



Open
College
of the Arts

Tutor report

Student name	Simon Chirgwin	Student number	512973
Course/Module	AoP	Assignment number	1

Overall Comments

Overall this was a good attempt at the assignment and there is very little for me offer guidance on. These early assignments are somewhat prescriptive so there is less room for me to offer conceptual advice. The goal at this stage is to make sure all students are at the required level technically and you certainly appear to have succeeded in this regard. There were only a couple of photographs that I thought could be improved but this was quite a subjective opinion based on the overall content of the images in questions. There is certainly nothing to worry about at this stage and as such I would encourage you to start thinking more about the ideas you wish to convey with your photography. With this in mind I have added a reading list of conceptual writing about photography to the suggested reading list –this should push you more in terms of the conceptual basis for your work.

Assessment potential

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.

Feedback on assignment

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

- Something I noticed straight away that seems odd and consistent enough that it may be an issue that we need to correct is all of the vertical, or portrait, orientated photographs are cropped to a different aspect ratio than the horizontal, or landscape orientated photographs. Generally I would advise sticking to one aspect ratio throughout an assignment unless there is a specific conceptual reason for the change. As it has affected all of the photos here I wonder if there is an issue with your workflow.
- I couldn't help but notice the lack of people's faces in the images. This isn't a problem and if it were not for the Continuous and Intermittent images I wouldn't have even noticed. I had a look through your log and see you do shoot portraits so I am not worried about any lack of confidence at this point.
- In the White photograph, I would suggest cropping out the black line along the bottom. This is a tricky one as you need to lose the line, or more specifically the blue section of carpet at the bottom of it, but doing so results in cropping out the apex of the curve of the wire, which hurts the overall composition.
- Another minor point is you need to make sure you examine your photographs at 100% zoom, or 1:1 if in Lightroom. This will reveal any marks on the sensor or unexpected marks in areas such as skies. This is apparent in the Low photograph of the church where you have some small black marks in the sky to the lower left of the spire.
- There is also some chromatic aberration in this photograph –look at the edges of the silhouette of the tree and you will see a slight cyan line. If using Lightroom just scroll down the panels on the right of the screen in the Develop module until you reach Lens Corrections Panel and just check the box next to 'Remove Chromatic Aberration'. You occasionally might need to do more extensive work here but for slight cases such as this just ticking that box should be sufficient.
- If you are not already I would suggest using Adobe Lightroom as it makes the post-production workflow very simple, allowing you to concentrate more on making interesting pictures rather than messing about on the computer!

Learning Logs or Blogs/Critical essays

Context

I had a good look around the log and thought you are doing a good job so there isn't much to add there. You could do with adding a bit more about the work of other photographers but I am not worried at this stage about that as it is still early in the module. I have included a basic list of conceptual reading in the suggested reading that will provide some avenues for you to explore further in terms of specific genres you find interesting. Next time I will likely add a list of photographers relevant to your interests that you may wish to explore in more depth.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

- ADAMS, R. 1994. [*Why People Photograph*](#), New York, Aperture Foundation.
- ADAMS, R. 1996. [*Beauty in Photography*](#), New York, Aperture Foundation.
- BADGER, G. 2007. [*The Genius of Photography: How photography has changed our lives*](#), London, Quadrille. (also see accompanying DVD of BBC series)
- BADGER, G. 2010. [*The Pleasure of Good Photographs*](#), New York, Aperture Foundation.
- BARTHES, R. 1993. [*Camera Lucida*](#), London, Random House.
- BATE, D. 2009. [*Photography: The Key Concepts*](#). Oxford: Berg
- BERGER, J. 1972. [*Ways of Seeing*](#), London, BBC & Penguin Books Ltd.
- Youtube link to series: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pDE4VX_9Kk
- COTTON, C. 2009. [*The Photograph as Contemporary Art*](#), London, Thames & Hudson.
- HILL, P. & COOPER, T. J. 2005. [*Dialogue with Photography*](#), Stockport, Dewi Lewis Publishing.
- JEFFREY, I. 1981. [*Photography: A concise history*](#), London, Thames & Hudson.
- MITCHELL, W. J. 1994. [*The Reconfigured Eye: Visual Truth in the Post-Photographic Era*](#), Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press.
- SHORE, S. 2010. [*The Nature of Photographs*](#). London: Phaidon
- SONTAG, S. 1979. [*On Photography*](#), London, Penguin.
- SZARKOWSKI, J. 2007. [*The Photographer's Eye*](#), New York, The Museum of Modern Art.
- WELLS, L. 2009. [*Photography: A Critical Introduction*](#), London, Routledge.

Pointers for the next assignment

I know it is early days but I would like to see you start to think about how to thematically link your photographs. The next assignment calls for you to explore the elements of design, so I would suggest you select one small geographical area, such as 1km² within a local town or city. I suggest an urban area as you will find it slightly easier to identify all of the elements required than in a rural area, but feel free to choose any place that piques your creative interest.

Tutor name:	Dave Wyatt
Date	21/7/14
Next assignment due	7/9/14