

Environmental Portraits

Instructor: Ms. Munley

Dartmouth High School

Darkroom Photo & Advanced

Background information:

An environmental portrait is a portrait executed in the subject's usual environment, such as in their home or workplace, and typically illuminates the subject's life and surroundings. The surroundings or background is a key element in environmental portraiture, and is used to convey further information about the person being photographed.

Where it is common in studio portraiture and even in location candid photography to shoot using a shallow depth of field, thereby throwing the background out of focus, the background in environmental portraiture is an integral part of the image. Indeed, small apertures and great depth of field are commonly used in this type of photography.

Communication task:

What is the occupation, stereotype, or category of person that you will try to communicate with this project? Include any mandatory pieces of information to be shown in the image/print. Experiment with a variety of spaces to portray the identity or identities of their subject(s)

Project objectives (success criteria):

The goal of this assignment is to successfully plan, shoot, and print a series of strong environmental portraits that say something about the subject. Using symbols, mood, and effective lighting techniques, students will photograph their subjects, with a focus on what the environment says about them.

- Collect information about your subject/model(s)
- Plan a shoot, with an appropriate set, costume, make up, lighting, and environmental indicators for your subject.
- Practice proper shooting, lighting, printing and developing techniques

Essential & Unit Questions:

What kinds of people are easily recognizable by their environment/costume etc?

What environment do you find yourself in often?

What about your environment says something about you?

How can you say something about your subject by where you place them?

What is an environmental marker?

How can you manipulate a space to say something about a person?

Why did you choose your subject/location? What about their environment says something about them?

How can using a field journal help you practice proper shooting, lighting, printing and developing techniques?

Where are some locations or occupations that you want to experiment with? How will the variety of spaces aid in the portrayal of the identity or identities of your subject(s)

How do you plan on telling a story about your subject through environmental markers?

What kind of mood do you want your story to have?

Schedule and deadlines

Take the weekend to brainstorm and develop an idea of who you would like to capture in their environment. Generate a list of people and places you would like to use in this project.

Assessment/Closure

- Fill out and pass in Mrs. McFees Self Assessment
- Attach this sheet as well as your Dark room printing log, and field journal to the packet