

PROJECT 1: HIGH-LOW ABSTRACT DIPTYCH

Over the next 3 weeks you will create a monochrome diptych (2 images side by side). Some of you will shoot indoors, some outdoors for Project 3.

Whether you are doing tabletop shot or shooting outdoors, choose your subject matter for its texture and form. You will set up your shot as far as framing, angle, and distance so as to abstract your subject. In other words, the goal is to make your subject unrecognizable as far to WHAT it is, and yet the detail must be precise and clear! If we can recognize your subject, it is unacceptable for this project and must be redone. You could even shoot the human form – but it must be unrecognizable.

Brainstorm to come up with a list of 10 possibilities, either objects or landscapes you are interested in. No subject is off limits. But you must be creative with HOW you shoot it! I will provide a list of local resources for materials, including salvage shops, which offer many great possibilities for finding unusual objects/textures. An alternative to Brainstorming is just to browse such places and collect a few inexpensive items to use in a tabletop shot. Or drive to a landscape that is intriguing to you and take some trial shots. An extreme angle and early morning light will give you more options in framing your image.

One of the 2 images will be a high key image, with detail in the lighter areas. The other image will be the same subject but exposed so that you bring out detail in the dark areas. You can vary the angle, lighting, distance, lens, etc. of the 2 images.

EQUIPMENT FOR THIS PROJECT

You will likely need a macro lens or macro setting on your camera if you are shooting indoors. Use an 8-megapixel camera or higher resolution (3072 x 2304 pixels is an example of an 8 megapixel image) OR use a 35 or larger format film camera, scanning your negatives directly on the scanner. If your images are not sufficient in pixel size, you will have to reshoot them. It is important to expose your images so that you capture sharp texture and detail. Therefore you must use a tripod for all shots.

HOW TO EXPOSE YOUR IMAGES

Set your exposure setting for your main subject. For the high key image determine how many f-stops above the correct exposure you want your main area to fall into. Make a note of the correct exposure, and make a note of the zone (according to Ansel Adam's zone system) your main area will land in. A normal exposure would place your subject in zone 5, which is a mid grey.

For High key images, your main subject area must fall into zone 8 or 9. That means you are over exposing by 2 or 3 stops. For Low Key images, your main subject must fall into zone 2 or 3. That means you are underexposing by 2 or 3 stops.

Please shoot a whole roll, or 24 images, for your first attempt at this project. We will discuss the images and reshoot them. The final images will be one color, so emphasize the texture and lights and darks, not the color when

shooting! You will use color images if you are shooting digitally. We will talk over how to change to monochrome later.

TIPS FOR SHOOTING

You can bracket to experiment a little bit, and to give yourself 3 choices for each shot you set up. If you bracket, you will also have the choice of combining different exposures of the same scene. That way, you can obtain detail in different areas of your image. If you use a tripod work carefully, it should be easy to combine these images.

For those shooting indoors: we will set up table top shots using the hot lights stored in the facilities managers office. You must use a tripod for this project. We will use a large paper backdrop for the tabletop shots, plus additional paper or foil for reflectors.

FINAL PRESENTATION

Each of the 2 final images will be printed at 9x15 inches at 300 dpi. These will be displayed together as a pair. You will use Photoshop minimally to emphasize texture and to create a monochrome effect. .