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Abstract

Solargraphy — An Alternative Approach To Discover The Universe

Solargraphics are photographs, which we are unaccustomed to seeing before the 2000s. They reveal an unseen or hidden phenomenon. What is that inspiration that comes from the astronomical event? Solargraphy records the movements of the Sun paths crossing the sky in landscapes or cityscapes into one single image even the exposure period of the six months. Every day the Sun lives one trail and the sunny days are visible from the long exposure time. The image is like a weathergram where all days can separate.

Does solargraphy enlarge human's knowledge and understanding to discover the universe through a tiny pinhole? Solargraphy is full of mysterious, wonders and chances and made me curious to find out answers to these questions that most amaze people. More important than the technical issues, are the image itself. How this kind of pictures helps to see your environment from a new point of view. It is interesting to compare the solargraph with the digital photograph from the same place. The solargraph reveals you the differences. It is not anymore a frozen moment and no traces of the fast movements. All the days have emerged in one single image. The atmosphere is entirely different, silent and almost surrealistic some way. The sky is full of the traces of the Sun trails. The clouds have cut some trails, stormy weather and winds have shaken branches, and the humidity might have left their tracks as well. It is easy to find rainy days between sunny days as well. Never earlier it was not possible to observe the movements of the Sun trails during the days and see colour variations.

Other factors than only the technical ones are important as well as tacit knowledge comes from the experiences. Doing experiments and share them with other solargraphers. Co-operating with volunteer can assistants who wanted to attend to my project. No problem if the volunteer members do not know anything about photography. But pinhole artists, astronomers, and other solargraphers, too, were interested in taking part in the project. Networking is an essential part of sharing knowledge on my website of the global art project of solargraphy (www.solargraphy.com) including interactive pages. Keeping lectures or presentations in conferences, working together in workshops, showing solo exhibitions and participating in group exhibitions and international art projects help to spread information about this kind of new way to discover the universe.

What kind of Arts-Based Research is my research on solargraphy as an alternative approach to photography? This hybrid photographic invention is very young, only 16 years old. It is open for everyone to develop and apply it for new purposes. It is a new way to observe an astronomical phenomenon and make us understand the movements or rotation of the planet Earth in the relation to the Sun from a human's viewpoint. The Space Research is full of mathematics, but Arts-Based-Research can bring another visual addition to it with producing knowledge and understanding through art. Solargraphy offers both a pedagogical and artistic observing tool to experience the world and to discover the universe in a new way.