

Workshop Syllabus

Words and Images: The Art of Creative Fusion

Course Description

This three-week workshop explores the creative dialogue between writing and visual imagery. Through discussion, examples, and hands-on exercises, participants will investigate how words can deepen photographic work and how images can inspire meaningful writing.

Throughout the workshop, students will experiment with combining text and image using a range of creative approaches, including layout design, diptychs, double exposures, and erasure poetry. By the end of the course, participants will have developed a small body of work that thoughtfully integrates their visual and written voice.

Course Structure

Note: *This syllabus is intended as a guide for the course and is **subject to change**. Any modifications will be communicated promptly to students through class announcements and/or email.*

Week 1 — Why Do Words Matter?

Session 1: Words and the Photographer's Voice

- Why photographers may choose to incorporate words into their artwork
- Contemporary artists who successfully combine text and image
- How language can deepen narrative, context, and emotional resonance
- How a regular writing practice can strengthen visual thinking and artistic vision

Session 2: Erasure Poetry

- Introduction to the practice of erasure poetry
 - Examples from contemporary artists and writers
 - A step-by-step process for creating your own erasure poem
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Week 2 — Layout and the Importance of White Space

Session 3: Integrating Words and Images

- Key considerations when combining text with photographs
- Approaches to layout and visual design
- The role of white space and visual breathing room
- How typography and placement influence meaning and interpretation

Session 4: Creative Techniques

- Combining text and image through diptychs
- Using double exposure to integrate language and visuals
- Revisiting erasure poetry as a visual-textual element
- Maintaining balance so that words enrich the image without overwhelming it

Week 3 — Visual Poetry, Poetic Visuals

Session 5: The Reciprocal Relationship Between Images and Words

Discussion and reflection on the dynamic interplay between visual and written expression:

- Why do words matter?
- How can writing enhance visual work?
- How can visual work inspire writing?
- Examples of contemporary photographers who successfully combine text and images.

Session 6: Final Presentation and Discussion

- Student presentations of final work
- Group discussion and detailed feedback
- Review and summary of key ideas from the workshop

Learning Goals

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the relationship between text and image
- Use writing as a tool to clarify and deepen artistic vision
- Experiment with layout, spacing, and design when combining words and photographs
- Create original work that integrates visual storytelling and language