Innovation and Images: Exploring the Intersections of Leadership and Photography

Program Details
As a business innovator, you are constantly creating. Like an artist, you must generate ideas, see the big picture, and communicate that vision to others. And yet, with the constraints of time, budget, and resources, the focus on urgency often leads to stagnation and stunts our capacity to innovate. By changing the way we perceive challenges, specifically through a camera lens, it is possible to discover new ways to engage with your team, your organization, and the world.

So how can becoming a better photographer make you a better leader? Photographing the world can help expand our observations skills by forcing us to reframe what we see. It can also cause us to experiment with new ways of doing things and increase our ability to interact with people unlike ourselves. Most of all, photography can force us to ask questions about the things we don’t know that we don’t know, providing critical new insights and ways of viewing the world. Becoming a better photographer can unlock our capacity to ask the right questions—ones that lead to innovation and transformative change. Innovation and Images exemplifies MIT’s learning-by-doing approach, helping executives better understand their leadership strengths and weaknesses through the medium of digital photography and technology.

In this three-day workshop, Hal Gregersen, Executive Director of the MIT Leadership Center and Sam Abell, world-renowned National Geographic photographer, will help you uncover untapped aspects of yourself—both as a leader and as a photographer. They will teach you how to ask substantially different questions and by so doing, change your leadership impact.

This program will help you draw deeper connections between your work as a leader and photographer. Each day faculty will review photographs taken by participants during the course to uncover fresh insights into your leadership and photography journey.

Requirements
Entry into the workshop requires senior executive experience (current or past) and moderate to advanced photography skills. Participants are required to provide their own digital cameras and laptops and are expected to have a working knowledge of:

- Downloading images from a camera to a laptop
- Sorting, viewing, and organizing files using editing software
- Selecting images for critique (this will involve renaming files and converting files to JPEG)

This program is offered in association with Santa Fe Photographic Workshops. This course is limited to 15 participants. As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit a portfolio of 10-15 images in .jpg format to execedimages@mit.edu.

Takeaways
This program will tackle the following questions.

- How can you become a more innovative leader?
- How can you get stronger at asking the right questions?
- How can photography change your leadership?
- How can leadership change your photography?
- How can you uncover critical blind spots—about what you don’t know you don’t know about yourself and your organization—through photography?
- How can photography build critical innovation skills as a leader?

A daring, engaging and intense workshop, taught by two world-class experts in their respective fields. Hal and Sam are both experts and great teachers. They worked together seamlessly to both challenge and encourage us, no matter our level of expertise in either discipline. Your passion for these two topics will be greatly rewarded. 
Highly recommended!”
—Stan Baginskis, Senior Director
Architecture and Growth Strategy
Chief Technology and Architecture Office at Cisco

http://executive.mit.edu/img
## Innovation and Images: Exploring the Intersections of Leadership and Photography

**Sample Program Schedule**
*(subject to change)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Workshop Overview and Interactive Lecture&lt;br&gt;• Introductions: Sharing a Few Images That Reflect Your Core Values&lt;br&gt;• Co-designing a Learning Culture&lt;br&gt;• Exploring the Leader’s Dilemma&lt;br&gt;• Being Wrong and Uncomfortable as a Leader&lt;br&gt;• The Power of Asking the Right Questions</td>
<td><strong>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</strong>&lt;br&gt;Brief Insight Capture: Explore Key Insights from Prior Day&lt;br&gt;• Image Critique&lt;br&gt;• Image Implications for Your Leadership Work&lt;br&gt;• Interactive Lecture&lt;br&gt;• Being Present to Surface Strategic and Personal Feedback</td>
<td><strong>7:00 AM – 12:00 PM</strong>&lt;br&gt;Focused Morning Photographic Assignment&lt;br&gt;Brief Insight Capture: Explore Key Insights from Prior Day&lt;br&gt;• Final Image Preparation&lt;br&gt;• Image Critique&lt;br&gt;• Image Implications For Your Leadership Work</td>
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<td>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM&lt;br&gt;Lunch</td>
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<td><strong>1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Interactive Lecture: The Power of Framing as a Photographer&lt;br&gt;• Afternoon Photographic Assignment</td>
<td><strong>1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Interactive Lecture: Micro Composition Leads to Deep Seeing as a Photographer&lt;br&gt;• Afternoon Photographic Assignment&lt;br&gt;• Image Editing During the Evening</td>
<td><strong>1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</strong>&lt;br&gt;Interactive Lecture: Being Bold to Deliver Results as a Leader</td>
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| **7:30 PM – 9:00 PM**<br>• Reflections – “This is the Day” as a Photographer and as a Leader<br>• Image Editing | **5:00 PM – 8:00 PM**<br>Social Dinner | **5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**
Program Close |

### Program Faculty

**Photographer Sam Abell** is a gifted and insightful teacher, an expressive artist, and a sensitive photographer who learned photography from his father, Thad Abell. Sam worked for *National Geographic* as a contract and staff photographer, and also as a Photographer in Residence. In 1990, his work was the subject of a one-person exhibition at the International Center of Photography in New York. Since then he has published three collections of his work: *Seeing Gardens*, *Sam Abell: The Photographic Life*, and *The Life of a Photograph*.

**Hal Gregersen** is Executive Director of the MIT Leadership Center and a Senior Lecturer in Leadership and Innovation at the MIT Sloan School of Management where he pursues his vocation of executive teaching, coaching, and research by exploring how leaders in business, government, and society discover provocative new ideas, develop the human and organizational capacity to realize those ideas, and ultimately deliver positive, powerful results.

### Contact Information

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