

29th of April 2011

**HOW
CAN**

I PHOTOGRAPH IF I

CAN'T SEE ?

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How can I photograph if I can't see?
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Code: T3

Key-topic: The Art of Looking

This workshop is related to my current research, focused on creating and playing with photography. More specifically, I am interested in the process of creating photographs and also in its uses. It may seem clear that “The Art of Looking” undoubtedly refers to the sight, which is the sense we use to take pictures and to help us think how we look at things. However, is it possible to look with more than just our eyes?

In this workshop, we will try to answer this question and describe how to become a better observer using our five senses and, at the same time, developing our sense of looking through photography.

The workshop is organized into different sections. First, we will look at photography as a way of knowing how we really look at things. We will also share ideas about how we actually take photographs. During this stage, we will use some writing notes that may help participants to spot details that can go unnoticed at first glance.

Second, we will develop a practical work with digital cameras outside. Participants will work with and without their eyes in order to awaken not only all their senses, but also their feelings and emotions.

Third, participants will share opinions about what they want to say in their photographs and how this appears in their pictures. The key issue will be to learn how we try to express ourselves through photograph not only using our eyes.

Finally, we will collect participants' works, both photographs and writings, and display them in an exhibition.

Let me finish with a quote from Dorothea Lange that expresses perfectly the core idea of my workshop in a few words: “The camera is a tool that helps you to see without a camera”

HOW SHOULD I LOOK ?



Which one in the right window to look through?

HOW CAN I PHOTOGRAPH IF I CAN'T SEE ?

HOW SHOULD I LOOK ?



Following pictures were taken by participants of IDEAlaboratory on 29th of April at the outdoors of The Sound Ground Festival in Tallin.

We explained the importance of using other senses and feelings to experience places, and in fact of how these issues can affect the way we watch and create photographs.

Then, we played a photography game called “**The blind and the assistant**”. People worked in pairs. One played the role of the blind person and the other was his or her assistant. The aim was to develop an aesthetic sense of ordinary things to become more sensitive about our surrounding. Following slides show notes, drawings and a picture that try to describe that place from the point of view of the blind person.

Before looking at the participants' pictures, try to think about who the blind person is: is the person who is not able to see or the person whose eyes are open but is not really aware of what he/she is looking at.

CAN'T SEE ?

PHOTOGRAPH IF

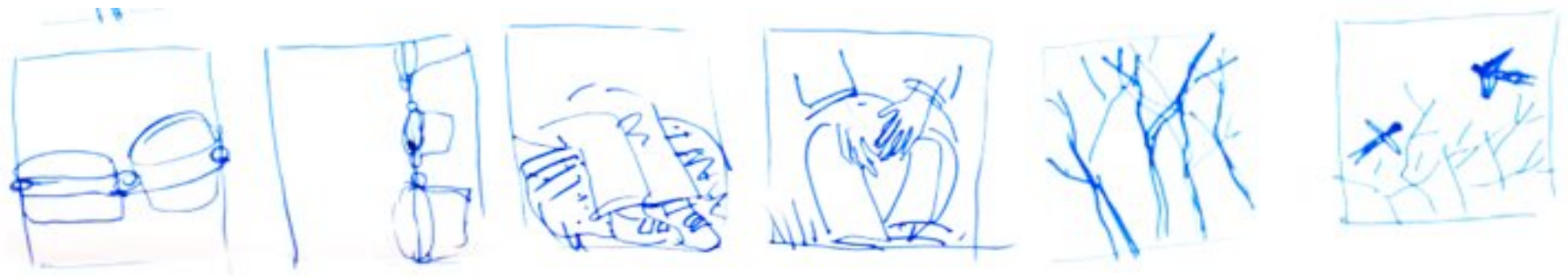
HOW CAN

How can I take a meaningful photograph?



What are the things that should take part in my photographs?

HOW CAN I PHOTOGRAPH IF I CAN'T SEE?



Julia
Eye



HOW
CAN
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3

HELI, DIANA
LUND ASSISTANT

stone wall
fresh flowers
contrast of
old grass
spring, fresh + new
old

low perspective



HOW
CAN

PHOTOGRAPH IF

CAN'T SEE?

☐ JELENA
TOMAZ

key words:
SUN, GREEN, SPRING, HEIGHT,
PEACEFULL,

DESCRIPTION.

ABIT O SKY
LOT OF GREEN
SUNNY
PEACEFULNESS and PEOPLE NOT
ENJOYING IT - NOT IN A
HURRY





HOW
CAN

PHOTOGRAPH IF

CAN'T SEE?

Traffic behind
Wind and sea
included
trees around us
one blind
no people
separate place
safe from behind

ALISON
CROWLEY
BLIND ASSISTANT LNU
1978

environment
reaction
after

Trees were more far
away.

PHOTO SUBMISSION: We are surrounded
by trees, but
the active
life is far a way,
still we can see it.



HOW
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CAN'T SEE ?

KEYWORDS
STRANGERS TALKING
SOUND OF A TRAIN, BIRDS TRAFFIC
WIDE SPACE
AIR + SUN
WARM
SOMEONES LAUGHING
PEOPLE WALKING BY
FEEL THE WIND
EMPTY

AFTERWARDS:
WEREN'T
AWARE OF
THE ARCHITECTURE
BIT LIKED THE PK.
AS IT HAD FEELING
OF SPACE.

DAZZLING WHITE OF SUN ON CONCRETE
A SOCIAL SPACE THAT IS NOW EMPTY
YOU CAN HEAR THE CITY
WIDE STAIRS

DESCRIPTION
SUN TRY AND CAPTURE THE SUN
+ THE BRIGHTNESS + THE SENSE
OF A WIDE OPEN SOCIAL SPACE
THAT IS CURRENTLY EMPTY.
INCLUDE SOME PEOPLE BUT FAR
AWAY. FROM STAIRS TO TREES, INCLUDING
THE STAIRS.

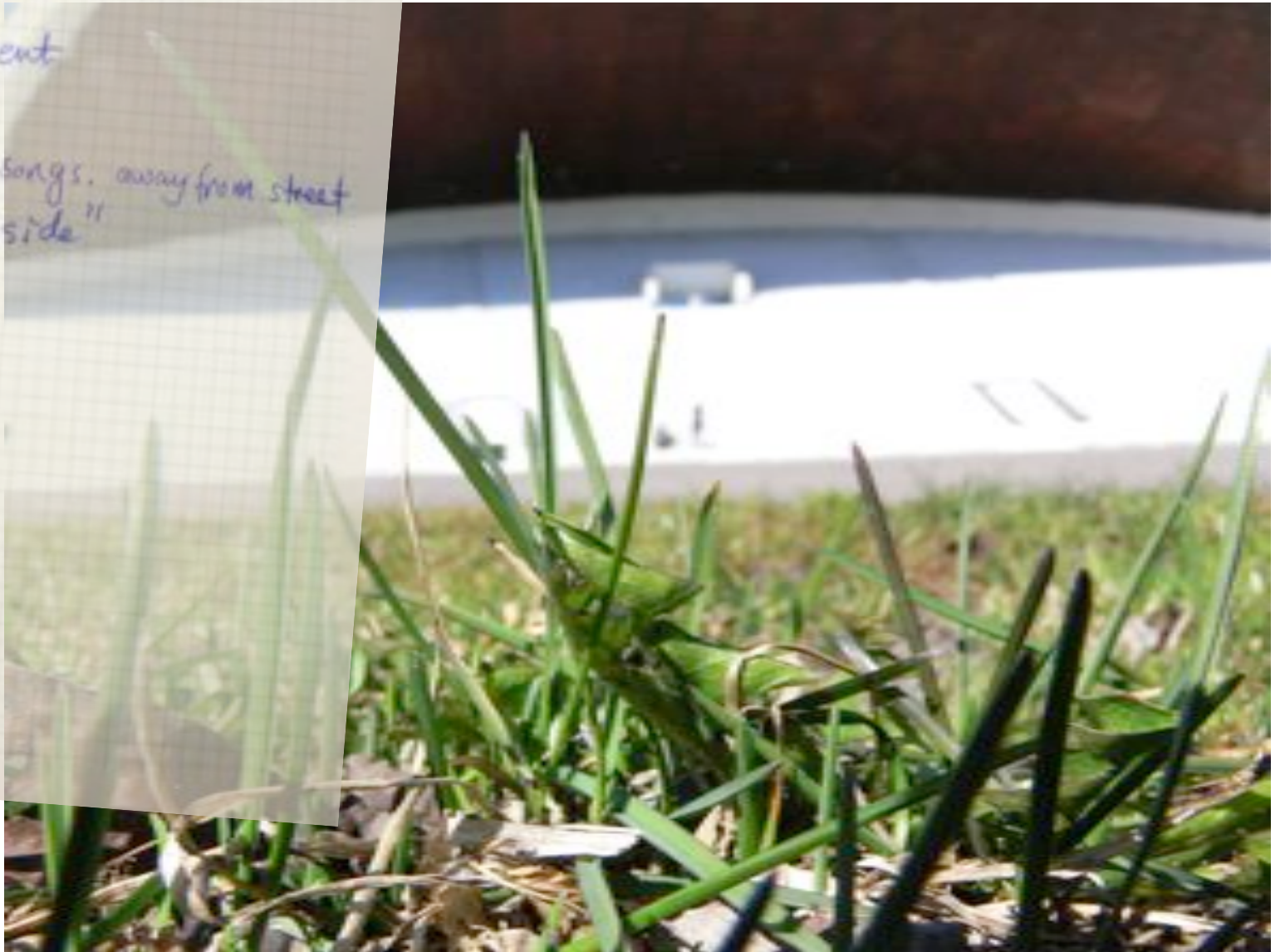
HOW
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CAN'T SEE?

sun, feel the warmth.
street, noise, cars, buses
people talking
echoing pavement
grass, soil
birds, different songs. away from street
"or they like this side"
gentle wind

Liis, Parask.





HOW
CAN

PHOTOGRAPH IF

CAN'T SEE ?

Hel Delane The Kachai
down, men
many young
light light
Said to
run from the left side
room something interesting on
the floor.

HOW
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PHOTOGRAPH IF

CAN'T SEE?

Thanks to all participants who played “The blind and the assistant”:

Julie & Eve

Heli & Diana

Jelena & Tomaz

Alison & Luci

Liis & Paresh

Ilze D. & Ilze K.

Þorbjörg & those who take part.

Special thanks also people who made possible Eksperimenta!

Noemí Peña

construyendofotografias.blogspot.com

