

Nostalgia: remembering the past and shooting with slow film

Cecil - Photo 2

Nostalgia is a wistful or excessively sentimental yearning for a return to some past period. You will use 50 speed film to explore people and places that evoke a sense of longing and memory. This film is slow, like memory. It is less sensitive to light, it has small grain that gives you a wide range of light values - like the softness of reminiscing. It produces sharp details like those within our memories.



You will shoot a roll of 50 ISO (36 exposures) to capture the memories you have of people and places.

½ of your roll should capture the sense of nostalgia you have for a person or people

-Capture the person from unique points of view (get close, look up, look down) to explore how memory distorts things

-How does the person become part of an environment, what is it that triggers your memory or longing? Is it a feature of theirs? A smell? A look?

-How will you capture someone that cannot be in your photo?

½ of your roll should capture the sense of nostalgia you have for a place or places.

-Consider what is significant about this place, showcase that.

-Explore unusual points of view—how does your memory see the place?

-What could stand in for the actual place if you cannot return there?

-How can you capture the unusual, beautiful, profound, longing quality of a memory

- Tips -

- Make sure to change your camera's ISO to 50 (some cameras will set it for you, but check)
- Make sure you have good light to avoid getting very gray photos
- It is imperative you light meter correctly as your photos will easily look very gray if you do not.
- This emulsion is 3 stops less sensitive to light than 400 ISO film, therefore if you normally have an exposure of $f/11$ and 250 for afternoon sun, your meter will read $f/4$ and 250. You will need sunlight and probably won't be able to shoot indoors.
- You should evoke a sense of light and time of day or season in your work as this is directly connected to memory

- Photographic Techniques -

- Shallow depth of field
- Focus to create unexpected focal point
- Zooming and cropping
- Dramatic or uncommon points of view

- Subject Matter -

Consider how you can capture your subject from a different angle, point of view, or approach, just as memory is reality from a different angle, such as:

- Through something transparent or translucent
- As reflections
- As shadows
- Something obscuring your subject partially
- Laying your camera on the ground, turning it upside down, shooting from below