Project #1: Digital B/W Portraits

"Art is an additive process and the thing about photography is we go out and we're at the mercy of what we find. That's the real discovery."

- Frederick Sommer

Conceptual Requirements:

In this assignment you will be asked to make a series of portraits. The photographs should represent one person you know well. Write a 1 page description of this person as it relates to their personality, or essence. In describing this person, do your best to isolate their manner of being over identifying their interests or profession. (i.e. they're a tattoo artist or musician, etc.)

After this, create a series of pictures that describes something about them. It is possible for them to project an emotion or mood through the lens? Try creating pictures that might communicate the same thing without having the person in the frame. Is it possible to do this by showing us their environment, varying the point-of-view, distance, body language, time of day, lighting, etc—experiment and have fun with it.

Try to avoid just documenting the objects they own or their activities literally. Always consider with this assignment the psychological and emotional aspects of portraiture, as well as your relationship with the sitter. There is usually a collaboration that happens with good portraiture. The subject is entirely up to you as long as it serves the conceptual guidelines you've set. The images, a cohesive group, should also lead us (the viewers) to understand why you've shot this subject this way.

Technical Requirements:

For this project you will shoot at least 200 images, then make digital contact sheets. Your first 100 can be shot as JPG, but your second set of 100 should be shot as RAW files. Although the RAW files are in color, you should shoot them as if you had black & white film loaded in your camera. Make contact sheets using Adobe Bridge as shown in class. From your contact sheets, edit 6 images to enlarge. You will learn how to prepare black and white images for printing. Do not manipulate the image other than converting them to B/W and adjusting tones and contrast using Adjustment Layers. Have 6 good quality prints for the critique and be prepared to discuss them.

Deliverables:

- 1 page project proposal.
- Shoot 100 images (any format) for the first part of the project & make contact sheets for all.
- Shoot 12 brackets (36 exposures) & 64 images for this assigment (RAW format) + contact sheets for all.
- In addition you'll turn in 6 Good B/W Prints on the critique day.
  See the syllabus for pacing and due dates.