

# Photo Challenge 5

Ghost Hunting

the challenge:

Use a long exposure technique  
to capture ghostly images

## Learning Targets:

- I can determine the shutter speed I need for long exposure photography
- I can use a long exposure to capture "ghosts" on camera

# Shutter speed:

A **fast** shutter speed will "**freeze**" fast-moving objects, while a **slow** shutter speed will capture **motion blur**.



1/500



1/250



1/125



1/60



1/30



1/15



1/8



1/4



1/2

Long-exposure, or slow-shutter photography, involves using a long-duration shutter speed (1/15 or slower) to sharply capture the stationary elements of images while blurring, smearing, or obscuring the moving elements.

## Featured Artist: Michael Wesely

Michael Wesely is a German art photographer who is best known for his photos of cities, buildings, landscapes, and still lives of flowers taken with a special ultra-long exposure technique.



Wesely's works deal with the subject of time and the change that takes place over time. Due to the extremely long exposure and the special bulb he uses, those elements that move the least dominate his images, while those moving will later be seen as transparent figures or the outlines of newly erect buildings overlapping. The pictures "reveal the passage of time by showing the changing skyline, the skeletons of cranes. the rise of new buildings, and the disappearance of others.



9.8.2001 - 2.5.2003 The Museum of Modern Art, New York







A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white, short-sleeved, knee-length dress, stands in a stone archway. She is looking towards the camera with her hand near her face. The background shows a stone wall and some foliage. The image is framed by a black border.

# GHOST

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PHOTOGRAPHY

## Video Summary:

- Set up your shot in a dimly-lit area. Set your camera to manual mode (M on the mode dial). Use a slow shutter speed and high aperture.
- Use a tripod to avoid camera shake.
- Focus your camera in auto-focus mode, then switch to manual focus, the same way we did for light painting.
- Your "ghost" should spend about half of the shutter speed time moving, and the other half standing still.

# Suggested Camera Settings

High  
Aperture

Low ISO

Slow  
Shutter  
Speed

Manual Mode



Remember, this is just a starting point. You may need to adjust these settings depending on lighting conditions, how “ghostly” you want your subjects to appear, and how much time is needed to walk from one spot to another.

## Directions:

Work in pairs or groups of 3.

Each person in the group must edit and upload their own 5 photos to Google Classroom as .JPEGs, so make sure everyone has a chance to shoot and direct a subject.

You may need to adjust brightness/contrast, hue/saturation, or crop your images. For a more ghostly effect, try editing photos to be black and white.