

# Final Project Unit

## Overview:

You will spend the bulk of the final half of the class working on a project of your own choosing. Your project topic needs to be conceptually grounded and have sufficient content to be able to work on (and speak about) your topic for the duration of the second half of the term.

## Detail:

The Final Project Unit is broken up into three sub-units. The first is an abstract – or to put it another way, an informal pitch of several ideas to your professor. The second is a formal proposal which you will make to the class, and the third and longest sub-unit is the actual execution of your idea.

There are few limits on what you can do for your final project – the primary one is that your topic must have sufficient conceptual weight and technical challenge to work on for the duration of the second half of the term. Whatever you choose, make sure that you pick a topic that not only interests you greatly (and will continue to interest you for the ~2 months that you will work on it) but would also be of interest to your classmates and professor.

To begin, start looking at the work of contemporary photographers (defined as artists who were active from the 1960s to the present) who are working in a similar vein as to what you wish to do. Check the campus library, museum, and magazine websites for inspiration and for examples. I put the links for a few magazines, museums and galleries up on the appropriately named “links” page off of the homepage of the class website.

## Abstract Sub-Unit:

You will develop at least two solid project ideas. After looking at books, magazines, or websites featuring the work of artists which interest you, print out (or copy) pages with examples relevant to what you wish to do (examples of their work which relate to your proposed topics). You need to make it very clear that you did significant and substantial research of artists<sup>1</sup> working similarly to what you’re interested in.

After you have your ideas and examples, create notes for a short (~5ish minutes), relatively informal presentation for two separate ideas that you wish to work on. You will present your ideas and images of your inspirational/influential artists in a one-on-one meeting with your instructor to further hone your ideas before discussing them in a more formal presentation to the class.

## Formal Proposal Sub-Unit:

Using the discussion from the Abstract Sub-Unit as a guide, narrow your idea(s) down to a concise topic. Do not take this step lightly as you will be locked into your final proposed topic for the rest of the term. Make sure that you have solved any logistical issues (access, etc) that your topic might entail. Create a 10 minute PowerPoint expounding on the idea you have chosen and include examples of at least two contemporary artists who work with similar topics/issues/subject matter. Prior to the start of the class in which it is due, upload a PowerPoint (“lastname\_final\_proposal.pptx” or for me “chalmers\_final\_proposal.pptx”) to the Drop-Box. Your classmates and professor will critique your idea after your presentation.

## Purpose:

This assignment is meant for you to start thinking about the conceptual basis of your final project and to research artists – and to showcase and develop the skills you’ve developed in your class. You will begin working on your project shortly after the formal proposal -- see the schedule for the critique dates.

## Grading:

Your grade for the “Abstract” and “Formal Proposal” sub-units will be based upon the conceptual depth of your topic, the professionalism of your presentation<sup>2</sup>, and the relevancy of your examples.

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<sup>1</sup> Meaning a legit person – perhaps a person who exhibits in galleries/museums, or gives talks at SPE or CAA conferences, or has some other cred . In other words, not just a schmo with a website or Flickr page. See list of people on website, view the speakers at SPE and CAA conferences, look at books at the library, and do other research. If you find someone you love but are unsure if they are a legit artist, ask.

<sup>2</sup> Meaning “was the design of the PowerPoint professional”, “did they convey the concept clearly”, “did they stay within the allocated time”, “did they adequately address any logistical challenges”, etc.