

Tillicum Photography Club

Assignment #1 - Bad Photos

Motivation

Cameras in automatic mode try to take care of the technical aspect of photography for you, and just let you frame the scene and shoot. They will attempt to make sure the scene is not too dark, not too bright, not blurry, and so on. These goals don't always match up with the photographer's intent. For this first assignment, you'll be playing with the settings on your camera to produce photos you can't easily produce in automatic mode. You'll be taking photos that your camera might consider "bad" in some technical way, but are nonetheless interesting to look at, and even artistic.

Instructions

- Take some photos **that meet the requirements listed below**, and email them to the club's gmail address and include the "**Assignment #1 - Bad Photos**" in the subject line, and add **comments** within the email explaining how you took the photo, what relevant **camera settings** you used and why, any **image processing** done to the photograph afterwards, and most importantly, which **requirements each photo covers**.

Now, for Assignment #1 specifically. Remember, even though the photos you take are supposed to be technically "bad" in some sense, we want you to create things that are interesting to look at. The "badness" should be intentional for an artistic purpose.

1. **Goal 1 - Poor Exposure:** Most of the image should be either very close to black (underexposed) or close to flat white to due oversaturation (overexposed).
2. **Goal 2 - Blurred:** The main subject of the photograph should be motion-blurred, either due to movement of the subject or movement of the camera.
3. **Goal 3 - Nothing in Focus:** Nothing at all should be in focus. It's hard to take a good looking photo where nothing is in focus - be creative!
4. **Goal 4 - Wrong White Balance:** You should use the wrong white balance setting for some intentional effect in at least one photo. The white balance setting on a camera tells the camera what color it should expect the scene illumination to be, for example daylight (which is bluish) or indoor incandescent (which is reddish). Most cameras have an "auto white balance (AWB)" setting, and manual settings for these other illumination types. You don't need to understand white balance in detail to fulfill this requirement. It's a subject we'll cover in detail later in the course.
5. **Goal 5 - Lousy Composition:** Don't follow the "rules of composition". Just intentionally break a few even if you are not yet aware of what they are. If you're not sure what to do, you may want to consider an exactly centered subject that produces an oddly symmetric photo, a confusion between the subject and a background object, or a horizon that isn't level.