Camera Obscura Project

For this project, you will be turning a room in your house into a large camera and documenting it (with a smaller camera!)

Some considerations in regards to room choices:

- find a room that faces south, so as to be exposed to large amounts of sunlight.
- if possible, utilize a room that has white, or light coloured walls. This will make it easier for your image to show up
- can you remove a lot of what will be in the way of the projected image (paintings, furniture, etc.)

To complete this project, you will need the following:

- black paper or foam core (you may take paper from the roles in the art room, I also have foam core in the photo room)
- Black masking tape (to seal any light leaks, and for where you will make your opening in the paper)
- a sharp knife (an X-acto or Olfa knife will work well)
- A digital camera (the longest shutter speed on a digital slr is usually 30 seconds. If you think you will need longer than this, you will need to take out the Nikon D100 and a remote trigger)
- A tripod
- Towels to block any light that may come in under the door

The first thing you will want to do is black out the window that you select. Ideally, this window will be as close as possible to the center of the wall it is on.

Roll out the paper, and cut it into sheets slightly smaller than the window, or cut the sheets of foam core slightly smaller that the window.

Place tape around the edges, and run a straight line diagonally from one corner to the other with a pencil or chalk line. repeat with the other corner to create an “X”. on the paper, or foam core.

Where the “X” intersects, cut a 2” square. Over this, place a piece of black masking take so that the paper does not billow out.

Now cut a 3/4” square hole in the masking tape.

At this point, the magic should start happening! The wall opposite should have an image projected on it of what is outside! If it doesn’t, you may need a larger aperture.

Now, set up the tripod, and photograph the wall that has the image projected on it. Your light meter will probably not work, so try different exposure times to find the one that is “just right”!

You will be handing in to me three jpeg files.
I will let you know in class where these files will be handed in to.