



Open
College
of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Debra Flynn	Student number	517222
Course/Unit	Photography 1: Expressing Your Vision	1	
Type of tutorial	Written		

Overall Comments

A strong beginning.

Assessment potential

Assignment 1

You may want to get credit for your hard work and achievements with the OCA by formally submitting your work for assessment at the end of the module. More and more people are taking the idea of lifelong learning seriously by submitting their work for assessment but it is entirely up to you. We are just as keen to support you whether you study for pleasure or to gain qualifications. Please consider whether you want to put your work forward for assessment and let me know your decision when you submit Assignment 2. I can then give you feedback on how well your work meets the assessment requirements.

The above is a standard part of the form; if you've already told the OCA you're following the degree path it doesn't mean they don't know you are. It's a reminder to the people who may not have committed themselves to do the whole degree yet.

Feedback on assignment

Excellent preparation; you've thought carefully about what you wanted to achieve but not over thought it so that you were open to the experience and serendipity.

Serendipity is an important property in photography because it means the images aren't limited to what you can imagine for them if you pre-visualise them.

Looking at the series you obviously have compositional abilities and the ability to 'choose your moment' effectively.

On the whole the images are technically of a good standard except probably **Skate park** which while probably being one of the most interesting of your images is a little under exposed.

This is probably more like it in the context of the series...



I use LR only as a library and do all my post processing in Photoshop so this was run through the Auto setting of the Brightness/Contrast tool and then the Shadows/Highlights tool at the default setting.

This image shows that you have a lot of sophisticated potential; the recognition of the scenario and the moment chosen.

There are a couple of small things I would take issue with. It's good for the images to have simple identifiers so it's easier to refer to them in writing, but that could be as simple as a,b,c.. or 1,2,3 but titling or captions are a different matter.

The associative value of titles can limit the work or conjure up other connections best avoided or be too didactic; telling the viewer what they ought to see in the image and how they should be reading it, for example 'just the right height', or 'break time', whereas something like Board Walk is neutral, it's not loaded in anyway.

Stage ride by is another stand out image but I don't even know what that means; it's distracting me from the image wondering what it does mean.

The other thing is the use of a grid to show your main images. It spoils the impact of the full size images.

Much better to have each image the full width with a space in between in the order you wish them to be seen as an assessor scrolls down.

You've shown me enough of your skills and vision here for me to know that given the application you'll do very well.

Coursework

No coursework on the blog as yet and you'll need to follow the precepts of the OCA blog template

<https://www.oca-student.com/resource-type/study-guide/oca-wordpress-blog-template>

Although I can see it's a work in progress so you are probably already planning to add the necessary categories.

Research

From what research you've done so far I think your approach is effective in establishing the qualities you find in the work you're looking at and relating it to yourself and needs.

Follow up the research points in the notes as they come up but also cast a very wide net to evaluate a wide range of influences. It could be anything in culture that you make some kind of connection with, not just visual but literary or experiential.

Take a tangential approach to applying your research to the work and don't over research before beginning. Photographer cited in the notes aren't intended to be a role models where you choose a particular photographer to be inspired by its more in the vein of, 'this is what another person did, what are you going to do.'

Then take time after you've begun to make the work to see how it fits within the spectrum of contemporary photographic culture and how that informs your ideas of what you've made.

Learning Log

Suggested reading/viewing

There's recommended reading listed as References as an appendix to the notes.

You're not expected to buy and read them all, this is one that's not on the list I don't believe but it's a good introduction if you haven't already read it.

Cotton, C. (2014) *The Photograph as Contemporary Art* London: Thames and Hudson

Pointers for the next assignment

It's collecting, you don't have to choose the suggested subjects it can be anything that appeals to you which you feel will be interesting and personally progressive but keep in mind other people have to find some interest in the work. It doesn't have to be what you see in it. As you'll learn soon, you don't own the meaning of the images you make; people will bring their own interpretation of them based on their experiences. This isn't a lack on your part, this is just the way images work and it's expected and exploitable. It's like poetry; every one imagines the meaning differently depending on their experiences. We want our images to have that richness of possibility.

It's best to bear in mind that for assessment you'll have to supply prints of the final images for each assignment so make sure that you do your editing on camera resolution images so that you can make prints from them.

Prints should be on high quality semi-matt or matt paper, not gloss and they should have generous white borders for handling, a minimum of 2.5cm on A4 and 4.5cm on A3.

They should be unmounted, unsleeved and presented for assessment in a clam shell portfolio box such as this....

<http://shop.silverprint.co.uk/Silverprint-Archival-Portfolio-Box-A4/product/10994/AT1385/>

At some point the assignment will ask you to send me prints of the assignment so I can judge the quality. The portfolio box is just to send to the OCA for assessment. You can send me your prints in a card backed envelop; don't send me the portfolio box.

Summary

Strengths	Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Already has a developed sense of what can constitute an effective image• Accurate compositional skills• Good camera control and technical ability for this point in the course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish establishing your blog at least using the menu items in the template if you don't use the template.• Begin logging the coursework on the blog• Investigate student study visits and independent exhibition visits.

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

Tutor name	Clive White
Date	31/10/2017
Next assignment due	31/12/2017