

	<h1>Open College of the Arts</h1>		
	<h2>Tutor report</h2>		

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Course/Module	The Art of Photography	Assignment number	3

Overall Comments

Once again, this is an engaging, eye-catching, thoughtful and meticulously prepared and executed assignment that very clearly demonstrates that you are moving in the right direction. It's also a very honest and self-aware piece of work, and the text that you've included does an excellent job of both giving a sense of your working/ creative processes and your increasing awareness of photographic culture more broadly- there's a lot of written material here, all of it relevant, useful and highly engaging. I particularly like how you acknowledge that this assignment is one that could have potentially limited your response and resulted in a series of images that weren't particularly coherent as a set, but have drawn from your experiences on assignment 2 and considered how each individual photo worked as part of a group:

after managing to get a coherent set together on a common theme for the previous assignment I didn't want to go backwards. I wanted a set of photos on a particular theme that work well together, and which happened to use colour to improve the composition.

In a nutshell, you've done this, and this is a really nice assignment where the location provides the initial link between the photographs, but your eye for colour, lighting and mood is what ultimately binds the work together as a coherent set. Compositionally, some of the photographs aren't especially striking, but their execution of colour- which, of course, was the primary consideration here- and fact that they fit within a coherent set more than compensates for this.

If there's one image that sums up where your progress currently lies it's this one, which demonstrates how organised, thorough, thoughtful and dedicated you are:



Feedback on assignment Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome,
Demonstration of Creativity

There are some well observed and sensitively rendered photographs in the assignment, which as a whole hints at a gently melancholic mood. Photographs of graveyards can often be rather severe and melodramatic, and I really like how you've avoided this and seen everything rather differently.

This photograph below is really nicely done, both in terms of the colour and the composition as a whole. If I was to be *really* pedantic, I'd have arranged the image so that the gravestones in the background were more geometrically precise, with all three being shunted a touch to the right.... but this probably says more about me than it does about your photograph, and it's still nicely observed and executed:



Like many in this assignment, this photograph...



...is simple, unfussy, well spotted, and nicely rendered. The overall handling of colour, focus, depth of field, and composition evoke a gentle, human sadness that would have been easy to overlook in favour of something far more 'serious' and potentially heavy-handed (eg, by shooting in grimmer weather conditions and in black and white). I'm not so sure about the portrait orientation, but again this probably says more about my own taste than it does your photograph.

I particularly like this image....



It's an excellent spot that's been really well handled. The use of colour is excellent, the composition *really* nice- you've boiled it down to its key elements extremely well, meaning that the image is at once subtle and eye-catching- rather in contrast to the photograph below. The colours on this one are really well spotted... but I did wonder if compositionally- and in terms of lighting- a little more could have been made of it:



Outside of the colour it seems a little unsure of itself as an image and a touch on the vague side. But, again, it hits the right notes in terms of the brief, and the fact that it exists as an image in a coherent set means that its flaws certainly aren't debilitating.

The photograph below is also nicely done, and the light and snow have done much to enhance the image and the mood that it evokes:



This use of colour in this last image is also particularly well done, lending an otherwise mundane subject/ scene a subtle but unmistakable point of interest:



It's a really nice spot, underlining how the assignment as a whole clearly represents the extent to which you're 'seeing things photographically' and finding connections between otherwise mundane and unremarkable objects and subjects.

Learning Logs or Blogs/Critical essays Context

Your blog continues to develop in an impressive way and the way you manage, organise, utilize and develop it is enormously impressive. There's not really anything I can add here other than to say keep at it!

Suggested reading/viewing Context

The references to wider work clearly indicate that you happily and eagerly gorge yourself on photography of many sorts.... so, again, keep doing this! It's very clear that you're giving a great deal of thought to the way the photographs you take fit together, so whatever work you look at keep an eye on the decisions photographers make re sequencing and how their images fit together- style, theme, worldview, etc etc. Some series that I particularly like- ones that are diverse in terms of style, themes, worldview and genre- are:

- *Beyond Caring* and *A1* by Paul Graham
- *Broken Line*, Olaf Otto Becker (which is also really good for colour)
- *Architecture of Authority*, Richard Ross
- *One Hundred Years of Darkness*, Marcus Bleasdale
- *White Sea, Black Sea*, Jens Olaf Lasthein
- *Immediate Family*, Sally Mann

Some will be more easy to Google than others, of course, but even if you can't track down the whole set you'll still be able to get a sense of how they work as a group.

Specifically in relation to colour, Joel Meyerowitz's *Cape Light* is well worth a look, along with Wim Wenders' *Written in the West* photographs taken of the American landscape as preparation for his film *Paris, Texas*. It's amazing stuff in so many ways- certainly in relation to colour and light- but it's the way he sees the world around him- almost in alien terms- that makes it stand out most for me: there's a very distinct way he's got of seeing everything, marking the work with a clear signature.

Pointers for the next assignment

Things are coming together well, and you're taking some pleasing images and thinking about how they fit together as a set. If you carry on doing this I think you'll start to find that particular subject matter and particular themes are starting to recur, and that a 'style' will start to emerge. To some extent these are things that can be consciously considered, but they're also things that will emerge and become apparent over time, so the key is to keep shooting of

course, but also continue to reflect on your work and how you approach it... while continuing to look at and read about as much photography as you can.

Tutor name:	Andrew Conroy
Date	10/04/2013
Next assignment due	25/06/2013