

MQN PHOTOGRAPHY CLIENT EDITION FALL 2016

# generations

child & family portraits

A MAGAZINE



# THE mQn approach

## to photography

mQn Photography takes a natural approach to creating heirloom imagery for individuals and families. I love to photograph you in real, meaningful settings that convey the essence of who you are and what you love. I work hard to make sure the entire process is stress-free for you from start to finish, with the end result being beautifully crafted photo prints and products to be treasured for many years to come.

mQn Photography has been taking professional portraits since 2009 for a wide variety of clients. Many of the people I photograph have become my friends for years to come. I completely and absolutely love what I do!



# THE before, during, and after

## OF A SESSION

If you're wondering what to expect from your time with mQn Photography, look no further! I specialize in creating a personalized experience for you and your family that's fun and meaningful. Although the goal of working together is to create wonderful images, I also strive to make the process of getting there enjoyable and memorable! Here's how it works.

# 1

## questionnaire

Every session begins with an initial questionnaire so I can get to know your family. Answer the best you can. I want to learn more about you and your family and your goals for the portrait session. I also encourage clients to e-mail me with any questions and ideas.

# 2

## booking the date

Once you've decided on the right photography session for your family, we'll go ahead and get the date booked! We'll work with your schedule to find a perfect day and time for the session! Most sessions are scheduled within two hours of sunset or mid day if scheduling an in home session.

# 3

## taking pictures

On the day of your session, we'll meet at the agreed location and time and start snapping away! A portrait session can take anywhere from 1-2 hours. There's really no rush - or general time limit - just what feels natural. It generally takes at least 30 minutes for us to "warm up" together, meaning getting comfortable and feeling relaxed in front of (or behind!) the lens. After that, it's really up to the photographed subject as to how long the session will last. This is the fun part - let me do the work!

# 4

## on-line ordering session

The photos have been taken, individually re-touched with great love and care, and now it's time for you to see the end result of all our hard work and planning! Two weeks after your session you will be shown appx. 25 images through an online password protected gallery. At this point in time, you'll have the opportunity to choose the photographs you would like to have as prints, albums, canvas, or a variety of other handcrafted photo products we offer. I will attach a product guide to the e-mail with your password for viewing. You will have 1 month to ask questions, place orders, and be excited about your images.



IDEAS & INSPIRATION:

# choosing your location & picking props

## choosing a location

The location of your photoshoot can be anywhere - from your bedroom to a nearby park or restaurant. At mQn Photography I believe the most important factor in choosing a location should be its emotional value to you and your family. Being in the same spot something wonderfully memorable happened in the past can evoke strong emotions and great moments in front of the lens (think first kiss, a special "I love you" moment, first date, etc.). Natural settings, such as parks and wilderness, can create beautiful backdrops for photographs. If you prefer your photoshoot indoors, rooms with big windows and lots of light are always a great choice! For more information on locations please check out my location guide!

## picking out props

Props are any kind of object or item included in photographs. In general, props can add detail, interest, and meaning to your images, especially when they hold sentimental value to you or your family. Ideas include baby blankets or wraps, love letters, heirloom furniture, a vintage dress handed down in the family, old photographs, handkerchiefs, shoes, a suitcase, travel souvenirs, or anything else that's close to your heart. I love working with props; if you have questions or need ideas, just ask!

IDEAS & INSPIRATION:

# session themes

Depending on the age of your children and what you'd like to accomplish in your photo session, we have a wide variety of session themes and ideas to offer you! If you'd like to come up with a unique session theme for your family or child, we'd love to get creative with you! Here are a few popular ideas based on experience with past clients.



## newborn 1-14 days old

Newborn sessions capture your precious baby just days after their arrival. We have two session styles - "lifestyle" and "posed". Lifestyle sessions focus on baby in his natural surroundings, non-posed, sometimes with Mom and Dad in the photos as well. Posed sessions may take quite a bit longer and result in photographs where baby looks like a sweet, sleeping doll. We love both styles of newborn sessions and will work with you to get the newborn photos of your dreams!



## happy baby up to 1 year

Baby sessions can be loads of fun and loads of work for everyone, but these sweet photos will quickly become family heirlooms! Baby sessions can be in a variety of themes, styles, and locations - anything from in-the-nude on a soft wool rug to costumes in the outdoors! Props, cute outfits, and interesting locations are welcomed.



## outdoor explorer toddler

For children a bit older, outdoor exploration sessions are a perfect way to capture your child's personality. Fall sessions are a great time to explore locations like apple orchards & pumpkin patches. Outdoor explorations prevent mid-session tantrums by allowing your child to set the pace of the shoot.



## stylized all ages

Tea Parties, Super Heroes, Circus Performers, Lemonade Stands etc. are becoming very popular themes and great ways for little one's to express their imaginations. Imagine your adorable child having a fun play date - and getting photos to document it all! Curious faces, giggles, smiles, and costumes make these images unforgettable. Fall is the PERFECT time for Halloween sessions!

IT'S THE DAY OF MY SESSION

# what, exactly should I expect

If this is your family's first time working with a professional photographer, it can be difficult to know what to expect. What should I bring? Will there be enough time to get the perfect picture? Will my child feel uncomfortable in front of the camera? I completely understand these feelings of concern; you are not alone! I am here to work for and with you to make your session as stress-free as possible. Remember, this is supposed to be fun!

My method of working is simple: I tailor my photography to you and your family. Each session is a unique experience, built from the ground up just for you. In our initial consultation, we'll discuss things like the family schedule, favorite locations, and attention spans to make your photo day a smashing success. This is your day to relax and enjoy your family; I'll do the rest!



## scheduling

Planning in advance is the key to success! If your family or child has a daily routine, it's best to schedule the photo session in a way that works with, not against, this routine. If your child has a certain naptime, we'll plan the shoot to be either before or after she wakes up to prevent tantrums and fatigue. If your baby generally sleeps during the afternoon, a morning session may be best. We are here to make your session a success, and will work with you individually to find a time and place that fits the family!

## weather

If we've chosen an outdoor location for your photos, we will most likely be at the mercy of the weather! If the day turns out to be extremely cold, which can be dangerous and frustrating for the family, we'll find an alternate date for the photos. Similarly, for rainstorms, windstorms or extreme heat, I'd rather reschedule than push everyone into an uncomfortable place! I will be in communication the day before and day of the session to discuss any challenges that may arise and deal with them in the most convenient way possible for your family.

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IT'S THE DAY OF MY SESSION

## what, **exactly**

should I expect? cont'd

### taking it slow

Children are unpredictable - a characteristic that makes them so lovable - but also difficult to plan around. It's something we completely understand! For this reason, we always carve out a large chunk of time to make sure your session isn't rushed. If baby needs to be changed or fed, take your time. If a toddler is getting tired or frustrated, we can take a snack break to relax and regroup. If you and your family are feeling uncomfortable or exhausted, we can pause for a drink of water and a rest in the shade. This is your photo session and we'll work at the pace of you and your family! There's no need to rush - just relax and enjoy the experience.

### safety first

When working with babies and children, safety is my first priority. When I photograph babies and newborns, I ask that mom and dad stay at arm's length to make sure baby's kept safe and sound under all circumstances. When planning an outdoor, on-location shoot with kids, I make sure the site is safe and suitable for children ahead of time. If there's any question as to whether or not a location, pose, or prop is safe for your family, I always err on the side of caution. And if mom or dad feel uncomfortable with the situation, I'm happy to find alternatives to make sure everyone is kept out of harm's way.

### keeping it positive

It can be difficult to get kids to cooperate in the best of circumstances, and many times they may feel uncomfortable with a photographer they don't know well in an unfamiliar place. I work hard to get those perfect poses, but never with negative reinforcement or discipline. I use only positive, confidence-boosting methods to gain your child's trust and cooperation during the photoshoot, and ask parents that they do the same. I find that the best photographic results come from using the carrot rather than the stick!



# CHOOSING **the** **right** investment

## FOR YOUR FAMILY

At mQn Photography, I specialize in offering something for everyone. I've bundled my most popular offerings for your ordering convenience, although I also offer a wide variety of add-ons for those wanting a more customized experience! As an artisan as well as a photographer, I strive to offer only the very best in product quality.

I do not sell any albums, prints, or canvas without an "archival" rating, to ensure that your custom-made art piece will last for decades. Additionally, I offer stunning graphic designs to masterfully present your images as works of art. If you do not see a product or service you would like listed here, please let me know and I will do my very best to accommodate your requests.

### A YEAR IN YOUR LIFE

#### 4 PORTRAIT SESSIONS

- your choice of location
- to be used within one year
- an 11x14 from each session

**\$675**

### NEWBORN SESSION

#### 2-4 HOURS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

- your choice of location
- outfit changes
- best photographed within 10 days
- 30x40 gallery wrapped canvas

**\$565**

### PORTRAIT SESSION

#### 1-2 HOURS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

- your choice of location
- Immediate family only
- All Digital Files

**\$475**

### MINI SESSION

#### 30 MINUTES OF PHOTOGRAPHY

- your home or park in local area
- 1-2 children only
- Coffee Table Book

**\$300**

## add-ons & products

Digital Files \$325

4x6 printed proofs w/files \$400

spiral bound proof book \$75

Organic Bloom framed prints

coffee table book \$200

custom designed calendar \$50

accordion mini albums (3) \$75

8 wallet prints \$25

8" x 10" loose print \$25

11" x 14" mounted print \$60

16" x 20" mounted print \$85

additional sizes available

16" x 20" wall canvas \$175

20" x 20" wall canvas \$210

20" x 30" wall canvas \$235

additional sizes available

Other Products available.

See full product guide for offers.



IDEAS & INSPIRATION:

# how to dress the FAMILY

\*Think coordinating not matching. Pick out something that you really love for yourself or your child then pull a few colors out of that outfit, and dress the rest of your family accordingly. Try to play up texture, add layers, and subtle patterns everyone should be dressed differently not identical.

\*Consider where your photos will hang in your home. Coordinate outfits that will flow with your home decor. If your home is colorful choosing outfits with a pop of color would be ideal.

\*Men, do not wear white athletic socks. If you're sitting at some point in your session, those white socks will show!

\*No billed hats (such as a baseball cap). It often creates shadows on the face which is something I strive to avoid in your images.



## VENDORS I

# absolutely adore

Simple goes a long way! I like to keep the focus on the subject; therefore, simple clothing choices are best for creating timeless portraits. For trendier and more modern images, I recommend having textures whether it be hats or other accessories such as scarves or funky belts. If children are being photographed together, clothes that are similar in style give a more coordinated look. I highly suggest clothing for each family member have the same tone, not necessarily the same color. Here are some recommended shops that have adorable outfits that can really pull your session together.

### BOUTIQUE

#### MALTIDA JANE

Super cute original clothing is great for girls AND moms! Kristine Hubbard is a local Twin Cities trunk keeper. kristineh@matildajane-clothing.com

#### PERSNICKEY

Girls clothing with a whim. A lot like MJ but can be bought online or at boutique sellers. LOVE!

### MAINSTREAM

#### CREWCUTS

can be on the pricey side, but this store has great modern styles and colors for boys and girls. jcrew.com

#### JANIE & JACK

try to be careful with being too matchy match here but you can find great coordinating outfits for boy/-girl siblings.

#### MINI BODEN

great use of colors, stripes & plaids. The clothes are beyond adorable and hip. bodenusa.com

## JUST A LITTLE

# lovin' from past clients

My husband is not a man of many words or easy toward spending money. However your photos of our children prompted a response I'll never forget. After viewing the slideshow complete with music I asked if he liked his Christmas gift. He responded that it's the best gift he's ever gotten.

— Margaux

The pictures that Michele took of our family are so beautiful they bring me to tears!

— Julie

I. LOVE. THEM. These are amazing!!!! And thank you, truly, for capturing my kids for the last 3 years. You are so talented - I'm beyond grateful for all that you've done.

— Sara

These are awesome - I seriously don't know how you manage to get pictures out of something parents probably think is a total debacle!!

You do it though, every time. I love these pictures

— Brea

Your photos always make me wish I was in them... just beautiful. Lots of people can take pictures but you have a very artistic eye.

— Elise

# what to bring checklist cheatsheet

I've compiled a cheat sheet of general items I recommend you bring to the photo-shoot. Since each session is unique, there may be extra items to bring in addition to those listed. If you have any questions at all about what you may need during your session, please don't hesitate to ask! Please keep in mind anything that is brought to the photoshoot may be in your pictures so choose wisely.

## newborns & babies

- Extra milk
- Favorite blanket
- Pacifier
- Favorite toy or object your baby enjoys looking at
- Extra wipes
- Towel
- Diapers

## kids

- Favorite snack
- Favorite juice
- Extra water
- Their favorite toy
- Towel / wipes
- Extra change of clothes
- Extra treat to reward good behavior
- Extra socks
- Sunscreen
- Any props

## mom n' dad

- Quilt to sit on
- Energy bar or snack
- Water
- Touch-up makeup & comb or brush
- Towel / wipes for outdoors
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Wine (just kidding, or am I?)

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO  
HEAR FROM YOU!**

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