

## Assignment 1 Blog Postcard

### Objectives

Arriving in a foreign culture is one of the most visceral things a person can do. The stimulation of all senses, twisted together with emotional polarities like exhaustion and excitement, anxiety and exhilaration, confusion and clarity creates a new state of being and seeing. Now that you are here, somehow all the weeks spent preparing to be in Spain appears to have only scratched the surface. Compared to what's at home, the sights, sounds, tastes, and textures — all your senses — suddenly have access to a dramatically different range of experiences.

There is no time like the present, and now is the moment to photograph, and put into words, the uniqueness of this day. As a visual artist the challenge you are presented with while dealing with all this newness, is having something to say by means of your photographs. If your intuitive responses to Spain can be articulated into words, then bringing the camera up to those ideas later can provide images with a stronger voice to convey ideas. **SmartPhone use is acceptable.**

Students are encouraged to develop a list of keywords that can enable a rationale for being here, and to take action on. These keywords [adjectives] can provide some sense of clarity and selectivity among the daily, sensational barrage. This is designed to engage the act of seeing, being observant, and responding with intuition while handling the camera. In the end, *having something to say* with images is what matters most — creating images infused with purpose and personal interpretation offers meaning.

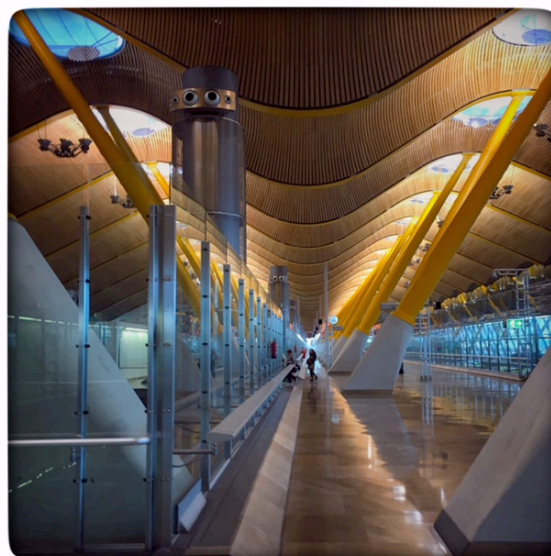
### Procedures

—At some point today [Day 1] give yourself the physical and mental space to spend at least one half-hour alone, in one place. Turn off any distracting technology/device. Use your senses. Live in the present moment. Don't simply look at things; stop, listen, and *see* things. Visually explore an environment. Try closing your eyes and just listen, smell, touch, and if you can, taste.

—What intrigues you the most about Spain, now that you are actually here? Is it the food, the people, the architecture, the heat, the streets, the history, etc.?

—Make some photographs to convey what you are experiencing:  
Fill the frame. Use an unusual point of view. Bring the viewer right up to what you want them to see. Describe things: *keyword* things that you are experiencing. Describe sensory experiences — touch, smell, taste, sound, and vision — to articulate first impressions, these intuitive responses to being in Spain. They only happen to you once.

—Give yourself a rule limiting the physical distance between the camera and the subject matter. For example, during this time window tell yourself that you cannot photograph anything unless you are physically one meter or less away from it. Color photographer, Ernst Haas once said, "*one of the best lenses you have is your feet.*"



—Say for instance that you've chosen the adjective *windy*; then how can you interpret and capture the essence of wind in a photograph?

—A resultant photograph of this assignment must be posted on your Blog, by the first critique. There must also be a written description [100 word minimum] to accompany the image that articulates some of the ideas you've been pondering. This written description must include some description of sensory perceptions, other than vision.

—What do you want to tell people at home about what you saw today? Bring them right up to it, and let them know.