

Telling a Story

The following projects are to help elevate your photographs from great images to great images that tell a story. The story may be told by the photographer or interpreted by the viewer bringing their own experiences to the photograph. You will select the 4 projects you want to do. A project will be due each Friday (March 28, April 4, 11, & 25), posted to your website and select images to the critique section. Each project will be a series of 5 photographs to hand in on the website. You will choose one project to print, in book form, which will be due April 25. (We will go over book making and printing in class)

Collection

Gather a natural collection of your stuff. Could be what's in your purse, backpack, junk drawer, wallet, everything on your desk, or in your locker. Set up a shot on a plain surface near a window to make use of natural light. Arrange the objects so it looks natural, like controlled chaos. Take photos from low angles shooting across the objects, not down at. Take a few test shots and study them for positives and negatives. Move the objects around so everything in the shot is identifiable. Then repeat the process but organize the objects, could be by size, by use, color, etc. What does this tell about you? Include a portrait of yourself with the objects? Take it a step further like photographer Jason Travis, who photographs strangers' bag contents.



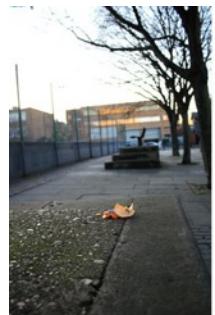
Shadows in Black & White

Head out on a sunny day or use a bright street light to find a shadow. Don't create the shadow, go out in search of a beautiful shadow. Look for points where the shadow is interrupted. The shadow can be beautiful, show movement, show solitude, loneliness, excitement, etc. Open your mind to the possibilities of what messages a shadow can hold, what stories it can tell.



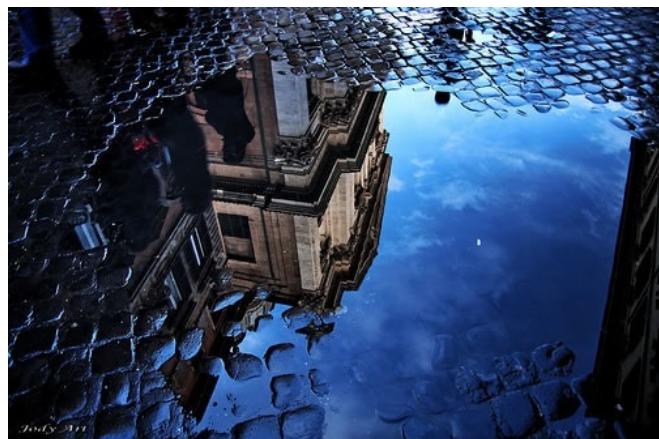
Roaming Pony

Find a goofy or unique object for your subject. Take it out to an unlikely environment for a quirky photo shoot, try different locations. Create mystery and contrast or tell a story, take risks, be audacious. Use depth of field to blur the background and make your subject stand out. Experiment with the different settings on your camera, play with different white balance settings and see what the result is. This is a chance to have some fun and try some features you've always wanted to try with your camera.



Reflection

Reflections are all around us but you probably don't notice them. They can be in a puddle, on shiny surfaces, chrome, eyes or even your morning coffee. You can photograph the little world that appears in the reflection. Create your own scene with drops of water, honey, oil or paint. Use exposure control (aperture, shutter speed, iso) and depth of field to help isolate the scenes.



Cat & Mouse

Scout out a location with lots of room and must have natural features (trees, mountains, rocks or even furniture). Bring a friend, you will be the photographer and your friend will be the model. Begin by standing back to back and walk 3 paces, model takes 1 step in any direction and freezes. Photographer takes 2 steps in any direction and takes several shots. Repeat, but try changing the amount of steps, try the model jumping or crouching, make up new rules, increase the silliness.



Step by Step

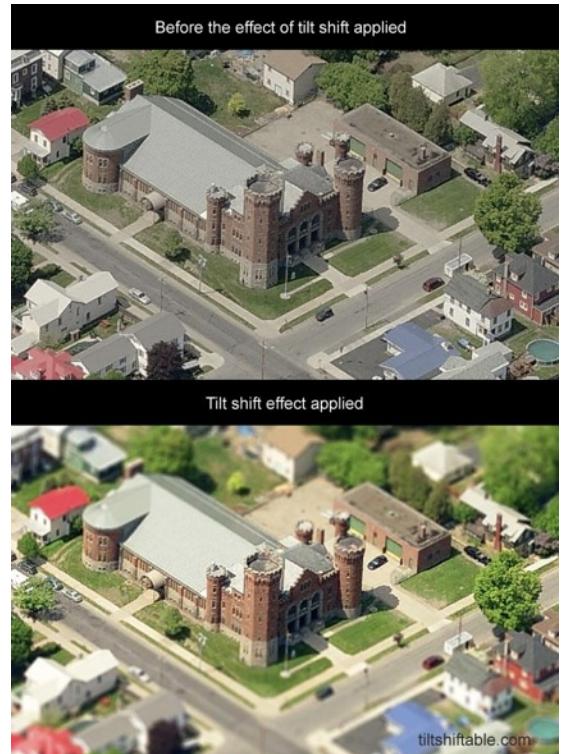
Select a process that interests you, could be cooking your favorite dish or hitting a baseball, be creative and make sure it is something you would enjoy. To take the photographs, think like a movie director: establishing shot, action shot, clause up, closing shot. It would help to write each shot out, write out your vision. Look at photographs online, in magazines, etc and create a moldboard of reference images. Photograph more shots than you think you will need. Select the 5 most informative shots in the editing process. Make sure they convey the process you had intended.



Tilt Shift

Create the illusion of a miniaturized world with this photographic technique. Tilt-shift photography (or “miniature faking”) is a photographic genre. Essentially, it’s taking a photograph of a real-world scene and making it look like a miniature scene, such as you’d find in a model railroader’s setup. Tilt-shift effects are done either optically, via a special (and expensive) lens, or more usually, in Photoshop. The procedure in Photoshop is not complicated; it can be accomplished in as little as one minute by those with experience. Like anything in photography, it can be done, but can it be done well? That’s the question.

- The photo must be taken from above, but not directly overhead.
- A simple scene is usually better than a complicated one.
- Photo sharpness is a must, as well as good lighting.
- If people are in the scene, they need to be fairly obscure and small.
- Generally, avoid wide shots, and make sure the scene is interesting



Forced Perspective

The forced perspective technique manipulates our human perception with the use of optical illusions to make objects appear larger, smaller, farther, or closer than they actually are. The movie makers had used forced perspective to turn a plastic toy into something frightening to the audience. The use of digital effects today still incorporates this popular way of portraying scenes or objects.

