

Silhouettes

Assignment

Photograph an Object or a Person As a Silhouette.

Goal

Make sure that the silhouetted figure makes sense as a silhouette, that it's clear and distinct. In addition, be very aware of negative space, especially if the figure is entirely within the frame of your photograph.

Tips

- This assignment is difficult because you'll be shooting an object against the sky. As a result, your light meter will get very confused.
- Take a meter reading off the sky and then close your lens one stop smaller than indicated by the meter. For example if the meter indicates f. 16, shoot at f. 22 instead. (under expose 1 stop).

Meter the Light off the Background

You'll need to meter the exposure off of the light background to help deliberately underexpose the subject and create the silhouette effect. When using manual metering on your camera point it at a clear, bright section of sky to take the light readings. Set the camera to these bright background meter readings to take the silhouetted main subject shots.

- Try to clearly isolate your subject. Good subjects include trees, people, playground equipment, machinery, objects with holes in them that allow some light to show through. Avoid plain rectangular shapes like a building or door, since they don't tend to produce interesting silhouettes.
- Bracket your subject by under exposing 1 stop, 2 stops, and 3 stops.

Have your subject backlit.

The first key to shooting silhouettes is to have the main or strongest light source behind the subject. If it's the sun, have your subject block the sun's direct light. Shooting in low light conditions such as sunrises and sunsets will also help in creating silhouettes. Both of these times of the day are almost made-to-order for capturing silhouetted images.

Shoot from Different Angles

Shoot your subject making sure to keep the strongest source of light, like the sun, moon or other light source, behind the subject. With this in mind you can change to shoot from higher, lower or side angles to get more creative with the silhouette. You can also move or pose the subject in different positions too. Remember, when neither you nor the subject can move, zoom in to get the image.



Take light reading here















Boston Harbor

























