

# Turn Your Room into a Camera Obscura.

A Camera Obscura is latin and means darkened room. It is a naturally occurring phenomenon and the human eye works much like a camera obscura. A small hole allows light into a darkened room which projects the light, colour and shapes from outside the room onto the wall opposite the hole. This hole is called an aperture. the image that is projected appears upside down.

In analogue cameras, it is the aperture that you control depth of field. with lenses to focus or make the image appear sharp.

The human eye works like a camera obscura and just like the human eye, in a camera obscura the image that is projected appears upside down.

Artist photographer Abelardo Morell has created a body of work photographing this phenomenon in domestic spaces and hotel rooms all around the world. His photographs are made with long exposures to pick up all the detail, much like a human eye takes time to adjust to the dim light.

## Materials:

Tin foil

Water spray or sponge and small bowl of water

A lens (you will get an effect without a lens but a lens will sharpen the image).

## Instructions to turn a room in your house into a Camera Obscura:

1. Find a room with a smallish window and with a view with lots of light coming in.
2. Block out the light the best you can by spraying water on the window pressing strips of tin foil onto the glass. The water will be enough to hold it on.
3. Close the door and use rugs, clothing foil to block out the light creeping in from other sources
4. Cut a hole in one of the strips of foil approx 5cm in diameter. you can try this in different parts of the window until you get a good projection.
5. If you have a magnifying glass, an old lense from a pair of glasses or you could buy a Bonfoton lense ([bonfoton.com](http://bonfoton.com)) made specifically for this. alternatively you can buy a lense +.25 (also called .25 converging) from an optician.