



Open
College
of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Michael Franklin	Student number	517401
Course/Unit	IAP	Assignment number	2
Type of tutorial	Audio-Visual		

Overall Comments

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:

- I agree the brief starts off a little ambiguously but the last sentence of paragraph 2, 'there is no right answer, so experiment' allows you enough wriggle room.
- The overall goal is for students to think about and attempt making a themed series of portraits - and you have successfully done that here.
- Michael commented that if he had done the assignment again, he would have worked to make the concept clearer in terms of the pictorial strategy.
- When you note that you have 'reservations about the images in his books World's in a small room', can you elaborate (referring to Irving Penn's work). If you already have

then add a link to that analysis to the submission post as it will help link your practice with your wider research.

- Regarding Bailey's comment, it is important to note that he is talking about what is interesting to him (and that which has made him a very wealthy household name...)
- A tip for creating white backgrounds is to light it. It would be easier to draw or show that describe, but set a lamp or flash aimed at the backdrop, perhaps 2 (1 each side and behind your subject to not effect the lighting on them). You then light your subject far enough away so as to not be in the way of the backdrop lights or cause any shadow (which you shouldn't if everything is set up well). Light the subject with a light either side of the subject at about 45 degrees and set to slightly different power settings, or a lamp on one side and reflector on the other. You can also then backlight the subject if needed by adding an extra light behind the subject to mimic the effect you've created in these images.
- I felt the work would benefit from captions, more specifically, the names of the subjects. You could stick with first names if privacy is a concern but it is important to think about giving the subject power and identity in the photographer-subject, and viewer-subject relationships. By giving them their names, you are identifying them as individuals rather than models for your message.
- Farming – keeping consistent works and although unusual I don't have any issue with the landscape orientation as long as there is a purpose in your strategy.
- I agree with your technical reflection and only wish to add that I wouldn't be overly hard on yourself. The images work as a series, so well done. Location lighting isn't easy and takes practice, so take the lesson learnt here and refine your process at later opportunities. Try to think about the lighting of the subjects and how contrast in monochrome can be used to bring out, or emphasise, physical characteristics.

Coursework

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity

Be careful not to include the brief. Those reading know it so try to write more naturally if you are worried about readers understanding why you are working in a certain way.

Other than that, I was pleased that you are embracing photographing people so thoroughly.

Research

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

Try to increase the number of posts here as it is important to demonstrate your wider reading.

Learning Log

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

As physical study visits are obviously not going ahead for the foreseeable future please stay active on the student forums and in any of the wider study groups you find interesting. These will help you remain focused on your OCA work as well as seeing how other students are working within the government's lockdown rules.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

Because our focus was on the potential of self-portraiture for the next assignment, I have included a few notable examples below. You should also take the opportunity for research to locate some more examples that you find compelling:

Francesca Woodman – known for predominantly photographing herself <https://www.victoria-miro.com/artists/7-francesca-woodman/>

Robert Mapplethorpe – Identity and Mortality <https://www.tate.org.uk/artist-rooms/learning/resources/robert-mapplethorpe-broken/robert-mapplethorpe-self-portraiture>

Keith Arnatt – Self Burial <http://www.keitharnatt.com/works/w21.html>

Richard Billingham -Ray's a laugh (a somewhat dark look at family life)

Pointers for the next assignment

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

Tutor name	David Wyatt
Date	27/3/20
Next assignment due	18/5/20