

Total time:
3-5 hours



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Difficulty Level: Normal

Skill Points:

- Recognizing what Grunge Photography is as a genre
- Creating Grunge images either in-camera or using editing apps

GRUNGE

CREATIVE DECONSTRUCTION

The word 'Grunge' originated in the early 1990s within the music industry. It started in the Seattle, Washington area with the advent of 'Punk Bands'. The genre is often described as dark, old, and portraying peculiar vibes. It's meant to shake-up a viewer's senses.



KEY LESSON: Grunge photography, also known as 'Lo-fi', often requires the use of old or toy lenses. Toy cameras, film and digital, are also a favorite. While there is an emphasis on using film for Grunge Photography- you can mimic most of the effects easily using editing apps.

EQUIPMENT: Any camera (One Action Assignment requires a film camera) | Any lens | Specialized Editing App

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



Using Film

Left: This is a classic example of Grunge Photography created using film and a toy camera. Notice the vignette, the pincushion perspective, and the obvious out of focus areas. The technique often exudes high contrast and unusual color shifts.

Right: Another technique includes using film with the wrong color balance for the lighting, cross-processing the film, and then scratching it with various utensils.



Using apps

Left: With app software you can take a normal photograph and turn it into a piece of grunge beauty. This is known as 'Deconstruction'. This means taking a normal image file and applying grunge effects using post-processing software.

Right: This image was deconstructed using the app *Snapseed*. It is one of the most versatile apps on the market, and it's free.



Make it interesting

Grunge photography, or alternative forms of photography, are a great resource when you have limited access to a photo opportunity. Perhaps the weather is bad, or you simply have dull lighting on the one day you can take pictures. These techniques can put some pizzazz back into a shot that is well composed, but lacking visual punch.



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Download the free *Snapseed* app onto your smartphone or tablet
- 2- Spend an afternoon out shooting pictures. Keep in mind that you are going to deconstruct them into Grunge Photography. Look for subjects that fit to the genre, or perhaps need help due to poor lighting.
- 3- If you have a film camera. Shoot a roll of film using the wrong color balance of light. Process your film uncut. Scratch the film with pins, scissors, and various kitchen knives. Study the entire roll for interesting compositions. Don't be afraid to include parts of two different frames. Scan at least four shots from your roll. Post-process them further to your liking.
- 4- Print out all of your photos and share them with others.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you find subjects that fit well into the Grunge Photography theme?
- What type of feedback did you get from others that saw the photos?

READY! SET! GO! **ACTION CARDS - STRETCH GOALS: GRUNGE**