

Looooooong Exposures...

One of the very often discussed subjects in the Photography and not paid enough attention from many hobby Photographers is the light.

The basic Cliché says: you should have enough light when you are shooting or stay with your back to the sun and stuff like this.

These are not wrong, the more light you have in your scene the more you can do with it and getting fast, sharp and well exposed pictures. You can stick with this cliché and nothing goes wrong. Maybe you are a very imaginary photographer with a sharp eye that can find interesting subjects in the simple day-life.

But if you are so good at it to find the best subject and the best angle, why don't you try to represent that subject in the best way possible? The key to this magic power is the light. The right way to use the light (the available natural light or the electric light) is first of all knowing its character. What kind of light source is that? What color temperature has this light? Is it straight like a spotlight or is it diffused and soft?

As you see, any kind of these light properties makes a huge difference to your Photograph. The best and closest friend of light is the shadow. And this is why you can see your pictures at all, because it is the shadow and light that make the forms in your picture. And to get the most power out of it you should just break the rules after you studied them exactly. So you don't need necessarily a place that has enough light to take a good shot. Go manual and shoot a long exposure one.



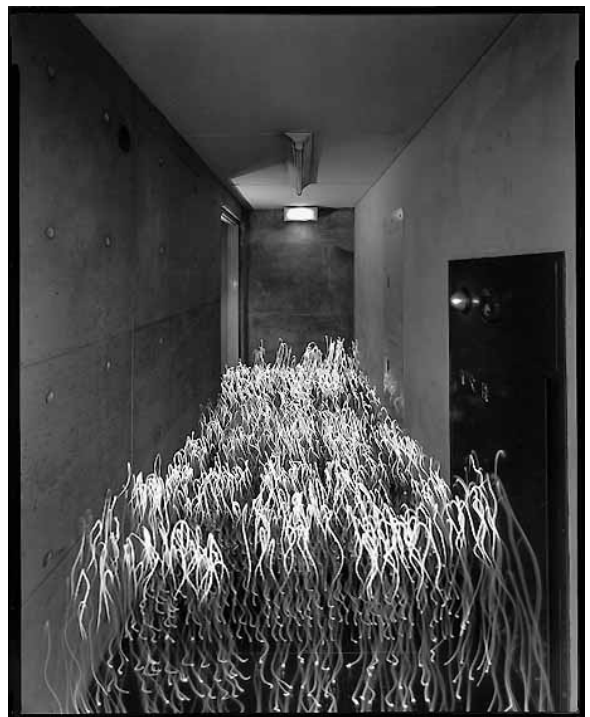
FLASHLIGHT

In a completely dark room such as a basement, put your camera on a tripod/stable surface. Set your shutter speed to B (BULB or your lowest shutter speed available). Have your subject turn on a flashlight for 15 seconds, and then turn it off. The subject should move and repeat. Have them do this 3-5 times while you hold down on the shutter release the whole time. The photographer and camera **do not move** and the shutter release button must be held down for the whole series (1-2 minutes). Try this assignment several times and use a small aperture. Do not rush; overexposures are rare. You may want to pre-focus on your subject with the lights on before trying this in order to eliminate blurriness.



Try different light sources:
Christmas lights, candles, sparklers,

Below: Photographs by Tokihiro Sato



NIGHT/LONG EXPOSURES

For night shots, turn off your flash and put your camera on a tripod/stable surface. Set your shutter speed to B (BULB or your lowest shutter speed available). Make sure to focus on a non-moving area. Something needs to be in focus. You may want to experiment with other slower shutter speeds to achieve different effects.

Ideas: city streets and lights, skate park at night, cars passing by, lit up signs

You may also combine the flashlight elements with the night shots
e.g. person wearing battery powered Christmas lights while skate boarding

<http://www.alexeytitarenko.com/> city shadows

Use a low ISO, small F-stop (f-22 or landscape mode), tripod

Caution:

When shooting at night, please have friends accompany you to ensure safety.

