

# filament

## **PHOTOGRAPHING MEN FOR FILAMENT MAGAZINE**

Last revised July 2009

These guidelines are for photographers who wish to contribute photographic images to Filament magazine.

### **I haven't seen your magazine but it sounds cool, I'd like to see my work in it!**

Glad you like our concept, but you really need to see Filament to know if this is for you, and we need to know that you're fully comfortable with our context and concept. Get Filament before you decide if you want to contribute: [www.filamentmagazine.com/buy.aspx](http://www.filamentmagazine.com/buy.aspx).

### **Do you pay?**

If your work appears in an issue that makes a profit, it will be shared proportionally among contributors. Either way we'll send you two free copies and lots of love.

### **What motivates photographers to submit to Filament?**

Usually a combination of support for our goals, wanting to do something genuinely different and challenging, and the career benefits of having work featured in a print publication.

### **Will you want the copyright to my images?**

No. We have an image use agreement between Filament, photographers and models that gives Filament "licensed use", and specifies the photographers' and models' rights over the images. Email [hello@filamentmagazine.com](mailto:hello@filamentmagazine.com) to see a copy of the agreement.

### **Do you accept photography by men?**

The photographer's gender doesn't matter to us; what matters is that the images are appropriate for a female audience. The best way to produce such images is to use the guidelines below as a starting point.

## **So what sort of photography are you actually looking for?**

We choose our images based on both published and primary research about what women find erotic in images of men. The following points should help you design your images:

- **Do** choose a model with an attractive face. About 75% of women would rather see an attractive face than a sexy body, although both together are of course preferable.
- **Do** include your model's face in most or all of the shots. We generally don't publish body shots that exclude the face.
- **Don't** assume you need a gym bunny to model. Most of the images we publish are of slim, slightly muscled men, but we like to include some variety. If you've got a guy who is very muscular and you think, very hot, we'll certainly consider your images.
- **Do** capture a sense of like intimacy, connection and flirt in your images. Shirtlessness or nudity do not alone make an image erotic.
- **Don't** use B&W or sepia for its own sake, or because you think it looks 'more arty'. However, we do consider B&W or sepia images, as there are always times when it's appropriate.
- **Do** get Filament and see what we do, but don't feel like you need to copy the style. We want to see photos that are *better* than what we're doing already.
- **Don't** use body oil on your model. However, a "flushed and sweaty" is generally erotic. Have your model run up and down the stairs a few times before you photograph them.
- **Do** shoot in interesting, beautiful and/or recognisable environments where it would be reasonably believable that a sexual encounter might take place. We caution against using places like kitchens, the outdoors, plain studio backgrounds or hotel rooms – however, in some cases they will work.
- **Do** make sure your model's facial expressions convey eroticism. Have lot of direct gaze and perhaps smiles and laughter if appropriate.
- **Don't** have your model making angry or arrogant facial expressions.
- **Do** convey vulnerability in your images if appropriate, although we don't want to receive pictures of men looking hurt or abused.
- **Do** keep some clothes or accessories on your model if appropriate. Things like an open shirt, open trousers, a cravat, a white vest, braces/suspenders, belts and various accessories add character and interest to an image.

## **What sort of images/themes are you not interested in?**

- Drag or cross-dressing. David Bowie is us; Grayson Perry isn't.
- Holding babies. Just inappropriate, and you should not need to be told why.
- Doing housework. We're a bit beyond fanaticising about men doing housework.

### **Do I have to include fully nude and/or explicit images?**

We want to publish more explicit images in future, so if your model is keen, we encourage it, but it isn't required. Think creatively when photographing an erection – explicit images needn't lack artistic quality.

### **When are your deadlines?**

For photography, we'd need fully post-processed images six weeks before each issue. If you're thinking of submitting something near to the deadline, do let us know to expect it.

### **I'm just a hobby photographer, can I submit something?**

Absolutely. Our photographers are a mix of professionals and skilled amateurs. If you're just starting out, you might want to consider submitting a pic or two for our 'Female Gaze pinboard' section, which features more spontaneous, one-off images.

### **Where can I find a model?**

- Ask friends or acquaintances. Asking someone you see in the street or at the pub that you think is attractive can be surprisingly effective too.
- Some of our models we found because we messaged them on social networking sites like Facebook because we thought they looked hot in their profile picture
- Websites like [www.net-model.com](http://www.net-model.com) and [www.modelmayhem.com](http://www.modelmayhem.com).
- Advertising or putting out a general call for men interested in modelling is **not recommended**; it tends to attract the wrong type of people.

### **Do you need to see the model I've chosen?**

That would really help, if you want us to be able to use your images. It's a shame to get a great set of photographs where the model is not inappropriate for Filament.

### **Would you consider single images?**

Yes.

### **Can I post-process my images?**

Yes – please do get the colour looking as good as it can be, remove that grotty mark on the wall or do something arty with them if you wish.

Please do not alter your model's body to make it look more 'ideal', eg, made to look thinner or younger. You can, however, remove temporary blemishes such as pimples and scars.

### **Do you accept 'arty stuff'?**

Sure.

### **I've never photographed a man erotically before – what do I do?**

- Build a rapport with your model: discuss your idea over a beer or a coffee.
- Encourage your model to contribute ideas.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before your shoot.
- Leave enough time so that things are not rushed. A good rule is three hours – one hour to set up, one to shoot and one to pack up.
- Think about how you can make the model as comfortable as possible, for example, thinking about privacy and warmth.
- Invite the model to bring someone with them to the shoot.

### **I don't have any ideas! How do I find inspiration?**

You might for example find ideas through:

- Contemporary art or theatre
- Art or photography industry magazines (you can often take these out of the library)
- Films
- Novels
- Song lyrics
- Subcultural aesthetics such as punk, goth, steampunk, indie
- Myths and legends
- Fashion photography

### **What format and resolution should I provide my images in?**

Once you've shot your images, we can see if they're the type of thing we'd like to publish by seeing 3–6 unprocessed low-res shots. Email them to [editor@filamentmagazine.com](mailto:editor@filamentmagazine.com).

If we decided to use your images, you'd need to send them as CMYK JPGs of 300dpi at 216x286mm or larger.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Suraya Sidhu Singh

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