

ART 4928C-06, Fall 2008
Andrew Ross, instructor

Project 1: Controlled Natural Light

For your first major project, you will create images that use “controlled” natural light in a natural environment. By natural environment, I mean a space that has its own lighting in any form (outside/inside, windows/lamps/fluorescents/sun, daytime/nighttime, dark or bright, etc.). Pretty much anywhere *except* in the studio – it’s up to you. But then I want you to add in some level of *control* to this lighting: alter it with reflectors, work within the areas that have a unique quality of light based on the space (think about the many different aspects of light quality that I pointed out in my notes and lectures), maybe move the lights around to create your desired environment, or possibly “enhance” the light with hot lights, strobes, or flash (but by “enhance” I mean find a good balance of natural and added light so that the lighting is still believable to the environment).

I want to see that *you* are creating this scene and exposure, not just with the camera controls, but also through controlling the light. As noted above, the choice of environment and how you control the light up to you, and so is the choice of subject. Portraits, objects, even photos of the environment in itself – what most interests you? I suggest deciding upon your choice of subject first so that you can then think about how you best want to work with a given environment and its light.

I want you to shoot at least 3 rolls of film (or digital equivalent: 100 or more exposures) – color or black & white. You should be experimenting with the light as you create these images. Try different things. Continue to test the possibilities so that you can see later what worked best in order to select your final images. Do try to develop your idea and lighting concept ahead of time, but then be flexible with this when you are actually making the images.

For the critique, you will need 5 final images – digital or black & white prints (unless you have access to making color prints yourself). These need to be *your* prints, not from a photo-finisher. I would like for them to be at least 8x10” or 8.5x11”, unless you have a *very* good thematic reason to print smaller. You will also turn in your digital images and/or contact sheets, proofs, negatives – whatever I need to see to look at the full set of images you made.

As this is a project and not an assignment, you will be graded on creativity, continuity, and concept. What is your choice of subject? How is it appropriate to your method of lighting? How did you portray that subject in the images? How are the 5 images tied together? The creative component is 2/3 of your score, with the additional 1/3 coming from technical aspects: good exposures, good use of the light, good print quality, good composition, and, of course, meeting the expected quantity requirements for film and prints.

Due Date: Thursday, 2 October