

Unit 4 Art Film Stills Project

Chapters:

5: Space, Time, and Motion

10: Imaging: Photography, Film, Video, and Digital Arts

13: Architecture and Urban Design

Objective:

Create at least 1 photograph that appears to be a part of a larger narrative.

Instructions:

1. Have a look at the examples. Do research if necessary.
2. Invent some sort of background story that's relevant to your life or the life of others around you.
3. Choose a specific location and use costumes if necessary. Act out or have friends act out a scene from this story.
4. Take a photo that appears to be in the middle of this scene. The result should look or feel film-like in some way. The photo should be shot in landscape format.
5. Write up 100-250 words explaining the idea behind your piece.
6. Embed the text and the image(s) in a .doc or .pdf file.
7. Upload to the relevant dropbox.

Technical tips:

- Use a horizontal format--think of what a tv show or film looks like. 4:3 and 16:9 are common ratios.
- Don't use the flash on your camera--films will almost never use lighting that comes directly from the camera. If your scene is at night, use a lamp or candle and a tripod for your camera.
- Have the actor/model look somewhere other than the camera. The camera itself should seem to disappear, which is part of what makes it feel like you are inside a narrative or story.
- Above all, make sure your photo doesn't look or feel like a snapshot. Your film still should imply that something is going on other than the exact thing depicted--the implied presence of other action, other emotions. The image you create/choose should feel tense in some way.
- Don't use an old photograph that you didn't take for this specific project.

Art Historical Examples

Though these examples are in black and white, you can use color in your project.

[Examples from Cindy Sherman's "Untitled Film Stills"](#)







Examples from Stanley Kubrick (before he began directing films):









Student Work Examples

These are presented without the accompanying explanatory text to preserve anonymity and privacy.

















