

Lauren Nurse – 2006679

Photography in the Arts

Ways of thinking

ADAD4018

Ryan Moule

Tasks in the order I receive them.

- Observational Writing – 538 Words
- Manifesto Writing – 480 Words
- Practise- Based Writing – 452 Words

Observational Writing

“Learn to see what you are looking at.” (Christopher Paolini, Inheritance) The way that we think and observe the world around us is taught to us from birth and depending where we come from in the world these observations can be different, as John Berger said “The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled.” Within other cultures and countries there are different ways of thinking. This is shown as the colour purple in the UK symbolises royalty and power, but in Asia the colour purple symbolises immortality and it can also be used to represent love and romance, showing that the same colour can represent several things, as we are taught how to perceive symbols and their representation from a young age within the places we live. This can be a good thing as these representations can keep us safe, as we are taught that red is a sign of danger, which is used in road signs to stop speeding, which in turn keeps us safe. Semiotic thinking can also be a negative way of thinking, as it only shows one way of thinking, rather than multiple ways,

causing us to not want to think for ourselves, which is being tested in the current times as we are now challenging the way that we have thought for years.

“Everything means something. We just have to find out how to read it.” (Philip Pullman, *Lyra’s Oxford* 2003) This photo was taken by photographer Mark Peterson, who created a piece of work called political theatre, in which he took photos that related to American politics in 2016. In this image it depicts a white American man dressed in an American flag shirt, where he is about to clap, with his shadow falling onto the wall beside him. While in the photo the man is not smiling but is clapping implies that he is only partially supportive for what he is clapping for. The image is also monochrome, which adds contrast to the image, and it also takes any distraction out of the image, as it makes us look at the image deeper to see what's there without there being any colour.



There is also a deeper meaning with this image as the shadow can represent many things, as the man in the image is wearing an American flag shirt, and the shadow is larger than himself, it can imply that the impact that America has on the world is bigger than how it

seems, and how they have more power than we might think. As the shadow is darker than the rest of the man and the image is in black and white which can represent how there is a darker impact of America than we might be shown, compared to the rest of the world, which is very relevant when talking about the American 2016 presidential election, as it could also represent the corruption that takes place within American politics. His hands also look like they are cupped in the shadow, which could imply that American had the world in their hands, as the whole world was watching the election take place and how it had an impact on other countries not just the USA.

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“The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled— John Berger, Ways of Seeing, 1972

Manifesto

- I believe that my art should connect people of every background and walks of life.
- I believe that it should unite and divide opinions.
- I only want to create art that I feel passionately about.
- I do not want to get stuck using only one practice. E.g., Film, digital, darkroom.
- I want to use as many mediums and techniques as possible.
- I want my work to look good, while holding a deeper meaning.

- I want to create art that people want to look at, not just because it has been shown to them
- I never want to not enjoy making art and doing photography.

I believe that my art should unite and divide opinions.

“Our masters have not heard the people’s voices for generations, and it is much, much louder than they care to remember” (Alan Moore, V for Vendetta, 1882)

When creating art, I want it to have an impact on the person viewing my photography, I aim to create this impact by creating an options with my photography, whether this is by uniting or dividing an opinion. “When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.” (Malala Yousafzai, I am Malala) This can be done within my work, by creating art with a meaning or certain view on the way I see the world. I am able to do this as if I create art that is political, then I personally would create it with certain view on political opinions which then would have the viewers of the work either agree or disagree with my opinion, therefore uniting or dividing an opinion. I believe that art should do this anyway, and I think that it should be creating discussions between people with differing views. An artist that does this in their work is Banksy, as they create art that is very political, whether it be on the topic of poverty or society.



I want to use as many mediums and techniques as possible.

When creating art, I want to never stick to using one medium, as I believe that my work should be always changing and improving for the better. I think this can only be done by not attaching myself to one technique and always trying different and new ones. I mainly use the same techniques, like colour images and long exposure. To better improve my work and become a better artist, I need to expand my techniques and start using various methods, such as black and white, macro and using RAW, when creating my images. A photographer that uses one of these techniques is Miki Asai, who is a Japanese photographer, who uses the technique of macro photography, her images are very minimalistic, she also uses clear images, vibrant colours and aperture, which makes her images beautiful and interesting to look at.



I only want to create art that I feel passionately about.

“Art enables us to find ourselves and loose ourselves at the same time.” (Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island, 2005)

I believe that all and any work that I create should be made with passion, as if I do not have faith in the work that I create then it won't have the same affect and conviction that I would want it to have, which will be clear when presenting it to others. In my judgement if I don't feel passionate about the work, I create then the work will physically and emotionally lack what I want it to look like, how I want it to be viewed and the meaning behind the art.

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Practice- Based Writing

"I do not wish women to have power over men, but over themselves." (Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication on the rights of Women) I chose this piece of art because I feel that art created by women about feminism is very powerful and I find it interesting to see the different view points about the topic from many different women and artists. This piece is called Pow! by the artist Susan Bee, she creates art about feminism, with oil paints. Her art is very vibrant and somewhat messy, which only makes her art more interesting to view.

Susan Bee's work was shown in many galleries and exhibitions such as A.I.R in 2017 and Accola Griefen Gallery, her other artwork also speaks about women's rights and her other work also comments on society, mainly showing it from females point of view and putting women as the lead in her paintings.

"Being a woman is a terribly difficult trade since it consists principally of dealing with men."

(Joseph Conrad, Chance) Her piece Pow! feels very powerful and empowering, as her art always has a strong female lead, and it puts the women in control. Her use of fine lines with her drawings and thicker lines with the paints, makes it look more like a comic book, which also makes it somewhat over exaggerated. This piece speaks about women having power and being in control, which can be rare to see in art, I also feel that it references to women not being controlled by men and the anger that women may feel towards men and the power that they sometimes possess over women. This artwork could also be interpreted as men having control taken away, and it switch gender roles as its stereotypically men who are more violent, which is referenced in the book The Woman in White "Any woman who is sure of her own wits, is a match, at any time, for a man who is not sure of his own temper."

There is also deeper meaning with gender roles in this art, as the female character is hitting a man dressed in all blue, which is stereotypically a masculine colour, so the art could be interpreted as her hitting away the stereotypes of gender and how society views gender roles. I especially felt this within this art as there is a female in the lead role, whose face is shown unlike the mans, who is anonymous within this piece, the lead role is also dressed in multiple colours and is standing in a powerful and demanding stance. It also comments on how stereotypically women are seen as being weaker than men and how women are compared to men physically.



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— Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*, 2003.