the art of EDUCATION

Lesson Plan

HS

Space

"Light Graffiti"

Objective: The student will create light graffiti images with digital cameras set to slow shutter speeds

Materials

- PhotoShop (or other photo manipulation software)
- Digital cameras & Tripods
- LCD projectors
- tag board
- x-acto knifes or scissors & cutting boards
- pencils or markers
- thick glow sticks

Motivation

- This project merges technology with stencils and the concept of positive and negative space into one fun and effective lesson.
- Students will learn how to easily manipulate photos to make stencils to create cool light graffiti images using glow sticks and digital cameras!

Step 1: Manipulating Reference

The first step is to create a reference by manipulating a photograph in Photoshop or other photo manipulation software. To avoid copyright issues, consider having students take and use their own photographs. We want to convert our image into positive/negative space. In Photoshop, this is easily accomplished by selecting Image/Adjustments/Threshold.

Step 2: Creating the Stencil

The next step is to transfer your image from the computer screen to a piece of tagboard or poster board. The easiest method is to tape the tagboard to whiteboard the board and project the image using an LCD projector.

Shade in the area to be cut out, this helps students differentiate between areas. Cutting can take a long time. Use an X-Acto knife or scissors.

Step 3: Filming

With the lights off and windows covered, set up a digital camera on a tripod with an open aperture and 10 second shutter speed.

Have students work in teams of at least three. One student holds up the stencil, one student is in charge of taking the photo and the other students run the glow sticks behind the stencil.

The students should take many photos of the same stencil. It might take several times to get the best shot.

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