

# CAMERA OBSCURA

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## WORKSHOPS

### Five - Day Camera Obscura & Pinhole Photography Workshop

(for grades 4-8)

by Andrzej Maciejewski - sponsored by



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

#### Description of the Project

This workshop is designed to encourage students to experiment with a photographic medium in an unconventional way. I plan to accomplish that by presenting my Mobile Camera Obscura and conducting a number of practical experiments. Students will also photograph with Hole Magic pinhole camera and witness their pictures being processed in a Mini Portable Darkroom. All the photographs will be discussed and evaluated for their innovative style, creative use of the elements of composition and their technical quality.

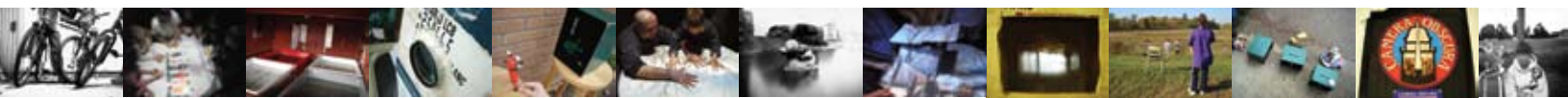


Two groups of up to 30 students may take part in this workshop.  
Each group will participate for half a day each day.

The price for five days is \$360 with Ontario Arts Council Support or \$2100 without

To book the workshop or to find out about dates available, contact:

[info@cameraobscuraworks.com](mailto:info@cameraobscuraworks.com)



# Day One

## Introduction

During the introduction I will:

- describe my artistic practice and present my books
- explain how the very first camera was invented
- discuss the history of Camera Obscura and photography beginnings, as well as the purposes that the Camera Obscura has served over the centuries
- present some simple pinhole cameras
- describe the properties of light sensitive material
- conduct optical experiments explaining how the camera and human eye work
- discuss the nature of light and how to use it creatively in photography
- explain what exposure is and how to use it for special effects
- describe the design of the presented Hole Magic pinhole camera and how to expose the picture



## Camera Obscura Presentation

*During the presentation the class will be divided into five smaller groups. One group will go inside the Camera while the remaining four will perform outside for the amusement of those inside.*

While inside the Camera students will:

- locate and recognize their classmates
- observe how the image changes when the mirror is swung or the lens is rotated
- discover how the image can be focused
- experiment with placing coloured paper on the screen to change the image hue



# Day Two

## Building Pinhole Cameras

*For this part of the workshop 11" x 17" sheet of black construction paper and small pages of tracing paper must be prepared for each student. We will also need scissors and masking tape.*



During this part of the workshops students will:

- build their own simple tube Camera Obscura using the black paper for a tube and tracing paper for a screen
- learn how to understand light properties and use this knowledge to capture the best possible quality of the image
- observe different objects through the cameras

## Experiments in Pinhole Photography

*Students will be divided into six groups.*

*Each group will use one Hole Magic pinhole camera.*

During the session each group will:

- take one pinhole photograph of the window
- watch their pictures being developed in a Portable Mini Darkroom
- discuss the quality of the pictures and find ways to improve them



## Day Three



### Taking Pinhole Photographs of Still Object

*Students will be divided into six groups. Each group will obtain one Hole Magic pinhole camera.*

During the session each group will:

- discuss in groups what and how they plan to photograph
- make a detailed plan for their first photograph
- take photographs of a still object
- watch the pictures being developed through the red window in a Portable Mini Darkroom

- after the first photo has been taken and developed students will decide if they were able to convey either a mood or the character they intended. They will then retake the picture and try to improve upon the first one
- discuss the quality of the pictures and how it could be improved
- choose the best photographs to be printed into positives

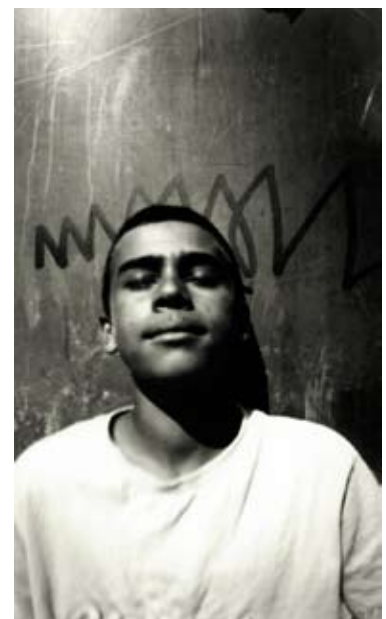
## Day Four

### Experiments in Pinhole Portrait Photography

Students will take individual or group pinhole portraits of their classmates. They will be free to use any setting they choose. I will describe some traditional ways of creating a portrait but will encourage students to be as innovative as possible with choosing a vantage point and cropping the picture.

During the session each group will:

- take two pinhole portraits
- watch their pictures being developed in a Portable Mini Darkroom
- discuss the quality of the pictures and how it could be improved
- choose the best photographs to be printed into positives



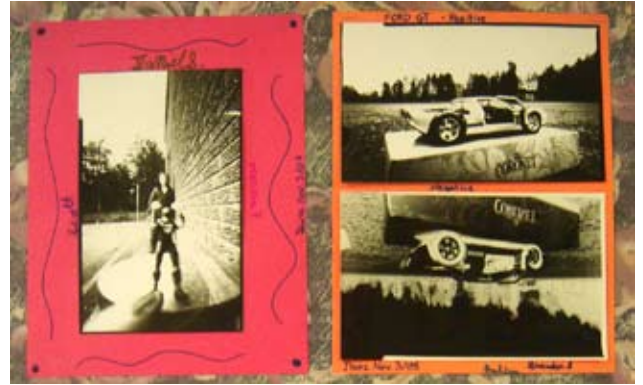
# Day Five

## Review of Photographs, Mounting an Exhibition and a Slide Show

The students and I will evaluate all of the photographs taken, and will choose the best for school exhibition. These will be mounted on cardboard or framed (if frames are available).

During this session students will:

- discuss what they have learned about cameras and photography
- mount their best pictures and sign them
- learn how to build a Pinhole Camera that will be suitable for taking pictures
- find out how to set up their own small darkroom
- watch a slide show of different cameras and pinhole photographs



This workshop is sponsored by The Ontario Arts Council

Artists in Education Program



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
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There is a limit of six workshops per year.



*“The students were enthralled with the Camera Obscura, and also took great delight in watching their pinhole camera photographs being developed through the red window in the “portable daylight darkroom”. They were very proud of their photographic efforts and the display of their work in the main hall of the school.”*

Ms.M.Gibbons, Newburg Public School teacher