

GHOST RANCH
Fine B&W Printing
December 7-13, 2025
Kent Bowser and Margs Musson

Welcome Letter

December at Ghost Ranch is often cold with snow possible. However, warm afternoons are also possible, so check the weather forecast just before packing. We will do a few optional hikes, so bring your hiking shoes/boots (gaiters are recommended if snow is in the forecast), two sets of gloves (lightweight for camera controls and heavy ones for hiking, warm socks and liners, top and bottom layering with long underwear or lined pants, and sunglasses for transitioning in and out of the darkroom.

An inexpensive red LED pinch light is useful as a personal safelight. Darkroom shoes or slippers are necessary and they will be kept in a designated space in the darkroom, as hiking boots are not allowed in the darkroom to ensure a clean printing environment. Bring a notebook to record lecture information and a soft pencil for marking on the back of prints. To prevent backups in the developing room, everyone **must** bring the same film – Kodak T-Max 400 (TMY). Only three or four rolls are needed as this is not a shooting class.

Bringing one or two QUALITY negatives is critical. Bring an image(s) that is one of your best and that will print on a normal grade of paper without much, if any, burning or dodging. You will be making over a dozen or two variations of this image(s) using different print developers, warm and cold tone papers, developer additives, various print sizes, and archival print toners. Do not expect to generate this negative in our class and choose wisely, as sometimes students regret the negative(s) they have brought.

Suggested texts on fine printing are Graves' The Elements of Black and White Printing, Steven Anchell's The Darkroom Cookbook (5th ed.), Rudman's The Photographer's Toning Guide (expensive but yes, it is the definitive guide), Thornton's Edge of Darkness: The Art, Craft and Power of the High Definition Monochrome Photograph. Also of interest is Troop and Anchell's The Film Developing Cookbook, but it does not apply directly to this class. While all these books are optional, if you have a darkroom they are great sources of information.

The darkroom accommodates enlarging 35 mm through 4x5 negatives, although 5"x7" to 11"x14" negatives can be contact printed.

Do not hesitate to call with any questions. I am looking forward to seeing you and to teaching this class, as it is one of my favorite subjects.

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Tentative Schedule (May change to work with other scheduling needs/wants)

Sun	Morning	12/7	Arrival, meeting after dinner
	Afternoon		
	Evening		
Mon	Morning	12/8	Overview, pre-printing (camera filters, negative choices, etc.)
	Afternoon		Developer choices with Ilford Multigrade
	Evening		Developer choices with Ilford Warm tone
Tue	Morning	12/9	Developer additives
	Afternoon		Possible shooting
	Evening		Additives continued, film developing
Wed	Morning	12/10	Extended developing, image scale, contact negatives
	Afternoon		Toning lecture
	Evening		Toning -- selenium
Thu	Morning	12/11	Toning -- sepia
	Afternoon		Gold toning, toning continued
			Editing and scale printing
	Evening		6:30 pm- Annie Leibovitz presentation (PROGRAM MUST BE PURCHASED SEPARATELY)
Fri	Morning	12/12	Show prep
	Afternoon		Possible shoot or printing
	Evening		Show
Sat	Morning	12/13	Clean lab, departure