



ALISON SHAW PHOTOGRAPHY

MENTORSHIP

October 27, 2025 – May 8, 2026

[break for holidays between December 15 and January 2]

Sharpen your Focus:
taking your work to the next level

We are so excited to be offering our 6-month Mentorship program, for students who want a deeper, more intensive learning experience.



Alison has been teaching workshops for 40 years, and has taught more than 1000 students in locations around the world. She's known for her striking black & white and color photography. Her work fills 20 books, and is in thousands of private collections. If there's one piece of constructive feedback we've gotten the most, it's that students wish they had more one-on-one time with her. We're happy to offer exactly that – and so much more.



Sue Dawson is Alison's partner in life and business. In addition to running our gallery, Sue is an Art Director, with many years' experience evaluating portfolios, hiring and managing photographers, art directing shoots, purchasing licensing rights, and designing with photos at *The Boston Globe*, *Martha's Vineyard Magazine*, and a number of books. She does our marketing, writing, website, design, social media, and runs our gallery.

If you've been thinking about deepening your understanding of photography, developing a portfolio, marketing your work, designing and publishing a book, or just getting back in touch with your creativity, this is for you!

Our calls, teachings, and Mastermind sessions will give you:

INSPIRATION Develop your own unique creative photographic style.

STRUCTURE Set goals, build momentum, and grow as a photographer.

TRAINING Learn technique, strategy, marketing tips, and mindset tools.

STRATEGY Create a portfolio, market your body of work.

SUPPORT Stay on track, and get the encouragement you need.

We're opening eight spaces for new students in the 2025-26 Mentorship.

Here's what you'll get in our 6-month Mentorship:

1. **FOCAL POINT TOOLKIT** Set goals, and track your progress through the Mentorship. This sets your intention for the six months, and creates the velocity for your experience.
2. **EIGHT CALL HOURS WITH ALISON AND/OR SUE** Alison and Sue like doing most calls together – we complement each other well, and have been working together for years. Our calls will be all about you and your work – developing your signature style, staying consistent, and keeping focused. You'll upload jpegs of your latest work before each call. During the zoom call, you'll see our screen live on your computer, as we discuss your photos. Learn how to be your best editor, get custom training, feedback, motivation, and brainstorm ideas. We will give you customized assignments that will keep you inspired, and define your next steps toward your goals.

Calls with just Alison will focus on shooting, processing in Adobe Lightroom Classic, and working on projects.

Calls with just Sue will include advice on your graphic identity, self-promotion, book ideas, and writing. Her signature *Intuitive Interview* will help you identify what makes your photography distinctly your own, and gives you a framework for your unique creative process.

3. **SIX TRAININGS** Our in-depth trainings cover a number of topics, which include: getting in touch with your deepest creative self; writing an artist statement and bio; marketing your work; showing your work; Alison's digital workflow; and website/book overview.
5. **GROUP CRITIQUE CALLS** In addition to our initial group zoom, we'll have three assignments (starting in January), with group critique via zoom.
6. **TWO 2-DAY RETREATS ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD** Experience the island off-season, when all the locals can relax and truly enjoy this beautiful place. Starting with a Friday-evening get-together, and culminating in student Masterminds on Saturday and Sunday, you'll meet the other Mentorship students, learn a lot, and have the unique opportunity to get feedback from the group. Develop your artist statement, body of work, and project ideas with the support of other artists. Alison shares openly about her process, and Sue brings her designer's eye to the discussion.
7. **PRIVATE MENTORSHIP APP** We use a platform that you'll access via phone, tablet, or desktop computer. Everything you need will be in one place, including the ability to interact with us and each other. New in 2024, this has greatly added to the program.
8. **20% OFF IN THE GALLERY** For the duration of the Mentorship, you'll get our best discount on all fine art prints, books, posters, and cards.

Retreat dates on Martha's Vineyard:

Friday, January 16, 5:30pm – Sunday, January 18, 3pm

Friday, April 10, 5:30pm – Sunday, April 12, 3pm

** dates subject to change*

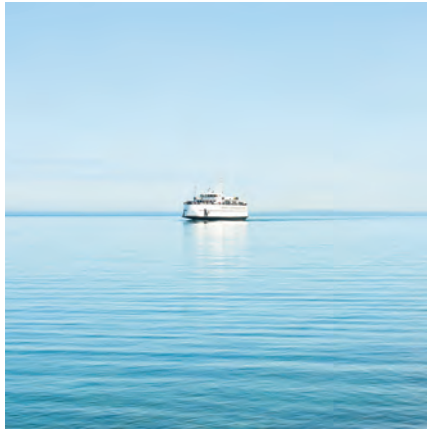
Accommodations

You are responsible for booking your own accommodations for the two retreats on the Vineyard, which will be held at our gallery in Oak Bluffs. The Mansion House in Vineyard Haven is a good choice (800-332-4112, www.mvmansionhouse.com).

If you'd like a list of other accommodations, would like to know where you can stay that's within walking distance to the gallery, or are interested in sharing a room with

another student, send us an email, claire@alisonshaw.com. We don't book rooms for students, but we'll be happy to give you more information.

It's not necessary to bring a car over to the island. If you don't bring your own car, you can plan ahead to get rides from someone else, or take a cab. It always works out.



Meals

Students are responsible for their own meals. We'll offer coffee, tea, water, and light snacks at the gallery on Saturday and Sunday, and we will provide lunch on

Sunday. Hopefully students' individual preferences and schedules will allow a few meals to be shared at restaurants. Alison and Sue can provide participants with a list of our local favorites.

Equipment you'll need

For retreats, students who plan to shoot during the weekend will want to bring their digital camera, a tripod, and a laptop for downloading and working with images. Photo shoots are not usually part of the retreats unless there is time.

For the online portion of the Mentorship, we'll give you directions for use of our Mentorship app, and send you zoom links for all remote calls, so there's no software you need to purchase. It is helpful to have a computer that is relatively current (within the last 4 years), an internal or external webcam, and an internal microphone or external headset. The remote sessions with Alison and Sue are via computer, and use webcam and audio. For image editing software, Alison will be using Adobe Lightroom Classic (LRC), which she strongly recommends you use as well.

Registration

FEES

Tuition: \$7495

TO REGISTER

Enrollment is limited to 8 participants, and space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to register, please fill out the attached registration form and either fax to 508-693-5829, or send to Alison Shaw Photography Workshops, P.O. Box 1545, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557. When we receive your registration, we'll send either an acceptance email indicating that you're enrolled in the Mentorship, or notification that you're on the waitlist. If you have a space in the Mentorship, we'll charge the \$1000 deposit to your credit card (or you can send a check) to hold your space, or the full tuition if that's your preference. The remaining tuition balance will be due by October 25th, OR can be billed in five monthly installments of \$1299.

CANCELLATION, REFUND, TRIP INSURANCE

If for any reason you need to withdraw from the Mentorship, please notify us in writing (snail mail, fax, or email). We will apply your pro-rated fee (the unused portion, depending on withdrawal date) towards future purchases with us – for the gallery, or workshops – less a withdrawal fee of \$1000.

We recommend that you purchase refundable airline tickets, and consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

Alison Shaw Photography Workshops shall have no responsibility or liability for personal injury to any participant, or damage to any participant's property, or for personal injuries or damage to the property of any other person resulting from the participant's involvement in our Mentorship. We shall have no responsibility for the acts, errors, or omissions of instructors or staff, transportation companies, lodging facilities, restaurants, tour guides and outfitters, or other providers of services to participants in the course of the Mentorship. We have the right to reschedule either retreat and to alter the time, context, or format of the Mentorship in the event circumstances require it. In the event that the Mentorship is cancelled, for any reason, at any time before or during the six months, our liability is limited to the return of fees paid to us, on a pro-rated basis. We will not be responsible for any other losses related to cancellation.



What level of experience do I need to have?

The Mentorship program is geared toward students who consider themselves to be serious amateurs. You should be comfortable with the technical aspects of your photography, including shooting with your camera and managing digital workflow on your computer. If you've taken one of our week-long workshops, that's a perfect prerequisite for this program. You should also be ready for a six-month commitment, to work toward realizing your creative vision and personal goals.

We encourage you to set up a short call with Alison before the Mentorship begins, so that she can evaluate your Lightroom and tech setup. We feel strongly that an organized, secure setup is crucial for your success in this program and beyond. Based on Alison's evaluation, she may suggest that you schedule some time with our tech coach, Celeste Guidice. Coaching with Celeste costs \$100/hour, and can be done before the Mentorship starts, and/or during the program.

If you would like to create a new website, our coach Rob Skinnon creates sites and does beautiful design work, for \$75/hour. His expertise is invaluable, if you choose to work with him.

Should I make this commitment?

Well, of course that's up to you.

Our workshops are about people coming to learn from Alison, see how she works, and get inspired by her. Our Mentorship is about *you*. We'll be here to support you in your journey, focus on your work, and invigorate your passion. The Mastermind experience at both retreats is unmatched as a creatively inspiring tool. We cultivate a supportive environment – a positive one designed to manifest great results.



Your success in the Mentorship comes down to *what you invest into it*. We've seen it again and again. The act of making this kind of commitment is hugely empowering. There's a velocity that begins with stating your goals and committing to them, then staying accountable and open to feedback, and invested in your growth as an artist. We'll lay out the framework for you to achieve your creative vision.

We want to share our enthusiasm with you. Past Mentorship student accomplishments include: new websites, acceptance into juried gallery shows, solo shows, new creative directions, blurb books, marketing plans, and even a non-profit foundation aimed toward healing through photography. Two students have opened their own galleries.

If you're ready, the registration form is on the next page. If you still have questions, please give Sue a call at 508.982.7628.

Registration Form

Sharpen your Focus: Taking your work to the next level, *6-month Mentorship*

- \$1000 deposit; plus payment of \$6495 balance in full by 10/25
- \$1000 deposit; plus 5 monthly installments of \$1299
- \$7495, paid in full

Name _____

Mailing address: street or PO Box _____

city _____

state _____

zip _____

Phone: home _____

work _____

cell _____

E-mail: (we'll communicate with you via email) _____

Payment of \$1000 deposit or \$7495 full balance, as indicated above:

- Check or money order: amount enclosed check number
(make checks payable to Alison Shaw Photography)
- Credit card: # _____ expiration / card verification #
(MC, Visa, Amex, Discover) (mo/yr) (last 3 digits on back)

Information

Years involved in photography _____

Previous classes, workshops, professional experience, etc.

Teachings you're most interested in:

What do you hope to gain from this Mentorship?

Have you taken a workshop with Alison before?

How did you hear of our Mentorship?

Please add me to the waiting list if the Mentorship is full. yes [last-minute notification is fine] no

Waiver of Liability

I have read and understand the registration procedures and waiver of liability and agree to be bound by them.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail or fax to:

Alison Shaw Photography Workshops, P.O. Box 1545, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557; fax: 508-693-5829

ALISON SHAW PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

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