

Indoor Flower Photography

*Tips and Techniques from The Louisiana Photographic Society
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LPS was given an opportunity to take photographs following an exhibit by the Baton Rouge Orchid Society. Photos were taken indoors and photographers were allowed to tripods and flash but not to rearrange the orchids. Tips included:

1. Use a tripod!
2. Camera tips
 - a. this is a good opportunity to use manual settings or
 - b. ... use aperture priority with small aperture (large f-stop number).
 - c. use remote shutter release (or camera self timer).
 - d. manual focus
3. Lens tips
 - a. be sure your lens can focus close enough to isolate the orchid!
 - b. macro lens (or macro setting) or
 - c. ... closeup adapter, extension tubes, etc.
4. Exposure tips
 - a. without flash, exposures may be several seconds.
 - b. if you use a flash, use an external flash if possible
 - c. may have to reduce the power of the flash or use a diffuser
5. Lighting tips
 - a. this is mixed color lighting because
 - b. ... overhead lighting is fluorescent but
 - c. ... many orchids will also be lit individually by “daylight” halogen lights.
 - d. “Hot” continuous lighting (studio lighting) is not permitted.
 - e. Electronic flash is permitted but probably best used as fill flash.
 - f. Available light supplemented by a reflector is probably best.
6. Film tips
 - a. without flash, try tungsten (indoor) type color film
 - b. without flash, using daylight type film use 80B filter.
 - c. for vivid color slides, try a saturated film such as Velvia (with flash or filter)
 - d. since shutter speeds will be slow (long), might as well use low speed film
7. Digital tips
 - a. set highest resolution
 - b. use “Raw” mode if at all possible or
 - c. ... bring a neutral target and set a custom white balance or
 - d. ... set color temperature to 3400 K or
 - e. ... set white balance to Automatic.
 - f. ... set low ISO speed for minimum noise.
 - g. check the histogram for proper exposure..
8. Composition tips
 - a. Vary the position of the camera (high, low, etc), flash and reflector.
 - b. Be aware of the background – watch for clutter.