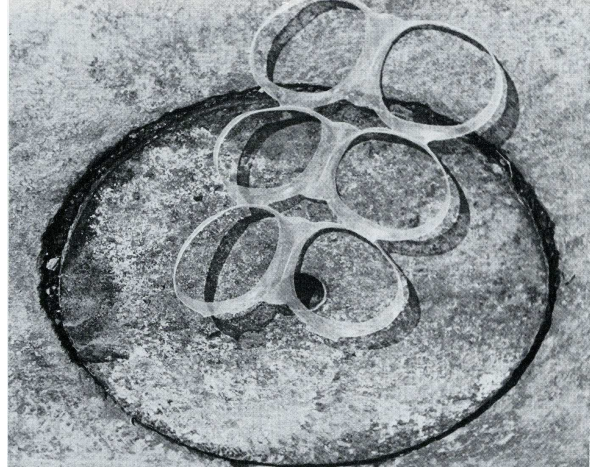


Intermediate Digital Photography

“The Photographic Eye, Learning to See with a Camera” Michael F. O’Brien & Norman Sibley

Circles & Ovals

In this assignment you will be shooting *only circles and ovals in black and white*. You may have other shapes in the photographs as well, but be sure that each frame is dominated by one or more circular shapes. You may want to set up some of the shots (try experimenting with a cup and saucer, with spoons, plates or bowls), but at least half of your shots should be “found” circles or ellipses (i.e. ones that you just happen to see in your yard, neighborhood or town).



Try to find a variety of compositions using circles or ovals. Try some with just one circular shape, some with lots and some with a few. Try some shots in which one or more circular shapes interact with squares or other shapes. Shoot in bright sunlight at the point of departure setting.

Keep in mind the various functions of shape and spatial relation as you do this assignment. Without losing sight of your primary theme (circles and ovals), see if you can use shape to indicate mass, such as the “bigness” of a pumpkin or a boulder. Try to produce interesting examples of proportion and compelling spatial relations. In addition, try to come up with a few shots that express what you think or feel about a subject.

All these shapes are available to you as a photographer, just as they are available to any artist. You just have to find them.

This is not as hard as it may sound. Once you begin keeping an eye out for interesting shapes, you’ll probably be amazed at how many are out there, just waiting for you to capture them on film.

Start by looking for individual shapes. Then pay attention to how those shapes may repeat themselves and establish visual harmonies. Finally, allow interpretations to emerge as you experiment with different compositions, different combinations of objects, different viewing angles. Allow space and spatial relation to tell you something about your subjects...and then try to pass that “something” on to others through your photographs.

Don’t be at all surprised if the “something” that you learn and want to pass on can’t be expressed in words. If it could be, you could just say it or write about it, and you wouldn’t need to photograph it. The best photographs present an image or idea or feeling in a way that only a photograph can. **Strive to notice those things that *need to be* photographed, rather than spending time on those that simply *can be*.**