Introduction to Photography
Project III: FOCUS

The way in which a picture is focused is of much interest and concern. Although this function of picture making seems purely technical, it has been incorporated into a concept of aesthetics during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The focus in a photograph, whether it is sharp or soft, or has a narrow or wide depth of field, can become creative tools for the photographer. In many ways focus can strongly influence the content and meaning of a photograph and be a means to convey your intent and concept clearly.

You may want to document a very specific and detailed happening, place or person, by using sharp focus and a wide depth of field. Maybe your goal is to portray your subject in a way that describes the feeling of a place, object or person by using soft focus or a shallow depth of field.

Your objective for this assignment is to produce five photographs, which use focus in a deliberate way. You are to incorporate the technique of focus into the content, form and concept of your pictures. This assignment, like all the work you will be producing for this course, should go beyond a mere technical interpretation and address a personal expression of how you see your world.

The photographer's work we looked at in class is:

Charles Richard Meade  Julia Margaret Cameron  Bernice Abbott
Antoine Claudet  Peter Henry Emerson  Alfred Stieglitz
Henry Fitz Jr  Clarence White  Edward Weston
Fontyane & Southgate  Fredrich Holland Day  Paul Strand
George Barnard  William Henry Jackson  Ansel Adams
                       Timothy O'Sullivan  Hiroshi Sugimoto

Requirements for this assignment:

• You are to shoot at least five rolls of 24-exposure film and make contact sheets of each, which you will hand in with your prints.

• Consider the entire frame as you look through the camera.

• You must print your pictures full frame, DO NOT CROP YOUR IMAGE !

Due Date: March 12th

Prints must be ready for critique, and will be handed in for grading along with your contact prints.

NOTE: The Printing and Spot Toning Test is also due at this time.