

3. Photography

Synopsis

This module provides an introduction to photography. It emphasizes that it is important to develop a worldview and extend this into the realm of photography. Basic exercises for understanding the camera and certain aspects of the history of photography are addressed in the appendix.

Lectures

- 3.1 The Increasing Popularity of the Camera
- 3.2 Going beyond Pretty Pictures
- 3.3 Creative Imagery through Photomontage
- 3.4 Rumi Under the Palas
- 3.5 The Camera as an Extension of the Eye



Fig3.1.00

3.1 The Increasing Popularity of the Camera

The diffusion of digital technology for photography has drastically changed how we engaged with the photograph and how the subject was taught till very recently. To understand this we shall look at a few images created by students who are quite new to photography (Fig. 3.1.01 to 15).



Fig. 3.1.01



Fig. 3.1.02



Fig. 3.1.03



Fig. 3.1.04



Fig. 3.1.05

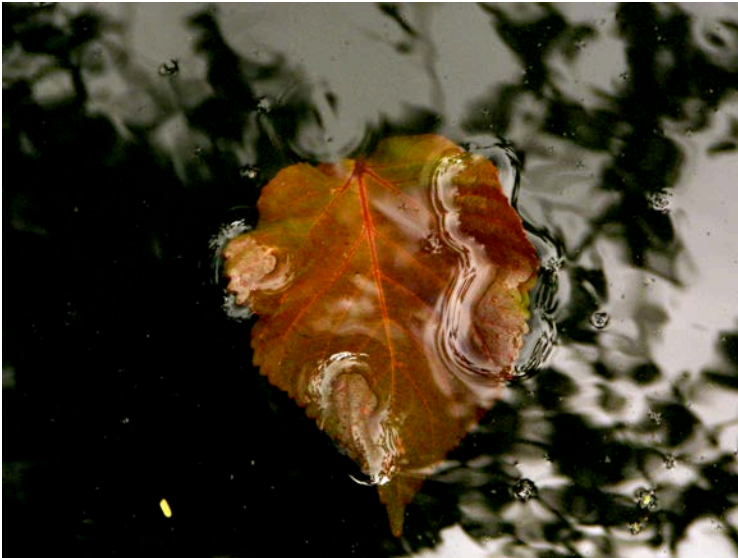


Fig. 3.1.06



Fig. 3.1.07



Fig. 3.1.08



Fig. 3.1.09



Fig. 3.1.11



Fig. 3.1.12



Fig. 3.1.13



Fig. 3.1.14



Fig. 3.1.15

Many of these images appear to have been taken by people who are experienced photographers – but they have all been taken by beginners. It would not be incorrect to conclude that the advancement in technology has made photography a much more accessible activity than before. Digital cameras can selectively focus on some part of an image, make adjustments to suit the light conditions, and most importantly display results instantaneously. No longer does the photographer have to wait till the entire roll of film has been exposed, then find a darkroom for processing the film and make prints in order to judge the results. Instant replays, allow for corrections to be made on the spot. They also allow for an immense amount of exploration of subjects and compositions. It is hardly surprising therefore when a beginner at photography comes up with very interesting images.

One may however observe that a photographer who puts in a special effort does create photographs that reflect the care that was taken. Though the creation of good photographs is relatively easier, to create something special requires a different kind of engagement. We shall seek to understand some approaches in the next session.