



# Alternative Photography Summer School

June – Room Obscura

Sit inside a camera and experience

3000 years of optical magic

Online Workshop Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Register [here](#):



## Instructions for room camera obscura

A project to run alongside our June solargraphy project where you can black out a room and experience the outside world as an inverted projection. Your image can also be photographed with a 20 second (ish) exposure from a digital camera.



Construction and installation video [here](#)

### Materials

Card from a large cardboard box

Gaffer tape, pins for fixing card

Digital camera / phone which does time exposures. (optional)

### Construction

Find a room which doesn't point south, ideally where you can view movement (ie a road, moving trees or someone wandering about!)

The image will have more contrast if you are looking the opposite way to the sun.

If possible chose a room with a small window.

To get an effective image it is essential to **totally** black out the window with cardboard. You may also need to black out around the edge of the door to the room.

When the room is in complete darkness, cut a small hole in the cardboard around 1cm diameter. If your cardboard is corrugated, cut out a 5cm square and replace this with a thin piece of card with a 1 cm hole (The image is sharper if projected through a thinner piece of card).

### Experimentation

Wait till the subject is 'lit' by the sun. If the sun is projecting through the hole the image will have less contrast, (however this does open up further experimentation including creating rainbows with prisms).

Have a bath in a bathroom, have a family lunch in the dark, hold a piece of blank paper, hold a white cat for 5 minutes, possibilities limited only by your imagination. Have a look at the links below for inspiration.

### Capturing the image

Even though the image is quite dark (especially before your eyes adjust) you can photograph your projection. Set the camera onto wide angle and high sensitivity such as 800 ISO. Try placing the camera below the hole as per the video. The exposure depends upon the distance of the projection and the outside brightness. Feel free to adjust the contrast after taking the image.

[A short 40 second video](#) by Justin Quinnell

[Another video by Di Stoppard](#) in NZ (for those in the North hemisphere, find a window pointing North- ish!)

Amazing room projections by [Abelardo Morell](#) (The master at this sort of thing).

More amazing camera obscura experimentation by [Marja Pirila](#)

[realphotographycompany@gmail.com](mailto:realphotographycompany@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/realphotographycompany/](https://www.facebook.com/realphotographycompany/)  
[instagram.com/realphotographycompany/](https://www.instagram.com/realphotographycompany/)  
<https://tinyurl.com/y8fkqdir>



©Justin Quinnell  
Real Photography Company