



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

LIGHT & SHADOW

This activity will encourage you to look closely at works of art in the exhibition, [AFTERMATH: Images from 9/11](#), and guide you through taking your own outdoor photographs inspired by Joel Meyerowitz.

The exhibition includes 40 images by photographer Joel Meyerowitz. He was the only photographer given full access to document the wreckage and first-responders from inside of Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks.



Left: Joel Meyerowitz (American, born 1938), *South Tower October 5 2001*, 10 x 8 inches, vintage contact print. Right: Joel Meyerowitz (American, born 1938), *The Interior of the Winter Garden October 5 2001*, 8 x 10 inches, vintage contact print. Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY. Gifts of Alison and Donald Weiss, 2021.

Look at the two photographs. What do you see? How are they the same, and how are they different? Where is light coming from? What time of day is it? How would the images be different if taken at a different time of the day?

LET'S CREATE

For this activity you will need a camera.

You can use a digital camera, the camera on a phone, or “go old school” and use a film or disposable camera.

There are three parts to this activity; Day, Twilight, and Night. You can do this over the course of one day or split it up over multiple days.

DAYTIME

Go outside with your camera during the middle of the day. Find something that interests you, this can be a building, plants, even a person (if it is, it's always nice to ask before taking someone's photo).

Move around the subject while looking through the view of your camera. Make sure to explore different heights. What would the subject look like from an ant's viewpoint? Take photos from different positions to see how the light moves around your subject. Will you include the entire subject in your photograph or focus on a part of it?

Find more things that interest you outside and take photos of those as well.

TWILIGHT

Twilight is the time of day between sunset and night. The sunlight is more orange and red and the sky is a medium blue. Photographers call this the “golden hour” because the light is not too bright or dark.

Right: Joel Meyerowitz (American, born 1938), *Twilight Looking toward Building 4 and the Woolworth Building November 5 2001*, 8 x 10 inches, vintage contact print. Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY. Gift of Alison and Donald Weiss, 2021



Go outside with your camera to take photos during twilight. There should be enough natural light that you won't need a flash.

If you can, take photos of the same thing that interested you during the middle of the day. What changes when photographing at a different time of day?

Look for shadows. Find shadows in odd shapes or patterns that you would like to photograph.

NIGHT

For this part you will take photos both with and without flash. Once again, you will go outside and take photos.

Find something that generates light. This can be lights from a house or car, maybe a street lamp or stoplight. Take a photo of this without flash.

Now, take photos using the flash on your camera. Photograph things that are covered in darkness. Using the flash will add light to what is closest to you. Consider taking a photo with a flash and a streetlight in the distance. In the photograph on the previous page, you can see the red lights of a pickup truck and work lights to help the workers and excavator trucks see. Behind this, in the background, you can also see the lights from office buildings, including the blue-green lights at the top of the Empire State Building.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Now that you have taken a series of photographs, review your images. My favorite way to do this is print out the photographs and lay them all out on a table. Most major drug stores have photo printers, but you can also print your pictures on computer paper or view the images on a computer or the phone you used to take the photographs.

When reviewing your photographs, compare the images you took of the same subject at different times of day. What time of day do you like the best? Why? Pick three favorite photographs, why are these your favorite? Is it the subject? Time of day? Shadows?

Check out the exhibition, [*AFTERMATH: Images from 9/11*](#), at the Parrish Art Museum. September 10, 2021 - November 7, 2021



We would love to see what you made! To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios