

The object of this assignment is to become sensitive to ways in which light can transform a common object or scene. As an example, imagine you are standing in the woods with your camera. It's 12 noon on a bright July day. As you turn around in a circle to find something to photograph you will notice that the light is pretty much the same in all directions. Being that the light is coming from directly above there are no dramatic shadows – in fact, they are below the object creating them. Now, if you return at 8pm (or you stand and wait until then – it's your choice) you will find that as you turn around you see a wide variety of light. Facing into the setting sun everything is in silhouette, the colors are gone. Turn around 180 and you have a mosaic of deep shadows and bright colors created by the sunlight filtering through the trees behind you. To either side you might photograph distinct shafts of light.

Light is the photographic medium par excellence; it is to the photographer what words are to the writer; color and paint to the painter; wood, metal, stone, or clay to the sculptor.
- Andreas Feininger

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