



## **Multiple Exposures: Art and Photography in Berlin and Prague**

**Proposed as ARH4955**  
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### **Overview:**

This class will focus on developing your way of seeing through the lens of the camera. In addition to photographing all of the well-known architectural masterpieces in London and Paris, we will do extensive fieldwork in the major museums located in our cities. All of the design concepts that we see in history's great masterpieces still apply to our photographic compositions, so studying great art in museums and galleries will help to hone our class' photographic skills. Emphasis will be placed on developing the student's appreciation of the great architectural, historical, and artistic aspects of each city. The course, however, is not a travel-photography course, but an exploration of design concepts through the medium of photography. The professor will encourage students to learn to apply compositional techniques, the use of available light, and design skills to their own work. Both individual and small-group shooting assignments will be given to students, with instructor-led group critiques held on a weekly basis. Opportunities will also be available for students to make independent excursions to neighboring areas.

### **The Catalyst Experience Sessions:**

Students are required to participate in each academic session of The Catalyst Experience, which is our program's active orientation to the four cities that we use as our classrooms. These sessions will include walking tours and museum visits, in addition to formal elements of Catalyst orientation that will focus on safety, wellness, and local transportation. You may not miss any of these required sessions under any circumstances.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. To understand how the study of art relates to the creation of photographic art

2. To identify and understand key persons, movements, events, and concepts important to European art and art photography
3. To develop and hone critical skills in the conception, balance, framing, capturing, producing and displaying of art photography
4. To learn how to think, discuss and write critically about beauty and the production of beauty as an elemental activity of human civilization
5. To accumulate a body of photographic imagery to be used in future design applications.
6. To gain an appreciation for the historic, architectural, and artistic aspects of two culturally rich European cities.
7. To relate the design and composition of great masterpieces of art to photographic design concepts.
8. To gain an understanding of the biographies and processes of celebrated photographers who lived and worked in Berlin and Prague.
9. To assemble a portfolio of photographic imagery that reflects a cohesive and individual artistic statement.

## **Course Plan**

We will begin in Berlin – a city with incredible museums and an intense history of war and political art. We will tour the Reichstag Dome, the Berliner Dome, and the Olympic Stadium. We will meet with an artist whose gallery stood at the Berlin Wall when it was constructed and when it was destroyed. We'll see Checkpoint Charlie, the Tiergarten, the site where Hitler's bunker was when he died, the memorial to the Holocaust victims, and we'll visit many art museums. And that's just a sampling. Berlin is a fascinating, edgy, artistic city. One of my favorites. I love going back there and discovering new things.

Prague is one of the few cities that was not obliterated during the war. So its storybook architecture is mesmerizing. The clock in the center of the Old Town Square is fascinating to see at the top of the hour. In Prague we will tour Prague Castle, which is their working center of government, but with centuries old architecture and a majestic central cathedral. The castle also is home to an original group of storefronts and village homes that include a vintage darkroom, a tailor and a bakery. We'll see the Jewish cemetery, the John Lennon memorial, and the area called Little Venice with its boat traffic and waterside cafes and pubs. Prague is magical and it's incredibly inexpensive so be prepared to fall in love with another beautiful city.

If you are participating in both Photography courses, I will modify your schedule so that you do not receive duplicate information.

## **Tentative Shooting and Visitation List**

Berliner Dome

Crypt in Berliner Dome  
The Reichstag  
Unter den Linden  
Checkpoint Charlie  
SS Headquarters  
Holocaust Memorial  
Olympic Stadium  
Tiergarten  
Museum Island  
Kathe Kollwitz Museum  
Prague Castle  
Little Venice area  
Old Town Square

**Required text:**

Excell, Laurie. *Composition: From Snapshots to Great Shots*. Berkeley, CA: Peachtree Press, 2011.

**Recommended additional reading for studio practices:**

O'Brien, Michael F., and Norman Sibley. *The Photographic Eye SE: Learning to see with a Camera*. Worcester, MA: Davis Publications, Inc., 1995.

**Recommended additional reading for studio practices and photographic history:**

Upton, Barbara L., and Upton, John. *Photography*. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1989.

**Recommended additional reading for photographic history:**

Rosenblum, Naomi. *A World History of Photography*. Abbeville Press: New York, 1989.

Any travel guides for London and Paris.

**Recommended films:**

The Wall, Live concert by Pink Floyd  
Goodbye Lenin  
Metropolis  
The Monuments Men

**Assessment:**

Students will be assessed on participation, attitude, group critiques, photographic journals, the final written exam, and the final presentations.

Students are expected to be **ON TIME AND PRESENT FOR EVERY CLASS**, and to follow directions. Being late for class or missing class will result in a lowered grade. One absence results in a reduced letter grade, and three absences will constitute grounds for termination in the class and the Catalyst Program. You will be sent home.

Students will be required to present a complete portfolio of works for their final critique, along with various written and oral assignments. A photographic journal will also be required. In addition to the final presentation, students will return to their respective universities with a large body of photographic imagery which can be used for future graphic design, photographic, art education, art history, journalistic, marketing, or studio applications. In order to complete their coursework, students will contribute enlargements to a Catalyst traveling exhibition.

The course will culminate in a final examination.

### **Equipment requirements:**

- You will need a non-phone camera with which you are completely familiar. (For students using digital cameras, the larger the megapixel capability the better, but any working camera will be sufficient). You may also bring a film camera if you feel comfortable using one. Some people bring an extra camera for backup.
- All accessories for your camera: Several memory cards, batteries, battery chargers, flash units, small-portable tripods are optional. Film for film cameras. We will be shooting both indoor and out, both night and day shots. Photographic processing stores in Europe are abundant.
- If your camera has a plug in recharger, you will need an outlet adapter for Europe. Different adapters are required for different areas of Europe. (These can be purchased in Europe or the US)
- A good comfortable day bag in which to carry all of your gear.
- A journal. Blank journals are preferable so that you can incorporate sketches in your notes. Any size with which you are comfortable will work, but it should fit comfortably in your bag. You will need to have your journal with you at all times.
- Rain gear and an umbrella. It rains a lot in Berlin and Prague. We keep going. Rainy day pictures are sometimes the best.
- Good comfortable shoes. We walk between 5-10 miles on most days. **START GETTING IN SHAPE NOW!**
- Plan on about 25 extra dollars for printing costs. You will need to print your 10 best shots for your final portfolio presentation. These can be small, standard sized 4x6 prints. Many European labs offer student discounts as well. You will also need to print one final 8x10 enlargement. The idea is for you to go home with a body of work which you can then edit, enlarge, print, frame, or publish, at US costs! Most students return to the US with between 2000-4000 new images.