Visual Research Proposal

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Module:

Level 5 Visual Enquiry 2 (M5X01609)

Word Count: 376

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A portrait is a sign whose purpose is to depict a person and record his or her social identity. A photograph of a person, like any other photograph, can be equated with a figurative sign and claimed to mark the presence of a particular person in front of the camera at a specific moment, and at the same time becomes a reference formed by the socio-cultural context to various aspects of his identity. It can even be argued that photography opens up the possibility of creating a myth of personal identity, understood in a sense defined by R. Barthes (Camera Lucida,1980)

Figure 1

Figure 2

In the photographs, the external appearance of people exists as an objective, and in photography, a previous reality, in contrast to the performative behaviour of the posing people recorded in them. However, photography presents this reality as a discursive reality and promotes recognising external signs of human identity in it.

At a time when our society has become very dynamic, consumerist, dominated by a cult of beauty, youth, health, a disabled (and especially mentally handicapped) person who cannot create a special or any product, pay taxes, does not meet beauty norms, is unable to understand many things and seems extremely clumsy, annoying to those around. Since mentally disabled is a child and cute enough for society, it looks like they aren't a big problem.

Figure 3

On the other hand, adults with mental illnesses face a slew of issues, including prejudice and bullying. He depends only on his parents and people who care about him. My goal is to create series of portraits based on my memories. Disabled persons can have as much everyday life as possible, and one way to do it is to be visible.

Figure 4

Figure 5

In my dissertation, I want to expose people with mental health to show their own beauty and individuality. Also, I will tell the story about my family member who died. Jurate had mental health disability and was not beautiful enough to be remembered. I will tell a story about her personality and will try to stretch beauty standards in our society. Like I said- to be and to be visible are different things, and photography is one of many ways to prove our existence using both art and documentary photography.

Figure 6

Figure 7

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Research:

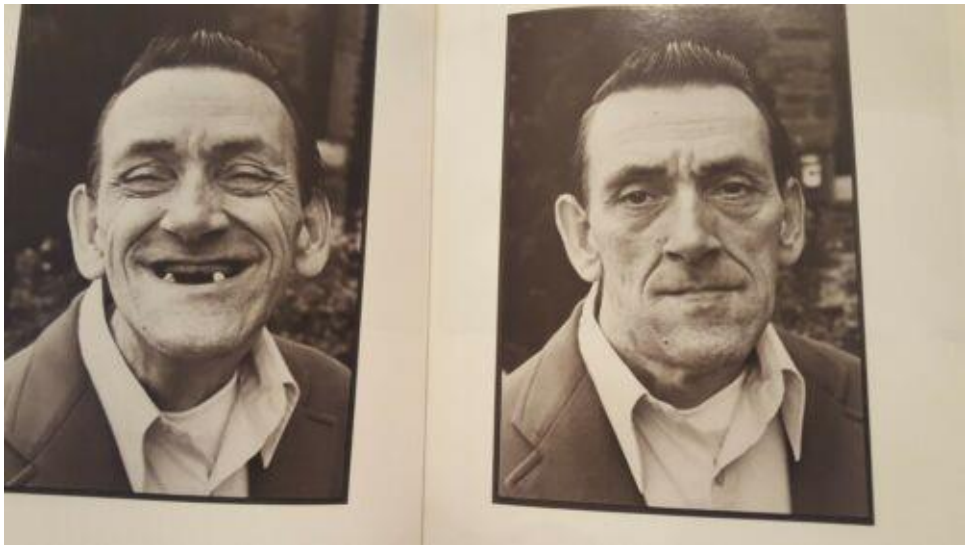

Figure 8

All galleries in Media Center (2017)

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