

Photographic Art Practice

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Task 1- Poetic Image

I had a really hard time trying to work from the poem *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot, because I had never tried to take photos influenced by a poem before. The poem was made up of 5 poems, but I didn't really understand what any of them were trying to say, which was probably the main reason I found it difficult. Trying not to make the photos literal to what was being said in the poem was hard as well, but I decided to look for different words and represent them based on how they made me feel as well as trying to represent how the over poem made me feel.

I decided to make my final images in a collage style to illustrate the collage of words that stood out to me when reading. For the backgrounds I made photograms using the cyanotype process. The photo was taken of looking through tree branches and printed onto acetate. I chose this idea because throughout the poem there was constant references to winter, which for me is linked to looking out my window and seeing all the plants and trees in my garden bare. There was also a lot of references to time such as someone being told to hurry and them talking about memory as well as the different times of day such as morning and night. It could be being literal, but I decided to represent this with a grandfather clock that has been in my house for years.

The photos that were layered on top of the cyanotype print were edited to blend with the blue background, because when reading the poem the constant talk of winter felt really cold and at times the poem felt as though it was sad. Therefore, I decided to use the colour blue because I associate cold and sadness to that colour.

Task 2- Cinematic Image

Going into task 2, I felt quite confident because I liked the idea of creating a Cinematic photo. I never tried to create one before, but I was excited to be given the chance to.

Straight away I knew what atmosphere I wanted to create in my photos and had a rough idea of how I would go about doing it. I wanted to create a creepy, eerie and uncertain atmosphere, which I planned to accomplish by taking the photos with the lighting being focused on everything in the middle of the image but everything around it being darker.

One photographer illustrates this idea best, his name is Gregory Crewdson. His series *Beneath the Roses* used this style of lighting for a lot of the photos. The reason I like these photos is because of how the light is direct and shows you clearly what it is that Crewdson wants us to focus on, as well as creating a build-up of tension.



Untitled – Beneath the Roses series (2005)



Untitled Sunday roast, from Gregory Crewdson series

Beneath the Roses (2005)

When choosing the location of the photos I found it a little harder than I thought, but I decided to take them in the graveyard because I knew that there was a lot of scenery that I could use to accomplish my goal. Due to me wanting the scenery and photo to be dark, I decided to wear a bright red coat in the photos to make

it stand out and contrast with everything going on in the background.

Task 3- Collaborative Image

Once I understood this task, I knew that I wanted to collaborate with my sister Eloise because she is an Illustrator and tattooist. I find her and her work inspiring, which made me want to collaborate with her to show who she is as an artist.

My sister is inspired a lot by fairy tales, mythology, fantasy, and nature and when searching for inspiration I came across a lot of photos that were in the style of Pre-Raphaelite. After looking at this type of art further, we both agreed that it would represent the artist she is and illustrate the art that she makes.



Charis Talbot Photography, Lily of the Valley (2013)



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt, Ophelia (1851–2)

We decide to take the photos in our back garden because when its warmer that's where she prefers to spend her time drawing or getting inspiration. She wanted to wear something witchy and gothic and have the images a bit dark, because it went with the style of drawing and photography that she loves. In the photos

she is holding one of our birds because part of her inspiration found in nature is the animals, and this bird is featuring a lot in her recent pieces.

Some of the drawing she does is 'black and white' in the sense that she uses plain graphite pencils and then adds colour to some areas, but not all. This inspired me to try making most of the photo black and white but leaving some areas in colour. However, we both agreed that the photos left in colour looked a lot better, those are our outcome.

Task 4- Networked Image

It was hard to come up with ideas for the networked image, but I decided I wanted to focus on social media and the way that time has changed a lot, when it comes the way people present themselves. What I mean by this is when people are online their online personality can be a lot different to the way they are in person. Some people tend to represent themselves as fake online whether its with photos or the way the message each other. An artist work that shows this nicely is Cindy Sherman.



Cindy Sherman Instagram post (23rd May 2017)



Cindy Sherman Instagram Post (6th November 2017)

These are posts from her Instagram account, her account has loads of photos like this where she has edited them by adding lots of filters. I like this work because it is light-hearted and humorous and whether it is intentional or not she is emphasising the way people look online with photos that are overdone and make you no longer look like yourself.

I did not go down the path of photo filters, but I decided to make my photos address the way people no longer show or explain their emotions, they just use an emoji. People aren't always sat there crying with laughter when they respond to you, but they use that image anyway. My photos illustrate the way people can hold up a fake face when talking digitally and no longer tell people how they really feel.

Bibliography

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