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Tasks in the order I received them:

Task One: Semiotic Analysis (Ryan task) = 530

Task Two: Manifesto (Julia Task) = 549

Task Three. (Jon Task) = 533

Task one: Semiotic analysis (Ryan's task)

Semiotics are known as 'The study of signs' (Chandler, 2002). The two main founders of semiotics are Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Pierce. Ferdinand de Saussure was a linguist from Geneva, Switzerland and his studies show that a sign is made up of two parts, the signifier and the signified. The signifier is what something actually is and the signified is what it represents. On the other hand, Pierce studied the theory that semiotics are the relationship between symbol, icon and index, he saw semiotics as "something that stands to somebody for something." Pierce broke semiotics into three parts; Icon, which is something that resembles something else. Index is associated with the referent, just like smoke indicates a fire nearby. Symbol is something that refers to the reference by repeated practice, like stopping at a red light.

Today we are surrounded by logos and symbols, all of which have their own meaning and yet somehow even at a young age everyone is able to understand what these logos and symbols mean, in a sense they are a universal language, and just like any other language it is taught through repetition. In school we repeat the alphabet to understand the names and sounds of the symbols of the letters and when learning to drive you learn through that time what the signs mean.



Everything is connected, he,he,he, Annika von Hausswolff

In 1999, Swedish photographer Annika von Hausswolff created a photo called *Everything is connected, he, he, he*. This photo simply looks like an everyday bathroom sink, the aesthetics of the image tells me straight away and without me knowing the date of the photo, that it was taken in either the 80's or 90's. This I can tell by the décor of the bathroom, not many bathrooms in 2019 have vintage style, coloured tile walls with a ceramic vero washbasin, it reminds me of my gran's old bathroom. It also seems in this photo the tights are simply being washed, they are clearly too delicate an item for a normal wash and must be done by hand, the water is running from the fossette and the tights are

soaking nicely. This photo comes of to me as a simple documentary photo, like a day in the life of a house wife.

However, I can also see this photo could send two very different meanings. The first meaning I saw in this image was isolation. I see a strong pattern in this in the form of singles, there is a single basin, single tap, single soap and a single pair of tights. This pattern of ones comes off to me as very lonely and could have possibly been a cry for help or a simple message sharing her loneliness. The tights submerged in the water is interesting to me when looking at this theory of isolation because if you look at the tights as representing a woman, possibly Hausswolff herself, they seem to indicate drowning and the flowing tap filling the basin makes it that much more difficult for them to surface. The drowning tights could possibly mean that she's drowning in loneliness and sorrow and the level of isolation slowly rising is what's stopping her from escaping.

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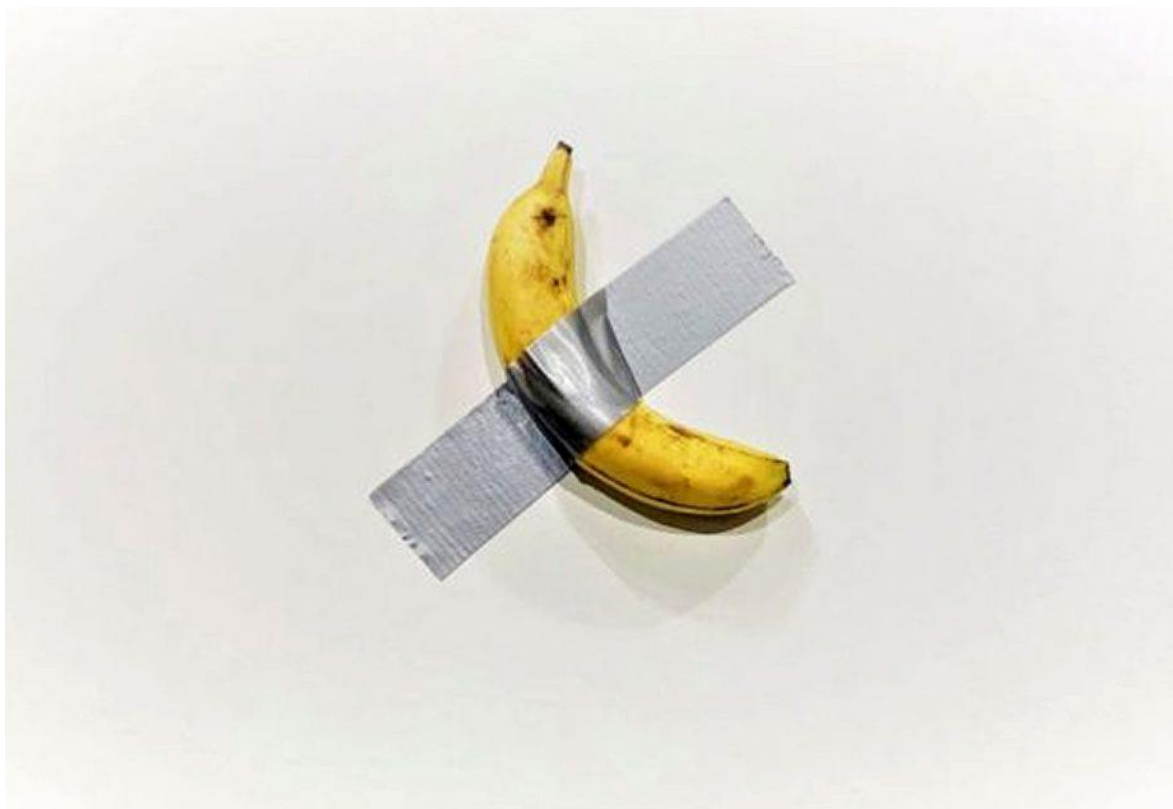
Task two: Manifesto (Julia's Task)

- Perception is everything – The image may be simple to look at but an impactful meaning will really make a photo and give it personality.
- To edit doesn't mean to improve – I aim to try to obtain a photo that I am very happy with purely from my technique and requires little to no editing. I will aim to make editing a last resort or to use only for very minor tweaks.
- Not all opinions are helpful – I need to come to realise not all opinions will help in my favour as everyone has different taste, style and knowledge of photography. Some opinions may become barriers instead of bridges.
- Don't compare myself to others – It's very easy to look at another person's work and think "I wish I was that good" I need to keep in mind that I am that good. Differences are what make photographers unique.
- Don't limit myself to one type of photography – Limiting myself to portrait or street photography will limit my way of thinking and my outcomes. I need to widen my horizons.
- Always push my limits – Don't stay in my comfort zone to push my work to a higher quality, look to create new aesthetics and find new techniques to improve my practice.
- Do what works for me – It's great to experiment with ways to improve my practice but if I'm sure I'm struggling or I'm really not enjoying the method then I should learn to drop it, my photos will not improve if I don't like the process.

- Just shoot – I should never shy away from an opportunity, if I see a photo worthy scene then I should just take the photo, camera or phone

Keyword: Perception

1. Perception is everything – The image may be simple to look at but an impactful meaning will really make a photo and give it personality.



Comedian, Maurizio Cattelan

Perception is unique to everyone, different people from different ways of life will see different meanings within art, people's 'personal politics' (Kim, 2017) alter the way they see a piece of art. For example, the recent award winning piece called 'Comedian' had very mixed responses, a lot of people simply saw it for what it was, a banana duct taped to the

wall, however, to others this piece is a symbol of authority, power and ‘how we assign worth and what kind of objects we value’ (Cattelan, 2019). Perception can be a powerful thing when you want to be able to convey multiple messages within one piece.

Keyword: Editing



Home by the sea, Peter Stewart

2. To edit doesn't mean to improve – I aim to try to obtain a photo that I am very happy with purely from my technique and requires little to no editing. I will aim to make editing a last resort or to use only for very minor tweaks.

In this day and age new photographers seem to be getting more and more lazy with technique, it seems editing is the quick and easy way to solve a mistake in their work instead of trying to alter their technique and learn from their mistakes. In a *Picture correct* article written by Andrew Goodall (2013) he mentioned he spoke to some beginners on a photography course and said 'Instead of being taught how to take better photos, they were being taught how to fix their mistakes.' There's nothing wrong with a little bit of editing here and there but when you begin to rely on editing and over edit is when it really becomes a problem. Over editing can bring out the worst in a photo and surprisingly you can lose a lot of detail or create too much noise. Relying on editing is where my main issue lies as this is when a photographer will get sloppy with their practice and their original photos don't look as good as they could be and the photographer resorts to "I'll edit that out later" or "I'll brighten/darken that in photoshop" when all it takes is the simple push of a button and the problem is solved.

Keyword: Public photography



Tokyo, 2016, Eric Kim

8. Just shoot – I should never shy away from an opportunity, if I see a photo worthy scene then I should just take the photo, camera or phone

I have found that I can be very timid when trying to take photos in public, especially when people are in the photo. I'm not a very confident person as it is so photographing around people who I don't know is a big issue for me as I feel I'm getting judged or I'm in their way and because of this insecurity I have had many missed opportunities for potentially great photos. I have decided to look at how other photographers have overcome this and I intend to use their advice to help me improve my confidence and photo quality. I found Eric Kim's

advice to be very helpful as he learnt to overcome this through experience. A statement of his that has encouraged me is 'Fear of physical attacks or retribution from your subject. Truth: it almost never happens' (2018). This to me is rather comforting as one of my main fears is getting confronted or yelled at for simply taking a photo but this statement shows me, I have nothing to worry about. Another statement that I found helpful was 'if you compared both number of people who "stare" at you with or without a camera, there probably isn't too big of a difference' (Jacobitz, 2017) this tells me I don't need to be worried about being watched or judged as no one really cares what I'm doing as long as I'm not disturbing others.

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Task 3: Reflection (Jon's Task)

War has been a worldwide issue for centuries and is mostly seen when countries fight over power by taking control of other countries, religion and even revenge. While most of the time we think the world is at peace what some of us don't realise is every day there is a war doing on somewhere in the world, innocent having to leave their homes, children being separated from their parents and even dying. And all while this is going on there are brave photographers out there documenting these events to publish them across the world and remind everyone war is still happening and it needs to be stopped. A common factor in these photos is shock. The more shocking the better.

In 1972 the world was met with one of the most shocking and saddening images in war photography history, Napalm girl by Nick Ut. This photo stood out in the world of photography as it was so heart breaking to look at, to see a group of children running for their lives, running from home screaming in fear and desperation, and if that wasn't enough right in the centre of the photo is Phan Thị Kim Phúc at nine years old naked and screaming as her skin burns. NPR wrote an article in 2012 for the 40th anniversary of the photo and one of the first lines reads; 'Whatever your age, you've probably seen this photo. It's a hard image to forget' this statement is evidence for how much of an impact this photo has made through history as it has been shown in books and history classes for decades sharing the harsh nature of war.

This photo although it was heart breaking could also be a small glimmer of hope to some people. PRI posted an interview with Phan Thị Kim Phúc where they asked her what happened after the photo was taken she described how she ran with her brother and

cousins to safety and shouted to whoever would help her “Too hot, too hot” before falling out of consciousness. But given this difficult time in her life she decided she wanted to help people she also gave out a heart-warming message to children around the world saying “Please have a dream. Keep your dream alive just like that little girl.” And with the help of her friends she started her own foundation to help children who have been affected by war and are less fortunate. This photo has influenced me in two ways, the first by showing me a strong photo speaks more words than I could say and without a direct story it gives people a chance to give their own insight into what is happening and give them something they can connect with. The second way this photo influenced me is by showing me that even the people who grew up in poverty and difficult times are still capable of making a change in the world given that they stick to what they believe in and have the chance to build a company or even a small community to make a difference in the world. This photo has shown me one photo is worth a thousand words.

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