A Study of Musicians in Motion

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Overview
Photography - Time – Music: The Continuous Moment

• Musicians play for the camera, and each image is one continuous exposure for the entire length of the song.
• While the musician plays, the flash is set off to emphasize one moment and clarify the musicians features.
• The purpose is to explore time and movement through photography, so that we can see something through the images that our eyes and brain can not compute.

Explanation
Film photography not only expands on what photography can do, but is an expression based on chemistry, physics, and mathematics. The capabilities of photography give us an insight into what is not seen by the eye, and not visualized by the brain. The time/exposure factor, set by the length of a song, brings all of these concepts together. The results are printed as a long continuous moment.

Impact
Photographers have been obsessed with freezing the frame and capturing the essence of an entire moment in the fraction of a second, but there are other ways of capturing time. The long exposure forms an aesthetic light drawing through motion that is random and uncontrolled. This project shows the viability of long exposures, and will hopefully inspire many other professionals to explore this realm as a fine art technique. This also informs the viewer, by documenting time as many moments, of how much is missed by the eye.

Key Findings
It was difficult to guess how the final images would look, but each image/song was extremely different because the movement of the musician was different. Each instrument requires certain movements and dictates the movement of the musician. There are also instruments that reflect more light than others. The photographer also experiences an intuitive way of working because of the loss of the high speed camera controls. When photography is combined with other art forms like music, it enriches our knowledge and enjoyment of the arts. By studying different musicians playing different songs, we see a great variety of styles expressed by the movements.

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