

Assignment 2 - ARTIS 210
Focused Intentions: Depth of Field Studies
By Caldwell

2 Rolls of film. First roll shot for Wed. Jan 18th
2 Prints and contact sheets due Friday Jan. 27th

General Guidelines

This project will involve using the versatility of aperture control to create desired areas of focus in a photograph. The smaller the aperture used, the deeper the area of focus or "depth of field" in a photograph. The larger the aperture the more area front to back in a photo will be in focus.

Use of a large lens opening, such as f2, f2.8, or f4 creates a shallow depth of field. These settings can effectively focus the viewer's attention on a single subject, usually in the foreground, and intentionally "blur" the background. Sometimes the photographer chooses to blur the foreground and focus on a distant object. A photo that is strengthened by having a deep area of focus from front to back should be shot with a small aperture such as 11 or 16.

Choose subjects carefully and intentionally emphasize a selected or deep area of focus. Using 400 ISO film will give you more versatility and make small apertures more possible in varied situations. Daylight will also help allow more expanded depth of field by allowing small apertures.

Warm Up Exercise

Composing a photograph, which has distinctly different foreground and background details, can help accentuate what is in focus and what is not. As a warm up exercise, shoot two images of the same scene using narrow then deep areas of focus (large, then small apertures...changing shutter speeds to balance light). Guide the viewer to what you want to emphasize in the picture by what (and how much) you have shown in sharp focus. You will later mark some of your favorite "pairs on your contact sheet.

Enlargement Guidelines for Two Final Prints

The two prints to be turned in will address the themes of "Simplicity" and "Harmony" through thoughtful selection of symbolic subjects, careful composition, and intentional use of depth of field as follows:

- 1) Image One "Simplicity": Select a large aperture for the first image focusing on the object you wish to bring attention to. The background will be out of focus.
- 2) Image Two "Harmony": To create a for a deep area of focus, select an object around a third of the way back into the scene to focus on, then use a small aperture. A large area will now be in focus...nearly everything in the picture.

The design and message should be strengthened by the use of depth of field.

Technical properties and products related to this assignment will include two well-exposed contact sheets and two prints with apparent attention to depth of field. Each print will include some amount of sharp focus and a rich range of grey tones including black. Prints should be clean and printed full frame with a small white border on 8X10 paper.

Two images, one using small aperture (depicting harmony) and the other using large aperture (depicting simplicity), will be turned in along with the contact sheets for the critique.