

Assignment 3 Color Isolation

Objectives

This assignment lays the foundation for understanding the idea of using color as a strategic compositional device to control visual flow, and to form emphasis about some particular component of the subject matter in view. Color is not decoration, and if it is used as such, its power to convey and communicate is ignorantly lost.

Compositions that are reduced to simple, figure-ground relationships, with a colorful figure element placed in relatively neutral ground, defines the idea of Color Isolation. Human perception of color functions rather similarly to perceptions of value in black-and-white images. A light-value that interacts with a dark-value [and vice-versa] offers separation and edge, to help describe form, and draws the visual flow to various compositional elements. A colorized figure element is emphasized, and creates focal point, in a relatively neutral background.

During field sessions, think about using color in a very minimal, and selective way. Think of problem solving this with some reverse-engineering by seeking out the neutral [back]ground first, and then adding a colorized figure element to the situation. This method of approach requires some time waiting for the “right” figure to present itself, so be patient. Luck favors the prepared mind. In essence, this assignment takes Assignment 2, *Color, No Color*, to the next step of implementation: seek out colorless, neutral ground, but add a single color note.

Procedures

- Create images that utilize a “note” of color, and ensure that the color note(s) occupies no more than 25% of the entire composition.
- Strategically place a colorful *figure* in a relatively neutral *ground* of the composition.

Suggestions

- Try using long shutter speeds to record a movement of color-figure against neutral ground.
- Experiment and be playful by placing color in different areas of the frame, on the edges of the frame, and give yourself choices in the editing process by shooting several versions.
- Simplicity is key. Maintain an economy of form: strive to create well-designed images.

Two unique exposures must represent this assignment in the Final Portfolio for full credit. For critique, edit and process at least one, best composition from situations studied.

