

Student Name Kyle James Branigan

Student ID - 1912980

Programme – BA Documentary Photography & Visual Activism

Module – Personal Philosophies/ Contemporary Narratives

Module Code –M5X01708

Assignment Title – Book Project Research Sheet

Submission deadline – 22/04/2021

Look at photography (and other books) for inspiration. Take note of how these are edited (successfully or not?) – scale, sequencing, pacing etc. Please use the comprehensive list of recommended websites within the module handbook.

The assessment will be based primarily on the content of your work but experimentation with method and form, as part of your process, will be taken into account. Your 500-1000 word evaluation should discuss your working methodologies & key research (visual and conceptual).

Book publication has long been seen as a key 'site' for photographic work and many photographers have worked independently, and closely with designers, to produce an outcome that transcends the mere collection of images on a given theme, instead exploring notions of complex juxtaposition, rhythm and narrative. You will follow the semester one project, *Experimental Strategies*, by furthering your self-directed project development, culminating in a pdf photobook layout.

Research

Theme – Coastal Pollution, natural and manmade

Inspirations

John Darwell walks along coastline and featuring detritus on its journey.

Simon Reeves – walking documentaries

Chris Packham – wildlife campaigner

Keith Arnatt – contemporary photographer

Jen Southam -

Paul Seawright -

Mandy Barker - collects rubbish and compiles these into art to highlight issues

[Louis Quail Photographer | Documentary Photographer](#)

<https://louisquail.com/blog/>

[David bailey east end](#)

Potential – continuation of walk the dunes series, expanding on previous exhibitions, coastline or river.

2.5 mile coastal walk

Darwell's recent project DDSB is thought provoking making art out of excrement that local dog walkers feel the need to pick up but then drop or hang from trees. His simplistic visual representations invoke mixed emotions in me, anger, bemusement at the irresponsible dog owners but I also appreciate the quality imagery and the message that he is portraying.

Darwell quote "What I fail to understand is the increasing number of dog owners who bag their dog's mess and then discard in bushes or hang on fences/tree branches or leave in the middle of pathways and playing fields. Is this purely about not wishing to be fined and thereby picking the right moment to surreptitiously dispose of the offending article? Whatever the reasoning the ddsb has very quickly become a feature of our environment."

Darwell Images – Walking with Schwitters



<http://www.walk.uk.net/portfolio/john-darwell-interview/>

Like me, he documents his local coastline and walks the same routes to reflect the area at different points in time. Aim to represent current detritus and coastal pollution in midst global pandemic.

Lands2 portfolio



Keith Arnatt



Pictures from a Rubbish Tip 1988-1989



Jem Southam

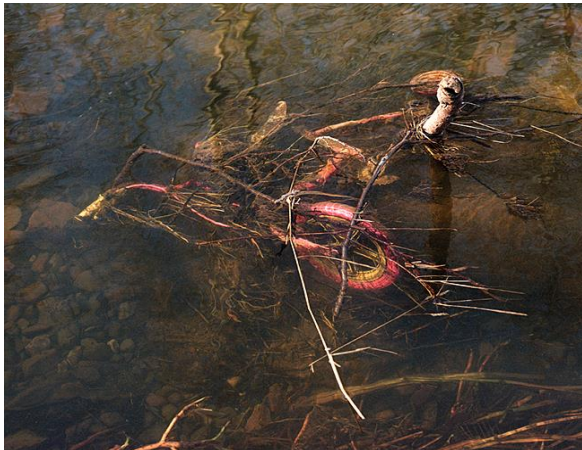


Paul Seawright

John Darwell Indian Ocean



John Darwell 1000 yards or so





Chris Packham



Development of Ideas

Map of local area



Book research

. **Wilderness to Wasteland** by David T. Hanson

Taken during the early portion of Hanson's career in the 1980's, these documentary landscapes depict the environmental ruin that has resulted from some of America's worst business practices. It's a great example of photography with a message

9. **Infra** by Richard Mosse

This book is like no other, because it uses a film that almost no other photographer has ever used: infrared film. Originally used by the US military to spot soldiers in heavy brush, Mosse uses it to document child soldiers in the Congo in this devastatingly beautiful series

21. **Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light** by Bill Brandt

This is another aptly named book, as it explores the important interplay of shadow and light. Though the images within the book depict British life in the early to mid 1900's, it is the tonality and interplay of densities that deserves careful observation.

Andy Warhol. Polaroids 1958-1987: JU Hardcover – 19 Oct.

Mandy Barker – Altered Ocean, Beyond Drifting

Jem Southam – The River,

Remembering Diana: A Life in Photographs Hardcover – Illustrated, 10 Aug. 2017

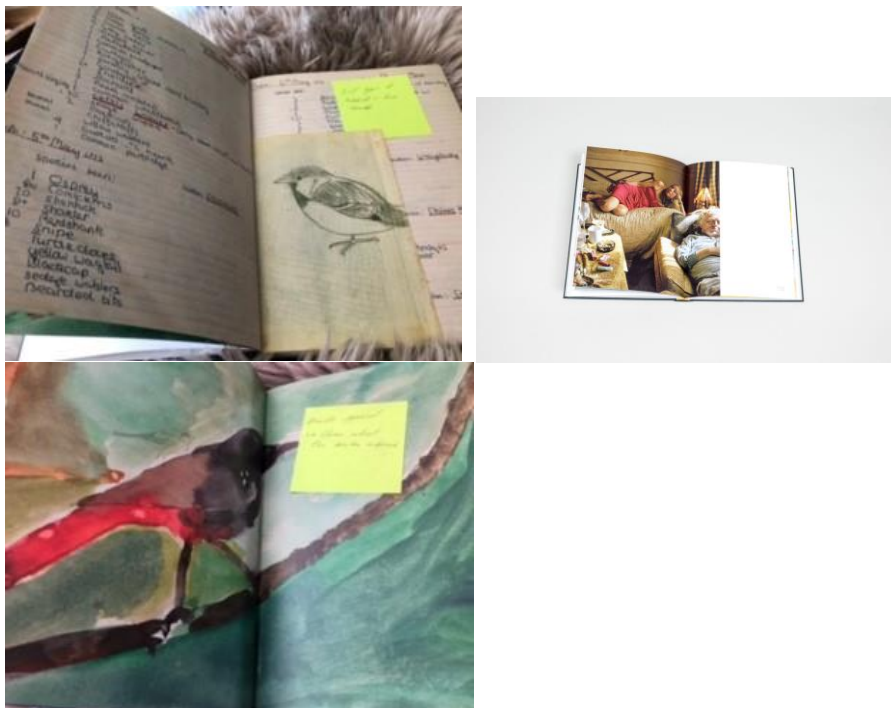
[12 Photography Books That Changed History | Widewalls](#)

Photobook Styles



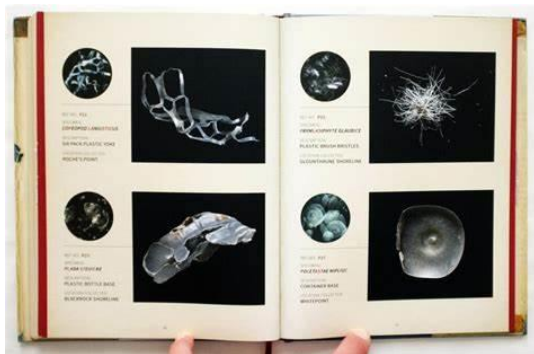
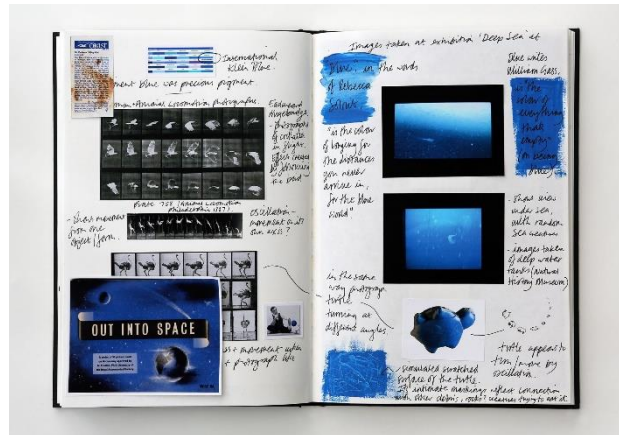
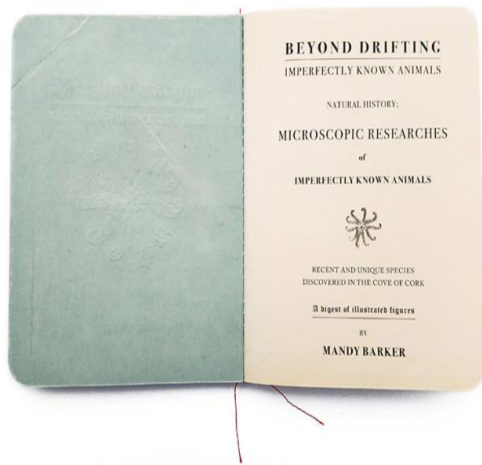
My own project book

Big Brother – Louis Quail



great combination of hand drawn pictures, doodles, lists and textures of different extracts added into the book

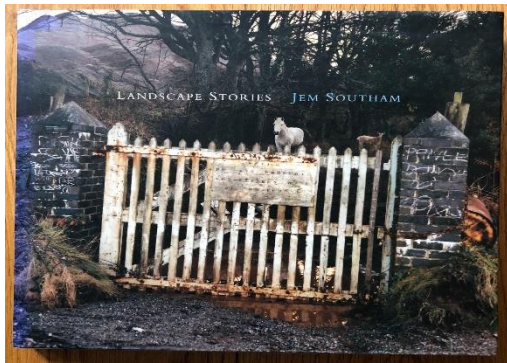
Mandy Barker, altered ocean and Beyond drifting



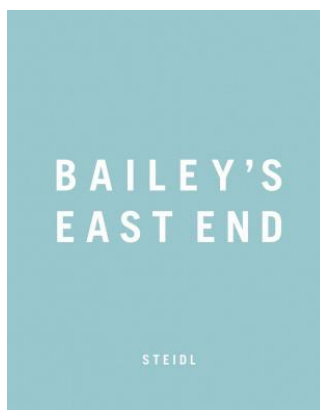
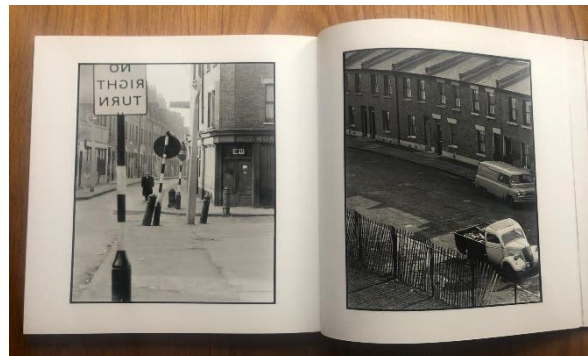
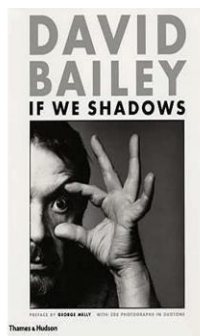
visually striking, combination of handdrawn designs, layouts, short description of place, time and representation.



Simple, limited wording, dramatic black and white image on cover with embolden title



Jem Southam, simple layouts, using relevant imagery for cover. Wide spaces of white background, allowing the images to breathe and speak for themselves.



black and white photographs are effective and use of placement on page is striking and simplistic



busy, wordy, crossed image across double spread detracts from the image and messaging
 Annie Leibovitz, very busy cover not relatable to the imagery she is portraying. Love the fun photography and simplicity of letting the image tell the story.

Martin Parr, The Last Resort

A true chronicler of our times, **Martin Parr** has been exploring the concepts of leisure, consumption, and communication for several decades, dealing with these subjects with criticism, seduction and humor. In his seminal photography book *The Last Resort: Photographs of New Brighton*, Parr captured the everyday reality of a seaside resort on the Wirral Peninsula, three miles from Liverpool, documenting an urban seaside resort, run down, but very much alive.



Fun cover, using an image from within the series. Simplistic placement and storytelling of the day trips and uses of the resort. Limited descriptions and wording

Exploration of ideas/ideas for evaluation

Throughout the history of photography, we have been able to share our captured moments, either to raise awareness of issues or to celebrate family and friends as a visual reminder of the person, place and time as a historical record. For many photographers, the physical photography book and more recently a digital book remains the most significant route to display your work and is a great way to communicate our vision to a wide audience. Early photography books were used to illustrate the work of individual photographers' collections but more over there is a greater appreciation that a sequence of images represents a narrative in its own right and can often be more powerful than words. Initially my research targeted my related genre however I soon realised that this was limiting my options and started to explore other books to evaluate the best visual impact that I could incorporate into my book design. I am a photographer of few words and writing an introductory biography element would be something that I would struggle with but when I started to compile ideas on a page there was something missing and I felt compelled to include a short introduction and a short comment for each page. My final design layout will showcase the images for maximum effect with minimal text for the reader to come to their own conclusion as to what the image is trying to represent and the subliminal messaging that they portray. My target audience would be of a coffee table book reader and hopefully this would entice more readers if there was minimal text as they want something quick and easy to read but to draw the eye to the messaging that I wanted to present. The intent was to depict the walk along the coast, colour themed and simplistic ideology, focal points on each of the individual items in their natural location as they were found and some in the studio to add dramatic effect. The blue collection is a series of items collected along a one mile stretch of dune and was my first coastal pollution exhibition, part of a wider student exhibition held June 2018 at Carnegie House which I have continued to expand upon. The grouping of these is symmetrical and sequencing replicated the route walked.

I experimented with the image position on the page and what effect that would have on the photo and the story visual that would illustrate the message. Overall, I feel that this book met what I wanted to make and this book would be available for everyone, I also feel that it was important to have the first book that I made to be online series as it could open up opportunities for other photographers and people to see my work, and in the digital era, it is one of the best ways to get people interested in my work and raise awareness to the plight of plastic on our environment. I wanted a simplistic professional vibe.

evaluation of my Photo Book: walk through the plastic pollution, I feel that Images are powerful medium and a smart way of telling a story. One thing that doesn't change is the moment you capture the image, people, place and times can change, yet a photograph will stay the same, forever unless of course we digitally manipulate it. Something about the term 'captured in time' is something to drew me closer to photography, and I really agree with the idea that photographs hold the powerful key to making a difference to our futures. A photograph can tell 1000 stories, but the photographer has set out with a camera, and yet only 1 story to get out there.

Emphasis has been to target the younger generation as we are the people that can make a difference for our futures but also I wanted to entice other age groups to see if it can

challenge them to change their habits. My research included books by Warhol where he used colour in his pop art images to send effective messaging, often using the same item duplicated with subtle colour differences to focal point. David Bailey and Jem Southam – striking contrast of image against white background, unfussy, gentle pacing and effective. Selection and post production editing was minimal apart from light, contrast and focusing on subject matter not background and bizziness

Book presentation ideas

Simple presentation, one image per page or themed items per page, limited wording and dramatic effects.

Hints and tip [5 Top Tips for Designing Good Photo Book Layouts \(digital-photography-school.com\)](https://digital-photography-school.com/5-Top-Tips-for-Designing-Good-Photo-Book-Layouts/) <https://digital-photography-school.com/>

1. Less is More. Don't try to crowd in a lot of photos in a single layout, give your photos some breathing room. In...
2. Establish a Focal Point. If you have a beautiful photo of which you're especially proud, as mentioned in
3. 1 above,...
4. Vary your spreads. I have done a "portfolio" type book where I only placed a single photo per page, and that makes...
5. Tell a Story. Just as with any other book, your photo book is meant to tell a story, especially when making a book

Intro - Merthyr Mawr sand dunes are one of my favourite places to walk, just a short walk from where I live, the warren reserve is a combination of sand dunes, thatched village, castle ruins, churches, woodland and river walk where you eventually end up at Ogmore by Sea. I love the prettiness of Merthyr Mawr reserve and it is amazing to have this nature reserve on my doorstep. The 'Big Dipper' sand dune is the second highest in Europe, which as a kid spent many days sand surfing down the stunning dune and exploring the woodland habitat. On the walk to the beach you can explore Ogmore Castle and its 52 stepping-stones across the Ogmore river, even try to cross them if you dare and have a pint at The Pelican.

Sounds idyllic yes? Amidst all this beauty is rubbish and in particular cans and plastic strewn along the route, some caused by coastal pollution washing up in the storms but mostly left by the idiots who walk the coast. It never ceases to amaze me how they travel to enjoy the beautiful area then leave their crap behind.

I am hoping that this book will help highlight the issue and perhaps help to persuade others to think about what they leave behind.

As we wander our lovely landscape,

Let us take a minute to reflect,

Have we damaged anything?

Have we left anything behind?

Have we made a positive impact?

But most of all

Be Kind to yourself, others and the environment.

Enjoy the quiet, reflective space

Contact sheets



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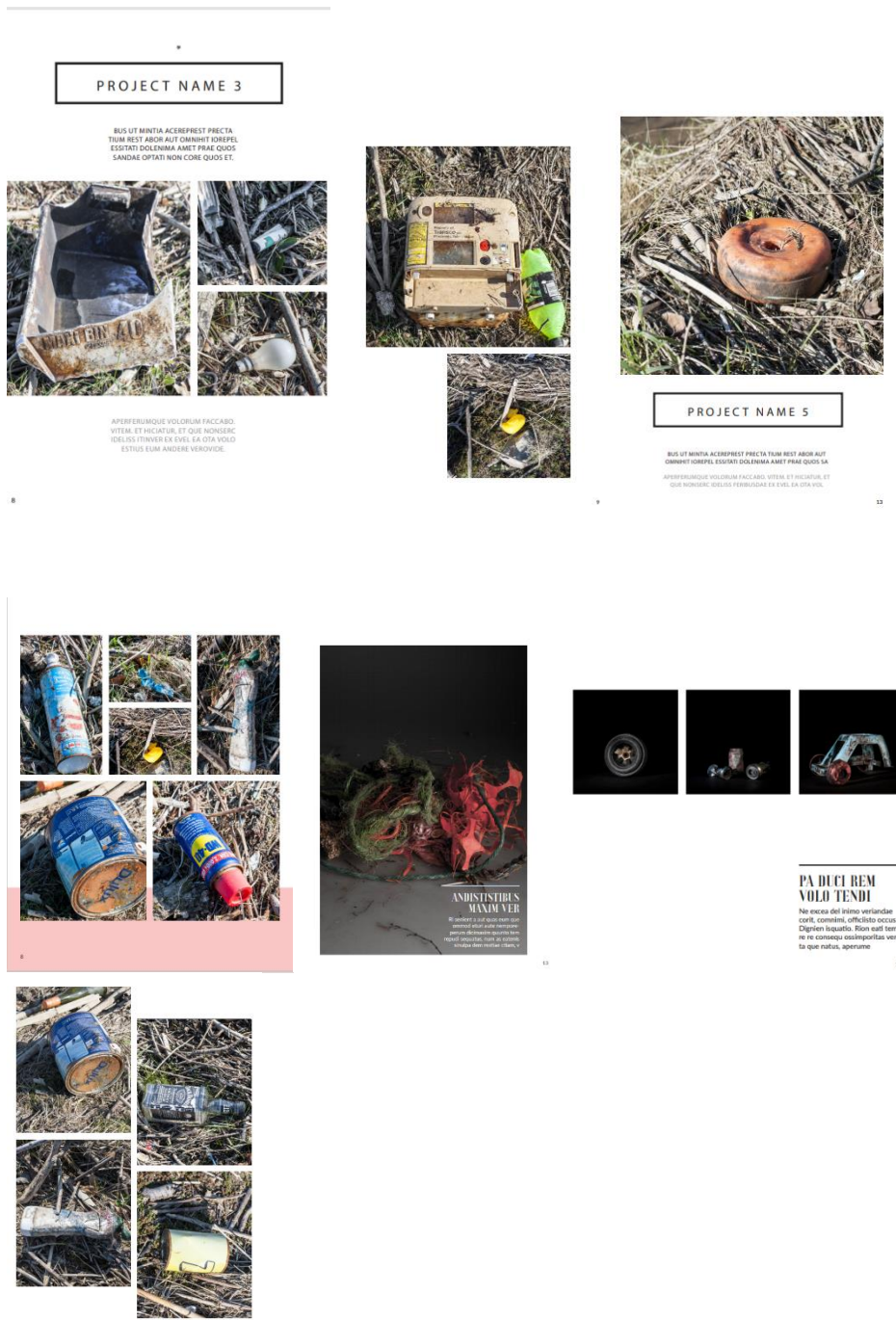
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Throughout the history of photography, we have been sharing our precious captured moments, either to raise awareness of personal issues, political reasons or celebrate family and friends as a visual reminder of the person, place, and time as a historical record. For many photographers, the physical photography book and more recently the digital book remains the most significant route to exhibit your work and is a great way to communicate our vision to a wide audience. Early photography books were used to illustrate the work of individual photographers' collections but now it is a way to achieve a greater appreciation that a sequence of images represents a narrative and can often be more powerful than words.

Initially, my research concentrated on the many narrative strands to work with as well as so many inspiring photographers. My initial idea developed slowly where I was then able to formulate a concept, which photographically may appear simple but is contextually quite thought provoking. This research targeted my related genre, however I soon realised that this was limiting my options and the styles were very similar in their approach and final layout. I started to explore other books to evaluate the type of visual impact that I could incorporate into my book design. I am a photographer of few words and writing an introductory biography element was something that I thought I would struggle with but when I started to compile ideas on a page there was something missing and I felt compelled to include a short introduction and a short description or facts to each page.

My final design layout showcases the images for maximum effect with minimal text for the reader to come to their own conclusion and the subliminal messaging that they portray. My target audience is the coffee table book reader and hopefully this style would entice more readers if there was simplicity and synchronicity to provide a quick and easy to read but to draw the eye but not detract from the messaging that I wanted to present. The intent was to depict the walk along the coast, colour themed items and simplistic ideology, focal points on each of the individual items in their natural location as they were found and some in the studio to add dramatic effect. The blue collection is a series of items collected along a one mile stretch of dune and was my first coastal pollution exhibition, part of a wider student exhibition held June 2018 at Carnegie House which I have continued to expand upon. The grouping of these is symmetrical and sequencing replicated the route walked but themed by base materials.

I experimented with the image position on the page and what effect that would have on the photo and the story visual that would illustrate the message. Overall, I feel that this book met what I wanted to portray and in digital form would be available for everyone. It was important to have the first book that I made to be an online series as it could open opportunities for other photographers and people to see my work. In the digital era, it's one of the best ways to get people interested in my work and raise awareness to the plight of plastic on our environment. I wanted a refined professional vibe with a Less is More, trying not to crowd in a lot of photos in a single layout, to give my photos breathing room. By presenting the images in this style allowed to reflect that these captured images, people, place, and times can change, yet a photograph will stay the same, forever unless of course we digitally manipulate it and I have encapsulated my moment in time.



Kyle Branigan – trial design layouts

Emphasis has been to target the younger generation as we are the people that can make a difference for our futures but also, I wanted to entice other age groups to see if it can challenge them to change their habits. I wanted them to see the image which stripped back of any distractions and allows the viewers to see the subjects as they were found focusing on the atmosphere.

My research included books by Louis Quail, where he documented his brother's journey with schizophrenia and the combination of images showing real people and life but combining the hand drawn elements and extracts from his brother's bird spotting books and used these to capture the juxtaposing of living with illness but showing joy and sending

effective messaging. David Bailey and Jem Southam with their approach of striking contrast of image against white background, unfussy, gentle pacing and effective whilst in contrast one is portraiture the other decaying places. What I didn't want to explore further was images crossing pages and overcrowding, I find this deflects from the image and creates a confused vibe. I was able to adopt their techniques and adapt them into my own work in the compilation of the images, concept and the creation of the photobook using Adobe InDesign. This helped to enable me to look beyond the photographic aspects, in order to develop my idea from other perspectives.



The Moth – Jem Southam 2018



Jem Southam

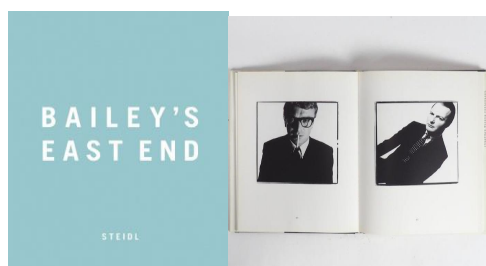
Landscape stories 2005

Narrowing down and editing the final images, the pattern became clearer as to what the concept was really going to be. Through this process it also presented me with two narrative lines which co-existed to become one. There is a juxtaposition between the two narratives journey/time is a linear narrative which is juxtaposed by the order of the pollution



Jem Southam The River Winter 2012

dumped forming a non-linear narrative. The final outcome highlights the fragility of the rate we dispose of rubbish through the tonal ranges as well as creating a subtle pause at the end of each time frame. I think that this concept worked really well together especially when positioned in the photobook.



David Bailey East End 2014



Louis Quail Big Brother 2018

Word Count – 995

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