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Tasks in the order I received them:

Task One - (Jonathan Pugh Task) Reflective Writing, A reflective process driven piece of writing = **553** Words

Task Two - (Ryan Moule's Task) Observational Writing, identify an image and write Semiotics Analysis = **519** Words

Task Three - (Julia Lockheart's Task) Manifesto Writing, "what do I believe I?" = **466** Words

Task One - (Jonathan Pugh Task) **Reflective Writing**

My Shone soap stone statue, a present from my late best friend who had been to visit

family in Zimbabwe back in 2011. The Shona soap stone statue hand crafted to represent

my family unit. Four soap stone figures all interlinked by their arms in a circle of trust,

a mum, dad and two daughters just like our family. "The "Ukama" sculptures are very

popular and these are renditions of the family group- couples, dancers, loving families. They

symbolize the family bond that is so Important to the Shone people." Tony and Boo Peel

(2019).

These statues are carved and polished by poor artists on the streets of Zimbabwe. This status was made by a man called Gift, a poor man that made his living carving the soap stone to how you wished, sitting on the side of the street in Harare, Zimbabwe. My friend requested this intricate design as a souvenir especially for my family, she wanted a carving that displayed the love our family had for each other, to have so much meaning all encapsulated in one piece and to know it came from her with love and meaning.

“Happiness only real when shared” (Jon Krakauer, 2011, page 188). After giving Gift the details of our small family and the bond that we all share, she sat and watched him get to work. Gift carved the intricate family detail from the soap stone using basic chisels, once finished he handed the soap stone to a friend who then polished it to a high quality. “The cadence of chisel upon stone is a refreshing stimulant to ancient muse and creative energies that we all share” (DJ Garrity, 2018, page 20).

My friend also requested some carvings for herself on this occasion, one of which a statue of a giant pair of cherries, which weighed a lot! My friend and I used to reminisce of how she managed to get these beautiful soap stone carving back to the UK and all intact? We would laugh at the fact that she had to throw items away from her suitcase, sarongs, flip flops, all her sun creams! Let's face it they aren't needed in the UK. I believe she had four statues in total, these statues were heavy, for example my statue alone weighed 943g but she managed it, with all four in one piece.

On my friends return from her holiday visiting family in Zimbabwe she explained the history of these Shone carvings to me. She portrayed a picture of Gift (the gentleman who carved ours), the hard work, time and effort that he put into these magnificent pieces of art just to make a living and to provide for his own family. My friend explained to me that these

carvings are sometimes sold and exported to different countries, but Gift said that the export rate was so high that it was not worth his while as he would make no profit. I can only imagine the daily struggle Gift and his family went through daily just to survive. This statue, a pride piece has since sat on my mantel piece as a memory, not just as portrait of our family love but to also be thankful for what you have. It is a great talking point for those who have never seen such beauty.



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Task Two - (Ryan Moule's Task) **Observational Writing, identify an image and write Semiotics Analysis**

Semiotic analysis is to be able to break down an image, deconstruct said image. Explain what you can see visually, verbally and what message is the image is trying to portray.

What is the signifier and what is signified by the image? I have chosen to write a semiotic analysis of a framed crocheted image given to my husband and I on our wedding day.

A large golden frame encasing a beautiful crocheted image of a couple just married. The crocheted image made by hand and framed as a wedding gift. "The way we see things is affected by what we know and what we believe" (John Berger, 1972, P.4).

The image shows a small fragment of two bodies on their wedding day. A man and a woman their hands touching with visible gold wedding bands on show. Much of the

image showing a female in the front of a man with her neatly polished fingernails touching her waistband of the elegant ivory wedding dress, she wears. The waist band, a subtle pink ribbon with a large flower to her left-hand side. The gentleman behind, barely visible but there, his hand around his new wife's waist her and hand gently resting on his. He

wears blue shirt and black trousers they show ever so slightly, enough for you to build a picture of his outfit. Along with the image is some text, a date and two letters.

As Stephanie Bowler Says in The Urban Sketching Handbook “What did they want us to notice first?” (2016, P.11).

What I question is, is this a wedding image? There is a male and female both holding each other in what seems like a romantic way. Wearing attire that would give the impression of their wedding day, but it could be a metaphor, it could as easily be a couple dancing together or at a school prom for example. There are no faces in this image, no expressions on show. We do not know if this couple are happy, sad, laughing or crying, we immediately assume it is a wedding therefore they must be happy and in love. “The premise here is that marriage is about love” (Tracey McMillan, 2012, P.13). The colours in the image is light, elegant. The impression the lady is wearing a wedding dress is because of the light natural colour, it is a pretty dress with fine detail.

The date on the image implies this is the day the couple got married, the day that the happy event took place and is in the image as a reminder of this momentous moment in their lives. Or was it the day the image was created? The initials R&R, possibly the initials of the couple in the image. Both sets of writing are in black, bold and stand out from the light colours used in forefront of the image. These words have a significant meaning to this image, to commemorate the image on show. The hands in the image, a focus point,

they are shown in a pose to show of the wedding bands, this a metonym for the whole

Image.



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Task Three - (Julia Lockheart's Task) Manifesto Writing, "what do I believe I?"

My Manifesto

1. To produce my work to a high standard that I can be proud of.
2. To not judge to others, everyone has their own personalities and beliefs, they may differ to yours, neither are wrong.
3. To continue being the perfectionist I always have been.
4. Do not let social media control my mind and thought process.
5. To provide for my family.
6. To listen to others more carefully.
7. To tackle the worry and anxious feelings I face daily. Let me be in control of me, not my fears.
8. Be original and go against the social norms of design. To stand out and be seen.

Key word: Judge

2. To not judge to others, everyone has their own personalities and beliefs, they may differ to yours, neither are wrong.

In my opinion, you have judged someone, or someone has judged you throughout life.

Judgement is everywhere, in the news, online with social media, teenagers with their

friends, the list goes on. I feel that as a society we judge far too easily, we make

assumptions before we know the truth. It is after all human nature to be curious but there

is the difference. As Walt Whitman wrote in one of his poems “You shall not look through my eyes either, nor take things from me, you shall listen to all sides and filter them from yourself” (1855, P.72). The image below sums up my feeling on judging people, to judge another you are defining yourself as a person.



Key word: Family

5. To provide for my family



My family, my world, my everything, just some of the one liners that get used when uploading an image just like the one above to social media “Every time we look at a photograph, we are aware, however slightly, of the photographer selecting the sight from infinity of the other possible sights. This is true even in the most casual family snapshots” (John Berger, 1972, P.8). Quite clearly without any explanation, it goes without saying, of course your family is your world, as the quote by John Berger suggests, you focus on what you want to encapsulate and see every time you view that photo. I love my family to the moon and back (little joke I have with my children at bedtime). I will do anything for each member of my family sometimes whether I like it or not.

The reason I decided to quit my day job (the most daunting experience of my life so far) and

apply for this university course was not just for me to improve my prospects but to provide a better life for my family. To show my two children that no matter what age you are, learning can always be done, and you can always improve your life if you want to. They are my future and the worlds future.

Key Word: Anxious

7. To tackle the worry and anxious feelings I face daily. Let me be in control of me, not my fears.



The above image by Gemma Correll pretty much sums up my daily thought process. I am

the ultimate over thinker. From 'does this outfit look ok for where I am going' to 'I cannot speak my mind; it might upset them'. I suffer from different varieties of anxiety but then so does most of the world in their own ways, as Joseph LeDoux says, "It's as if conservation of anxiety is a law of human nature" (2015, P.24). To me it feels like I am the only one, alone with these crazy worries and fears that no one else will understand, but I know I am not alone. I think the message that all need to hear, you are not alone, and help is available in many ways.

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