

Harvey Shaw

World Building

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My website: <https://harveyisaacshaw.wixsite.com/his-portfolio>

My website features a home page with a select few examples as a showcase. There are extra tabs at the top that link to separate pages of my site. One being the “about” tab which holds information regarding me and my relationship with photography. Next there is a tab for a gallery which features a large proportion of my work in no sense of order or chronology, it’s just a page to freely explore examples of work. There is also a projects tab which features some of the past projects I have worked towards and added to. This page helps represent my work in a more orderly fashion allowing viewers to understand the intentions and context behind it further. Lastly there is a contact tab which holds all general information to get hold of me, this includes my email, phone number, age and my home town.

I feel like my website has liminal things to click and interact with which is what I wanted to have because I personally don’t like sites that are hard and difficult to navigate. I feel the space of my site and scale of my work makes up for not being able to click on as many things as you have to scroll through images anyway and fully observe them.

The theme I went with for my site consists of black and white contrasting against each other through the areas of the different pages. I went with this because my work looks better displayed with the similarities within the image such as being monochrome or highly contrasted. I was going to have all of my images on one page similar to a contact sheet however I feel this makes the website more tedious and I enjoy the idea of immediately being able to understand what my work looks like and just what it is about.

I made my site on Wix because I have past experience with it and its ability to make websites with all of the tools you need. There are lots of pros and cons to using different sites to create a website and some of them outweigh the others. Wix for me is generally the best “all-rounder” in the sense of it being able to do what I need it to do and nothing extra.

Some inspiration for my site lies with the photographer Kenzo Mendes and his website:

https://www.kenzomendes.com/?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAabAu2BfRjaEHLWlpZzoyLpvZ8Fhh5yR23TI5cdfuPKTRD7ZdbB0Pf5AfE_aem_1X-K-0YGRM4z3NGDSYVDQQ

I was initially drawn to this website because of the bold and simplistic look. After pressing the link you are faced with a large portrait and his name in big red letters which also catches the viewers eye. His site has a projects page, an about page and a contact page. This is generally all you need for a starter site as there is space to show your work, space for people to understand it and

space to be contacted if someone is interested. Some sites and payment plans also let you set up indirect shop on your site which I have seen some photographers use.

I feel like I enjoy this site because my work in a sense pulls the same rope that his does in terms of display and documentation, so I feel like his intention to lay out his site appeals to me in a similar way as I recognize my work is best displayed with features that already exist in the photos. For example being bold with the odd selection of color utilized in a title or image.

Another website and photographer I really like and looked towards for inspiration is David Bradford and his site:

<http://drivebyshootings.com>

To begin with the link to his site is short, snappy and rememberable. This alone can be a good thing to have as people will utilize the readability of accessing your site. It is at the top of the page when you search for example “drive by shootings photographer”.

The layout of his site is fairly straight forward as he has a menu bar at the left hand side outlined in yellow along with his title and name at the top of the page and a video of his images Ona. Segmented slide which flicks between works. This is another good way of letting people see a variety of your work without having to do much looking and clicking. The scale of his site appears to be small but I think it

helps contain all of the sites elements into an area of focus. As a mobile site we only see the top third of our screen being filled and the rest is black empty space however yet again I feel like this is a nice difference compared to being overly fed, super sized images and text upon entering the site.

Unlike other photographers websites he has more variation with pages to access as he has a “books” tab, as well as “video” , “bio” and “news”. These are pages that help solidify the site and the work all together as it shows that there are other accessible areas that bring me closer to the artist and their work as well as how their work has been displayed and published.

Going back to my site after referencing other artists sites I think that the display aspect of my site is perfect. I do think I could try messing around with the scale of images and text on other pages however that all communicate with each other because the layout is the same. I think that my site has the pages in which it needs to represent me and my work and it’s something that I would regularly update and try to add to. However this is one negative about Wix and my site... there is a 500mb limit to how many images or videos you can store and show on the site and because I started with my old work making way towards the new stuff I have been doing recently it has limited me half way through my working progress and I can’t show any newer work without deleting the old or paying for a monthly subscription. This is something I would be interested in doing in the future however it is a hurdle that I have come towards during this process.

I also had to make my site comparable with the phone browser which was a huge struggle. My site was already partly pieced together however the layout of most of my pages and images were all over the place so it took me some time comparing the desktop and phone browser against one another as they both have different visual representations.

In an evaluation of my website and making it I would say that it has been fairly easy creating my site on Wix even without using any presets or stencils. It was nice being able to fix and order my website to a better standard than what it was especially for the iPhone browser viewing. I really struggled making it comparable with both browsers because I had focused on the desktop browser and then realized the phone browser was awful to engage with and view. Both versions are different yet they still share the same visualization and sense of maneuvering the sites work with scrolling.

I think I aim to add some more relevant pages as my work / career progresses and I think having a website is very useful as it almost acts as a command centre to all your other external links and connections. This being said I have linked my Instagram through my website with the social button at the top right and this should direct viewers to my social media.

I would like to be able to update my site with all of my new work so my next step is to acquire more storage space through Wix to allow me to have more images. I also want to segment my photos a bit

better in another page to have my work in separate collections / orders making for a more organized space.