

**Exploring How Photos Tell Stories (and Secrets!),
Create Meaning, and Show Feelings:
A Workshop Experience with "Photo-Projective" PhotoTherapy Techniques**

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Reasons for Workshop: The meaning of any photograph is not located on its surface, waiting to be read like the pages of a book, telling the same story objectively to every viewer. Instead, its unique story is actually created new, every time a person is looks at it and has a feeling in reaction -- each version is always different, even if the same person sees the same photo repeatedly.

Therefore, any time a photograph is seen (or even remembered), its meaning is actively projected from the viewer onto that photo -- and at the same time, associated feelings and related memories are spontaneously touched deep inside them, as unconscious connections are made that the viewer may not even be aware of!

Therapists trained in "Photo-Projective" PhotoTherapy techniques use these "secret" components of ordinary snapshots and family photos to help clients learn more about themselves in ways that words alone cannot do: to gain "In-sight" as they explore their own unique way of perceiving (and reacting to) what they see -- and thus how learn more about how their perceptions reflect their underlying unconscious value system (and thus their expectations)....

However, this technique is also important for anyone interested in using photographs in non-therapy applications (such as self-exploration, personal healing, social activism, relationship-building, community-strengthening, and other aspects of visual storytelling) -- or even in photographic art -- because: in all these applications, it is important to understand how photos create their meaning and thus share their stories and secrets to all viewers. And this is usually much less predictable that one might expect -- which is what "Photo-Projectives" techniques are about....

What will happen in Workshop: After a brief theoretical introduction to explain this technique, participants will have the opportunity to personally experience* how (and why!) it works, through interacting with photographs brought by the Instructor.

They will select from over 80 photographs, the one photograph that they are most attracted to, and then the Instructor will guide them through several different experiences in interacting with the images -- first as a group, and then in pairs (helped by a list of suggested questions).

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At the end, participants will re-join as a group, to discuss their experiences, ask questions, and share information. (**Participation is voluntary and is for participants' education, not their personal therapy -- Prior experience with cameras or photography is NOT required!*)

The goal of the workshop is to experience how Projective PhotoTherapy techniques work in both therapy and non-therapy applications.

This workshop is open to everyone interested -- no "top limit" on how many can attend -- and while the "framework" will be focused toward therapy applications, non-therapists are also welcome!