

Monroe Community College (3 credits)

PHO 106 Fall 2010 Lecture 381, Lab 385 & 386

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### Assignment #3: “Quality of Natural Light/Self Portrait.”

READ ALL BELOW INFORMATION CAREFULLY BEFORE DOING ASSIGNMENT!



Due: October 5 & 6, 2010 ( Lab) “Dramatic Shadow” Artist : Teresa Hogan .© 2008

“We spend our entire lives looking into mirrors believing the illusions reflected there and being comforted by the reality of appearances. Unfortunately people are seldom what they appear to be, and what is seen is what we expect to see. We look for reassurance and revelation. We do not know.” - Duane Michals.

This can be an exceptional experience for the photographer. It gives you the opportunity to determine when to push the button and when to control, to a large extent, how the “subject” will be portrayed. Artists have long used this type of document as a vehicle for their ultimate self-expression. You can show what you choose to, but somehow, some way, sometimes truth about yourself are revealed, often without your knowledge.

It is my belief that no photographer can really make an effective portrait of another unless she/he is comfortable with the experience of being in front of the camera and confident with her or his self-image. The self-portrait is an ongoing challenge for me and consistently helps me see the world and my place in it more clearly, both as a photographer and as a human being.

Exploring self portraits, or “Self As Subject”, has been a passion of mine since I first started taking photograph. It has been a way for me as an individual, to see how I see myself. It has allowed me incite as to how I fit into our society. Self as subject has allowed me to see how I am perceived myself, by women, and also, as by men.

Conceptual Objective:

Using the “Qualities of Light” as we have discussed in class, create at least one characteristic as discussed in class. You can use the following topics to define your self portrait.

1. A Self as Subject “As you see yourself”.
2. A Self as Subject “As you think women see you”.
3. A Self as Subject “As you think men see you”.
4. A Self as Subject “As you think society as a whole sees you”.

When working with these self as subject photographs, the use of light should be an important element to the photography.

Objective:

- Using traditional Black and White film, make at least one photograph on 8 x 10 inch RC paper.
- Use the self as subject, self portrait.
- Use one of the 6 categories of “Quality of Light” as discussed in class.

Assignment Overview:

• Use black and white film to make an image using at least one category of “Quality of Light” as discussed in class. Again, the subject matter is to be centered around self as subject.

1. “Chiaroscuro Light” or Light and Shadow.
2. Radiant Light.
3. Dramatic Shadows.
4. Silhouette Light.
5. Accent Light.
6. Rim Light.

- This is an assignment to help you to better understand the use of light in photography.
- This assignment is meant to bring concepts together with practice.
- Determine what constitutes a self portrait.
- Using available light to separate and define one of the above mentioned “Qualities of Light”.
- Use of experimentation to create an unexpected and creative photograph.

#### Equipment and Supplies Needed:

- 35mm adjustable camera.
- Black and white photographic film.
- **DO NOT USE CN film (C-41 Processing)!**
- Darkroom time for processing and printing film and prints.
- Lab time as needed to process and print film.
- You can also use a tripod or other stable surface to support your camera.
- If you have a cable release, this can help make the photography.
- You can also use a camera's timer to allow you to get into the photograph.

#### Procedure:

- Go out and photograph, remember, Photo is Phun!
- Review handout on "Quality of Light" to understand lighting stations.
- Make photographs that illustrate at least one category in your photograph.
- Try to make an extreme example of the light, and use only one category in your photograph.
- Use lab time to process film and print photographs.
- You can use time outside of lab to shoot film.
- Subject is of you, and a location of your choice.
- Take notes in your journal.
- Photo is Phun?

Please think very carefully about what you intend to communicate, and envision how your images might look before you begin shooting. Then experiment with as many different ideas as you can based on your original concept (s).

Release the shutter by hand, use the self-timer on your camera or a cable release. It is totally acceptable to seek assistance while attempting to frame and focus, since you won't be able to see through the view finder while actually shooting, but  
**PLEASE DO NOT HAVE SOMEONE ELSE MAKE THE PICTURE FOR YOU.**

Edit your contact sheets very carefully. Select the images that work the best for the ideas you are trying to get across, that are interesting, dynamic and thought provoking, and are also the most insightful photographs you can make that illustrate something more than the obvious facts about what you look like. The objective here is not merely to make an ID photograph, or a senior portrait.

Don't forget all of the concepts we've studied thus far. Use the frame well, think about how the light can work to your benefit, how an effective vantage point makes a statement, and try to choose the appropriate depth of field and creative use of shutter speed that you require for your photographs.

Submit:

- In your small portfolio enclosed envelope, include the following.
- On your original stationary that has all your contact information.
- An assessment for the assignment.
- At least one photograph printed on 8 x 10 inch RC photographic paper.
- At least one contact sheet.
- Make sure your name is on the back of the photographic paper.
- You do not have to hand in the final negatives.