



Open
College
of the Arts

Formative feedback

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| Student name | Iain Barbour | Student number | 515236 |
| Course/Unit | IAP | Assignment number | 2 |
| Type of tutorial | Audio-Visual | | |

Overall Comments

This was an interesting and critically successful submission in light of the unusual social conditions of isolation we all face. The main points we spoke about in the tutorial are relatively minor tweaks to the narrative sequencing to more accurately reflect your conceptual positioning for the work.

Assessment potential

I understand your aim is to go for the Photography Degree and that you plan to submit your work for assessment at the end of this course. From the work you have shown in this assignment, providing you commit yourself to the course, I believe you have the potential to pass at assessment. In order to meet all the assessment criteria, there are certain areas you will need to focus on, which I will outline in my feedback.

Feedback on assignment

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome, Demonstration of Creativity

Below are the key points from our discussion:

- A small, but crucial, presentation point – think about the font colour of the captions as they are almost impossible to read at present (being grey on grey). Think about the role of text within the images and how crucial it is in a viewer at some later point understanding what these images are about.

- Image sequencing – I got you to talk about the order of the images and the ways in which this develops a narrative. We then discussed the ways in which this could be developed/adjusted.
- We discussed method of presentation for assessment in light of the lockdown making it improbable that there will be physical submissions. I suggest an image gallery similar to that seen on photographer's portfolio websites with a short intro text positioning the work critically, and then a gallery of the selected images.
- We discussed my thoughts on including more group shots of the entire family interacting and how I felt this would strengthen the work.
- Captions – as written they reveal the work as being about you ('My wife', 'My eldest daughter'). What happens to the photographs if you use their names? If they were portraits of people other than your family, how would you caption them?
- I wasn't sure. Aesthetically speaking, whether the first image nails it as an 'establishing shot'. I realise this isn't a traditional narrative, but the presentation leads the work to be read in this way. The first image has a lot of negative space in the centre of the picture. This does portray a distance between the PM's message and your family, but as a lead image compare this to the one of you with your daughters – there is interaction between the 3 of you absent in that first image. This is most likely an issue of sequencing rather than a problem with that first image actually being in the set at all.
- Contact sheets – I would have liked to have potentially seen more overall setups.

Coursework

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity

The coursework is progressing well and it was clear how you adapted your earlier research to fit with the final strategy.

Research

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

I particularly enjoyed reading how you are responding to Jeff Wall's work within your own practice. Whilst this approach to analysis won't work for every photographer you review it is a useful and insightful method of analysis when appropriate.

Learning Log

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

The learning log is progressing well. As there will obviously be no study visits for the foreseeable future, I strongly recommend you get involved with as many group chats within the OCA as you can.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

An obvious example for the constructed narrative is Gregory Crewdson. I suggest, rather than looking at a specific series of work, you browse his work on the Gagosian website whilst keeping in mind that everything he does is very carefully constructed with a team of assistants – in a style very reminiscent of a film set. <https://gagosian.com/artists/gregory-crewdson/>

Also see Tom Hunter's 'The Ghetto' is about a community he lives in so could help you with your wider reading for assignment 3. <http://www.tomhunter.org/the-ghetto-series/>

We discussed the Fay Godwin so it is worth searching for her work online or in book (I recommend Our Forbidden Land) as her own website is a little hit and miss.

Pointers for the next assignment

- We discussed the potential of approaching the overall module as an opportunity for producing a body of work of greater scope than a single assignment allows for, and how this might work. Each assignment obviously must work on its own merits, but try to plan out ahead of time a rough idea of how things may interweave

Please inform me of how you would like your feedback for the next assignment: written or video/audio.

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| Tutor name | David |
| Date | 15/4/20 |
| Next assignment due | 12 May 2020 |