



# Night Photography

# Shooting At Night

- **Goal:** By now, you should have a good idea of how the camera responds to variations in daylight. How does it respond to the night? Your task is to find this out!

# 1. Night Scenes

- Select a location with some artificial source of light. (Streetlights, car headlights, lighted windows, flood lights, etc.)
  - Take some time to find a subject that is interesting enough to deserve a lot of your time.
- Keep the camera supported firmly.
  - Use a tripod if you own one or hold the camera firmly against a solid non moving object; a car (not running), a rock, a tree, a fence, a building, a grave stone.
- Use the Bulb setting on your camera.
  - This will be abbreviated by a “B” on the shutter speed dial.
  - Use a cable release if you own one or brace the camera so that your finger will not cause any movement.

# 1. Night Scenes

- Set your aperture to **f. 8**.
  - This will allow for a fair amount of depth of field while still getting enough light into the camera. If you want more depth of field you will have to modify the times
  - Remember you must **double** the time for every change in aperture.

EX: 1 min @ **f. 8** = 2 min @ **f. 11**

1 min @ **f. 8** = 30 s. @ **f. 5.6**

# 1. Night Scenes

- Bracket using these times:
  - 30 seconds
  - 1 minute
  - 2 minutes
- Remember the rules of composition!
  - Perspective
  - Subject matter
  - Lighting
  - Depth of field
  - Movement

# Wait – what is bracketing??

- Bracketing is when you intentionally over- and under-expose your film by one setting to get a variety of exposure times
- In tricky lighting situations (like night photography), it is smart to bracket since your light meter can't read the low light
- To bracket for this project, set your aperture at **f. 8**, and then take three different photos of the same thing, using the three specified shutter speed times















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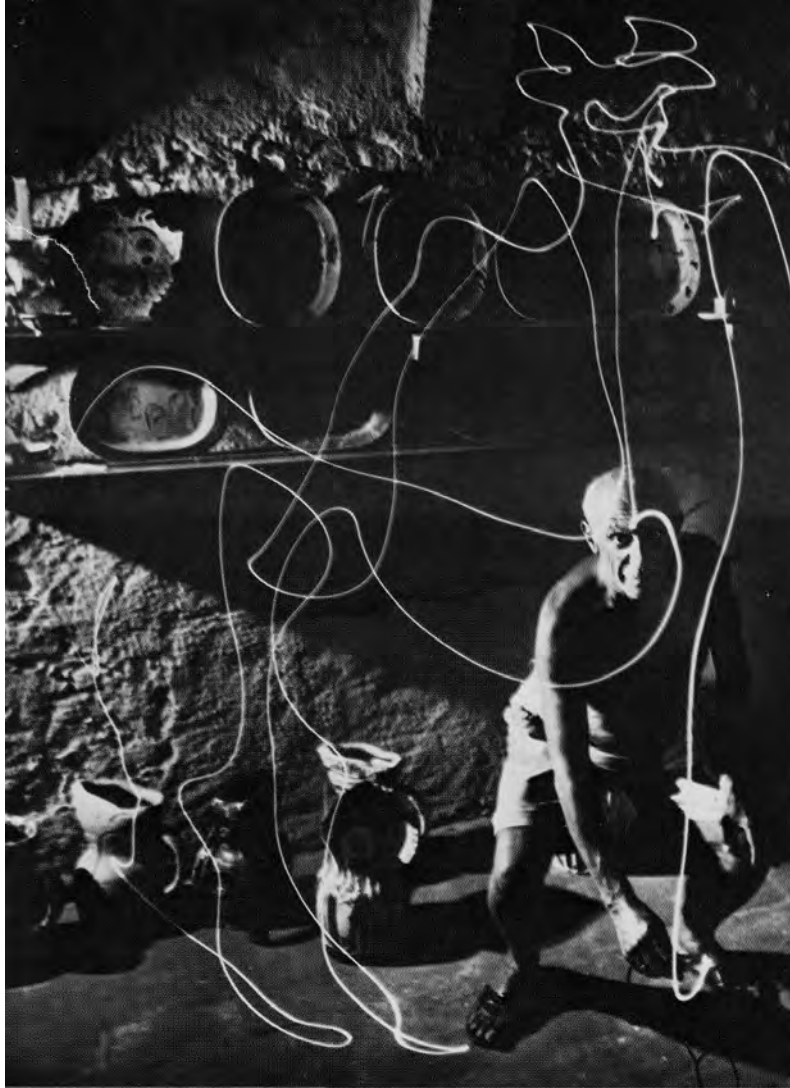






# 2. Drawing with Light

- Use **f.** 8 for this group of photographs (NO bracketing)
- Leave the camera open on the B setting until you are done manipulating your subject.
  - Try using a small penlight to draw your subject.
  - Have your subject move in front of the lens holding a light.
  - Have your subject move and shine a light on them in different positions.
  - Light parts of your scene with a bright spot light.
  - Use a hand held flash to create a strobe effect or flash the room lights for the same effect with a moving subject.
- In order for this to work you must find a dark area to set up your camera. Outside with no yard lights, inside in a dark room, or out in the country.



GJON MILI: *Centaur* by Picasso, Vallauris, France, 1949

*The fanciful centaur drawn by Pablo Picasso exists only on film (above). The artist traced it in total darkness with a flashlight bulb while Gjon Mili kept his camera shutter open. Just before the drawing was complete, Mili triggered a flash, placed to the left. The flash caught Picasso at the end of the downstroke that completed his drawing.*







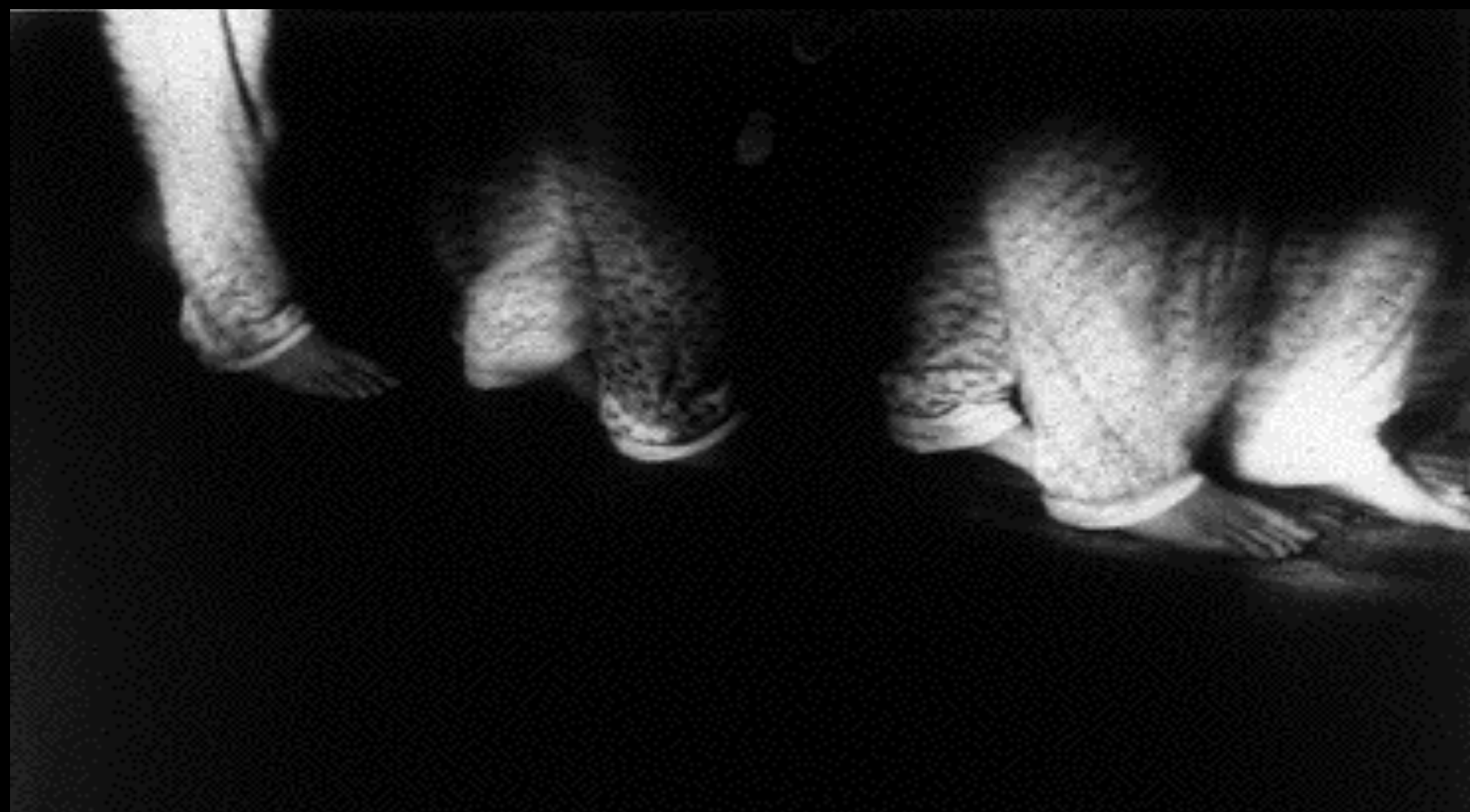










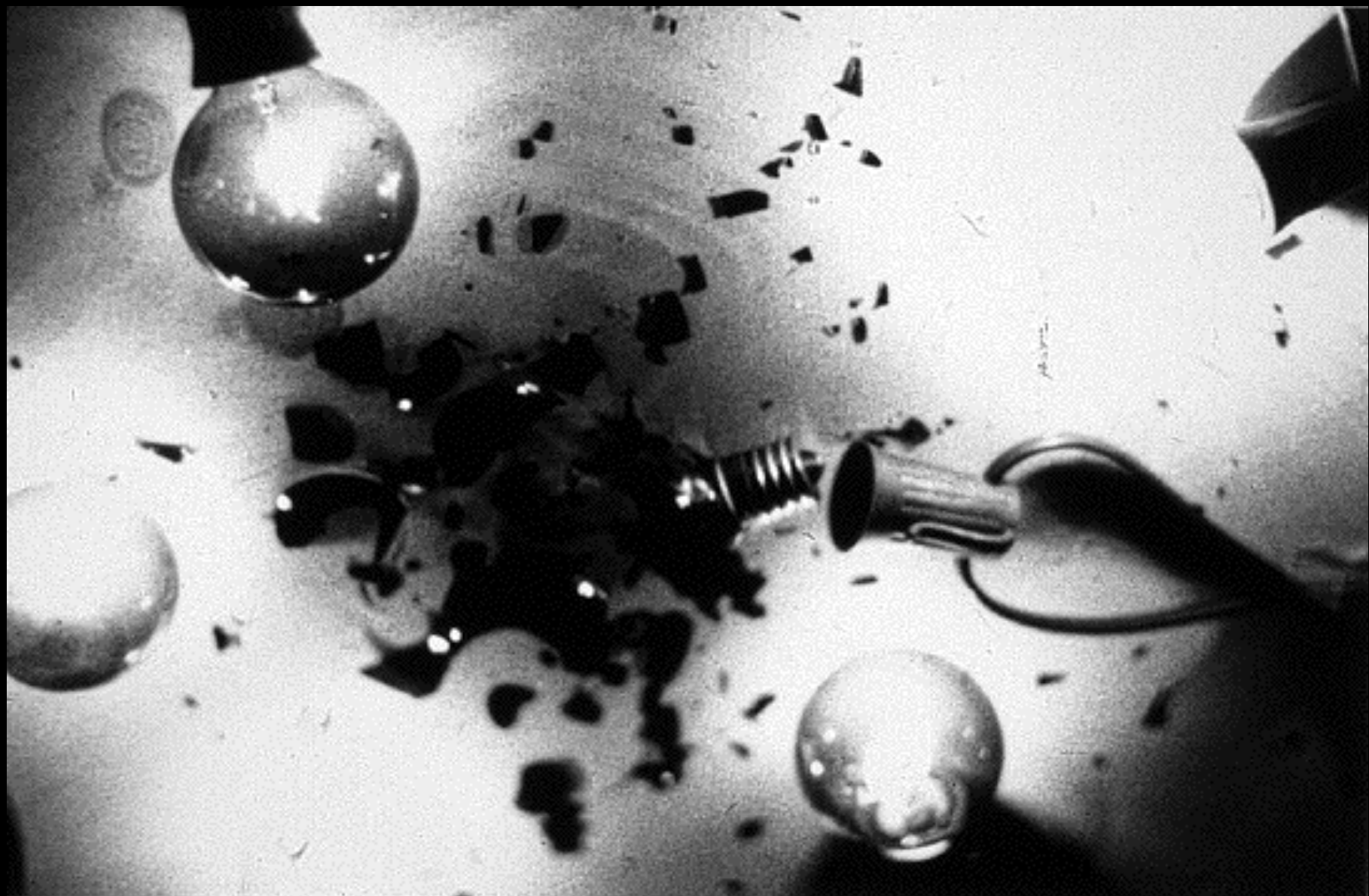






# 3. Light as Subject

- Select a subject that includes a light.
  - any type of light will work.
  - candles, lamps, sparklers, light bulbs, glow sticks, strobe lights, holiday lights, neon signs store fronts, etc.....
  - make sure that it is interesting. You may need to include some other subjects in the picture to add interest.
- Camera settings:
  - aperture: **f. 8**
  - shutter speed: bracket @ 1/15, 1/8, 1/4 sec  
(These times are approximations for dimly lit areas like the examples in the following slides.)
- Motion blur:
  - If you want your subject to come out clear without motion blur, they must **be still** for the duration of the exposure.
  - *Sometimes* blur can be a good thing—but ONLY if it adds meaning to your work.











# Film

- use 400 ISO + roll 32 exposures
- 4 Night Scenes  
(12 exposures after bracketing)
- 8 Drawing With Light  
(8 exposures with NO bracketing)
- 4 Light as Subject  
(12 exposures after bracketing)

# Assignment

- Turn in **two** 8 x 10 prints from Night Scenes and Drawing with Light
- Turn in **one** 8 x 10 print from Light as Subject for up to **20 extra credit points.**