

Assignment – M5X01599 – Lens-based Image Making

2,000-word essay - choose **one** of the following questions:

1. Automatic geotagging takes place on smartphones, either because it is enabled by default, not exposed to the user as an option or verified then forgotten about. Discuss the idea that sharing location information compromises personal freedom, taking into consideration social and political context?

or

Using at least 3 examples, consider how image makers have utilised modern digital technology to scrutinise any, several or all of the following: the technology-driven world, the surveillance state, modern life, conflict.

2. To what extent is an uncontested photographic record an anachronism in the age of digital manipulation?
3. "The photographer is an armed version of the solitary walker reconnoitering, stalking, cruising the urban inferno, the voyeuristic stroller who discovers the city as a landscape of voluptuous extremes... The *flâneur* is not attracted to the city's official realities but to its dark seamy corners, the neglected populations—an unofficial reality behind the façade of bourgeois life that the photographer 'apprehends,' as a detective apprehends a criminal."

Susan Sontag, *On Photography*

Consider this quote and, with examples of your choosing – from photography, but also if you prefer, film making, painting, writing etc. – discuss the role of your chosen artists/themes with regard to Sontag's critique of the observer's inclinations?

4. "It is useless and tedious to represent what exists, because nothing that exists satisfies me.... I prefer the monsters of my fantasy to what is positively trivial."

Baudelaire, *Salon Review*
1859

Is Baudelaire's position defensible in light of the case lens-based art-forms make for the 'representation of what exists'; or, from a contemporary perspective, do the 'monsters of fantasy' still allow artists to engage with 'what exists' creatively?

5. The Creative Research module is designed to help students to explore interests, artists and themes within or associated with their practice as a preparation for an ongoing engagement with the contextualization of their work, leading to a dissertation in the final year.

Choose a theme, movement, or selection of artists that relate to your practice or interests, and construct a 2,000-word essay?

You should propose a question that you set out to answer and consider primary themes, key writers, and relevant artists. Bear in mind that in order to contain your argument within the format of a 2,000-word essay and avoid superficial coverage, you should be highly selective in your choice of examples and concentrate on analysis.