

Project 3 | Photographic Series 100 POINTS

Photographic Series: A photographic series is a group of images related by some aspect held in common (ex. a certain mood, subject matter, technique, function or purpose).

Project 3 of this course requires you to develop a conceptually driven photographic series in either black and white or color (do not mix the two). Your project can be one of two things: **Thematic or Narrative.**

Thematic: addresses a topic or issue

Narrative: tells a story, usually in chronological order

This assignment begins (and ends) with a concept. It is your task to define the concept visually and develop it into an interesting “series” of images.

A minimum of 10 photographs is required for this project. A maximum of 20 can be turned in.

Please avoid overly simplistic subject matter. Your series could be a group of related environmental portraits, landscapes, self-portraits, night photography, etc.— basically this assignment is wide open in terms of subject content, however you must stick to ONE THEME OR NARRATIVE.

This project needs to be made up well thought out photographs that also make use of design elements such as line, color, pattern, texture, and light that we have discussed throughout this semester. Your project should have a title.

All images should be properly exposed, processed and tonally corrected for final presentation. Consider innovative subject matter photographed in a dynamic composition using creative use of depth-of-field and shutter speed techniques.

Please remember that the photographs that you submit for your project must be taken by you specifically for this project, between now and the end of the semester. DO NOT reuse old photographs that you may have lying around, even if they perfectly fit your project!

The grading criteria will consist of:

- How well your photographs communicate your idea(s)

- Technique: camera use – depth of field, shutter speed, exposure and development of the negatives
- Aesthetics: composition, framing, vantage point, etc.
- Presentation of project
- Participation / explanation in the critique.

Deadline: This Project is due on _____. Be on time for class and be ready to present your work in a group critique.

Some Ideas to Get Your Brain Moving:

Graveyards: That idea may sound a little morbid, but graveyards can be a wonderful place to photograph. Often, they are beautiful areas, surrounded by nature. They are peaceful places to spend time, which allows you to connect with your inner creativity. You can also take along a close-up lens, and photograph the writing on the tombstones, or just the textures. Some of the old stones have wonderful, rough textures that may make good images in their own right, or they can be composited with another image in Photoshop.

The Park Bench: Take your camera and a tripod to a park, and find a busy park bench. Set yourself up some distance away with a long lens aimed at the bench and pre-focused. Settle in, and for the next few hours, take images at fixed time intervals, say every ten minutes. This is really an exercise in time-lapse photography. I think the resulting images would make a fun photo essay. The setting stays the same, but the subjects change at random.

Evolution of Construction: Find a nearby construction site, and take a picture every day. If you choose the same vantage point each time, you'll end up with a series of images that show the building in progressive stages of completion.

Day in the Life of: This is a great project to document a particular occupation. For example, you could take photographs of a nurse at work to show all the various aspects of his or her job. It may take you more than one day of shooting to capture a representative set of images.

Get to Know Your Neighborhood: So often, we never really take a good look at our own neighborhood. Make it a point to walk around, and shoot ten images of the area where you live. Do this once a month, or even once a week, if you really get inspired.

Color Challenge. This is a fun challenge for an urban environment. Take your camera

downtown, and give yourself a few hours to take pictures. Choose a color (or for added challenge, have a friend pick the color for you), and shoot only objects of that color. By the end of the session, you'll be surprised how that color jumps out at you! When you're finished, it's great to take your best images and assemble them into a collage or mosaic. This is something that can be done in Adobe Photoshop.

A Collection of "Somethings": Whenever you're out, carry your camera, and be on the lookout for whatever "something" you choose. It could be feet, garbage cans, vegetables that look like faces, bicycles – you name it! Get creative, and pick a theme that you don't usually see in pictures.

Pet's Eye View: Pretend that you are your pet. How would you see the world if you were a dog? A hamster? Shoot a series images from the perspective of your pet's eye level.

After Dark: We don't always think to take our cameras out at night. Try shooting after dark. If you're in the country, you can shoot moonlight or star trails. In the city, you can shoot vehicles' taillight trails or downtown buildings. Wherever you are, you can try light painting – using a long exposure, and moving a flashlight over parts of the scene.

Mannequins:

You can often find mannequins in store windows. If you are lucky, you can catch store displays in the middle of being set up. Keep your eyes open; there are many fun and intriguing photography project ideas here once you're on the lookout.

Nature Reclaiming:

The idea here is to shoot man-made objects or environments that nature is reclaiming. Old cars, or abandoned buildings with vegetation growing throughout, essentially engulfing the landscape.

Landscape:

Find yourself a beautiful landscape nearby, and return to it many times to photograph it under different lighting conditions: morning light, evening light, mist, or rain – each one will produce very a different image. Keep an eye on the weather. Storms can produce some dramatic light. Have your camera nearby so you don't miss out. Be specific in your choice of landscape however – such as plants, or close up's of something in the landscape. Do not just generalize.

Self-portraits:

Give people a glimpse at the artist behind the camera and take a self-portrait. You

can do a classic camera-in-hand mirror snap, or get creative and put your camera on a tripod, set a timer, and run in a wheat field. There are so many options for creative shots and the best thing about you being the model is you can take your shot whenever you like and take as long as you want snapping it!

Go on a photographic journey:

Plan a weekend vacation, or even a day trip, around where you can go take great photographs. A pasture filled with cows? Excellent. A hiking trip up a mountain, with beautiful city views? Even better. An old-school diner with handmade milkshakes? Spectacular.

Metamorphosis:

How do things change over time? How quickly do they change? Find something in the class or outside that you expect to change. It could be a caterpillar, a flower bud, or a tree. Figure out how quickly it is going to change, then take pictures at regular intervals to show this change.

Imitation: Learning From the Best It's standard practice for art students to imitate the works of past masters. Doing the same in photography is often tricky, because photos rely on a moment that comes and goes in a fraction of a second. But you can engineer things to a certain extent, or simply imitate a famous posed series of portraits or a project at large. This will really test your photography composition skills and ability to capture a desired mood through lighting etc.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_photographers

There are SO many great photographers out there. If you are confused about which direction to go in, thematically – come talk to me or email me.