

CAMERA OBSCURA

WORKSHOPS

Three - Day Camera Obscura & Pinhole Photography Workshop

(for grades 4-12)

by Andrzej Maciejewski

Description of the Project

At this extensive workshop students will be introduced to Pinhole Photography as well as learn about the Camera Obscura. There will be exciting optical experiments and hands-on activities, Andrzej's walk-in Mobile Camera Obscura will be presented. Students will build their own little Pinhole Cameras and take photographs with Andrzej's Hole Magic Cameras.

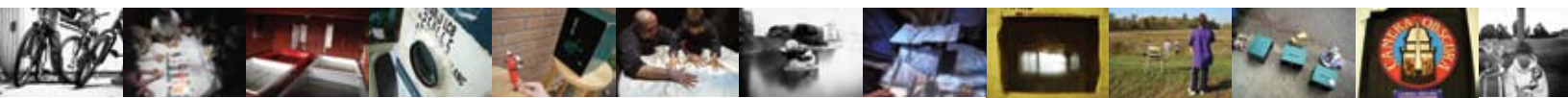


Two groups of up to 30 students may take part in this workshop.
Each group will participate for half a day each day.

The price is \$1400 for three days (including all materials).

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

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 and 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 his/her 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 (portrait or still life)
- watch the 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

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

During the session each group will:

- discuss in group what and how they plan to photograph
- make a detailed plan for their first photograph
- take photographs of a still object or a portrait
- 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



The photography workshop given by Andrzej Maciejewski was a truly illuminating experience. Students enjoyed looking through the walk-in camera obscura and learning the simplest techniques of pinhole photography and development. The black and white pictures they took are striking for their composition and artistry; students obviously learned a lot.

Katherine Stauble, AIR coordinator
Broadview School Council (Ottawa)