

Photography 15 / Assignment 2

Gestalt Theory

Due Date _____

Figure-ground concept and Gestalt Theory can be used in a variety of ways. All of which reflect a thoughtful and insightful approach to Photography. The concepts of Gestalt Laws of Proximity, Similarity, Continuity and Closure can be used to help the artist clarify his idea, and interpret more carefully what he/she is seeing around them.

In this exercise you will use the principles of Gestalt..

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Minimum of 1 roll of 24 exposure B&W film minimum.

Part 1

Demonstrate figure/ground relationships in your photographic images by manipulating the following techniques:

- **Change camera position** - make a slight change in camera position. You will move your camera so as to change background interaction with your subject.
- **Vary depth of field** - change from great depth of field to minimum depth of field using the same composition (with the subject in front of a textural background).
- **Explore camouflage** - arrange or find a subject in a background in which it blends, and then arrange that same subject in a background in which it does not blend.
NOTE: Don't physically hide subject and keep subject the same size in each frame.
- **Use shadows** - photograph a subject with a definite shadow, then photograph its shadow as the subject.

In each of these categories you will be making 2 exposures: a "before" and "after" (for example: in category B. you will make an exposure with the least possible depth of field, then do an identical, second photograph with the most possible depth of field. The "ground" area of your image should show an obviously different relationship to the "figure").

Part 2

Illustrate the following Gestalt concepts individually in separate photographs.

- Similarity
- Symmetry
- Proximity
- Continuity
- Closure

WHEN FINISHED YOU WILL TURN INTO ME:

- Negatives in clear plastic page
- Contact print(s)
- Notes (log sheet) identifying categories (**All negatives must be identified**).
- 2 - mounted & spotted 5x7 or larger prints, mounted on the same board which best illustrate one of the categories from **Part 1**,

and

- 1 - mounted & spotted 5x7 or larger print that best illustrates one of the categories from **Part 2**.

*****NOTE: USE NO LARGER OR SMALLER
THAN 11"x14" MOUNT BOARDS.**