

Photography



ART499 Large Format Photography

TUES 9:00-11:40am IFT141, 2 units [Pre-req: none]

(Recommended prep: ART 150, ART 255 and/or analog film experience)

This course is for students who have a basic knowledge of photography and its materiality and want to explore its traditions in large-format, high resolution sheet film cameras, which have their roots in both the field and the studio traditions. Emphasis is placed on building confidence in the use of the camera and utilizing its unique characteristics to correct perspective, render fine detail, and slow the photographic process. Students will learn how the intentional use large-format camera differs from the speed of hand-held cameras.

This class will introduce students to the basic technique of operating a 4 by 5 inch view camera. We will look at the tradition of art photography made with large format cameras with special attention given to work of the past 50 years. There will be 3 assignments and a final project. There will also be a field trip to the Getty to examine original prints. We will be making art using photographic tools and materials that have changed little in the past 150 years. Through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on experience students will explore various possibilities of large format photography and create work that demonstrates proficiency in craft and an increased awareness of how to describe clearly our present moment. Both technical and conceptual issues related to photography will be stressed throughout.