Foundations Portfolio Workshop

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimension: 45*30 in
Year: 2008
To Photograph Work...
Camera and Set Up

• 12.0 megapixel camera (or higher)
  ▪ adjust size settings to L (large) and format to either .jpeg or .cr2 (raw) (lowest to highest resolution)

• Tripod and timer option to avoid blurry photos (CxC Studio has tripods to checkout; the major benefits of using CxC studio are controlled, quality lighting and student assistance.)

• Employ Bracketing: multiple photos under multiple settings

• Eye level angle avoids distortion

• Document horizontal and straight on

• White background captures more prominent colors, but black may be best for predominantly white pieces. Cloth or muslin can be used too.
Camera and Set Up: Shutter Speed

• One of a few camera setting options you want to consider for bracketing.

• How long the shutter is open, or how long the camera will take in light

• Displayed as a whole number on the camera but representative of that number (x) to the negative one (x⁻¹). Ex: 250 equals 250⁻¹ or 1/250 of a sec

• Fast shutter speed = clearer but darker image
  Slow shutter speed = brighter but risk of blur if movement occurs while shutter is open

http://www.manualmode.info/fundamentals/shutter-speed/
Camera and Set Up: Aperture

- The size of the opening that lets light into the camera

- Measured in f-stops that typically range from 1 to 20

- Small f-stop = large opening and small depth of field
  - large opening = brighter
  - small depth of field = smaller part of image in focus
- Large f-stop = small opening and large depth of field
  - small opening = darker
  - larger depth of field = larger part of image in focus
Camera Settings for Shutter Speed and Aperture

• Shutter speed adjusted through Tv/S mode

• Aperture adjusted through Av/A mode

• Shutter speed and aperture adjusted through M (manual) mode
  ▪ M mode allows for the most amount of control
  ▪ Automatic settings best for amateur photographer/documenter

• Shutter speed priority for fast picture taking
  Aperture priority when depth of field is critical

*Probably best to begin capturing in no flash using autofocus and then manipulating settings in the various modes to begin bracketing.
Camera and Set Up: Light Metering

• Device for determining the amount of light

• Meter inside the camera decides what constitutes a "good exposure"
  • Light meter in the camera is a circle in the middle of the 35mm frame

• Meter the subject
  • Take circumstances into account
    – How much of the image is in the sun? How much of the image is in the shade?
    Is the sun in the view finder? What direction is the light coming from? etc.

• Internal light meter is “best overall”
  • Takes in all aspects of scene
  • Easily thrown off by bright light and deep shadows
**Avoid having multiple light sources:
you do not want to mix sun, fluorescent, and flash for instance.

• Sometimes highly reflective or glossy work is best documented by using limited ambient lighting and letting the light meter and adjusting manual camera settings.
Camera and Set Up: Color Balancing/Light Temperature

• All light has a temperature that the eye adjusts to

• Camera adjusts like the human eye through *white balance*
  • This adjustment needs to be modified for different subjects and circumstances.

• Adjusting *white balance on camera*
  
  The document “Digital Documentation Workshop” covers this procedure and the other settings discussed as well.

• Various pre-sets programmed in camera
  – Incandescent/tungsten, fluorescent, outdoor shade, etc.

• Custom
  – Take a well exposed photograph of a white sheet of paper
  – In the pre-sets select custom white balance which will prompt for a photo selection to balance from
  – Select the photo of the sheet of paper
  – The camera will calibrate the white balance
Lighting

• Most important part of every picture

• Types of light
  ▪ Natural Light
    – Sun is best light source
    – Allows for full spectrum of colors
    – Soft light in the morning and late afternoon is good for imaging
    – Noon light is harsh but creates less shadow
  ▪ Artificial light
    – Large amounts of indirect light.
    – Direct light causes harsh shadows.
    – Do not use flash
Lighting

• In studio lighting
  • 45 degree rule
    – Place a key light 45 degrees off from your main lighting source to help darken soft spots
  
  ![Diagram of 45 degree rule](http://www.crime-scene-investigator.net/closeup.html)

• Diffusers
  – Hold in front of light source to divide light more evenly across scene
  – Place underneath lamp to light underside of piece

• Light heights
  – One taller than the other contrast harsh shadows into smooth gradients

• Consider color and intensity of light
• Aim for a nice range of values; don’t do anything drastic
Scanning

• Use scanners in CxC Studio and CADGIS: some work is better captured by scanning

• Charcoal drawings are best photographed

* Make sure to specify full resolution and dimensions before scanning: you will want a high quality file (300dpi for print) and then you can degrade in Photoshop.

For both scanning and photo work in studio: students please bring SD card, external hard drive, jump drive, etc.
To Create a Digital Slide...
Step 1: Open image in Photoshop.
Step 2: Crop excess.
Step 3: Create new file with specific size and dpi/resolution

- Keep your original high-resolution image, and then make another file using 72 dpi (web resolution).
- Dimensions for the Foundations portfolio should be no greater than 1000 pixels (w*h)
- Save down separately (noting size in file name).
Step 4: Copy and paste image layer into new file with specified size and dpi.
Step 5: Transform image layer to fill canvas.
Shift + t (while holding shift to maintain aspect ratio)
Command + t (for Mac users)
Step 6: Adjust image levels and contrast.

Compare to:

Step 7: Save as .jpg, .png, .tiff, or .pdf.
Step 7: Register on Slideroom

Go to lsuart.slideroom.com, register and begin the 2012/13 Foundations Portfolio application. Fill out each box and continue.
Step 8. Upload and Submit your application

Begin to upload the images and order them by class so all the 2D images are together (same for 3D and Drawing). You will be prompted to add details of each slide; fill each box. Once you have uploaded your nine slides with their specific details, you will be asked to pay a $15 fee that is associated with all SlideRoom submissions. *Make sure all parts of your portfolio are complete before you pay and finish your submission. You will not be able to change any information after you pay.*
Presented by...

Appointments **strongly** encouraged since there is setup required. Time slots are for an hour and pairs welcome. Email, call, or schedule in advance.

**Hours**

- **Monday - Thursday**
  - 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- **Friday**
  - 9 AM - 4pm

**Art + Design Studio**

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225.578.1197
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**Students:** for all Foundations Portfolio Questions, please refer to the “Guide to Selective Admissions” document or contact Scott Andresen (sandresen@lsu.edu)

Photo and Art credits: Debangana Banerjee