

Camera (side view)

The thought process for this camera evolves from a line of manipulated cameras that go back to the early 1990 s, in particular a standard camera converted with a small hole in the back face so that it would make images from behind. Although this was never used to create an image at the time it served to influence further ideas of adjusting or tampering with the normal working system of 35mm and later larger format cameras.

The most conceptual of this series of cameras is the 'non camera' (2007) which is a rebuilt Canon 35mm so that the lens, via a system of 4 mirrors looks into the back of itself to the precise point where the image would be recorded. This camera is really more of a thought experiment as the introduction of light into the closed system would inevitably 'fog' the film and hence no image would be recorded. Again this type of manipulation fuelled further ideas and a number of these manipulated cameras are able to record their own 'situation' on film by making an image of some sort. Also the concept here of a specific camera being produced and adapted for a particular reason in order to obtain only a single image is paramount and goes in opposition of the modern photographic idea or urge to photograph everything.

The side-viewing camera is built from a 4x5 inch standard plate camera and uses a 180mm Schneider lens. The camera comprises of two black foam lined horns or light baffles. These horns act as a muffler to light, dampening any reflected light from entering into the bellows system that would fog or expose the negative film during exposure. However they do allow light to pass through the bellows precisely perpendicular to the lens-film axis. This means that, with the aid of several mirrors the camera can view 'through itself' out the other side into the landscape beyond. With an additional mirror placed at the exit point of the second horn (or light dampening trumpet) the camera can now view through and then back through itself , enabling a fully self contained photographic self assessment. This camera essentially has no use, it is a paradoxical conundrum designed to 'extend' the existential parameters of introverted photographic practice.

