in 1975 with a group of fourth graders at a Tennessee school by Tulane University. During a five week period, the children took Polaroid instant photos of themselves with provided cameras in a variety of assigned poses, compositions and expressing various emotions. The children worked with the printed images of themselves and created scrapbooks once a week over those five weeks. Testing of the students and teachers at the conclusion of study revealed a significant increase of 37 percent in the students' average self-esteem behaviors. This Murfreesboro Study shows some evidence personal photography of children seen and enjoyed in a specific way can help boost a child's self-esteem.

**But how can family photography, specifically family portraits, help boost a child's self-esteem?**

"It lets children learn who they are and where they fit," says Judy Weiser, a psychologist, art therapist and author based in Vancouver. "They learn their genealogy and the uniqueness of their own family and its story. When a child sees a family portrait with them included in the photograph they say to themselves: 'These people have me as part of what they are, that's why I belong here. This is where I come from.'"

**When It Comes To Having The Greatest Positive Impact For Your Child, Which is Better, Digital Images or Paper Prints?**

"Displaying photos prominently in the home sends the message that our family and those in it are important to one another, and we honor the memories we have experienced," says Cathy Lander-Goldberg, a licensed clinical social worker.

Article Excerpt by Chris Cummins.  
Read the Full Article Here:  
<http://bit.ly/1GWUaba>

## Your Love On Display

Is yours a sleek, modern home? A rustic, country abode? No matter your decorating style, we assist clients every day with everything from portrait selection suited to your decor, to room planning, to displaying your Photoblock collection, to creating the an exquisite heirloom album.

Our years of experience in design coupled with a streamlined products line that works with any décor make us the perfect choice for your photography and home decorating needs.

Whether yours is a mighty mansion or a cozy cottage, we'll work together to ensure your portraits are as much at home as you are.



### OUR MOST POPULAR PRODUCTS

1) If your style is more traditional, we recommend an album. We have a tied leather album and more traditional fabric covered albums to suit all tastes.

2) If your style is more eclectic, these circle wood prints are sure show stoppers. An archival grade print is affixed to a block of wood, giving your image the weight of canvas. The circle shape will garner compliments.

3) If you change out your art frequently, we recommend our luxurious wood print gallery wall. Wood prints have the visual weight of canvas but without the drawbacks. Your archival grade print is affixed to a hand cut acid free block of wood and hand finished to perfection.

#### 1 Albums



#### 2 Wood Print Circles



#### 3 Wood Print Wall Galleries



# WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?

choosing a photographer who meets your style & needs

Every family has their own needs and desires when hiring a photographer so it's best to find the one who fits your family's needs. But how do you begin? This style & needs quiz will help you narrow down what you're looking for and make the choice easy for you! I even recommend a few other photographers that I would trust with my little ones.



This image by The Journey by Ally

## WHAT COLORS DO I PREFER?

A. Mostly neutral tones to match any decor with a few muted or pastel colors.

B. Lots of pastels or bright colors.

*If you chose A, you're in the right place! I love keeping the focus on your little one and your relationships with neutral tones. If you chose B, may I recommend Dear Lissie Photography?*



## WHAT IS MY DESIRED EXPERIENCE?

A. Show up to the session with little preparation and images handed impersonally via an online gallery.

B. Pre-session coffee to get to know each other and how to prepare baby with a personal ordering session to pick the products and files that fit your needs. Products and files delivered personally.

*I want my client's session to be personal, so I'm B!*



## WHICH STYLE OF PHOTOS APPEAL TO YOU?

A. Images of baby posed perfectly so I can remember every little detail.

B. Images in our home environment with nursery details included. This is called "Lifestyle."

*If you chose A, you may be a good fit for Quiet Graces. If you chose B, may I recommend the lovely Allison at The Journey by Ally Photography?*



## WHAT WOULD I WEAR TO A PHOTO SESSION?

A. Bright colors and fun patterns

B. Formal Button downs or blouses

C. Neutral tops with a few special details

D. Please tell me you have a client wardrobe to use?

*I don't recommend A or B. A takes the focus from your relationship and B will have you drenched in sweat in a warm newborn studio. C is great, and, yes, I do have a client wardrobe for mamas & children!*



## WHAT IS MY TOTAL BUDGET?

A. \$200-400

B. \$400-700

C. \$700-1200

*Custom experiences, heirloom quality fine art and highly trained baby safe photographers, come at a higher price point. Baby registries and payment plans make investments in your memories easier. Most of my clients spend \$700+*

## WHAT PRODUCTS MOST INTEREST YOU?

A. Only the Digital Files, we just want to share on social media and think we'll print ourselves at some point.

B. Albums, Gallery Walls, or Collages.

C. Small prints or announcement cards for family & friends size 11x14 and below.

*Digital files have archival value. However, storage formats are changing fast. Everytime you open a file it could corrupt. A new negative can always be made from an archival quality product. Printing yourself can cause all kinds of headaches and consumer labs do not print with the same color care as a photographers lab. Studies also show physical portraits in your home increase your child's self esteem. What's the solution? All of my packages include all of your digital files and a fine art piece for you to treasure.*

# THE PORTRAIT PROCESS

FROM SHOOT  TO PRINT

Here at Quiet Graces Photography we want you to have a helpful timeline to help you to understand how we are working our hardest to create your treasured memories:

## 1-2 WEEKS

### BEFORE YOUR SESSION:

*After chatting on the phone or going out to Due South Coffee to discuss your specifications and wishes, you will call and set up your newborn session once baby arrives. I typically aim for days 10-19 for all the curly poses.*



## 1 DAYS

### BEFORE YOUR SESSION:

*We give you a quick check-in call to confirm all the details and answer any questions about your session.*



## THE DAY OF

### YOUR SESSION:

*When you arrive at the scheduled time, I will get to know you and your family. I'll undress baby for his portraits and hear your birth story. I love encouraging new mamas during this special time.*



## 1 WEEK

### AFTER YOUR SESSION:

*We post the a few of the best images for a sneak peek on our website blog as well as on Facebook or Instagram. This is a great way for you to share your new love with family and friends!*

## 2 WEEKS

### AFTER YOUR SESSION:

*We post an online gallery for your three day preview period.*

## 2-3 WEEKS

### AFTER YOUR SESSION:

*We organize an in-person order session and meet to pick out your favorite images for your fine art wall displays or for your album as well as your digital files. You will be able to select the best items to fit your needs and space. We can also use this opportunity to take orders for gift prints, announcements, and any of the other unique keepsakes we offer.*

## 5-12 WEEKS

### AFTER YOUR SESSION:

*Your artwork and albums are ready for pickup! (Albums and Photoblocks take a little longer.) At this time we also provide a client care packet which will ensure a long life from your precious heirlooms.*

### THIS PAGE

*A studio maternity session to celebrate Chelsea's last pregnancy.*

## OUR STUDIO WARDROBE FOR MOTHERS

When Chelsea booked her maternity session for her last baby she whispered to me, "I don't photograph well. And acquaintances have already told me I'm huge since this is baby number five. I have nothing to wear. But I want to remember this time and how my body nourished my babies."

Throughout my 6 years with Quiet Graces, I have looked for ways to soothe these common fears in the mothers I serve. The images we take will be treasures for your little one. They will get to see how loved they were and how remember how beautiful their mother was.

I have created a client wardrobe of items that fit well both during pregnancy and post-partum. These stunning pieces in creams, peaches, and pinks fit a wide range of sizes from 0-18 through careful pinning to flatter your body type.

I also recommend that new mothers pamper themselves with a hair and make up appointment prior to maternity or newborn sessions. Cotton Rouge is really close to the studio and they do amazing work!



"It was such a pleasure working with Melissa at Quiet Graces. She creates a calm environment yet is amazing at adapting to the little one on the other side of the lens. We received BEAUTIFUL photos after our session and couldn't wait to share with our family and friends!"

-Alicia Harmon



## QUIET GRACES PHOTOGRAPHY

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