

## Syllabus and Guide

This is an independent study course that will focus on advanced processes in silver-based photography. Assignments and areas of study will focus on improving the technical quality and artistic focus of your work.

Participants will be expected to possess a working 35mm Single Lens Reflex camera. Some assignments may incorporate medium format [120mm] cameras which I will provide to you, although you will be responsible for the purchase of film.

In addition to regular submission deadlines of physical prints you must also keep a working journal which will be kept up to date with assignments and written commentary of the processes and product. Additional writing assignment will be presented as necessary.

The study will consist of a series of 7 [seven] loosely defined concepts, entitled "light7" Each step along this path will denote a growth in technical difficulty and artistic conception. You may choose to interpret the assignments as best suits your needs. During each step we will look at specific technical aspects of photography, from composition and design to film exposure and development, to darkroom process, to finish and presentation.

### Supplies:

35mm SLR camera

[min] 20 rolls 35mm film, 36 exp [iso 400]

negative files

3 ring notebook

journal

8x10 paper, variable contrast, either resin coated or fiber base

**Light<sup>7</sup>** is an exploration of the effects of light on a photograph. It is also a philosophical journey into the purpose of photography. As we move step by step through the investigative process, please make copious notations to your blog regarding your pursuits, and your interactions with and reactions to the situations you encounter. Be cognizant of the reactions of others to your work.

## Light<sup>7</sup>

### Light<sup>1</sup>

Light in its simplest form. The action of light that we cannot see but which yields photographs. Without light photography does not exist. The actions of the photons make physical change to paper and film. Like light itself, light<sup>1</sup> is invisible.

### Light<sup>2</sup>

The light of the storyteller. Light<sup>2</sup> is strong, directional. Light from outside the frame, outside the image. Light<sup>2</sup> gives the impression of things happening or about to happen. Light<sup>2</sup> is the light that purports an untold story or partial clue to the meaning of the image.

### Light<sup>3</sup>

The light of dialog, the conversation between subject and light. Light<sup>3</sup> has an effect on apparent form of the subject, it has the power to alter and disguise. The critical function of this light is the mutual agreement between subject and light to work together and in concert.

### Light<sup>4</sup>

Light intrinsically out of balance. In this instance the voices become unequal. Dialog becomes monolog, and the danger exists that the message is lost. Here the photographer takes a pronounced role to act as messenger, to be the medium by which the subordinate light is heard.

### Light<sup>5</sup>

Light<sup>5</sup> occurs when the light is present in the image and or when the light can be perceived by the viewer to be part of the image itself. Light<sup>5</sup> is light as a life force, light as energy. Light becomes the subject.

### Light<sup>6</sup>

Light transcends energy and become spirit and flux. Light<sup>6</sup> images are deep in meaning, mysterious. The longer we look at a Light<sup>6</sup> images the more the meaning changes.

### Light<sup>7</sup>

The light of understanding. The mask is dropped. We face our fears and dreams, the sources of all pain and pleasure, and transcend the ordinary to become one with the light.

## Course Calendar

- January: Light 1 (still life and beyond) aperture control / framing  
Light 2 (street/documentary) shutter control / lens choice / push-pull
- February: Light 2 (street/documentary) shutter control / lens choice / push-pull  
Light 3 (diffusion techniques, special effect printing)
- March: Light 4 (studio portraiture) lighting and posing  
Light 5 (location portraiture) lighting and posing
- April Light 6 (Individual studio problems)
- May Light 7 (Individual studio problems)