

# PhotoMation/PhotoMontage

DUE: feb. 10

Frames-per-something.

With the photographic experiments of Marey and Mubridge dissecting time and laying out its slivered portions for all to see, it did not take long for inventors of the day to get the idea of showing the images in sequence (reassembling the sliced up pieces of time) to create an astounding illusion of motion. Machines with large flip-book wheels and zoetropes were among the first motion illusion devices, but later Thomas Edison and the Lumiere Brothers independently developed processes for putting photographic images onto long transparent strips of film and we had the birth of the movie industry.

The human eyes perceives images at a rate of around 32 frames-per-second (fps), though early film-makers discovered that running the film at 24fps (the rate at which most films are still show today) was more than adequate to get the job done. The digital camcorders common today film at a rate of 30fps (well, 29.97), and this is among the main reasons (besides image quality) that videos made on such devices have a different feel than 24fps films shown in theaters.

In this project you will be using Final Cut Pro to arrange a series of digital images into a video which has a sequence that creates and illusion of motion or change and a montage sequence. Be prepared to take several hundred photographs to complete this project – even if you were to run the video at a (virtual) 10 frames(pictures) per second you would need 600 pictures to make 1min of video! ~10-12fps is the minimum to create an illusion of motion that isn't too choppy. I **strongly** urge you to play with the rate of the FPS (I'll be showing you how to do this virtually by manipulating the duration of your individual photos in Final Cut). Alternating the rate at which your images appear in the video can very effectively create contrast between different elements of the video and add focus to parts of the video (not to mention cut down on the total number of images needed).

## Camera Notes:

-Video resolution is 720x480 so try to set your camera to capture images close to that resolution (don't worry if it's not exact, FCP will help it fit)

-Shoot at a consistent orientation – either horizontal (landscape) or vertical (portrait). Photos are rectangles so they won't fit into the video area in a consistent manner if you switch the orientation back and forth. Video itself is in the horizontal/landscape orientation, so shoot your photos in that orientation if you want the best 'fit.'

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## Project Criteria:

-The video you produce will have two distinct uses of the still image:

- 1) Illusion of Motion: Your video will have at least one sequence wherein you create the illusion of motion or change through the sequencing of your images. This type of sequence will typically have a rapid frame rate and the imagery from one frame to another will have a close time and/or space relationship.
- 2) Montage: Your video will have at least one sequence wherein you have a succession of different images appearing one after another. This type of sequence will typically have a slow frame rate, with individual images potentially staying on screen for several seconds.

-You may choose any subject matter for the imagery of your video

-You may **only** use sound from the set of audio files provided on the project CD

-The video should be ~1-2min. in duration

-There is **NO** set frame rate for this project.

-You are urged to have multiple frame rates in the video.

-Be sure to give some thought to the formal qualities of your still images

Things such as composition, color, and lighting are important, and your

video should show me that you gave these visual elements some thought!

-Be sure to play through and watch the video often while editing, pay attention to the pace of the video: how long do you want certain shots to last, what information is being relayed by the shot and how fast can this information be 'read' by the viewer. Do you want a video which is frantic and full of energy or do you want a more laconic and introspective video?

-think about how your imagery relates to the video's audio rhythmically and/or conceptually.

February 3rd and 5th will both be lab days; make sure you have something to work in class as you will not be allowed to go out and create footage during class time.

\*\*\*At the very least have your audio selected (or an idea of what you want to do with the audio) and some preliminary images to work with on Tues Feb 3rd!

**You will turn in a .mov file exported from Final cut Pro**

**Filename format should be:**            *studentlastnameFIRSTINITIALphotomation.mov*

