

Do You Look Different in Pictures Than in Real Life? Yes, and Here's How

Posted on June 23, 2017 by Photofeeler

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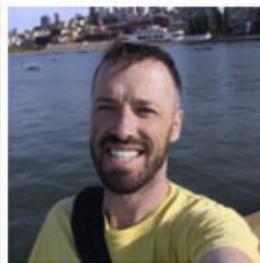
DATING 20 VOTES

Smart	92%
Trustworthy	92%
Attractive	81%



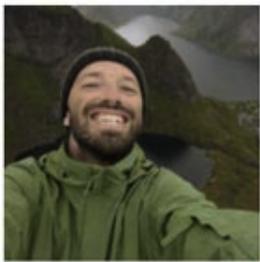
DATING 20 VOTES

Smart	65%
Trustworthy	81%
Attractive	74%



DATING 20 VOTES

Smart	58%
Trustworthy	74%
Attractive	77%



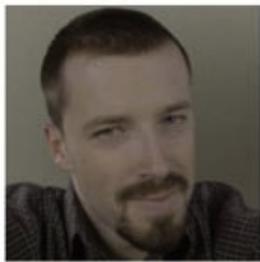
DATING 20 VOTES

Smart	41%
Trustworthy	65%
Attractive	45%



DATING 20 VOTES

Smart	48%
Trustworthy	50%
Attractive	38%



DATING 20 VOTES

Smart	20%
Trustworthy	10%
Attractive	36%



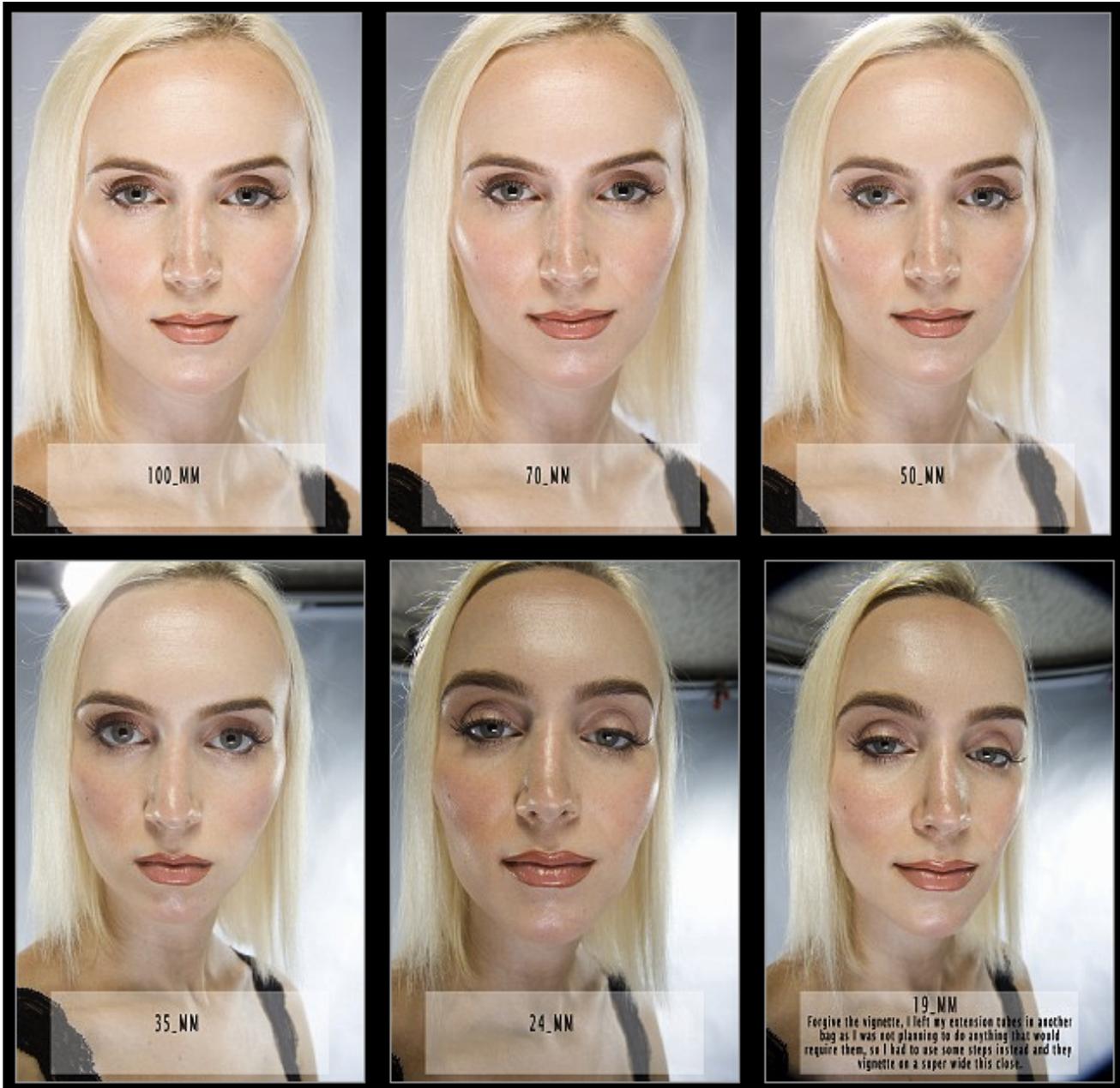
DATING 20 VOTES

Smart	2%
Trustworthy	2%
Attractive	9%

three

Read on to learn ~~5~~ ways that pictures skew reality.

#1 Camera distortion warps your proportions



As illustrated by photographer Stephen Eastwood

Ever suspect that your forehead or nose looked larger in a particular picture than in real life?

More than likely, you were correct.

Camera distortion is ubiquitous in social media pictures — especially selfies.

The most common cause of camera distortion is that the subject is too close to the lens.

Most photographers say that the type of lens used also has a lot to do with it, and wide-angle lenses (like the ones in our camera phones) are big offenders.

#2 Going from 3D to 2D creates optical illusions

Real life is 3D. A picture is 2D.

This difference can have major implications.

For instance, when you're standing in front of someone, you get a 3D sense of their size. Without that extra dimension, in photos, a human arm can look way smaller or larger than it really is.



👉IT'S👉JUST👉ANGLES👉& different ways of standing👉. Neither one of these girls are "prettier", BECAUSE IT'S THE SAME GIRL (ME)... ✓JUST 5 SECONDS APART." — Halle

All in all, it's helpful to understand that natural photogenicness is correlated with (but not the same as) attractiveness.



Left: model, Lily Cole. Right: world's highest-paid supermodel, Bündchen.

Being attractive in person doesn't automatically equal photogenic. And being naturally photogenic doesn't automatically equal attractive in person.

Photographers have long been known to note the difference between the on-camera and off-camera appearances of famous models. (Kate Moss, for example, has been rumored to look quite ordinary in the flesh. Not that I can personally confirm or deny.)

#3 Most pictures are disappointing because your brain is like Photoshop

Our eyes (with help from our brain) automatically adjust to darkness and brightness.

Our cameras are not as amazing. They can be adjusted to focus on highlights or shadows, but never both at once.

As a result, sometimes we get these dark, creepy, or washed-out pictures that cause us to question, “Was *that* what I really looked like at the party?”

The answer is no, it’s not.



Another quirk of how we see in real life is about focus.

We automatically “edit out” unimportant, periphery details while zooming in on small windows of vision at a time.



via Flickr

And, if we're not careful to notice the difference, we're apt to use pictures with details that are unflattering to us.