

Overview:

In your life you must of had an experience, a moment which becomes a permanent part of your experience as an individual. That moment could have been a movie, poem, song or novel which spoke to you directly about how you feel about your life and times. No doubt our current life dodging a virus could be that type of moment for all of us.

Often for me, it is a moment when a movie like the "Hoosiers," with actor Gene Hackman who plays the part of Norman Dale, a failed college basketball coach. Dale moves to a small town of Hickory, (not real) Indiana and takes a high school of only 161 students and creates a basketball team which wins a State Championship. It is a story about redemption, forgiveness and caring. As surreal as it sounds there was a high school from Indiana which in 1954 with the same amount of students did win a state championship.

What makes me think about this movie is the depiction of the early 1950's rural America. There were no interstate highways yet, just beautiful fields of farms going to infinity. It was a different time in America when there was no internet. People read the Sunday paper and listened to AM radio to find out what's happening around them and in the world. It is a life of calm, when citizens held their meetings in the local barbershop to decide who would coach their high school basketball team.

Step 1: Write a paragraph or so (keep it short and to the meaning) of the experience (movie, song, poem or novel) which you believe shaped your ideas of what is important to you.

Step 2: Shoot a still life of objects in any arrangement which would symbolizes your idea of the experience you wrote about. The still life can have any material you feel illustrates your poem, movie, song or whatever. Use all of your artist ability to draw, paint, collage and use found objects such as rocks, leaves, postcards, pictures which mean something to you. Shoot multiple arrangements of your objects and then make a proof sheet of the best and then pick one you will process into your final still life. There will be no proof sheet critique for this assignment.

What is a Still Life: A still life (plural: still lifes) is a work of art depicting mostly inanimate subject matter and commonplace objects. One advantage of the still-life artform is that it allows an artist a lot of freedom to experiment with the arrangement of elements within a composition of a painting or photograph.

Lighting Your Still Life: Page 80 in the text is an overview of the Three Dynamics Of Light. Pages 82-91 are essays which give more ideas about the concept of how light is used by photographers. When setting up your still life, find a place where the light falling on your objects will help in the description of your piece. You might find a window where there is strong directional light in the morning or afternoon. To modify directional light you can use a diffuser or what is called a "Silk" by photographers and film makers. Even a sheet of paper toweling can be an effective way to diffuse strong directional light. Strong directional light will create shadows which give a more three demensional feeling to your still life photograph. Photographers oftern use small white cards to kick light back into shadow areas to open them up to see more detail. For more even light and a softer lighting set-up, place your composition centered under a room light or in open shade.

Processing Your Still Life Image: I encourage you to use all of the camera raw processing I have taught you this semester; including applying adjustment layers where appropriate.

Your camera type will determined the size of your original file. From this original file you may crop out the edges, top or bottom if your design of your still life is not the shape of the camera frame. Use 300 pixels, 16 bit and an RGB color file so you can print your piece later in high resolution.

Please, make sure when sending your still life image via Email to me that you use our Jpeg protocol and make sure you include your written paragraph too. Do not send pdf, pgn or psd files.