

Fine Art Photography

What is Fine Art Photography?

Fine art photography, sometimes simply called art photography, refers to photographs that are created to fulfill the creative vision of the artist. Fine art photography stands in contrast to photojournalism and commercial photography, the latter's main focus being to sell a product or service. In the 19th and 20th century, prints were usually done in limited editions to inflate their value to dealers, and collectors.

An artist doing fine art photography is creating photographs primarily to satisfy their own vision and creative intent. The final creative reason for a fine art photograph is the photograph itself. It is not a means to another end except perhaps to please those besides the photographer who behold it. Fine art photography can be used to promote something. They are created most importantly to be true to the artist's vision of beauty. We can see this by looking at Ansel Adams' work of Yosemite and Yellowstone. He is one of the least disputed fine art photographers of the 20th century and these images were done while he was trying to raise public awareness of these two locations and to have them protected.

~ Wikipedia

photo collage / photomontage

Photomontage is the process (and result) of making a composite photograph by cutting and joining a number of other photographs. The composite picture was sometimes photographed so that the final image is converted back into a seamless photographic print. The same method is accomplished today using image-editing software. The technique is referred to by professionals as "compositing", and in casual usage is often called "photoshopping".

Other methods for combining pictures are also called photomontage, such as Victorian "combination printing", the printing from more than one negative on a single piece of printing paper (e.g. O. G. Rejlander, 1857), front-projection and computer montage techniques. Much like a collage is composed of multiple facets, artists also combine montage techniques. Romare Bearden's (1912-1988) series of black and white "photomontage projections" is an example. His method began with compositions of paper, paint, and photographs put on boards 8 1/2x11 inches. Bearden fixed the imagery with an emulsion that he then applied with handroller. Subsequently, he enlarged the collages photographically.

The 19th century tradition of physically joining multiple images into a composite and photographing the results prevailed in press photography and offset lithography until the widespread use of digital image editing. Contemporary photo editors in magazines now create "paste-ups" digitally.

Creating a photomontage has, for the most part, become easier with the advent of computer software such as Adobe Photoshop, Pixel image editor, and GIMP. These programs make the changes digitally, allowing for faster workflow and more precise results. They also mitigate mistakes by allowing the artist to "undo" errors. Yet some artists are pushing the boundaries of digital image editing to create extremely time-intensive compositions that rival the demands of the traditional arts. The current trend is to create pictures that combine painting, theatre, illustration and graphics in a seamless photographic whole.

Assignment #5

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY: COLLAGE

What to shoot?

Individually, you need to shoot 20 to 25 images that will be collaged together to create one image. When shooting, keep your feet planted ... just move your body/camera to capture the entire scene.

The camera should be set on manual settings:

manual mode

you will decide on the shutter speed, aperture and ISO that best suits your available lighting

All images should be cleaned up and color corrected. Using Photoshop, collage your images to create one composite image. You decide how you're going to put the images together.

What to turn in?

Final collage + images in one folder, labeled "lastname_A5"

Where to turn in?

Drop Box

Brainstorming/Sketches

Consider your subject for this assignment. What kinds of objects, people, environments will lend themselves to being collaged together? List/sketch possible subjects and brainstorm/sketch lighting, DOF, possible use of motion techniques, etc.

Research CAREER RESEARCH

Using the internet, research Fine Art Photography and answer the following questions in a Word document titled "lastname_A5research.doc":

What type of person best suits this career?

Education?

Employment options?

Salary/Compensation?

Current Trends?

Professional organizations?

Research DAVID HOCKNEY

Research David Hockney. In a Word document, write a brief bio (150 - 200 words) about the man and his work. Find 2 to 3 samples of his work to include. Your document should be titled "lastname_A5hockney.doc"