



Park West Camera Club

www.parkwestcameraclub.org

pwccny@aol.com



Expanding Visions 30

“Reflections”

Expanding Visions is a photography class being offered this spring into summer. It is open to all interested photographers.

Expanding Visions is a marriage of a field trip class with a class in photographic seeing. This eight-week class (Thursday evenings, May 9th thru June 27th) will open your mind to new ways of seeing photographs, subject matter, equipment, and techniques. It will also allow you to explore parts of the City that you may not have experienced before.

The format of the class is simple: We start with an introductory Zoom session. We will discuss equipment, techniques, and the specifics of the course; a term project will be assigned. For the next two weeks we'll go on field trips to work on the assignments. The following session will bring us back to a Zoom review where we'll share our photographs, talk about our experiences, and evaluate what, and how well, we learned. Two more weeks of trips and assignments will be followed by a second Zoom review session. Week eight brings us to the final Zoom meeting where we will review the term project and any make-up assignments.

The basic thread running through the assignments in *Expanding Visions 30* is reflections in an assortment of surfaces.

Not too complicated, is it? Lots of fun and educational; but most of all, it will expand your vision in the photographs you take, and allow you to grow as a photographer.

Instructor: Chuck Pine

Zoom Sessions: Thursday Evenings, May 9th and May 30th, June 20th and June 27th
Assignments/Classes May 16th and 23rd, June 6th and 13th

Tuition — Free to P.W.C.C. members

Non-Members — \$70 for all 8 sessions (or \$10 per session)

[Note a full year PWCC membership is only \$50!]
(cash or check)

Let us know if you'll be joining us!

[<pwccny@aol.com>](mailto:pwccny@aol.com)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Assignment/Destination</u>	<u>Meeting Place/Time</u>
May 9	Introduction to the Class Equipment/Exposure/Techniques	Zoom 6:30 pm (request Zoom link below)
May 16	Trip #1 — Herald Square <i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	6th Avenue & 34th Street @ 6:30 pm
May 23	Trip #2 — Upper West Side <i>The Fast and the Furious</i>	Broadway & 96th Street @ 6:30 pm
May 30	Review of Trips 1 & 2	Zoom — 6:30 pm (see below)
June 6	Trip #3 — Times Square <i>Alice thru the Looking Glass</i>	Broadway & 42nd Street @ 6:30 pm
June 13	Trip #4 — Columbus Circle <i>Here's Lookin' at You, Kid</i>	Broadway & 59th Street @ 6:30 pm
June 20	Review of Trips 3 & 4	Zoom — 6:30 pm. (see below)
June 27	Review Term Projects & Make-ups	Zoom — 6:30 pm. (see below)

Weekly Assignments

- *Little Shop of Horrors* We will be shooting reflections in store windows, combining what's inside with what's outside..
- *The Fast and the Furious* We will be shooting reflections in cars, trucks, and other vehicles from all their surfaces including glass and metal, flat and curved.
- *Alice thru the Looking Glass* We will be shooting reflections in mirrors, either ones we find as we walk around or in ones we bring with us.
- *Here's Lookin' at You, Kid* We will be shooting reflections in polished surfaces such as wood, stone, plastic, and any others we find along the way.

Term Project

- *Water, Water, Everywhere* You will be shooting reflections in bodies of water such as lakes and ponds, bowls of water, puddles in the street, or any where else you find them.

To join the Zoom meetings you must have Zoom software installed on your computer/tablet/phone.

Send an email to request the link to the Zoom meetings.

[<pwccny@aol.com>](mailto:pwccny@aol.com)

Lost on the way to one of the trips? Call (646) 549-0187.

Can't attend one of the trips? All assignments may be completed on your own.



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Expanding Visions 30

“Reflections”

Class Notes

Basic Equipment

For a camera I recommend a digital Single Lens Reflex (D-SLR) or a mirrorless body with interchangeable lenses, thru-the-lens (TTL) metering, autofocus (AF) and autoexposure (AE) modes.

Point-and-shoot, bridge, and cell phone cameras may also be used.

Film cameras are not recommended.





Zoom lenses are not required for any of the techniques in Expanding Visions 30. They will, however, give you more freedom in composing your images. Prime lenses (non-zoom) will work for all of the techniques..

Tripods are helpful to keep your camera steady and will be useful for many of the Expanding Visions 30 techniques—but they are not mandatory. If you do bring a tripod be aware that some of our destinations will be crowded and tripods could be a safety hazard. Be careful where you place them.

If you do bring a tripod, you should also also bring a remote shutter release (either wireless or cabled).



A polarizing filter controls the amount of reflection in glass and plastic—the stuff of which most windows are made. If you decide to purchase a polarizing filter be sure it is a “circular” polarizer (this does not refer to its shape!).



Most polarizing filters are round, screw-in filters. They screw directly into the front of your lens. The size of the filter that you buy must match the diameter of the threads on the front of your lens. Step-up and/or step-down rings may be used to adapt a filter to a different diameter lens.

You may want to use image-editing / manipulation software for some of the assignments in this Expanding Visions 30 class (however, you can complete the assignments adequately without using any software). As the saying goes, “get it right in the camera.” However, you certainly may use programs such as Photoshop, Elements, Lightroom, Luminar, and a host of others to process, size, and otherwise work on your images.

You may adjust your camera’s ISO to suit the lighting situations we encounter.

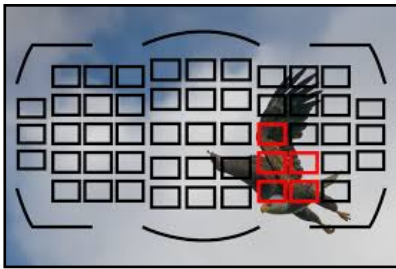
Prepare your images to be shown via Zoom software—the last page of this *Class Notes* has the instructions for this task.

Additional Notes

Camera Settings

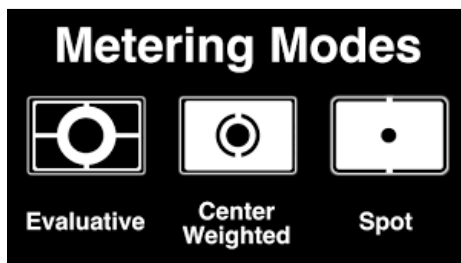
There are five (5) major camera modes which you can control on your camera. Below are the settings you should use during most of the assignments:

The *exposure mode* (sometimes called the *shooting mode*) allows you to control your exposure. **Set your camera to Shutter Speed Priority** or **Aperture Priority** mode. As an alternate, you may also set your camera to **Manual Exposure** mode. **Program** and **Auto** modes will work but give more control to the camera and less to you.



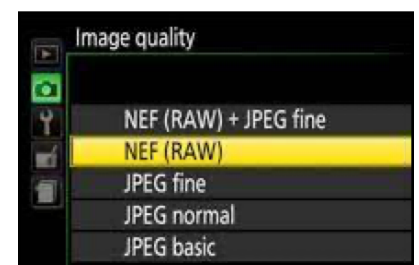
The *focusing mode* allows you to choose how your camera will focus on the subject. **Set your camera to Wide Area** focus (also called **Multi Point**) or you may set your camera to **Center** focus. As an alternate, you may also set your camera to **Manual Focus** mode.

The *drive mode* allows you to choose how many shots the camera will take at the push of the shutter release button. **Set your camera to Single Shot**. **Continuous Shooting** (also called **Burst Mode**) may also be used.



The *metering mode* determines the areas of the scene upon which the exposure is made. **Set the camera to Matrix Metering** mode (also known as **Evaluative Metering** mode or **Multi Metering** mode). If you feel comfortable with **Center-weighted** or **Spot Metering**, feel free to use them.

The *recording mode* (sometimes called *image quality*) determines how your images are recorded by the camera on your digital media. The best way to record your images are as **RAW** files. If you prefer to record your images as **JPG** files, be sure they are at the highest quality (*fine*).



Weekly Assignments

Trip #1 / May 16th *Little Shop of Horrors* (Herald Square)

Meeting — Herald Square is located at the intersection of 6th Avenue and West 34th Street. Take the 'B,' 'D,' 'F,' 'M,' 'N,' 'Q,' 'R,' or 'W' train to the 34th Street station and go upstairs. You may also take the #1, #2, or #3 train to the 34th Street/Penn Station stop and walk east to 6th Avenue. You may also take the #6 train to 33rd Street and walk west to 6th Avenue. In addition, most north/south Manhattan buses pass 34th Street. You can then transfer to the M34 crosstown bus or walk to 6th Avenue. We'll meet on the northwest corner of 34th Street and 6th Avenue at Macy's. Try to arrive by 6:30 p.m.

For the latecomers — We'll wait at the meeting spot until approximately 6:45 p.m. and then have our discussion of the assignment. We'll start walking around Herald Square at about 7 p.m. We will then walk west on 34th Street towards 7th Avenue. You may walk on either side of 34th Street or cross back and forth. We will end our walk at the northeast corner of 34th Street and 7th Avenue around 7:45 p.m.



Assignment Synopsis — We will be shooting reflections in store windows, combining what's inside with what's outside.

Equipment — The basic equipment listed previously is all you'll need for this assignment. Wide angle lenses will accentuate the angles at which you will be shooting and will give interesting results. A telephoto lens will enable you to focus in on details.

This area may be crowded at this time so use of a tripod may if "iffy."

Since this is the first trip, and it is early-May, be sure to dress for the weather. In addition, wear loose fitting, comfortable clothes that will not restrict your movements.

Media — Digital Capture: ISO settings will vary depending upon the available light. You may begin by setting your camera's sensitivity to its lowest setting (usually ISO 100 or 200) and adjusting it as necessary.

Technique — The techniques here are quite simple.

Just look for reflections in store windows.. Be sure to use all of the techniques and tricks you know to make interesting, creative, visually stimulating, properly exposed, and technically correct images.

For example, shoot your subjects from a variety of distances and angles. Move in closer; move farther away. Move left or right. Move up or down. Each of these position changes can give you different results.



Change lenses to shoot the same scene and compare the differences.

Shoot away,... and have fun.

Notes

Trip #2/May 23rd *The Fast and the Furious* (Upper West Side)

Meeting — We'll meet in the middle of Broadway on the south side of 96th Street in front of the Subway entrance/exit at 6:30 p.m. Take the #1, #2, or #3 train to the 96th Street station and walk upstairs or take the elevator. You may also take the 'B' or 'C' train to the 96th Street station and walk west 3 blocks to Broadway. The M104 bus runs up and down Broadway and stops at 96th Street. Other West Side buses (M5, M7, M10, and M11) also stop at 96th Street and require a short walk to Broadway.

For the latecomers — We'll wait at the meeting spot until about 6:45 p.m. and then have our discussion of the assignment. At about 7 p.m. we'll start wandering around the area, shooting as we go. You may walk in any direction and return to the starting point at 7:45 p.m. to talk over the assignment.

Assignment Synopsis — We will be shooting reflections in cars, trucks, and other vehicles from all of their surfaces including glass and metal, flat, curved, and otherwise.



Equipment — The basic equipment for this activity is your camera and a lens. We do not expect crowds here, so feel free to bring and use your tripod. Although hand-holding might be easier. Don't forget the polarizing filter to control the reflections.

Media — Digital Capture: ISO settings will vary depending upon the available light. You may begin by setting your camera's sensitivity to its lowest setting (usually ISO 100 or 200) and adjusting it as necessary.

Technique — The techniques here are quite simple. Look for reflections in the cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, or other vehicles in the neighborhood. Look for metallic and glass surfaces. Look for flat and curved surfaces. Don't forget the mirrors on vehicles, or the hubcaps on the wheels.

Parked vehicles are easier to shoot, but don't give up on the slow-moving ones.

Just be sure to stay safe. It's not worth getting injured just to get a great shot!



Notes



Trip #3/June 6th *Alice thru the Looking Glass* (Times Square)

Meeting — Just about every north/south train or bus in Manhattan stops at 42nd Street. Walk east or west to Times Square. We'll be waiting on the north side of West 42nd Street between Broadway and 7th Avenue. We meet at 6:30 p.m.

For the latecomers — We'll wait at the meeting spot until approximately 6:45 p.m. and then have our discussion of the assignment. At about 7 p.m. we will walk around Times Square and then west along 42nd Street—you may walk on either side of the street, or better yet, both sides. We'll meet on the northeast corner of 42nd Street and 8th Avenue to discuss the assignment

Assignment Synopsis — We will be shooting reflections in mirrors, either ones we find as we walk around the Times Square area or in mirrors we bring with us.

Equipment — The basic equipment for this activity is your camera and a lens. A zoom lens will give you the option to change your focal length without having to change your lens. A polarizing filter will be helpful for this assignment to help control the reflections. Due to the crowds, you would be better off leaving your tripod at home.

Media — Digital Capture: ISO settings will vary depending upon the available light. You may begin by setting your camera's sensitivity to its lowest setting (usually ISO 100 or 200) and adjusting it as necessary.



Technique — There are two ways to accomplish this assignment.

The first is to search for mirrors on the street or in stores. Flat mirrors and curved mirrors (either convex or concave) are all fine and give varying results.

The second method is to bring your own mirror with you. Any hand-held mirror will do. You will have to figure out how to hold the mirror in one hand and operate your camera with the other hand. Or, you can work with a partner (the buddy system) hold the mirror for each other.

If using a hand-held mirror, be sure your camera will focus at a close distance.



Even though we've already shot reflections in cars, if you must, you can shoot reflections in car mirrors for this assignment.

Notes

Trip #4/June 15th *Here's Lookin' at You, Kid* (Columbus Circle)

Meeting — We'll meet on the west side of Columbus Circle at the south end of The Shops at Columbus Circle (where 8th Avenue begins), at 6:30 p.m. The "A," "B," "C," "D," and #1 subways have stops at Columbus Circle. The M5, M7, M10, M20 and M104 buses stop at Columbus Circle as well.

For the latecomers — We'll wait at the meeting spot until approximately 6:45 p.m. and then have our discussion about the assignment. At about 7 p.m. we'll begin walking around the area looking for reflections.

Assignment Synopsis — We will be shooting reflections in polished surfaces such as wood, stone, plastic, and any others we find along the way



Equipment — The basic equipment for this activity is your camera and a lens. This could be a single focal length lens or a zoom lens, but a wide-angle to telephoto zoom gives you more options for creative images.

Media — Digital Capture: ISO settings will vary depending upon the available light. You may begin by setting your camera's sensitivity to its lowest setting (usually ISO 100 or 200) and adjusting it as necessary.

Technique — The techniques here are quite simple. Look for reflections in any surfaces that are reflective. Try to avoid store windows, vehicles, and mirrors since we've already done these reflections. Also avoid water since that's the surface for the term project. What's left, I hear you cry? All sorts of polished surfaces such as wood, stone, plastic, and any others you come across.



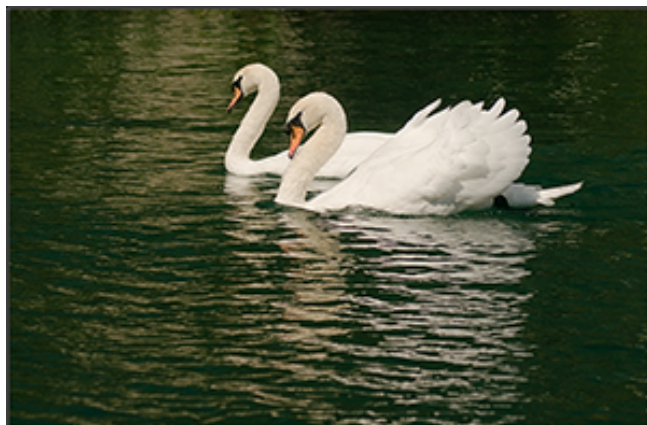
Notes

Term Project

Water, Water, Everywhere (on your own)

The term project may be shot whenever and wherever you would like. It can be shot while on any of the four field trips of this class (if the occasion arises). It can be shot in your own neighborhood. It can be accomplished anywhere else you'd like to go.

Assignment Synopsis —You'll be shooting reflections in bodies of water such as rivers, lakes and ponds, bowls of water, puddles in the street, or any where else you find water.

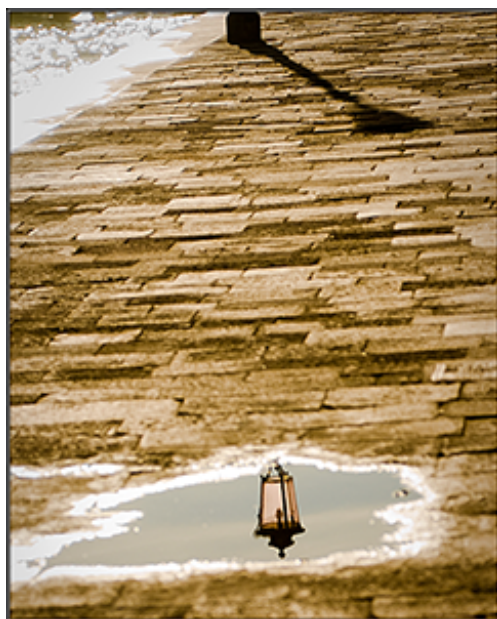


Equipment — The basic equipment for this activity is your usual camera with a lens.

You can certainly use a tripod for this assignment—depending upon where you are.

The use of a polarizing filter could be quite helpful in the activity to help you control the strength of the reflection.

Media — Digital Capture: ISO settings will vary depending upon the available light. You may begin by setting your camera's sensitivity to its lowest setting (usually ISO 100 or 200) and adjusting it as necessary.



Technique — The techniques you use will depend upon the body of water in which you're shooting the reflection.

As the old Broadway musical said, "Anything Goes."



Notes

Preparing a Digital Image

Get the Image Ready

For the most accurate image, make sure your monitor is calibrated.

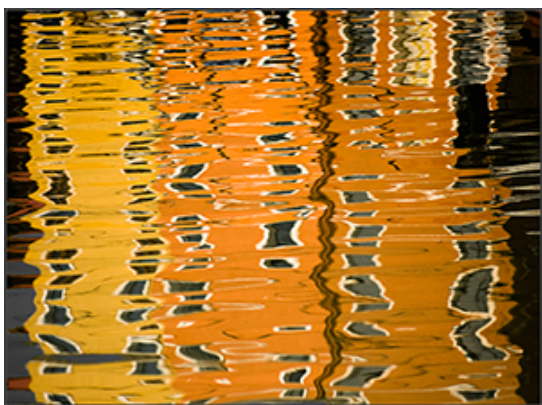
To avoid disaster, work on a duplicate of your original image.

Use your favorite imaging program (Photoshop, Elements, Luminar, etc.) to prepare your original electronic image to look good on your monitor—adjust exposure, correct color, crop, remove dust, and all the rest.



If your image is in 16 bit mode (16 bits per color channel), change it to 8 bits. (In Photoshop, click **Image > Mode > Convert to 8 Bits/Channel**).

Convert the image to the sRGB color space (In Photoshop, click **Image > Mode > ConvertToProfile**, and then select **sRGB**).



Resize the Image

In Photoshop, click **Image > ImageSize**. Make sure that the “Resample Image” and the “Constrain Proportions” boxes are checked.

Set the Resolution to 72 pixels per inch. Set the Pixel Dimensions Width to 1400 for a horizontal image OR use 1050 for the Pixel Dimensions Height if the image is a vertical. Make sure that the width does not exceed 1400 pixels AND that the height does not exceed 1050 pixels. Adjust as needed. Then click OK.

Sharpen the Image

For Photoshop's Unsharp Mask filter, I suggest: Amount = 150%, Radius = 0.4 and Threshold = 2.

Save the Image (as a jpeg/ in the .jpg format)

Use the “Save” or “Save As” command. Type in a new file name for the image using this format:
LastNameFirstInitial_Number.jpg

(Number your images in the order you want them displayed.) For example, PineC_01.jpg

Choose a moderate level of compression for the jpeg, typically 6-9. Keep the total compressed file size below 1 MegaByte.

Email your images to <pwccny@aol.com>

More Notes