

FLOW VISUALIZATION

GROUP PROJECT ONE

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For group Epsilon's first of three projects, we decided to use the flume fluid machine in the ITLL building here at the University. I'm pretty sure we used every combination of tricks that we could think of as a team only to use on image. The image I chose to use was a telephoto image of a weir changing the flow of water in the flume machine. The reason this image was so diverse compared to the fifty others I have on my computer is that it displayed both flow visualization and good photographic composition.

The flume in the ITLL building works by pumping water through a narrow glass frame allowing the user to place objects within the frame and change the water's flow. In this case, we used a weir that was half of an oval; this half-oval pushed water over the top of it creating air pockets below. These air pockets are what makes the most visible and defined shapes in the photograph. Also, because they are in focus the human eye automatically is drawn to this area first. Afterward, the eye begins to wander and examine the less defined parts of the photograph. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to use the Canon EOS L 135mm lens which is a super telephoto piece of glass capable of capturing beautifully defined images in a very selective and small focal plane. This creates beautiful out of focus octagonal shapes in front and behind the image that gives it dynamic range.

Fluidity and perception are very important in Flow Visualization; the combination of photography and science. This photograph by far is the best example so far of the projects I've done in this class so far that demonstrates these two areas. Steadily balancing these two are what allowed our group to really come through for this assignment.