

TASK 2 - Illustrated Book Project Proposal Task

500 words, due 5pm Feb 13th, submitted via moodle.

Formatting: please use the headings below making use of the advice and resources provided.
References should be made using the Harvard format.



Name:

Theme/Context

Provide a brief summary of the theme or subject you want your work to focus on. You might include details about the impact you hope to achieve, how the book format will help you connect with your audience, and what will make your work stand out. (300 – 500 words)

To summarise the content of my book i would say it is a representation of the human expression and how people are presented in different contexts, whether consciously or unconsciously. In this book project I am engaging with familiar faces, people i dont know and people i have never met or photographed before through using found footage / material, giving my book a dynamic look into human presence in a very observational way.

I want to focus on people and their ways of self expression through a variety of photographic examples and i aim to create a book that includes a diverse spectrum of people who all encapsulate the contrasting themes of individuality and universality. I will be shooting entirely in monochrome which is for contextual reasons / differences as well as physical. Black and white is important to me in this project as it emphasizes elements of my imagery that i want to get across such as texture, shapes, lighting, space and most importantly the human form.

The imagery that i am going to put in this book is very diverse however the use of black and white will hopefully bring out and stretch the viewers understanding of something as general as "people" and their ways of expression and human form. This type of imagery alongside Monochrome, high contrast editing, should transform various elements of the images into a more surreal thing to understand and view, such as backgrounds or objects that wouldnt normally be noticed being turned into a mixture of blank voids and dark space. This should create more of a focus on the shapes and visual expressions of the people within the images and it also makes space for a more personal, creative layout.

I want people to look through my book and feel like they have seen multiple forms of expression and understand or relate to atleast one form within it. I want people to grasp it as much as it feels foriegn to them as my book is about people and the way we connect with eachother through whatever we have personally to do so.

Influence

Highlight the work of a photographer who currently inspires your work. Analyse an image of theirs and explain your interest in their work. Consider style, theme, context, practical technique. (300 – 500 words)

An artist that inspires me through this process is Yatuka Takanashi, I find the book "Provoke" which he is included in with 4 other members to be very interesting, as well as being a body of work that i am comparing my own towards within this project.

In a contextual sense i feel like my book shares a similar connection to Yatuka's work as i focus on the human form and experiences that can be universally shared or felt through imagery. People and topics can sometimes be better understood through universal languages such as imagery as opposed to writing and language and this is something that i want to make important in my work. Yatuka's work features urban environments and landscapes which does work effectively in splitting portraiture up and also shifting the viewers focus to their environment and how the surroundings effect them or how they see and portray people.

Yatuka as well as a few other photographers of his time had a space or a vision for photography that wasn't self explanatory or narrational but something that accepted independant experiences and opinions in its openness, and this is what i want in my book too.

to look specifically at a work from Yatuka Takanashi i would like to focus on the piece or collection of works called "Sagaescape". There is an un-named image of a bowl at a skate park, there is one person inside the bowl on a skateboard and it seems to be dead, however on the lower half of the image we see a strange amount of shadows being projected from multiple figures standing watching from outside the bowl and behind the camera lens. It feels as if no one is there however you see this scale and mass of shadowy figures just watching from afar like the seagulls from Finding Nimo. I really like this image for multiple reasons. One, being due to the nature of the photos being almost completely new and refreshing to other works yet each image still carries on over the same raw, gritty, and dark nature from his older images and it is really interesting to see, compare and find the elements within his imagery that make it so easily repetitive yet powerful.

Book Form

Referencing the session PowerPoint on Moodle (or another relevant source), discuss at least one book that has influenced you. Explore its visual and aesthetic qualities, social or historical context, impact, or practical methods relevant to your theme. You may also evaluate its overall effectiveness. (300 – 500 words)

One book that has influenced me is Larry Clarks "Tulsa". This is a book i will always love as it is the first photobook I went out of my way to purchase and wanted to see in a physical copy. Now i have had it for a few years i cant even fully remember what made me want to get it in the first place, but i do think it was to help me explore and find my place in the photographic industry. It really helped me in general support myself through photography and it helped me believe that i have a place in which i can fit. I looked at the unknown, the obscure and the misunderstood throughout his book and i think i personally resonated with it, but only now am i beginning to feel some sort of knowledge and comfort through the process.

The book is very high contrast and tough yet Larry still organizes every page in a very formal and neat way. He includes page numbers, some titles, some words but throughout all of his photographs of domestic violence or drug use he still organizes it as if he is putting the "bad" into a more recognizable form that people find acceptable and "good".

The cover is black and all of the pages inside contain a white background, we get a brief description of larry on the first few pages about his life in Oklahoma and what his friends do and from there it is just pictures mostly and brief words here and there. There is almost a narrative driven aspect of the book in which i could read it without words however the few words he did chose to put in the book really do help the viewer to adjust to where he is at and what he is showing us. The words "Dead" under someones portrait adds immense detail to what is known by the viewer and it helps confirm the topic at hand if the viewer is struggling.

I have always closely compared my work to Larry's over time. Not just the physical appearance but the how it correlates with topics such as sub-cultures and documentation. I am not sure if it was coincidental or purposeful but i do like that Larry captures things that others don't and i have always had that sort of attitude in wanting something unique and foreign to others.