

Light Painting with Chris Attrell

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Chris Attrell's passion for night photography became quite evident as he spoke of his adventures in the Province of Saskatchewan. His love for taking photographs of abandoned buildings started back in 2003 as he began to travel around both Alberta and Saskatchewan. The one thing that those present for his talk would have to agree on is that he makes everything that he does look so easy. From start to finish he mesmerized the group with his stories of taking photographs at night. "Why does no one want to take photograph on a cloudy night, they only want to take them when the Northern Lights are visible?" He went on to describes some of his favourite shots and how he achieved them. He left us with the following thoughts.

Things to consider:

- The best not to apply light from behind the camera. It looks better and adds contrast and shadows when you apply light from the left or right side.
- A wide-angle lens with an aperture that can reach F/1.2- 2.8 is recommended
- Experiment with using a few different types of lights; different brightness, warm lights, cool lights, and maybe one that has light focus on it. Each light will show up differently in your image.
- You can use cheap battery powered tea lights to put inside buildings to give them some mood. Available from the Dollar store.
- Keep note of every object you bring to the shoot and where you put it. It reduces the chance that you forgot something at the location.
- Dress appropriately; cold can seem to feel twice as cold when you are shooting at night. Fingerless gloves are highly recommended.
- Always check out the area that you will be shooting during the day, make sure to look for any hazards or situations that may interfere with shooting at night.
- Animals are curious, but they stay away, so don't worry if you hear anything odd.
- Be respectful of farmer's land, always ask for permission to enter, if you do not know who owns it ask around someone will know.

Be sure and check out Chris's website anywhere.ca for more information on his up-coming classes and his projects.

