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## Making Photographs that Communicate

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It is the purpose and goal of photography to communicate with our audience. It is the responsibility of the photographer to decide what they wish to express and which of their tools would express it best. To think about photography in this way is an evolution from the common and sometimes casual usage of the camera. People take “snapshots.” They have them processed and they put them in drawers often never to be seen again. Now in the digital age, they download into their computer and their photographs are never seen again! For the creative photographer, photographs are documents, they are the markers of memories and they are artistic statements. They are powerful tools to communicate ideas and captures moments. How can you be more conscious of what you are photographing? How can you be more intentional about the content, the composition and the concept of your photographs? Think about these ideas as you begin then next assignment.

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## Myself and My World

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**We are always recording our life and the life about us. This week, I am asking you to consciously try to tell your story, to tell who you are in photographs. Like many stories, you must edit to the essential parts and tell a story that is succinct and clear.**

*Goals:*

1. Make photographs thoughtfully on the topic
2. Edit down to the essential five (5) images for the assignment
3. Share the images on Flickr
4. Comment on other student’s images.

*First:* Who are you? Are you a student, inventor, creator, lecturer, compiler, reader, adventurer, researcher, tinker, organizer, parent, partner, sister, friend, teacher, dreamer, doer? How do you see yourself? Make pictures showing us who you are.

*Now:* How do you fit into your world? Share your neighborhood, your room, your favorite places, your least favorite places. Look around and see through the eye of the camera. Show the people who are around you – can you make portraits to show us how they are important to you?

### **Assignment:**

You are to shoot 20-40 images. For the self-portraits, you can use your self-timer if you have one or have someone else hit the shutter release. You could also purchase a long cable release. Or you could use a reflection or a shadow. Collect images of your world. Now edit down to five images that introduce you to us using visual communication.

For inspiration look to our Photographer of the Week, **Edward Steichen**. Look at his self-portraits and his images of famous people to guide you. Look at the work in his famous exhibition “Family of Man” – and see how you fit in the world and in the whole of humanity.

Your photographs might just be a start on the images you hope to make one day – don’t worry. By trying and learning from your efforts and trying again, you will get better at expressing using the language of photography. Enjoy!

## **02 Module Assignment (20 pts.)**

You are to shoot twenty to forty photographs inspired by the assignment *Myself and My World*. These images will introduce you to the class and to me. The images must be taken during the class.

1. Shoot twenty to forty photographs (print, slide or digital). Download the images to your computer from your digital camera OR process the film and have the store make a photo CD.
2. In whatever software you are using, resize the images to no more than 1000 pixels in the longest direction and save with new name. (ALWAYS keep and archive the original images from your digital camera. Someday you may want to print this photograph and it will need to be a minimum of 2100 pixels in the longest direction for a 5x7 print or 3000 pixels for an 8x10 print.) See the handouts for help on how to do this.
3. You will post the FIVE (5) most interesting images to the Flickr group. Make sure your real name and the tag "Myworld" are on the photo. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. If you do not tag the images I cannot find them to comment.
4. In the box under the first image ("click here to add a description"), you will post your a short essay on what inspired you to take the images you took. How did looking at yourself and your world change with the camera? What was your greatest disappointment? Greatest success? (200-400 words, full sentences, spell-checked.)
5. Study your fellow student's photographs and post at least five (5) comments on Flickr. Your comments should be helpful and thoughtful. Composition, lighting, angle of view and the other tools we learned about in 01Module would be good topics to mention.
6. Go to etudes to "Assignments, Tests and Surveys." For 20 points, answer the questions and confirm that you have done all of this week's tasks.

*Post any questions about class procedures in "Academic Questions" in the Discussion Area and questions about photography, Etudes and Flickr under "Technical Questions." If you have a personal concern, please send me a private message. Thanks.*