

NTU Global Summer School Course Description

Photography and the Alchemy of the Darkroom

Credit Points: 5 (2.5 ECTS)

Duration: 5 days

This course is for people who are new to darkroom processes but are competent when using a digital SLR camera in manual mode. You should have the require [English language skills](#).

Overview and aims

This course combines aspects of digital photography with the alchemy of alternative and primitive photographic printing processes.

On this practical course you will begin by refreshing your knowledge of digital photography as well as improving your awareness of contemporary photography at a local, national and international level. You will then combine your camera skills with the alchemy of Victorian salt printing, a darkroom technique still being used today by artists and designers. This technique will enable you to engage with the past and identify with the history of photography and the first pioneers.

During this course you will:

- learn about alternative photographic processes, from the ambrotype and tintype through to the albumen print and the cyanotype;
- draw on established ideas and principles to develop a personal approach to photography and define your own project; and
- create innovative images that combine digital with primitive photographic processes.

Whether your interests lie in fine art, portraiture or fashion photography you will leave this course with the knowledge and understanding of how you wish to progress your image making in the future.

Indicative reading

The following reading may be useful to refer to:

"The Keepers of Light: A History and Working Guide to early Photographic Processes", William Crawford, Morgan and Morgan, 1979.

"The Book of Alternative Photographic Processes", Christopher James, Delmar, 2nd Revised Edition, 2008

"Shadow Catchers: Camera-less Photography", Martin Banes, Merrell, Revised Edition, 2012

"Lewis Carroll and his Camera", Roy Aspin, 1989

"British Photography in the Nineteenth Century", Mike Weaver, Cambridge University Press, 1989.

"The Spirit of Fact: The Daguerrotypes of Southworth and Hawes", Robert Sobieszek, 1976.

<http://www.mikeware.co.uk/mikeware/main.html>

<http://www.alternativephotography.com/wp/processes>

Web links:

<http://www.1000wordsmag.com/>

<https://www.lensculture.com/>

<http://www.bjp-online.com/>

Digital reading:

Adobe Photoshop CC for Photographers: A professional image editor's guide to the creative use of Photoshop by Martin Evening

The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5 Book for Digital Photographers (Voices That Matter) by Scott Kelby

Learning outcomes

After studying this course you should be able to:

- communicate an awareness of cultural and technological issues in relation to photography and the use of alternative printing techniques;
- evaluate your own work and that of others;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary photography through your practice;
- create photographs that explore ideas through methods and practices of alternative and primitive photographic image making; and
- demonstrate the appropriate selection, control and understanding of technical and practical skills in photographic production.

Teaching and learning

This course is taught via:

- Lectures and project briefings
- Technical demonstrations
- Studio workshops
- Verbal and visual presentations

Total contact hours: 25

In addition to the contact hours you should expect to spend no more than five hours before and during the course on preparation and reading.

Assessment methods

100% coursework. This will include a visual presentation of your project work.

Final assessment

You will receive a pass/fail mark for the course. Written feedback from your tutor will identify strengths evident in the body of work and include some pointers on what to focus on to improve your future work.

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