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Programme – BA Documentary Photography & Visual Activism

Module – Developing a unique voice

Module Code – M5X01634

Submission deadline – 20th November 2020

Research

Theme – Coastal Pollution, natural and manmade. Has Covid-19 having a positive effect on coastal pollution.

Aim - to represent current detritus and coastal pollution in midst global pandemic.

Research for this portfolio

Images taken on selection of walks after 6 week local and national lockdown period.

Highlight the disgust at how much rubbish has been left following recent storms and people disobeying local rules and meeting people outside and leaving their rubbish in their place.

Inspirations

John Darwell walks along coastline and featuring detritus on its journey.

Andy Hughes – plastic coastal photographer

Chris Packham – wildlife campaigner

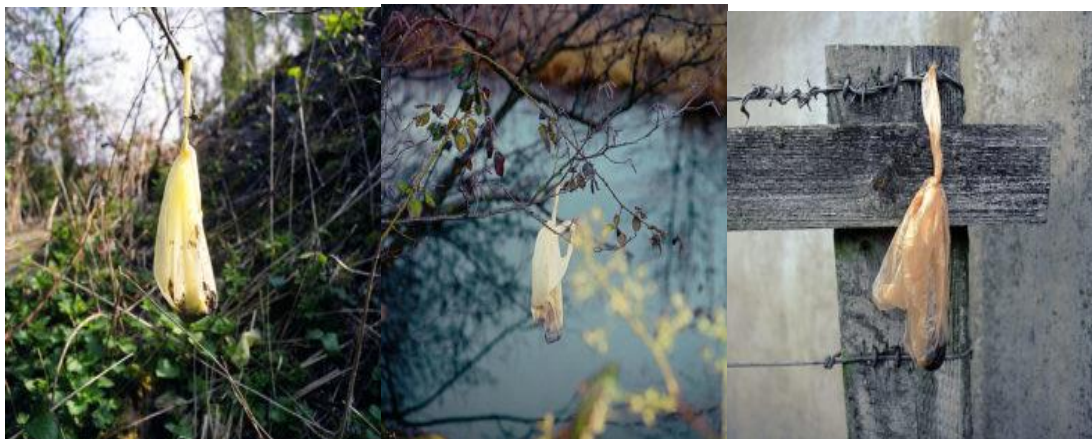
Potential - Walk through Dunes, coastline or river

2.5-mile coastal walk

Darwell's recent project DDSB is thought provoking making art out of excrement that local dog walkers feel the need to pick up but then drop or hang from trees. His simplistic visual representations invoke mixed emotions in me, anger, bemusement at the irresponsible dog owners but I also appreciate the quality imagery and the message that he is portraying.

Darwell quote "What I fail to understand is the increasing number of dog owners who bag their dog's mess and then discard in bushes or hang on fences/tree branches or leave in the middle of pathways and playing fields. Is this purely about not wishing to be fined and thereby picking the right moment to surreptitiously dispose of the offending article? Whatever the reasoning the ddsb has very quickly become a feature of our environment."

Darwell Images – Walking with Schwitters



<http://www.walk.uk.net/portfolio/john-darwell-interview/>

Like me, he documents his local coastline and walks the same routes to reflect the area at different points in time.

Possible images that can be used as comparison pieces

Lands2 portfolio



Indian Ocean



1000 yards or so



Andy Hughes

Yorkshire born Hughes has been photographing plastic waste on beaches for almost 30 years. He began documenting after seeing how much plastic was on the beaches of south Wales while surfing.

Majority of his photographs explore the littoral zones and politics of plastic waste. Hughes was one of the first photographer/artist who explored plastic as a subject as pollutant and as a metaphor. Expanding on this statement the book, the 'Dominant Wave Theory' explores and examines the link between of waste as "both and object of visual inquiry and as a reference to the global environmental crisis. The book also includes essays from leading scientists to help back Hughes's narrative.

Hughes encourages viewers to question the materiality in relationship to waste by utilising traditional photographic materials and digital technologies. He challenges the agency of waste on a regular basis by a variety of visual means and juxtaposition, by doing this he tries to reveal 'thing-power', a topic which was explored by Jane Bennet in 'Vibrant Matter'.

Hughes images are often described as if the objects are coming alive; they seem to speak to each other and to us, especially in the photographs of plastics, coffee cups, rubbish bins etc. which have been discarded. He is fascinated with the radical conceptions of materialism and the effects and impact this has for politics, ecology, and the everyday way we think about ourselves, others, and the world.

John Darwell

Independent photographer John Darwell produces long term projects that reflect his own interests in industrial and social change, concerns for the environment and issues concerning the depiction of mental health.

I have researched Darwell while doing previous projects and its always been an inspiration while creating my own work. In particular 'Indian Ocean' is my go-to project of Darwell's as it is very similar to the work I first started producing when I first created my projects on this topic

Chris Packham



Development of Ideas

Backgrounds for overlaying images



Sample contact sheets



Portfolio presentation ideas

Simple presentation

Overlay images

Map background

Lay images over the line of coastal walk

Reading lists/References

MacLean, A | 2020 | The effect of climate change on Coastlines | Birkhäuser

Alexander, JAP | 2015 | Perspectives on Place: Theory and Practice in Landscape Photography | Bloomsbury Academic

Carson, D; Hughes, A | 2007| Dominant Wave Theory | ABRAMS

Darwell, J; Hermann P | 2007 | Committed to memory | Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery

Online articles/websites

<https://www.andyhughes.net/biography.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2016/feb/22/chris-packham-photographs-the-impact-of-litter-in-pictures>

<https://johndarwell.com/>

<https://www.1854.photography/>

<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2017/5/2/10-inspiring-works-of-art-about-plastic-pollution>

<https://davidgibbeson.com/>