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Question 5

From the Lense based image making research strand lectures, choose a theme, movement, or selection of that relate to your practice or interests, and construct a 2,500-word essay. Critically assess primary themes, key writers and relevant practitioners.

What I've taken from my lectures of Lense based image-making is that my study is cinemaphotography I have always loved watching films growing up, then also following the behind-the-scenes images. Cinematography is based on capturing films, movies and shorts the photographer is meant to capture the vibe of what the film is supposed to be about without spoilers. When people look at the images, they should feel the movie for example one of my inspirations with cinemaphotography is from the movie the little women 2019 movie, the director of photography for the movie was Yorick Le Saux. I was inspired by her work for my own practice and for what I want to hopefully achieve in the future.

What I was inspired mostly by Yorick's work was the way she caught the feel of the movie, the movie was based on the novel written by Louisa May Alcott written in 1868. To promote the movie photographer Wilson Webb decided to take images that looked like they were from the 1800's. Wilson used a technique from the 1800's which is known as collodion process. Collodion process is a wet-plate collodion which includes cutting glass or metal plate the "plate will have to be wet with light sensitive chemicals and exposed before the plate dries" "with around 25,000 watt-seconds of flash" apparently is so bright you can smell and feel the heat of the light, "similar to a thunderstorm" Text, Dawson Dazed magazine available at dazeddigital.com { Article written, February 6th 2020} The process takes up to 40 minute, warm colours appear dark while the cooler colours are light whilst taking the images clothing and the backdrop had to be taken into a lot of consideration. The models had to sit incredibly still for the entire process due to the amount of images focus is less than one inch deep, the plate set up takes 10-20 seconds for the plate to be exposed if one person moved in



the image they would not be in focus.

Webb,W.(2020) little women cast. Columbia pictures

Each of the images have been used with the collodion process which was invented by Frederick Scott Aimagesrcher and Gustave Le Gray, these images were taken on an 8xww10 with 10 minutes prep. Expose and to develop for the 30 minutes to be cleaned and dried and sealed with varnish not for copies to be made. Webb used an intrepid “8x10 view camera and custom-made Lense to attach a 29mm F3 brass Petzval Lense made in London by J.H.Dallmeyer in 1881.” Article written by Chelsea Steiner from themarysue.com (February 6th, 2020)

Another movie that I was amazed by was Blade runner 2049 with the director of photography being Roger Deakins who has a huge discography of movies that he has worked on, but blade runner is the most memorable for me. From the bright colours and show of emotion Deakins has shown me a whole new style of photography with the bright luminous colours and different lighting techniques. “Deakins rarely shoots with an anamorphic Lense, which he thinks is too slow when processing light”. - Herman Wilkins (October 16, 2022) Studiobinder.com Roger uses his signature ring light which is like what I like to practice in the studio with all types of lighting, gels and editing. Being a director of photography gives you the opportunity to speak with the set design and coming with ideas for the interior of the set and what the movie is supposed to feel like. Lighting is a big part of blade runner 2049 “references of the way architects use light in modern buildings, and especially the way the lights fall on some of the buildings” - Michael Maher (October 16th, 2017)

Premiumbeat.com. Lighting plays a big role in my studio set work as I feel deeply with each project and lights and colour help to bring emotions and feelings into a project, I work with a colour wheel to help balance each colour and what works with each other. This also helps when shooting in black and white especially when using black and white film for example for lips to appear dark in a shot green will need to be used as red appears Gray instead of a dark colour. Each colour has a mood, event or location for each project. Matthew Libatique uses colours in his work also using “specific colour and exposure as I can while we are shooting” -Herman Wilkins (October 16th 2022) studiobinder.com Matthew discussed colours that where right for each characters in each scene the director of the movie made it clear as to what he wanted with the black swan movie and how it would be perceived, using wide Lense cameras to capture the dancing scenes and to focus on the darkness also as shadows are a big part of the plot and the way the lighting is effects the shadows and contrast. “i know its looming bit i try to be specific with colours and exposure as i can while we are shooting. I think of the DI as a colour timing session and not a fix – it session”- Robert Allen British Cinematographer.co.uk

What drew me to cinematography is being able to capture what the film is like and to be able to work alongside directors to create a body of work that fits a film. I enjoy it when images can tell a story also, photographer Gregory Crewdson is a studio editorial photographer who creates cinematic stills with studio sets. He focuses on small-town American life by using “atmospheric lighting and uncomfortably passive subjects”- Daisy McCorgay, canon-europe.com. Gregory’s work has heavily influenced my way of taking images he has a way of being able of transporting you to a whole new world which is shown as a perfect still world he pays attention to detail, lighting, color and product design designing a dreamlike scenes filled with mystery and suspense, his images of a small town settings of many of his images are familiar he tries to avoid signifiers of identifiable sites and moments of establishing a world outside time. He was incredibly picky when it came to using cameras but enjoyed using the canon EOS 5D in 2007 “I’m not that comfortable with a camera” “but the canon EOS 5D became a great extension- I loved it we did a lot of production stills with the camera, and it became a very important part of the process” Gregory Crewdson, Daisy McCorgay canon- europe.com which he used for his casting call he took two images of the models he wanted

to cast one at a angle and in front to show Crewdson's large –format final photographs the casting shots are critical to determining how to capture the essence of the subject “the interaction between the camera and the subject is important for me. There's a slight bit of shame or guilt thats involved with the whole thing and that is important. The camera is an alibi that allows you to explore traits that you wouldn't normally explore in a person” Gregory Crewdson by Daisy McCorgay, Canon-europe.com

What inspires me with his work is that he gets to be in control of absolutely everything from the lighting to the camera he uses. He gets to create his dream world through photography which is what I am hoping to achieve I enjoy being the decision maker and how i want my projects to be portrayed, being in control of the process making relives parts of my anxiety with having others involved in process making encase something goes wrong with something. I want my thought, Storys and creations to be entirely made by me and the fear of having another person within the process would not have been my experiences as they would have placed ideas and thoughts into each process I may come across as selfish but I do not have the best people skills and just love working alone and learning how to use new techniques, lights, equipment and new skills and being able to work alone. I feel the most cormftoble alone and confidant that my work will be at its best with just me.



Crewdson.G (2001) *Untitled*

Twilight is a series which Crewdson’s work mostly stood out to me and for it to be something that i wanted to peruse, his form of editing is influential as he is able to blur the boundaries between reality and fiction within his work by creating scenes that make individuals seem lost in thought,, his style of editing for each project is so different and unique but for each one of his projects he manages to keep on theme for each one, either with it being a colour, object or person he keeps something similar so that the images can easily see as being connected together and for each to be easily identified as for what belongs to each one.

Another cinematic photographer i feel has helped shaped my study as a photographer is William Eggleston who heavily influenced the use of coloured film where as I do not use film cameras or use film in any of my practices as I find the process of making coloured film incredibly frustrating and annoying and the pressure of only having a certain number of shots and if light hits the exposed film the roll is ruined so i choose no film and preferer editing a digital image to make it appear as being shot on film. William's work is influential with his use of using still objects with everything being still I feel as though I am more capable and confident of taking the image as i know it will not be blurry because it's still it won't be able to move, and it gives me less anxiety to worry about the image being blurry. Eggleston’s relationship with colour film photography is “I had the attitude that i would work with this present- day material and do the best I could to describe it with photography”- Artnet.com Which is a quote that I agree with the ongoing change of technology and society being

able to adapt to it and showing willing to try new techniques to be able to grow with the changing world. Instead of using a film camera to create work with a certain aesthetic i use a digital camera take a still image and use editing apps to make it appear that it was taken on a film camera frequent apps i use to make a digital image appear as film is lightroom, adobe photoshop and Fujifilm 1989 app filter which gives a retro red, blue and yellow filter over images . William for his projects used a commercial dye transfer process that will elevate the simple subjects of his images to colorful art form.



Eggleston.W (1983-86) *Untitled* Pigment print

William also just takes images of anything with no theme or idea just shoots whatever he wants and likes and doesn't stop snapping. He is carefree with his work which is what I aspire for my work, he also works alone with is what I am the most confident is, he uses the natural lighting and just captures what he sees. " I don't have anything in mind, i don't really know when to stop to be honest"- Fi Churchman (13th of may 2019) Having no meaning is also a part of my study as it takes me back to when i first started photography at 15 where i would go for a really long walk and take pictures of anything and everything from it being a twig on the floor to a cracked window in an old wooden barn taking images of these random objects is what got me to start my journey and will still be placed in my photographic journey. Artists like William are the reason i got to have a journey as he gives meaning to take pictures of absolutely everything even with no context, he helped me move with the ever-changing technological world.

Bibliography

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