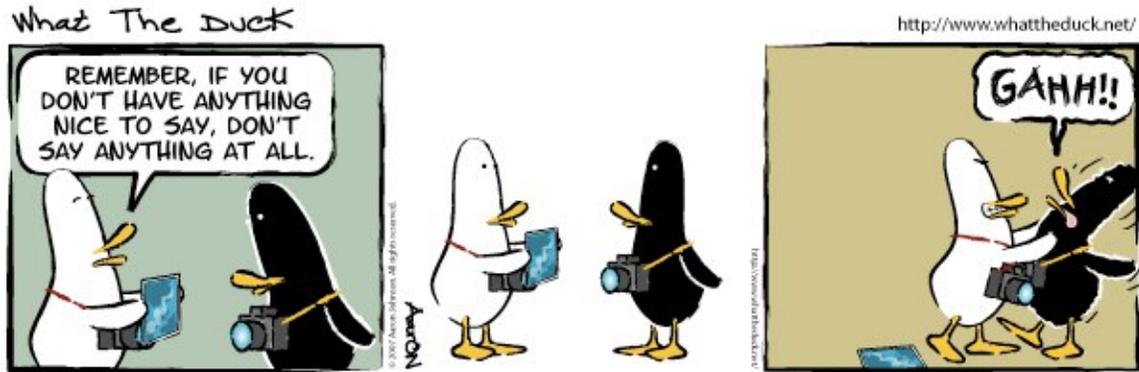


# Frames of Mind

Project 3. Due 11:59PM on Friday, March 15, 2013.

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It is not unusual that a photographer must whittle down a large set of hundreds (or more!) of photographs to a more concise and interesting subset before publishing or sharing the set. Such a selection process can be repetitive and boring within a photographer's workflow, since it might devolve into a decision process that feels arbitrary in the case of distinguishing between two relatively similar photos.

However, this can be a very valuable time for a photographer because it allows review of the work and provides an opportunity for learning: what worked and what did not. Despite this self-review, the process can still feel time-consuming and could, in fact, become a bit biased.

A photographer can easily become attached to certain photos, especially if they involved a large effort. Sometimes, a fresh perspective from a third party can facilitate the selection of a subset of photos because this eliminates the creation bias from the process.

This is precisely the goal of this project. Working in a group of two or three people, the idea is to take a large series of interesting photos (varied in both style and in subject) and then to give the series to a group member for selection and editing. He or she should do the same, such that you will each have the opportunity to take photos and gain from objective views of your own work.

We strongly encourage that your partner not be a friend nor someone with whom you have previously worked. This partner must also be in the class, and ideally should have about the same level of experience and skill as you. Please email the staff within three days of the release of this assignment if you do not have a partner; a delay in partner selection could leave your group at a disadvantage when planning logistics.

## Part I. Take photographs of your own! (45 points)

Please take at least **100** photos for the purposes of this project. Do this independently; each individual is expected to take this many photos autonomously, and there is no need to discuss the photos themselves with your partner(s) as you work towards your goal of 100 images. Of course, communication within your group about other details is important, as detailed below.

Once you have completed taking your 100 photos, you should submit them to one of your partner(s) for editing. As you will perform the selection and editing process on somebody else's photos and not your own, a method of sharing needs to be selected.

You can decide amongst yourselves how to share the images. We recommend Dropbox or a USB flash drive. If you decide to use Dropbox, you might find the directions on the following website to be helpful for this task of creating a new folder and sharing it with your partner:

<http://www.dropbox.com/help/19>

Once you have shared that folder and your partner has accepted the invitation, then you may place your images into this folder. Your partner will automatically see your series once everything has synced!

A word of caution: recall that the contents of a shared folder are truly shared between the two of you; adding or deleting files within this folder will also add or delete files from the shared folder on your partner's end. As a result, please be sure only to share files for this project (in other words, take care not to accidentally place a file private to you in that shared folder!) and be sure to get an "all clear" from your partner before deleting files that he or she might need. Despite these cautions, sharing a Dropbox folder does allow you to work with a partner from anywhere, easily update files at any time of day, and work on your own schedule, without needing to schedule an in-person meeting to exchange the files!

There is no need to submit these photos to the staff as part of your submission. In fact, we ask that you please do not submit each of the 100 photos to us; it is simply too many photos for us! Instead, please create a **contact sheet** with **nine** or fewer images per page and submit that to the staff. A contact sheet is simply a document that contains multiple pages, and each page contains multiple images on it. It's a preview, of sorts, of the series of images you have selected. An example contact sheet with images by Ansel Adams can be found on the following website:

<http://goo.gl/52b2m>

Here are the technical requirements for this portion of the project:

- You must submit **at least 100** images to your partner with enough time for him or her to complete the subsequent parts of this project. Please be sure to communicate with your partner if you plan to submit more than 100 photos so that he or she is not surprised by the quantity. Please **do not** submit these individual images to the staff.
- Communicate with your partner and ensure that both of you agree upon acceptable file types **before submitting them to each other**. In other words, don't submit RAW files without asking, since there is the possibility that those files are impossible to open for some reason (for example, due to limitations in available software). In fact, sending 100 RAW files to your partner will quickly overwhelm the capacity of both of your Dropbox folders. If you decide to exchange RAW files, we recommend that you first send each other the full complement of images in JPEG format (perhaps even in a slightly reduced size) and only after your partner has selected a subset should you then provide that subset

in RAW format. If you are considering exchanging RAW files, be sure to send each other a sample RAW image from the camera you each intend to use so that you can ensure that each person in the group can open and edit that particular type of file!

- Before this project's due date, please submit to the staff a contact sheet that has **no more than nine images** on each page. Please place this file in the appropriate project dropbox in the submission tool. Please be sure to place it in the directory sufficiently in advance of the due date to allow enough time for it to upload to the servers before the project is due.
- Please ensure that the images found in the contact sheet are the same images you submitted to your partner, except scaled to fit into a single document. This contact sheet acts as a preview for the staff to see what you had submitted to your partner. There is no need for you to share this contact sheet with your group (unless you would like to do so) and you certainly need not submit your partner's contact sheet on their behalf or expect your partner to submit yours.
- It is fine to submit multiple photos that are variations of each other, but these must not dominate the series. You may only have a maximum of **four** images that appear very similar within a group of related images. In other words, small differences in exposure, composition, *etc.*, are allowed, but once you have four images that are variations of each other with small differences, please be sure to change styles for subsequent photos.
- Within the series of the 100 images, you should have at least **five distinct "sets"**. In other words, some sets might be indoors, some might be long-exposure images, some might be landscapes, *etc.*; however, each set must be completely unique in its setting, location, style, and subject. The purpose of this is to ensure large variability within your photos. You may certainly have more than five "sets" if you would like.
- When taking your photos, please use an **advanced metering mode** such as aperture priority, shutter priority, manual mode, bulb mode, or program mode.
- Despite working in a group, this portion of the project should be done independently. Be sure that these 100 images are your own and were not taken with the assistance of your partner(s).
- You must make available the **original, straight out-of-the-camera versions** of all images to your partner. Please do not perform any edits whatsoever on your own images. However, it is perfectly acceptable for you and your partner to decide to first share the entire series of images with each other in some (possibly resized) JPEG file format, if you prefer. However, you should allow your partner to access the original versions of the photos he or she selects as part of their process of editing those photos.
- All submitted images should be **original photos** taken by you for the purposes of this project.

## Part II. Selection and Editing (45 points)

After receiving your partner's photos it's time to select and edit their set! You may use any software or method you wish, but your task is to select only **five (5)** of the best photos from your partner's photo set and perform at least some simple edits to them to make them as interesting and unique as possible. Those five photos will serve as your submission for this portion of the project. Your grade for this part depends on how well you work with the photos submitted by your partner, and is not impacted by how well your partner edits your own photos. From your perspective, you are done with those 100 images you took before! In other words, you are being graded on those aspects of the project over which you have control.

Your goal in this portion is two-fold:

- To prove your skills as an editor by working within the confines of the photos submitted to you by your partner to create the best 5-image series possible.
- To demonstrate the strongest possible photographic skills of your partner.

Keep in mind that somebody else is editing your photos as well. Give them the courtesy of doing your best in this section. Not only will your partner expect greatness but your grade also depends on it!

Here are the technical requirements for these images:

- Before this project's due date, please submit **exactly five** photos in the appropriate project dropbox in the submission tool. Please be sure to place them in the directory sufficiently in advance of the due date to allow enough time for them to upload to the servers before the project is due. You are welcome to submit early and modify the images as many times as you wish before the due date. However, take special care not to modify any of the files in this directory after the due date because doing so will cause your entire submission to be considered as late.
- Name these files in sequential order (*e.g.*, **1.jpg, 2.jpg, 3.jpg, etc.**), and in the order you wish them to be observed by the grader. Progression can matter in the tone of the series. For example, you might start with weaker images and end on stronger ones.
- Each of the five images should be unique to demonstrate the range of submitted photographs.
- The submitted files must be **JPEG** images, regardless of the file type you and your partner decided to submit to each other for Part I.
- Submit the highest resolution image that is possible based on the photos that were submitted to you.
- You are allowed complete freedom on the edits that you perform on the images. However, you may only use those images submitted by your partner. You should not, for example, composite other images or photographs into your partners' series. It is perfectly acceptable to submit images that require only moderate amounts of edits, since a successful and powerful image does not always necessitate copious amounts of editing. At the same time, some images might benefit from slightly heavier editing. This is entirely up to you to decide. Your partner may make suggestions about the intention of the photograph, but you may decide to edit in a different manner if you believe the photograph would be stronger with alternate edits.
- In the rare case that your partner does not successfully complete all of the technical requirements for Part I (for example, by submitting fewer than 100 photos to you or not making available the original

files) then you are still expected to do the best you can with the images provided to you; please still do your best to meet these requirements as outlined in this part of the project to receive full points for this portion. Do the best you can. However, your grade will not be impacted if your partner was unable to provide all 100 photos to you, the quality of the photos submitted to you is somehow lacking, or there is some other issue with those images.

- Feel free to show off the final images with the original photographer once you are done! He or she might be interested in seeing which photos you selected and how you decided to edit them. Keep in mind that you are to submit to the staff only the photos that you edited (and not the edited versions of your 100 photos that you took for Part I), so this sharing is meant to be informative and fun.
- Please respect your partner's copyright. The 100 images submitted to you belong to your partner, and you should not publicly post, distribute, or share those photos without his or her permission, even given the effort you placed in editing them. Similarly, your partner should not publicly post, distribute, or share the final edited versions that you created. It might be best to consider the final images as a joint copyright; if you and/or your partner would like to post, simply communicate the intention and, after approval, apply attribution to both the photo editor and the original photographer when posting the image.