



FIND YOUR VOICE. SPEAK YOUR MIND.

1359 Route 2 • The Mohawk Trail • Charlemont, MA 01339 • 413.339.4912 • Fax 413.339.4324 • www.charlemont.org

Introduction to Black & White Photography

Similar to the middle school Foundations in Art courses, upper school art electives are taught through the three-pronged approach of art history, use of visual elements and studio art techniques, and group critique, all towards the goal of building capacity for individual skill and voice while simultaneously encouraging community within the group.

Introduction to Black & White Photography begins with a historical review of photography throughout time - starting with the oldest surviving printed photograph by French inventor Nicéphore Niépce from 1825 and examining various movements, icons, cameras and developments across the centuries, all the way up to contemporary times. Basic use and functions of single-lens reflex cameras and learning how to process film, create contact sheets, and make enlarged silver gelatin prints in the darkroom are the next order of business. Students create projects within structured assignments meant to scaffold the level of challenge (from still lifes to landscapes to portraits and so on), with more room for individual creativity as the year goes on.

Intermediate Black & White Photography

Similar to the middle school Foundations in Art courses, upper school art electives are taught through the three-pronged approach of art history, use of visual elements and studio art techniques, and group critique, all towards the goal of building capacity for individual skill and voice while simultaneously encouraging community within the group.

In Intermediate Black & White Photography students begin with a short review of various skills emphasized in Introduction to Black & White Photography, then build off of that with an assignment meant to specifically focus on students' printing process and the myriad decisions made along the way. Students then consider the power of photographic narrative, and then revisit the genres of still lifes, landscapes and portraiture by creating work with one or more of these particularly in mind, and finish the semester with independent projects. In the spring semester, students make work within the confines of The Rule of Thirds, dip their toes in documentary projects by snapping a few pictures every hour for 12 hours, and finish the semester again with a project of their own design.

Advanced Black & White Photography

Similar to the middle school Foundations in Art courses, upper school art electives are taught through the three-pronged approach of art history, use of visual elements and studio art techniques, and group critique, all towards the goal of building capacity for individual skill and voice while simultaneously encouraging community within the group.

In Advanced Black & White Photography, students launch into the year with a long-term documentary/photojournalism project, choosing a subject to document over a long period of time. Students then pursue an unconventional self-portraiture project, pushing them beyond the overly simplistic world of “selfies”, and then finish the semester working in an alternative process (such as using toners, multiple exposures, medium format film, or digital platforms). In the spring, students are tasked with completing the film photography process from start to finish without teacher aid (including the much-dreaded film rolling process), then complete a text and image project, and finally design an independent project to pursue for the remainder of the year.

Independent Projects in Analog & Digital Photography

Similar to the middle school Foundations in Art courses, upper school art electives are taught through the three-pronged approach of art history, use of visual elements and studio art techniques, and group critique, all towards the goal of building capacity for individual skill and voice while simultaneously encouraging community within the group. This takes on a slightly more amorphous form during senior year, in which students are more involved in seeking out the first and second prongs mentioned above on their own, as they relate to their own specific projects and areas of study.

Independent Projects in Analog & Digital Photography is a seminar-style course offered to senior students who have taken at least one previous photography elective. Students map out their own projects each semester, working in either analog or digital (or both) platforms. Deadlines are mandated in order to maintain the critique structure, but senior photographers must be self-directed in terms of seeking out professional projects that relate to those they are pursuing, as well as soliciting teacher support in building specific skillsets around technique.