Abstract Photography Project

You will shoot a series of abstract photographs. Concentrate on the elements of art, principles of design, color theory, composition and tight framing to produce an aesthetically pleasing yet unique series of abstract photographs. Experiment with different focal points and points of view (worm’s eye, bird’s eye, zoom/magnified) to emphasize texture, color, value, pattern, form, etc.

Inspiration:

Imogen Cunningham, Karl Blossfeldt, Paul Strand, Edward Weston, and Minor White, Mike Cable, and various contemporary photographers.

You will shoot 5 Abstract Photos that each emphasize (but are not limited to) a different element:

1. Geometric shape, form, line, texture, pattern, etc.
2. Organic shape, form, line, texture, pattern, etc.
3. Architecture
4. Color: find or use a specific color scheme
5. Unusual Effect #1:

Demonstrate one effect from the list:

1. “Impressionist Painting Photography” Effect: use purposeful blur, zooming during exposure, slow shutter speed/long exposure, and or purposeful camera shake.
2. Light Painting: use long exposure/slow shutter speed, low light, dark room, or night time, colored lights, flashlights, etc.
3. Bokeh Effect: create bokeh with lights in the background, shallow depth of field.
4. Unusual Effect #2: demonstrate another effect from the list above.

Tips:

* Zoom in and fill the frame.
* Vary your viewpoint.
* Look through the viewfinder and zoom in on things you may find ordinary, but become unique when magnified.
* Try macro mode.
* Use Manual Focus (don’t use automatic) and focus on specific parts of an object, place, etc.
* Approach the subject from angles, move your feet, bend your knees, look up, look down, look for patterns and correlating colors.
* Look for interesting details: lines, patterns, shapes, and colors.
* Look around you! Observe the landscape, water in the gutter, marks on the table, the surface of a wall, the structure of a staircase, the light and shadows playing on a building, hubcaps on a car, metal grates in the ground, water from a sprinkler, spider webs, birds’ nests, street lights, mechanical objects, shells, fabric, vegetables and fruit, etc.