

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

## **Project 2: Studio Portrait / Object**

For this project, you have a choice of photographic inanimate objects (still-lives, essentially) or animate subjects (people, animals, etc.) using studio lighting conditions. I am *not* going to require that the photos be taken *in* the studio, but I do want you to use studio lighting for the photos (strobes, hot lights, etc.). The idea here is to create a series of images that are unique in their lighting, beyond what would otherwise exist in a “natural” environment. Think about the images of flowers and peppers by Edward Weston and Robert Mapplethorpe, or of people by Robert Mapplethorpe, Annie Leibovitz, Cindy Sherman, and others. How does the lighting define and enhance the shape and interest of the subject and eliminate aspects that you don’t want?

Think in terms of a theme. I want you to generate a *series* of photos (5 prints or more) bound together by a common idea. Perhaps this is a series of portraits of different people, or maybe it is different takes working with a single person. Again, use the lighting to enhance mood, personality, important details, etc. Or if photographing objects, what objects could you use as a consistent idea or story? The flowers and peppers are already pretty clear and good subject choices for enhancing with light. Or possibly work with glass, metal, or other items where light becomes a focal point. Tie these images together either in selection (various peppers?), lighting and setting, or however you can create a single body of work from the multiple photos.

Again, I want you to shoot at least 3 rolls of film (or digital equivalent: 100 or more exposures) – color or black & white. Now that you have already experimented with light options, try to create rich, strong, defining light for your subjects. Be sure to make this *look* like it is enhanced light. Although there are times where studio lighting is used to mimic natural light, I would first like to see you take it for what it is on its own – a heavily controlled environment where everything in the lighting is exactly how you want it.

You will need 5 final images – color or black & white, silver or digital is up to you. I prefer them to be at least 8x10” or 8.5x11”, unless you have a *very* good thematic reason to print smaller. Please 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.

Give strong consideration to your choice of subject. How is it appropriate to and enhanced by 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, 30 October**