

Passion Play

Photo 230 Digital Imaging I

Fall 2006

Prof. Kenneth Jones

Assigned 10/31

Progress 11/08 Have 200 images shot and available for editing in the lab

Critique 11/15 Have 6 images printed on Epson Photo Lustre from Ink Jet Printers and a slide show of 20 other images

Our next assignment asks you to photograph something you are **passionate** about. The word, “passion”, signifies the close bond between the subject (object) and the artist. As a photographer, you have to always be cognizant of the *space* or *distance* both literally and figuratively, between the stuff being photographed and the photographer. The photographer organizes, arranges, designs and edits the image before being captured by the machine, she (he) controls this space which significantly characterizes the photograph, and becomes, mostly the signature style of the image.

Great photographers know how to control and use this power. **They are the defining lens of the project.**

They ask of themselves: How much of myself do I put in the image? What do I add or subtract? How close am I willing to enter this space? How far can I step back? The distances I refer to here are not only physical, but psychological.

Think about something you have access to and are passionate about. Remember, try not to edit out your ideas early on, because the things you do and prescribe to in your own life may be very different than someone else’s life. Turn your camera on this process or situation or thing. Remember to pay special attention to detail, as if you were viewing this space without the passion you have as the image-maker. Close-ups, settings, environments, vantage points (bird’s eye, worm’s eye), documentary photography are all very important as you photograph.

Examples (just ideas)...

- * You train and ride horses, although you are a full-time student, and hope someday to work as a photographer, your heart is with the animal. Photograph the close relationship you have with this activity.
- * You work part-time at the Wawa, you really like the job and the people there, or you hate it and all that it stands for. Photograph the people and activities that make this place so what it is.
- * You volunteer 3 days a week as a big-sister. Your relationship with your “sister” is very special. Make photographs that tell the story of this relationship.

Remember **not to assume** that the viewer has the knowledge that you do about a certain subject or person or place that you are so passionate about. Recording detail is really important. Because you are so close to the subject you are photographing, you might miss something that just seems normal or everyday. Try to comb over the mundane...there’s a story in all the little apparent insignificancies in our lives.

Your challenge is to chronicle them into (as) photographs.