

TASK 2 - Illustrated Book Project Proposal Task

500 words, due 5pm Feb 12th, submitted via moodle.

Formatting: please use the headings below making use of the advice and resources provided.
References should be made using the Harvard format.



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Theme/Context

Provide a brief summary of the theme or subject you want your work to focus on. You might include details about the impact you hope to achieve, how the book format will help you connect with your audience, and what will make your work stand out. (300 – 500 words)

With this project I will be aiming to explore themes of panopticism and surveillance, the subject of the one way observation that has become highly normalised in life and the simple reality that we are always being watched. By taking these topics as inspiration I hope to bring attention to what is innately meant to be a subtle form of constant monitoring, looking back at the things in place to look at us when we go about our day. Some ideas I've had for the execution of this photobook is to print entirely on acetate, the layered pages that it will have been printed onto creating it's own solid body with minimal gaps to be able to see clearly through. It makes the reader engage with the illusion of total transparency, where the material holds up to that definition but what is done to them to create the final structure of the book has made that null and void. This is alike to how the powers of countries will play at being transparent when in actuality the word is far from how it really is.

Influence

Highlight the work of a photographer who currently inspires your work. Analyse an image of theirs and explain your interest in their work. Consider style, theme, context, practical technique. (300 – 500 words)



One photographer that I've found to have explored this topic is Peter Van Agtmael, his documentation of the excessive surveillance in the city of Medellín catching my interest. His work above others caught my eye because he doesn't only depict the CCTV of the city, but it also shows the people of the city itself and how they are passively enforcing the pressure of being watched on passersby. In the image above, Van Agtmael captures both of these forms of surveillance in affect, an image that is unassuming outside of the context of the surveillance state. Breaking down the elements of the photo by cropping closer into the areas of observation is a simple but effective method of emphasising to the viewer where their own attention should be placed, and the man peering out from the window that might not have initially registered becomes impossible to ignore once noticed. The composition of the original image is intentional for the

spectator to not be so obvious too, positioned in the upper right side of the shot, the area behind him shadowed while the building's face has a bright colour that directs your eye to the external area in the picture rather than into the windows. The concept behind the body of Van Agtmael's work is all about "looking back" at what looks at us, his camera acting as his eyes much alike to the CCTV capturing the streets and the residents witnessing the people in their surroundings.

Book Form

Referencing the session PowerPoint on Moodle (or another relevant source), discuss at least one book that has influenced you. Explore its visual and aesthetic qualities, social or historical context, impact, or practical methods relevant to your theme. You may also evaluate its overall effectiveness. (300 - 500 words)



One book I've looked into for inspiration is *No Man's Land: Views From A Surveillance State* by Marcus DeSieno. This book contains images from his work all taken from security camera feeds that he's then printed into negatives on paper. His decision to pull from real examples of CCTV overlooking our world interests me to consider new ways of looking at surveillance. On the one hand, many people challenge the state of being watched by using their art to shine an exposing light back at it, however this leans towards adopting the perspective we critique in order to bring awareness to it instead. DeSieno takes the content offered to him by CCTV and adapts it into his

own perspective, the images included all with a clear physical texturing to them that contrasts the way they were obtained. The method of exploring the topic is largely what drew me in, but the execution as an experience of a book could be markedly improved upon to embrace a message in it's entirety rather than the typical presentation as a book.