

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

ORGANIZING SPACE 1

Coordinator: Barbara Confino

This is a hands-on photography workshop focusing on composition. Using practical exercises on shape, negative space, balance, rhythm and the frame, it is designed to enhance the perceptual abilities of participants and guide them to a fuller use of **their own capacities**.

The class will consist of a series of brief lecture-demonstrations, reinforced with appropriate exercises involving both note book and camera, and afterwards by short critiques. The emphasis will be on doing. The goal is to activate the visual part of the brain.

Participants will show in-class work to the coordinator and to each other in class for critique and one-on-one coaching. They will also submit five or six images between classes every week for a mini slide show to be shown at the next class.

The more “mistakes” made the better. That way people can learn from each other, especially in the first few sessions.

* **No** technical knowledge is required; **no drawing skills**, either.

**** There will be a follow-up 12-week class, Organizing Space 2, in Fall 2023 available to people who have taken either session of Organizing Space 1 in Summer 2022 or Spring 2023.**

Barbara is a photographer who has taught at CUNY and the International Center for Photography. Her works are in major international collections such as the Bibliotheque Nationale de France and the British Museum. Her writings on photography and visual culture can be found online at: <https://medium.com/nyphotoreview>

Type of Study Group: Workshop

Required Materials:

A point-and-shoot or phone camera is required;
A large blank (no lines) 8 ½ x 11-inch notebook;
A pencil.

******* SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS *******

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

WEEK 1

TOPIC: The frame

The frame is the 'playing field' inside of which the photograph takes place. The photographer needs to be aware of the shape, the scale and the proportions of the frame as everything within that frame is an essential part of the picture.

WEEK 2

TOPIC: Shape

Shape is a fundamental building block of design, and the one that is emphasized in this curriculum. Exercises using both hand sketches and photographs will be carried out to increase an awareness of the world of shapes all around us.

WEEK 3

TOPIC: Point of view

Point of view emphasizes the height and angle of camerawork. Exercises will help photographers to avail themselves of the multiple possible points of view with which to take the picture.

WEEK 4

TOPIC: Shape 2: negative space

Emptiness is not empty in art. It, too, has a shape that is an essential part of the composition. We will explore how both positive and negative shapes provide the armature within which content is placed.

WEEK 5

TOPIC: Rhythm

Rhythm is a repeating unit in design that knits the entire composition together and guides the eye of the viewer through the work.

WEEK 6

TOPIC: Balance

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

Balance is an essential aspect in composition, especially when incorporating different areas of interest that must be integrated to make the entire picture work. We will explore some of the different approaches to this sophisticated aspect of creating a picture.

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023