

It's About Time

Your assignment is to create 20 or more unique images using long shutter speeds. At least 10 should be experiments with painting with light and at least 10 playing purely with long shutter speeds and available light to create ghosted images. Include at least 10 portraits or self portraits in the mix. Vary your techniques- paint light on objects for some, draw in the air for others, try placing yourself in the same photo twice, etc.

Make a habit of using your self timer  for all of your shots. This will give you time to get into position for your self portraits or light painting. It also allows time for your camera to settle so there is no accidental movement.

Use the Manual setting on your camera and set the shutter speed to several seconds or more. The Nikon d3200 will give you a maximum of 30 second exposures. You will need to experiment to see what shutter speeds and apertures will work best for the image you are creating. Again, the goal is to get a loooong shutter speed.

Focus: If your subject is close the camera may be able to focus in the dark using its Autofocus Assist Lamp. If your camera is unable to focus, try pointing a bright flashlight at the spot you want to focus on as you depress your shutter or manually focus (use the M setting on the lens).

Resources: www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/light-painting-101, <https://youtu.be/4IS-DBZEXcA>, <http://lightpaintingphotography.com/>, www.jasondpage.com/

Hints:

1. Remember, the camera focuses when you depress the shutter half way. Stay behind the camera when depressing the shutter or it will focus on your stomach 1 foot in front of the camera.
2. Flashlights are just one option to light with- how about candles, your iPod, glow sticks, a car's tail lights, etc.?
3. Consider your background carefully! What good is an amazing painted light self portrait if you have thoughtless family clutter right behind you? In fact, why shoot in your house at all?
4. Avoid cliches. Every other student spells out their name or writes 'peace' with their flashlight... Yawn..... If you must write, give us something that will leave us thinking! Text should be part of a larger image, not the only reason that image exists. Limit text to 5 or fewer shots.

The grading will be on the Cs: *Completion* of the assigned photography, **Composition**- Are the backgrounds considered and relevant? Don't dare stick yourself in the center of every shot!

Creativity in the use of slow shutters and light, and **Clarity**. Please *look* at the images you have taken in camera to make sure the focus was where you intended. Are your exposures about right or did you paint with too much or too little light?



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Mr. Craig's Digital Photography



No Clichés!

