

Photobook Proforma

Student Name: Amber Davies

Knowledge and Understanding Skills: 20%
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Guidance specific to task (from the brief):

Your evaluation should show clear understanding of the history, function, practical development and production of the photobook through a range of critically understood examples. The analysis of these will highlight the functions and strategies employed by the photographer and your interpretation of their communication of meaning through the publication.

Using examples (3 max), explore your understanding of the history, function and practical development of the photobook. Your analysis should highlight the strategies used by the artist/photographer to communicate their message. Include visuals (500 – 1000 words)

A photobook is a book of images that tells a story through a diverse set of images. The first photobook was created in 1844 by William Henry Fox Talbot he called his book 'The Pencil of Nature' he created the book to promote his calotype photographic process. Through the years photographers have created photobooks to help establish the idea that a sequence of images represents a narrative.

Well known photographers create photobooks to show off their work, for example Stephen Shore who's a well-known American photographer, has created 30 photobooks throughout his photography career, with his most popular photobook being 'Uncommon Places: The Complete Works' Stephen Shore created this book in 1982, the book narrative dives into Shore's personal exploration of urban and rural landscapes of his country America and his own documentation on his daily life traveling around the states.



The layout of this book changes throughout the book with something different on each page. There are some images on double pages in square coloured format with white borders then other pages with one large image and then one smaller one. You can see through his images the narrative he is trying to show, and it is shown beautifully.

Another well-known photographer that has a few photobooks published is Eliot Porter, Eliot Porter is an American photographer who is well known for his colour photographs of nature. Eliot Porter published 25 photobooks with his most famous book being 'In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World,' this book was published in 1962 and the narrative dives into the understanding of the essential connection between wilderness and human well-being.



The layout of this book is one image per page and then text on the other page, the images are all in colour in a square format with a white border going around them. The images are presented well and you can see the narrative through them.

Another photographer that has a few published photobooks is American photographer Nan Goldin with her most popular photobook called 'The Ballad of Sexual Dependency'

Nan Goldin created this book in 1986 the narrative of this book dives into the raw and intimate moments of love, loss, and human connection within her close-knit circle during the late 1970s and 1980s.



Just like Stephen Shore's book, this layout changes throughout the book with something different on each page. There are some images on double pages in square coloured format with white borders and then others with one squared image and a smaller image. You can clearly see that Nan Goldin was focusing on her narrative while taken these images as these images capture it wonderfully.

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills: 30%
Guidance specific to task (from the brief): Your research report should critically analyse the theories and concepts explored in your photobook, as well as the techniques it employs. Focus on developing a reasoned and informed debate rather than simply describing the work. Your analysis should lead to clear, valid conclusions, considering the form of the book, the reading experience it creates.

Avoiding description, critically analyse the theme/ context you explore within your photobook. Your critical analysis should demonstrate your cognitive and intellectual skills in how you have understood the subject and made work as a response to it. Consider how the form of your book communicates meaning in relation to the subject of exploration. (500 -1000 words)

Exploring how time reshapes everything, leaving behind traces that tell stories of what it was, while reminding us that nothing remains the same and will eventually be forgotten to time. While diving deep into images that were taken, people's perspective would have different views of them, as some would say they are too morbid while others would say that it is just part of mother nature's divine plan. Upon taking photographs there extra precautions taken into account from not going too close to the deceased in risks of infections and disease, as most the photographs were taking on busy roads and back roads including lanes precautions of safely parking on the side and wearing high vis vests was essential as I could be easily noticed in the dark by passing drivers. Finding the appropriate lighting and lens size was essential, mostly using headlights from my personal car or having another individual holding a torch, with the deceased being on banks or slopes, the ground was very slippery, and the mud was deep so I always proceeded with caution. A very important risk in this topic was my mental health as some of these photographs may be disturbing to others as much as it was to myself, I always prepared myself for seeing the deceased and often wondered how someone could so easily or accidentally take a life and most times not look back. It often occurred to me even though in death how beautiful these animals were and saddened me how most of these animals were just simply trying to survive. For the castle photographs, similar to the precautions of the deceased animal's safety, was always a priority, while some of these castles are open to the public and already had safety precautions, most were ruins of a once strong architecture. Some of the castles were in overgrown landscapes and up high mountain tops, preparing for the journey appropriate footwear and clothing were worn and I always was accompanied by another individual. I always felt the same sort of way of how I felt for the deceased animals on how I felt upon photographing the ruins of each castle how yet again something so beautiful can be forgotten and ruined, something so important in history and our culture can be just forgotten. It came to my attention on how the more the castle has become ruins on how it was not as appealing to the public with the castle being in such overgrown conditions and In the middle of nowhere , there was only myself admiring the beauty and history of them. While a less ruined and destructive castle had to be even paid to see and was overflowing with members of the public wanting to see the castle still standing tall and proud it made me think to myself and think if its broken is it still not beautiful? That is why I had chosen to create a "morbid" topic so maybe people can understand the importance on how beautiful death and ruins could be and that how it should never be forgotten.

Practical Skills: 40%

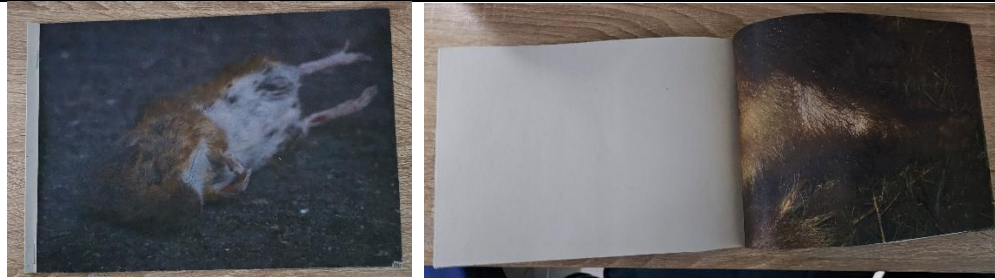
Guidance specific to task (from the brief):

Present your book professionally, carefully considering how you deploy methods, technical processes. Your methods should synthesize the form of your book and the context/meaning of your subject. Your book should demonstrate proficiency, selection in editing and flair. The decisions you make should be as product of significant research into book production and design. Within your evaluation, ensure to provide examples of book dummies to show the developments in your practical processes. These decisions should be as product of significant book design planning including alternative idea generation.

Evaluate the methods and technical processes you have employed in the making of this body of practice. Explain your process for making your book, consider how editing/ design/ typography and format speak to the subject matter you have explored. Provide examples of the book dummies you have created over the past semester to show developments in your practical processes. (800 – 1500 words)

To make my book I firstly took loads of images and created a contact sheet to decide what images I wanted to use for my book. I only edited 5 of my images, 4 of them I turned black and white and the other 1 I placed the images into three squares. I used sugar paper as the pages, my sugar paper arrived as A1 size, so I had to cut them down into A4 sizes, once I cut the paper down to size, I then printed the images onto the paper, I printed 1 image per page, I printed the images with a border around them. I printed 28 pages and then I bounded them all together using wax string and done a cross-stich method, I bounded them together on the side so my book would fold to one side. I then used a plain piece of sugar paper to create a cover. I used wax string and threaded it through the part of my book that was bounded and then used double sided tape to stick the cover on the back page, I Then used vinyl stick on letters to create the tittle of my book and placed it on the front cover. Then the book was all done.

I created a cover for my book as I felt it needed one and it also needed a tittle, and a cover was the best way to place a tittle on. I only edited 4 images black and white as the subject in those certain images stood out more in black and white than in colour, I chose 3 images and the placed them into 3 squares, the reason why I chose to do that was because I wanted to minimise how many images I had so I placed them in that layout so I could still use them. I didn't edit the rest of the images as they looked better in their original form. The tittle of my book is called 'We were never meant to stay' I chose this tittle as it described my narrative perfectly. I choose to use vinyl stick on letters to create my tittle as they were big letters, and I knew they would fill out the cover page well rather than having a plain cover.



These are images of my second dummy book

These images are of my dummy book I created first before my final book. After creating this dummy book, I knew how I wanted to create my final book. I created this dummy book the same way I created my final book; I created a contact sheet of images that I weren't too sure if I wanted to use them in my final book, so with those images I used them in my dummy book I only chose 5 of them as I wanted to create a small dummy book to make sure the layout I had in my head would work which it did. After creating the contact sheet, I then went on to cut my A1 size sugar paper down to A4 sizes. I then had a look through all my images and once I chose which images I wanted to use I then printed the images onto the paper, I printed 5 images on individual pieces of paper with a border going around them. Once I placed the images in order, I wanted the dummy book to be, I then stapled one side together to bind the book and then used a paper cutter to cut the border.

After creating my dummy book, I then went on to create my final book, I wanted to create my final book the same way as my dummy book as I really like how my dummy turned out, the only difference with the final book is that I kept the borders around the images as I felt it suited them better and I had a lot of images to tell my narrative better.

Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice 10%

Guidance specific to task (from the brief):

Your photobook should meet industry standards in design, development, and production. Plan your workflow according to your chosen publication method to ensure timely completion. Active participation in sessions is essential for sharing your work, engaging in discussions, and demonstrating both employability skills and a

strong grasp of the module content. Your evaluation should reflect on your learning throughout the process and highlight the transferable skills you have developed.

Evaluate what you have learnt throughout the process of making your photobook. Pay particular attention to the transferable skills you have developed. (500-1000 words)

Overall, I enjoyed the process of making my book. Before I made my book, I firstly done some research on photobooks, I looked at a photobook called Roadkill by Anders Angsvik for inspiration on my images, I also looked at a book called Wires Crossed by Ed Templeton for inspiration on the layout as I did like the way his book was laid out and my original idea was that I wanted to create a scrap book with each page being a different layout but once I created my second dummy book with the layout of one image per page and the book bounded on the side, I changed my mind as I really liked that layout more than the scrap book layout in the end and felt like it suited my final book better as well.

I started thinking what I wanted to make the book about once I knew what I wanted to do, I then started taking loads of images for my book and creating contact sheets to help me choose what images I wanted to use. Before I started to create my final book, I made a dummy book with old images I had. The images I had were of ducks and boats, the narrative of that book was what you can find on open waters. In university we had a group tutorial to show our dummy books and to discuss what we have planned for our final book. I presented my dummy book in the tutorial the first thing that was mentioned about my dummy book was the layout I had for my book. The layout I had for my book was double sided coloured landscape images, the dummy book opened almost like a calendar the dummy book was landscaped and opened upwards. The group like the layout as they said you don't usually see books with a layout like mine and they said it was different but in a good way. The layout of my final book is a bit different to my first dummy book but is like my second dummy book, my final book is bounded on the side, so it flips open almost like a flip book. I chose to bind my book that way as I felt like it fits the images better as most of them are in landscape and all of them are on a single page which I prefer as you can spend more time looking at that one image rather than looking at two at once.

What I've learnt through this module is that photobooks come in many shapes and forms and that there is a lot of time put into creating a photobook. Photobooks are a good opportunity for photographers to show off their work.

