

Like photographing gorgeous men? Considering a photography career and want published work to add to your portfolio? *Submit to Filament!* Here's everything you need to know...

Do I need to have seen the magazine?

Yes. There is no substitute for seeing the magazine in terms of knowing what we want. Get a copy or find a stockist on our website – www.filamentmagazine.com.

Do you pay?

Filament is run by passionate volunteers. We hope to phase in paying contributors as we start selling more advertising and attracting more sponsorship. If you want to contribute, it's safest to assume that you won't get paid unless otherwise stated, for example, if we're running a competition. You'll always receive two free copies if your work appears in an issue and loads of appreciation from everyone.

Will you want the copyright for my images?

You keep the copyright and give us licensed use. We have an image use agreement that specifies the photographers' and models' rights over the images. Email hello@filamentmagazine.com to see a copy.

I'm a straight man/lesbian/gay man – can I submit to Filament?

Sure, no problem.

How do I choose a model that will work for Filament?

- Look for a model with an **attractive face**. Exactly what constitutes this differs between people, but a good rule is to choose another model if you find yourself thinking, 'Nice bod, shame about the face'.
- We are open to a **range of body shapes**.
- We are always running low on shoots involving:
 - a model with chest, body and/or facial hair
 - a model who is non-white
 - a model aged over 30
 - a model who looks 'mainstream'
 - a model who has a 'typically masculine' look
 - explicit shots (by which we mean, showing cock, preferably erect)

But Filament only likes skinny girly men wearing make-up, right?

If we publish a recipe, does that make us a cookbook?

I've had a shoot published in Filament before and I've got another idea! Do you mind if I use the same model?

We prefer to avoid repeating models. We *might* publish shoots involving a single model twice if that model has been *particularly* popular with the readership and your shoot idea is *significantly* different from the previous shoot, eg, more explicit or as part of a couple, etc. Please consult us if you're thinking about using the same model again.

How would you like me to direct, compose and style my shoot?

- Include your model's face in most of the shots.
- Capture a sense of intimacy, connection and flirt in your images. Shirtlessness or nudity do not alone make an image erotic.
- Don't hide your model's face or crop it out of frame.
- Facial expressions are extremely important and probably the hardest bit to get right: Make sure your model's facial expressions convey eroticism – mouth slightly open etc.
- Include direct gaze, smiles and laughter if appropriate.
- Shoot somewhere that people can recognise as a real location, whether that be someone's bedroom or any other venue. Basically, we prefer to avoid publishing pictures shot against a plain studio backdrop.
- Don't use oil on your model.
- Even if your images are explicit, your model need not be completely nude. Keeping some clothing or accessories on your model. An open shirt, open trousers, a cravat, a white vest, braces/suspenders, belts and various accessories can add character and a point of focus to your images.
- And hell, just shoot what you think is hot.

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

- Holding babies/with children
- Doing housework
- Erotic photographs of women alone or women-with-women.

Why else might you not publish my shoot?

We currently publish about 50–60% of submissions. Common reasons we don't publish shoots include:

- The model is one who has appeared in Filament before.
- The photography is too static or posed
- The images do not seem 'erotic', even if they are fully nude. It looks like the photographer was thinking 'let's shoot art/fashion/nudes' not 'let's shoot something sexy'.

- The model's face is concealed or cropped out in most or all of the shots
- The range of poses, camera angles and compositions is too narrow
- The images are not clear or are too dark
- Either the model is not attractive, or the photographer has not succeeded in capturing his attractiveness. Often this is more to do with how relaxed he is, how much effort has been put into getting the right kind of facial expression and the general dynamism and creativity in the shots than the model himself.
- The photography looks boring, old-fashioned or stereotypical
- The model is of a type that we receive too many submissions involving (skinny, hairless white guys in their 20s with tattoos and piercings!)

These things are all subjective, and we don't claim to be experts on what's erotic, but we do know a lot about what Filament readers (and potential future readers) want because we keep our communications channels very open. If we decide not to publish your shoot, try and take what we say constructively and keep photographing men!

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

No, but keep in mind that we only publish erotic imagery.

Do you accept couple shots?

Yup. And threes, fours and fives. And man-on-man.

Do you accept shots that have been published elsewhere?

Not usually, but occasionally we might. Let's talk about it.

How explicit is too explicit?

Surprise us.

How do I take a photograph that might get on the cover?

We never get enough to choose from, frankly. Have the model making eye contact and ensure the top and left third of the image is uncluttered.

How should I edit my images?

- We prefer colour or high-colour (cross process) images, but we're not opposed to B&W or sepia.
- Print is not back-lit like your monitor screen, so brighten your images slightly on where you think looks perfect. A good rule is to make them about 15% brighter.

- We expect you to edit your images to get the colour looking as good as it can be and, for example, to remove background clutter or grotty marks on the wall. You may also remove temporary blemishes such as scars or pimples if you wish.
- Please do not alter your model's body to make it look more 'ideal', eg, thinner or younger.

When are your deadlines and future themes?

Issue release	Unedited photography due for consideration	Theme*
June 2011	15 February 2011	Water
December 2011	15 August 2011	Music

* Themes are rough guides. We are open to material that doesn't fit the theme.

Would you consider single images?

Yes, but we prefer sets.

How do I find a model?

- Ask friends, acquaintances or strangers
- Use websites like www.net-model.com and www.modelmayhem.com

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.
- 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, if they wish.
- Discuss limits with your model beforehand, and make sure they know that a 'no' to absolutely anything is okay. Meanwhile, try not to assume they have limits they haven't stated, and do suggest trying things in the knowledge that if he doesn't like the resulting images, they won't be used.
- Take a risk. Do something different.

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, films, novels, history, song lyrics, subcultural aesthetics (such as punk, goth, steampunk, indie), myths and legends or fashion photography.

How should I provide final images?

Once you've shot your images, email us 3–6 low-res shots to photography@filamentmagazine.com.

If we decide to use your images, we'll ask for your 10–20 favourites as follows:

- JPGs or TIFs of 300dpi at 216x286mm or larger.
- If you are converting from RGB to CMYK, set your CMYK profile to *Euroscale Coated V2*. We will do this for you if you're worried about not getting it right.
- Your cropping ratio on all vertical rectangular images **must** be 286mm x 216mm.
- Don't crop too close! If we use an image full page, there's 3mm bleed on all sides, so add a margin.
- If you're adding effects, keep the layered Photoshop file, because we may need to ask you to alter things.
- If you are changing the resolution in Photoshop, **please ensure that you have the 'resample image' box unchecked**, otherwise image quality will be lost.
- Zip them into one file, upload them to www.sendspace.com, and send us the link.

What if I have a question that isn't covered here?

Email photography@filamentmagazine.com.