

Art College at Monad Monastery

Painting, Neophotography, and image-making methods the Monad Monks of the Concrete Planet might employ in their monastery.

Paintings: Given the monks' affinity for experimentation and their unique environment, it is likely that their paintings would reflect a similarly innovative and otherworldly sensibility. One possible approach might involve the use of unconventional materials, such as concrete dust, metallic powders, and other industrial detritus found on their planet, to create textured and tactile surfaces. The monks might also experiment with non-traditional painting tools, such as spray bottles, airbrushes, and squeegees, to achieve a range of unique effects. In terms of subject matter, the monks might draw inspiration from the geometric forms and stark landscapes of their concrete-covered planet, incorporating abstract shapes and patterns into their work.

Neophotography: Neophotography, or the use of unconventional methods to capture photographic images, could also be a favored medium for the Monad Monks. Given their technological sophistication and the unique features of their environment, they might employ a range of techniques, such as infrared and ultraviolet photography, to capture images that are invisible to the human eye. They might also experiment with photograms, a technique that involves placing objects directly onto light-sensitive paper to create abstract, ghostly images. In terms of subject matter, the monks might focus on the stark, industrial landscapes of their planet, capturing the play of light and shadow on the rough surfaces of concrete and metal.

Image-making methods: In addition to traditional painting and photography techniques, the Monad Monks might also explore a range of other image-making methods. One possibility might be the use of 3D printing technology to create sculptures and other three-dimensional forms. They might also employ digital manipulation techniques to transform photographic images into abstract, otherworldly compositions. Additionally, they might experiment with the use of light and shadow, projecting patterns and shapes onto concrete surfaces to create ephemeral, site-specific installations.

Overall, the image-making methods of the Monad Monks of the Concrete Planet would likely reflect their innovative and experimental approach to art-making, incorporating a range of unconventional materials, tools, and techniques to create otherworldly and thought-provoking works of art.

Instructions for a Monad monk making a painting;

Step 1: Preparing the Ground

The Monad monk begins by preparing the ground for the painting. They select a rectangular piece of concrete panel that measures approximately 50 cm x 70 cm, which will serve as the support for their work. They sand the surface to create a slightly rough texture that will allow the paint to adhere well.

Step 2: Choosing the Medium

The monk selects a medium for the painting, in this case, a mixture of concrete dust and metallic powders. They mix the two substances together in a ratio of 3:1, respectively, and add water to create a thick paste. They test the consistency by applying a small amount to a spare piece of concrete panel and observe the texture and drying time.

Step 3: Sketching the Image

The monk sketches the image they want to paint onto the prepared surface using a piece of chalk. The image is abstract, featuring a series of geometric shapes arranged in a non-linear pattern.

Step 4: Applying the Medium

The monk begins to apply the mixture of concrete dust and metallic powders to the surface using a squeegee. They spread the medium evenly over the surface, making sure to cover the entire area of the panel. The medium dries quickly, so the monk must work efficiently to ensure an even application.

Step 5: Adding Color

The monk begins to add color to the painting using spray bottles filled with water-based pigments. They apply the colors in a loose and gestural manner, allowing the drips and splatters to create organic patterns and textures. The colors used are primarily shades of blue and green, evoking the colors of the concrete planet's sky and vegetation.

Step 6: Detailing the Image

The monk uses a small paintbrush to add details to the image, outlining the shapes and adding highlights and shadows. They also incorporate metallic powders into the painting by sprinkling them onto the wet paint and allowing them to mix with the colors, creating a subtle shimmer.

Step 7: Finishing Touches

Once the painting is complete, the monk steps back to observe the work and make any final adjustments. They sign the painting with a small brush, using a special symbol that represents their spiritual order.

Step 8: Reflection

The monk reflects on the process of making the painting, noting the challenges and successes they experienced. They contemplate the meaning of the image they created and how it relates to their life and spiritual practice. In total, the process of making the painting takes approximately 3 hours.

Overall, the painting created by the Monad monk reflects their unique artistic sensibility, incorporating unconventional materials, abstract shapes, and organic textures. The resulting work of art is a testament to their experimental approach to art-making and their deep connection to the concrete planet they call home.

Instructions for a Monad monk making a photograph;

Step 1: Selecting the Camera and Medium

The Monad monk selects a medium-format camera with a 6x6 cm negative size and a fixed lens. They load the camera with a roll of 120 medium-format film, which is known for its high resolution and fine grain. The monk also prepares a container of concrete developer, which they will use to develop the film later.

Step 2: Setting the Scene

The monk chooses a subject for their photograph, in this case, a section of the concrete wall inside their monastery. They arrange the composition to create an interesting pattern of lines, shadows, and textures.

Step 3: Setting the Camera and Exposure

The monk sets the camera on a tripod and adjusts the aperture and shutter speed to achieve the desired exposure. They aim for a slightly longer exposure time to capture the nuances of the concrete surface.

Step 4: Capturing the Image

The monk makes the exposure by pressing the shutter release button on the camera. They wait for the sound of the shutter to confirm that the image has been captured.

Step 5: Developing the Film

The monk takes the exposed film and processes it in the concrete developer they prepared earlier. The developer is a chemical solution that reacts with the silver halides in the film to produce a visible image. The monk uses a timer to ensure that the film is developed for the correct amount of time.

Step 6: Fixing the Image

Once the film has been developed, the monk rinses it in water to remove any residual developer. They then immerse the film in a fixing solution, which dissolves the unexposed silver halides and stabilizes the image.

Step 7: Drying and Scanning the Negative

The monk hangs the developed negative to dry, ensuring that it is free from dust and debris. They then scan the negative to create a digital version of the image. The scanning process allows them to manipulate the image in a computer software program, adjusting the contrast and color balance to create the desired effect.

Step 8: Reflection

The monk reflects on the process of making the photograph, noting the challenges and successes they experienced. They contemplate the meaning of the image they created and how it relates to their life and spiritual practice. In total, the process of making the photograph takes approximately 2 hours.

Overall, the photograph created by the Monad monk reflects their unique artistic sensibility, incorporating the textures and colors of the concrete planet they call home. The use of medium-format film and concrete developer creates a distinct and unconventional aesthetic that reflects their experimental approach to art-making. The resulting image is a testament to their deep connection to their environment and their spiritual practice.

Instructions for a Monad monk using experimental image-making methods;

Step 1: Conceptualizing the Image

The monk starts by conceptualizing the image they want to create. They may draw inspiration from their environment, their spiritual practice, or their personal experiences. They consider how they can use digital, 3D printing, cyber, movement, performance, and open image techniques to create an image that is both meaningful and experimental.

Step 2: Selecting the Tools and Materials

The monk selects the digital tools and materials they will use to create the image. They may use software like Photoshop, Blender, or Unity to create a digital model or scene. They may use a 3D printer to produce physical objects or sculptures. They may incorporate cyber elements, such as code or data, into the image. They may use performance or movement to create an interactive or kinetic piece. They may also incorporate open image elements, such as incorporating community-sourced images or sharing their work online.

Step 3: Experimenting with Techniques

The monk experiments with a variety of digital, 3D printing, cyber, movement, performance, and open image techniques to create the image. They may experiment with different software or hardware, explore different movements or gestures, or incorporate open-source materials or data. They document their process along the way, noting what works and what doesn't.

Step 4: Refining the Image

After experimenting with different techniques, the monk refines the image. They may iterate on the design, refine the movement or performance, or adjust the cyber or open image elements. They may also consider how the final piece will be presented or shared.

Step 5: Presenting the Image

Once the image is complete, the monk presents it in a way that is appropriate to the medium. For a digital piece, they may share it online or display it on a screen. For a 3D printed object, they may display it on a plinth or in a gallery. For a performance or movement piece, they may stage a live performance or record a video. For a cyber or open image piece, they may share the code or data openly online.

Overall, the process of creating an experimental image for the Monad monk involves a range of digital, 3D printing, cyber, movement, performance, and open image techniques, and a willingness to experiment and iterate.