

Different Aspects of Living as a Photographer

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Abstract

Some of the questions from research were what does it take to be a professional, how much a photographer earns, what does being a free-lance photographer mean, what are some of the different types of photography, and how different are the types in question compared to the others. The results consist of the salary information, which has a range from relatively small to large. The steps to be a professional was done showing the determination one must have in order to be considered a professional. Professional photographer, Tez Mercer said, "I practiced at home with a flashlight on eggs and fruit, seeing how the shadows and forms would change on the objects when the light moved" (PetaPixel, 2013) associating the egg with a foundation of how shadows form with the flash. Presenting oneself as a photographer, involves using any of the resources at hand in order to get known. From just some simple research, one could tell that being a photographer is no easy road to take. One would have to devote themselves completely to their work just in order to get started, but if they devote themselves completely, they could become a well-known photographer in the world of photography, and earn more money than someone just starting out.

Keywords: photographer, free-lance, Photography

Different Aspects of Living as a Photographer

Introduction

Photography is a career that people may be drawn to. For a multitude of reasons. One may just absolutely love taking photos of everything and want to get paid for their best work. Another person may just want to be paid for the purpose of taking photos at events. Then, there are others who don't really care about the hobby aspect of it and just care about what they can make from it. However, they may be disappointed with how much they earn from the beginning, with the range of payment from \$10,000 to \$25,000 a year (Eric, n.d.). Then there's the travel aspect of becoming a photographer. One may have the ability to create diversity in all sorts of different photos, and could recognize that being a photographer may involve traveling around the world, and experience more life than one may have expected to. The main overall appeal for photographers may be the experience, of not only learning the trade but also experience a journey.

How to be a Professional

Becoming a professional photographer takes practice, practice, practice, and learning everything possible about how to use the equipment is important, Tez Mercer said, "I practiced at home with a flashlight on eggs and fruit, seeing how the shadows and forms would change on the objects when the light moved" (PetaPixel, 2013). Showing Tez's effort in order to see how light moves on an object, "I figured the basic shape of an egg and a head aren't too different... sort of... It was also at this time that I tried to read/watch everything I could do with lighting and editing" (PetaPixel, 2013). Mercer learned everything he could from books and other resources in order to improve his skills. "Emailing people again and again, calling them seeing if

they have 10 minutes free for a coffee and expecting nothing to come of it (because of the fact that it usually doesn't), just to put a card in someone's hands and my work before their eyes" (PetaPixel, 2013). This showed Mercer's persistence with trying to get his name out in the public in order to find work. Persistence is the key to finding a job when seeking photography as a career. One of the best ways to become more of a professional, is to immerse oneself to what one may want to do, and in their work, practice techniques, do everything one can to hone their skills, and promote their business.

Quality

According to Instant Career Information, by Richard T. Dileo (2013), "There is a greater need for professionals who could really produce great pictures now than there ever was before." (Richard T. D., n.d.). This growing desire for better quality has made becoming a professional photographer more difficult, due to the enormous number of people seeking work as photographers, one would have to have the greatest talent of all the others in the visible range of the selectors or have the connections in order to know that someone is being seen. Then, in the modern world clients want the best possible photo that they can get in all in all markets. However, the quality of the photography demanded not only depends upon client, but also upon the skills of the photographer.

Presentation

Presenting oneself is a major key to getting work as a photographer. According to Tez Mercer, "getting past the receptionist is something you gotta do. Use LinkedIn, use websites, search for managers, CEO's, directors etc and find their email address" (PetaPixel, 2013). Using these tools help to better improve the chances for a person to make an opportunity to present their image as a photographer. Some of these tools include, LinkedIn, a professional version of

Facebook used to help get a names out and into the world, professional portfolios on websites are good for being more professional & making sure that their resume on it, can also have the ability to be a beneficial resource to have to get a name out there. Presenting one self is key for any photographer, and it requires great effort in doing so.

Free-Lance

The appeal of free-lance can have the ability to be considered to come from being able to sell what one may have to the highest bidder, and make money from that. Not to mention the appeal of being one's own boss has with it. However, one would not have the ability to make any revenue if they are not able to get the shot of anything anyone is willing to buy. However, according to the book, "Instant Career Information" by, Richard T. Dileo, "Salaried photographers could make anywhere between \$15,000 to around \$35,000" (Richard T. D., n.d.). The average income for salaried photographers would be around \$26,000. Those working for the creators of newspapers would earn around \$33,000. Illustrating to someone who wants to go free-lance, that there is a way to get a constant salary for the purpose of one's work, which may or may not make more than one at this time does. From time to time one could see the benefits of being a photographer who is involved with being associated with a company. For example, "Who's the photographer who takes pictures of Spider-Man?" From the movie Spider Man, Peter Parker in this situation made enemies, his boss protected him from the Green Goblin in this situation, without giving the Green Goblin Peter's name. So while being one's own boss may sound like fun, the other side of the grass may seem greener with the promise of a constant salary for constant work.

The Different Types of Photography

There are a variety of different mediums of photography that one may have the ability to go into in order to try to have a career in photography. The range is big, whether it is photographing people for the purpose of fashion or their school pictures, photographing nature from a great distance or a very close one, or even photographing pets or events, there is a lot one can do with their camera. One can have the ability to make their work about education, music, or just about anything they can put their mind to. However, every job pays differently. When one goes into work as a fashion photographer, according to Rick Suttle (Chron, n.d.), “The average annual income of a fashion photographer was \$59,000 as of 2013”. Compared to “The average salary for a wedding photographer was \$203,000 as of June 20, 2012”, according to Jill Carpenter (Chron, n.d.). Which shows a completely different spectrum of the amount someone could make as a photographer. However, to get to this point one has to gain a reputation and still be in the business. There are many different genres of photography, each has their own benefits and drawbacks. Going back to the cost one could see that there is a big difference. Using Table A-1 that was created from a data table website, the information from indeed.com, a job information cite, one can observe the clear difference.

Type of Photographer	Annual Salary	Level of Professionalism needed
Free-Lance	\$19,000	Medium, in order to present work
Fashion	\$54,000	Very High, due to level of difficulty to obtain
Marriage	\$102,000	Very High, due to level of difficulty to obtain

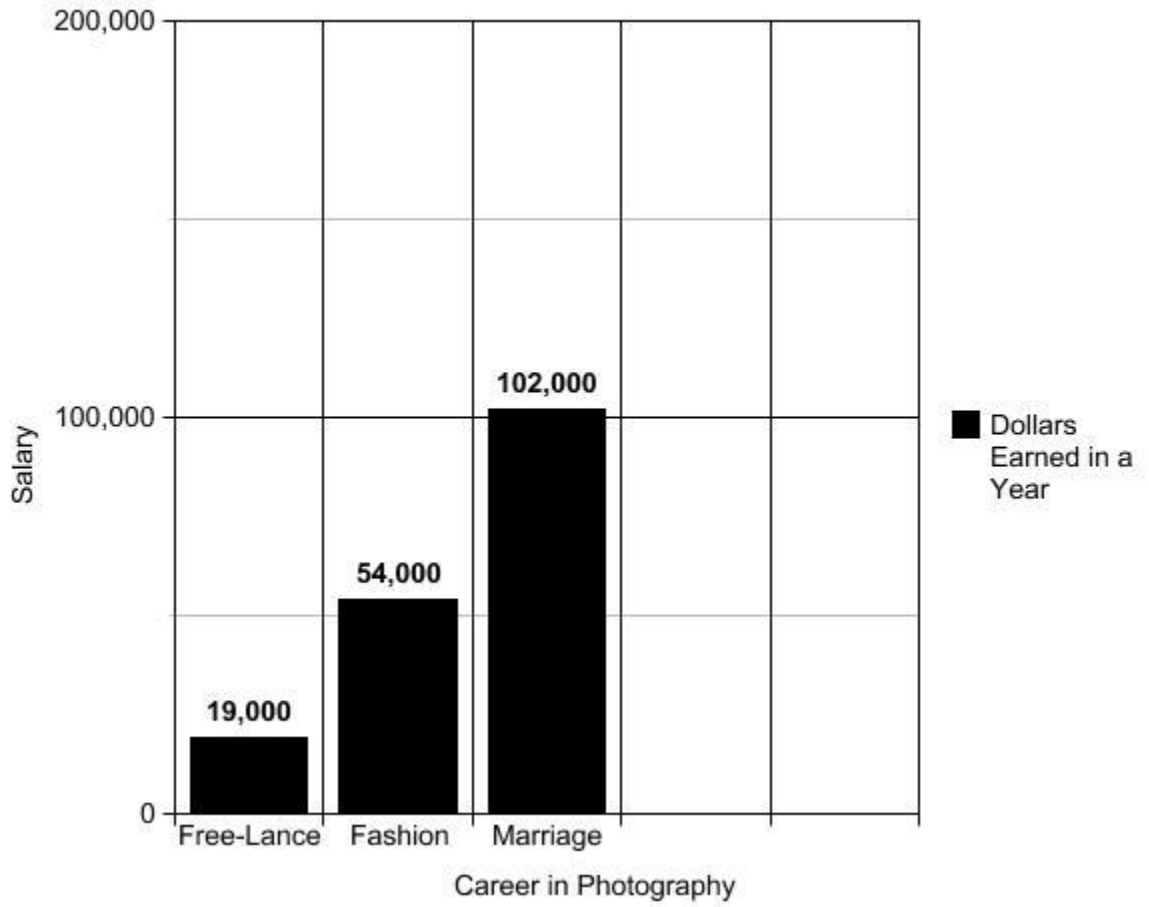
Conclusion

Photography may be seen as a profession that some may think is a hard place to earn a living to their standards, with the range of payment goes from “Junior assistant photographers start at about £12,000 a year” to “Some specialists earn over £50,000” a year from CreativePool (2012), and people want to earn more. One may be hesitant to go into it, when they could possibly make more with another career choice. However, photography is something that people are passionate about and are willing to work for, for instance Tez Mercer states here that “Don’t give in. Shoot everything until you find your passion then find out where the work is for your passion” (PetaPixel, 2013). This shows him advocating for people to work hard for what they are passionate about, and try everything they can.

Figures

Graph A-1

- *Photography Salary & Professionalism Bar Graph*



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Appendix

- Photography- the art, process, or job of taking pictures with a camera
 - <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/photography>