Studio In Photography

Mr. Martin

Assignment #4

Time Exposure

The “B” Setting

*Bulb*-A shutter setting marked “B” at which the shutter remains open as long as the shutter release is held down.

Night exposures-Subjects for night or twilight exposures can vary greatly, from silhouettes against a sunset to city lights or patterns formed by traffic on a highway. Night exposures range from a fraction of a second to many minutes, depending on the type of scene, the speed of your lens, film speed, and so on. However, at exposure times of one second or longer, you may notice a change in the response of the film to light (reciprocity failure). At these long exposure times, the effective speed of your film decreases, and color films may show color-balance changes. You must make an exposure adjustment to compensate for the loss of film speed.

When you’re uncertain about your exposure settings, bracket your exposures. Bracketing simply means taking extra pictures of the scene at different exposure settings. For nighttime exposures, bracket by at least two stops over and under the exposure indicated by your meter or the recommended exposure. Although this may use a little more film and time, it will help you get pleasing results under almost any conditions. “Correct” exposure for night photographs is largely a matter of personal preference.

For most night photography, a steady camera is essential. At the slow shutter speeds you’ll often be using a sturdy tripod or bracing your camera on any stable surface, a wall, a bench, a mailbox or a car. A cable release will let you trip the shutter without jarring the camera. Or you can use the self-timer to release the shutter. If you have a single-lens-reflex (SLR) camera that allows you to lock up the mirror, do so after composing your photo and setting your exposure. Then allow the camera to settle for a few seconds on the tripod before you release the shutter.

Time exposure photographs can also be made in darkened rooms using candlelight and other interesting light sources (consider Picasso’s light drawing we saw in class).

Shooting assignment

Shoot one roll of film that exhibits experimentation with light during time exposures, using the “B” setting or other long exposure settings available on your camera.

Bracket your exposures. Because of reciprocity failure, make the bracketing more extreme than usual (for example 5 sec. 10 sec, 15 sec).Small apertures may make “star” effects. Steady the camera with a tripod or a stable surface, use a cable release or the self-timer. Continue to study “still” and “moving” images. Have fun.