



Open College of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Simon Chirgwin	Student number	512973
Course/Unit	Identity & Place	Assignment	3
Type of tutorial (eg video/audio/written)	Video Tutorial		

Overall Comments

SUMMARY OF TUTORIAL

Feedback on assignment

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

- This is a lot more focused and subject oriented than your last assignment. Immediately that gives the impression of maturity in content and approach. Clearly a 'window' perspective on your commuting community.
- They look like they were taken on various commuting journeys with a mobile phone - judging by the grain and some blur. That's ok, but you need to edit more rigorously. There are pictures here which just don't work because of blur or composition.
- The first three shots of a young man seen through a window feel indecisive as a start because you really ought to have chosen one and cut two. There isn't a significant enough change to this man's demeanour. The 2nd shot is best.
- I can understand the thinking behind grabbing a few rotting, grimy marks, to heighten the sense of place and suggest the passage of time and toll taken on the body. I reckon you'd need more shots, more cleverly juxtaposed with the faces.
- The next 4 photos are strong. They remind me of Vanessa Puntener's 'head scarves' series. You're struggling with focus and grain on a few of these and that's on the edge of acceptability.
- The moving train shots work well. Another really good series. 11-13 are probably the best shots here. It's that connection between the static expectation of waiting and the energy of the train that connects visual to content so nicely.
- 16 is good because it's a self-contained portrait. You could continue trying to snap these but you really have to be lucky. The other shots in this little 'series' of crowds shows how easy it is to miss the telling moment. Although 19 and 20 work well using obscuring objects.

- 23, 24 and 25 are interesting in that they really do give that impression of thinning platform crowd.

Coursework

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity

Coursework looks good. I love the shot of the crowd watching the demolition of a building. Crowds again!

Research

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

Your research, or inspiration for this series is good. The strange balance between being alone and being a part of something much larger - the crowd. I reckon this is a massive subject not so easy to contain in a single series. I'm guessing you've seen Michael Wolf's painful *Tokyo Compression*. That work is kind of extraordinary for getting so intimately close to total strangers in a crowd. Courageous and fascinating. Think of that in relation to the notion that people in crowds rarely make eye contact. Why? Because being so close implies intimacy itself. In fact it's really awkward sometimes.

Your writing about Paul Graham looks like a start - it's a bit fragmented, but ok.

Learning Log

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

Summarize how you have applied what you've learned from the course to your assignment photographs. Also note down what you've learned from other photographers in executing the assignment.

Your learning log entry about this assignment suggests you are delving deep here and understanding perhaps how those concepts connect to visuals. This could be an important project to continue working on because it may teach you a lot.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

<https://www.lensculture.com/articles/michael-wolf-tokyo-compression>

<http://www.geertgoiris.info/index.php?album=re#27>

Pointers for the next assignment

Take care not to let the text say what the images say or add too much content. Remember the images come first. The text should do something different, adding to the image. For example, adding a nuance to a portrait by including something the person said.

Summary

Strengths	Areas for development
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<p>Good, strong series about crowds in Oxford Circus underground. Lots of potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some grain and blur. • Some issues with consistency and narrative. • Some image sequences stronger than others.
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Please inform me of how you would like your feedback for the next assignment: written or video/audio.

Tutor name	Robert Enoch
Date	4th April 2018
Next assignment due	30th May 2018