



Tutor report

Student name	Peter Walker	Student number	514508
Course/Module	Expressing your Vision	Assignment number	2

Overall Comments

Many thanks Peter for sending in your assignment. It's good to see you concentrating on a particular theme, which you have done well. I see your concern about the work being a one trick pony and to an extent agree. It is a result of you tending to see the projects and assignments too much as an exercise to complete; you need to start thinking how you can make the work your own and expressing something that is important to you that you want to draw other peoples attention to.

You are still more concerned with the technicalities of the shot than why you are shooting in this way. You say in your commentary that you picked the rubbish at random - you could start to be developing what is a good technique - the low camera angle and narrow depth of field that draws attention to the rubbish - and apply it by make a more individual and developed point. For example would you want to pick on a particular type of rubbish to draw attention to the consumerist/ throw away society by concentrating on plastic take away rubbish fast food cartons, the plastic spoon, wrappers etc.

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 succeed 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

Technical and Visual Skills

As previously mentioned you can produce well exposed and composed shots. You have a good eye and use diagonals, narrow depth of focus etc well to create interesting and dramatic images. However you need to be thinking how best to use these techniques creatively. In your exercises - 2.5 and 2.6 for example - you

complete them well from a technical perspective but they are not particularly imaginative. While the assessors will predominantly be looking at the assignments at formal assessment they will look through the work leading up to the assignments and be influenced by this so you need to start looking at these exercises as a way of developing how you express your own particular point.

You have done well in producing a coherent set of images having chosen your set of parameters well to give an unusual viewpoint - the low camera angle, the same aperture setting all contribute to this. You place the litter item well using good composition - interestingly you choose all but two frames to place the litter in the bottom left of frame. Is there any significance to placing the other two in bottom right? Would you think it enhances the cohesion of the set if they were all placed bottom left?

The combination of a wide aperture and low camera angle results on occasion in only some of the litter item being out of focus. This could raise the question of which part is important to get in focus which in turn could lead to a development of your set beyond just picking out rubbish and concentrating on the nature of the particular rubbish.

With image 6 you have missed the focus point which is behind the packet. In image 10 - the banana peel - the focus point is on the very end of the peel almost in front of it. It might have been better to turn the peel sideways on to the camera so that the plane of skin falls into the focus point. How do you feel about "moving" the found object for the purpose of making the shot?

Other aspects that I like about the work:

- How you have combined colours in the shots - the yellow lines with the yellow packet, the plastic spoon echoing the signage in the background. This could also form part of the theme - to pick out colour.
- Your use of dramatic lines and shapes in the frames.

Quality of outcome

You have produced a good thematic set of images that hang together well. You have used a sensible code set that concentrates attention on an item. I think that you could develop your thinking to explore things like: the nature of the litter, its physical relationship to other elements in the frame and changing the dynamic of the litter which at present is static (you could have things happening to the litter including it being dropped, swept up, trampled on etc.)

Creativity

You have produced a good set of images and have obviously thought about how you wanted to photograph the set. I'm less sure of how much you have experimented with different settings and situations. Why do you want to use the narrow depth of field yes it isolates it but did you try using a wide depth of field? This could relate the litter to what is in the background with your low camera angle being the main way of drawing attention to the litter. Could you have photographed at different times of the day to emphasise a different relationship between the rubbish and its setting?

Learning Logs or Blogs/Critical essays

I'm glad to see your log, your research and thoughts about the work . It is rather brief and at present shows a only a superficial level of discussion. For example while it is good to see your entries about the work of photographers like Godwin, Adams etc the entries are predominantly factual almost biographical. This of itself is not bad but you need to start including more or your thoughts about how the work appeals to you , what is it about the work that you like , why , how has the way the image has been shot contributed to the photographer's interpretation of the subject.

Your notes on your assignment are also brief and fairly superficial. The brief talks of 500 - 1000 words and you only just make the 500.

Suggested reading/viewing

Picking up on how different photographers have shot the same subject as an illustration of how each is saying something different - look at Adams photograph of Merced River in Yosemite and compare this with Stephen Shores image of the same place.

Start to look at the reviews of various photographers that you are interested in and see how their approach has been interpreted. In this way you can start to develop your own analytical skills which will in turn help you develop your work and what is often referred to as "your voice".

Pointers for the next assignment

This will be your opportunity to think more about the ideas behind the techniques you use. Go into more detail about your thinking and log your thoughts on the contact sheets concerning not only which image you choose but why and what you want to express by with your choice and why the others have been rejected.

Tutor name:	Simon Barber
Date	24 August 2015
Next assignment due	16 October 2015