Dear Ashley,

Thank you for agreeing to come visit the Aperture On Sight program at our school. We are looking forward to your visit!

Our students have been building visual literacy by answering open-ended questions about photographs. A teaching artist asks the students to state what they see in a photograph and to back up their opinions with visual evidence. We’ve found that this approach keeps the students engaged and helps students from a wide range of backgrounds “read” images.

By the end of the class, each student will make a book of their own photographs based on a theme of their choosing.

Here are a few suggestions to help make your visit a success:

- If you’re showing your work, talk for five to ten minutes about your project. How did you decide on a theme? What was challenging or interesting about making the photographs? How did you get access to your subject? Did your approach change? Why did you decide to make the photographs look the way they do?

- Show a tight edit (about 15 images) so you have time for the students to think about each one.

- Try to ask students what they see in the photographs before you explain them. Look for open-ended questions rather than asking the class to guess what you’re thinking. Your teaching artist will help!

- Share a funny story, behind-the-scenes information, the way you felt as you were working, or anything else that would bring your working process to life.

- As you’re helping students to edit their work, feel free to approach it as you would on the job. Ask questions and think out loud as you edit.

Thank you again,

Alice Proujansky
Community Partnerships Coordinator