



Shutter/SPEED: Art and Photography in London and Paris

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 London and Paris
9. To assemble a portfolio of photographic imagery that reflects a cohesive and individual artistic statement.

Course Plan

We will begin in London, home to the Royals with all of their tradition and pageantry, and to virtually free museums. Unlike other European capitals, many of the great art museums are free and open to the public on a daily basis. That means, you can go back and revisit works that you missed in class during your free times in London. What a luxury! We will tour the National Gallery, the Tate Modern, and the National Portrait Gallery. We'll hear from local artists associated with The London Group, and we'll visit the largest museum of photography in London, The Photographer's Gallery. We will see St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Kensington Palace, Buckingham Palace, Hampton Court Palace, and the Houses of Parliament. At night, we'll shoot Piccadilly Circus with all of its neon, and Chinatown with its mysterious charm and world class dining. At the end of our week in London, we will all board the Eurostar for Paris.

Paris is a city that was really the birthplace of modern art and photography as we know them. It is nearby that Niepce and Daguerre took the very first photographs, and where Doisneau and Atget recorded everyday Parisian life in black and white with their lenses. We'll spend our days in Montmartre, wandering the cobblestone streets of the famous neighborhood where Picasso, van Gogh and Lautrec all lived and work, and culminating at Paris' highest point, the Sacre Coeur. We'll spend an entire day at the Louvre, and wander between famous tombs at Pere Lachaise Cemetery, where Jim Morrison and Oscar Wilde are buried. We'll also see the Luxembourg Gardens, the Moulin Rouge, the Eiffel Tower, and the famous Latin Quarter, among many other romantic and charming sites. Robert Mann, an American artist and photographer now living in France, will give us a tour of an early Cinema, where he keeps a working darkroom. He will discuss his life as an artist in Europe and show some of his internationally acclaimed pinhole photographs.

Tentative Shooting and Visitation List

Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament
Kensington Palace and Gardens
The Orangery – high tea
The Serpentine Gallery
Albert Memorial
Diana Memorial
King’s College Chapel
Hampton Court Palace
Marcia Scott Studio
The Tate Modern
St. Paul’s Cathedral
Millennium Bridge
Shakespeare’s Globe
Street Art Locations
The Pompidou Center
The Louvre
Notre Dame Cathedral
Montmartre and Sacre Cour
Moulin Rouge
Robert Mann Studio and Cinematique
Speos International School of Photography
Pere Lachaise Cemetery
Luxembourg Gardens
Rue Mouffetard
Place des Vosges
Place de Bastille

Required text:

Excell, Laurie. *Composition: From Snapshots to Great Shots*. Berkley, 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:

Lust for Life
Modigliani
Cabaret
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 is a letter grade reduction 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 London and Paris. 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.