



Open
College
of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Jose Souto Martinez	Student number	██████████
Course/Unit	EYV	Assignment number	1
Type of tutorial	Written		

Overall Comments

Many thanks Jose for sending in your first assignment. This won't be contributing to your formal assessment as it is mainly a chance for me to gauge your work. You have done well with this in that you have pushed yourself and made the most of your opportunity to focus on your new environment. As you say it would have been the safe and easy choice to document the area around your work but perhaps not as stretching.

The result is an interesting and individual take on your chosen square mile. You are a competent image maker in that you can produce images that are well composed, exposed correctly and in focus. On top of that you show that you are able to research your topic and use your interest in and influences of other photographers to produce work that can stand out from the usual and obvious.

There are several points that you should consider regarding potential improvements and I'll go into these in my comments below.

A general point: while it's good to see you have gone out several times to shoot this work I think with more consideration prior to pressing the shutter you could significantly reduce the number of images taken. Looking at your contact sheets there are many examples of repeat shots with little variation in parameters. When you see a possible situation think through the variables and what you want, it's rather like the pre-visualisation that Ansel Adams used to go on about.

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.

Feedback on assignment

Technical and Visual Skills,

Your use of paired images works well - especially combined with the text/caption. But you vary both the orientation and proportions of the images - is there any particular reason for this? You may consider using the same combination through out the series to increase its cohesiveness.

Another thought is a tighter consideration of the content in the frame. For example, In your first pair you have buildings, a road way, parked car/place to park cars (garage in one and front drive in the other). The square format image shows a large uninterrupted wall of the house to the left of frame - is this significant? It could be argued the focus is on the parking places/car. In which case you could crop the left of the £212,500 house, concentrate attention on the car/parking and produce a similar aspect ratio to the £384,693 image.

In your third pair you compare an image of houses surrounding a grassed area with a unmade up road and there is a marked difference in the prices. Two very dissimilar subjects - your purpose? It's easy in your editing to control what you show but you need to have a rationale that guides this process and think about the consistency of message. For example, the 3rd pair it could be your are comparing a rich area (by the price) that is neglected run down (the unmade up road) with a poorer area that is clean and well kept but then with your 4th pair you seem to be saying that flytipping is present in both and are examples of a lack of care in both areas. So is it the general lack of care and that fly tipping occurs in both areas you want to draw attention to or the contradiction in care between rich and poor areas? There is no right or wrong here I'm just emphasising the need for a clear and consistent purpose.

Quality of Outcome

You present the work well and I like the idea of showing the work as a booklet. You should think about including an introduction to set out your artist statement concerning the work. Some specific layout points to think about:

The amount of space on the pages for the prices - these vary with a smaller amount given in the portrait orientation images I suggest this variation isn't helpful.

The white borders of the images also vary. I haven't looked to see if the page sizes vary but essentially give some thought to making the design layout of the booklet more professional.

Demonstration of Creativity

As mentioned above I think you have done well here to push your self out of what you are used to and produced an interesting and personal commentary. It's good to see you revisiting the places, had you thought about other variable aspects such as comparing the places at different times of day/night? Would this present more interesting comparisons?

There is one image in your contact sheets - 374 - that I think could have been made more use of. The fly tipped toilet offers interesting metaphor - the outside loo and its association with lower class/poorer housing of old. What could the comparison fly tipped image then be?

It's good to see you developing your ideas as you progressed with the project - it often works this way and serves to underline the benefit of going out on a shoot with an aim albeit this may change.

Coursework

You are at the start of the course and at this stage there is little or no course work to comment on.

Research

Again you have done well here and it's good to see your thinking/commentary. I suggest that you need to think more about how each communicates a message - what non-factual or unseen elements are suggested. Also when you like a particular element of someone's work, expand your research to see how others have used/included similar elements. For example the use of text - good to see your comments about Karen Knorr's use of text but you could expand this by looking at say Jim Goldberg's Rich and Poor or his Raised by Wolves work. What other s could you think of? If necessary use the student forums to ask for others.

Learning Log

This is good but I feel you need to think how you could improve your self assessment/ reflection on your work. Look again at the categories suggested in the course notes and use these. You are good at saying what's been done and less accomplished at analysing how successful your images are in achieving your aims. What's good, what's bad, what could be done differently.

Suggested reading/viewing

I've mentioned Jim Goldberg as he uses accompanying text but quite differently. The course notes provide good mix for the next assignment.

Pointers for the next assignment / assessment

- Try not taking so many images - think of it as each frame costs £15 - and so thinking about the variables before making the shot.
- Critically analyse your work to see how well it succeeds and what could be done differently to improve it

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

Tutor name	
Date	1 August 2016
Next assignment due	You have suggested 10th Oct for the next assignment - I feel this is too big a gap as it's good to maintain momentum through the course. Is there a particular reason for your suggested deadline? I would suggest mid Sept say 16 Sept 2016