

Rick Silva

## Clouds 2

I took advantage of being in an airplane last week and with my new elevated point of view took over 50 photos of clouds. The photo I chose to turn in was shot just as the plane began descending into the Narita Airport in Tokyo, it was 1 PM Tokyo time on November 6 . Since we had just begun the descent I would guess we were between forty thousand and thirty nine thousand feet above the ground. The plane speed was around 500 mph. It was a rainy day in Tokyo that day, but I think the plane was still over the ocean at that point and I'm not sure what was happening below the photographed clouds. My guess is that this is a cumulonimbus and that there was rain underneath. There are some castle spire formations in the far clouds that are altocumulus castellanus.

The camera I used is the same that I have been using all semester, my trusty HP R707 5.1 mega pixel. For the focus I set it to 'infinity.' The f stop was around 3.2 and the shutter speed was 1/400. The original picture was 1536 by 2048 pixels in size. In photoshop I used the "auto levels" function. That automatically brought out the blues, whites and blacks of the photo, and used the "sharpen" filter once to sharpen the image. I tried cropping the image to get rid of the dirty window stuff on the bottom left of the picture but the cropping really effected the compositional aesthetic of the photo.

I like how the composition is reflective of Hokusai's popular "Great Wave" print. Also the metaphors are easy to make with Tokyo in the distance represented by Mount Fuji dwarfed by the waves on the print, and the clouds in the photo. And the clouds being the waves and the plane being the boat full of people. I'm not that happy with this picture as being an artwork though, especially after juxtaposing it with Hokusai's genius. The phenomena of clouds (and of flying above them) is interesting and the memories the photo conjures up for me are personal, but I think it's pretty boring on it's own, perhaps I am saying this because I was so over stimulated by Tokyo's lights and art that in comparison clouds from an airplane window seem sub-par, maybe I blew my 'beauty fuse' while I was in Japan.

