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Publication &

Protest

ADAA5005

Photo Book

Research

Report

Rationale

Rationale

This body of work was intended to humanise homeless people, often in the contexts they are associated with homeless people's perceptions are driven by the setting they tend to sit in, therefore become the 'forgotten' in society. Through my photobook I intend for homeless people to dictate the narrative of my photobook through quotes from conversations and images taken from their viewpoints meaning the entire book is controlled by them and remains their voice throughout.

Research Primary and Secondary

The Secondary Research process of this project has looked at a series of artists and photobooks, for example The Americans by Robert Frank was an early inspiration for how I would format my book in a documentary photography context. The main artist that that has driven the direction for the theories and the book process was Jim Goldberg and his project called Rich & Poor. His process of allowing the individuals he photographs to control how their perceived, by adding the extra layer of text it completely changes the context around how the individuals are perceived and therefore it gives voice to the vulnerable and wealthy, like how I intend to represent the homeless in my book. Goldberg's book has dictated the process and how I intend to create my final book due to the way he tackles representation and successfully overcomes any moral dilemmas that would be attributed with the subject matter he tackled and therefore I have taken similar themes to adopt into my work.

For my Primary Research, to gain an accurate representation and understanding of the individuals I was photographing I undertook Conversations that I simply stated one question "Do you feel valued" and then from this I allowed them to speak freely to anything that they attest this question and I noted it all down in notes on my phone and took quotes from each of the conversations to use in my final version of the book.

Through the conversations it allowed me to experiment with different formats I my book and how the words would function whether it be alone or coupled with the viewpoints that I captured, from these conversations it also allowed for me to from my the title of the book 2 to 7 and this was poetic in itself due to the concept .

Practical Skills and Methods

Through this process I have tackled and experimented with various methods of book binding, Materials and representational strategies leading to the process of the final book. The process I used for book binding was called Japanese stab Binding, I went through multiple iterations of book dummies to prefect this process. When considering the layout of the photo book I had to experiment with how the words would function together within the book, I experimented using acetate and whether combining the words and viewpoints would function combined and speak to the narrative I intended to dictate however, once printed it was clear that the words became lost in the images meaning the individuals voice was therefore lost impeding meaning causing the voice to become lost. Another consideration for the layout was having the words and images side by side in the book allowing them to attest to each other while also considering how each quote interacts with the image it pairs with, whether it was where the conversation that took place or how the quotes related to the location of the viewpoints themselves these are considerations I had when formatting the book itself but once again when allowing the quotes and images to sit next to each other in the book it resulted in each becoming lost in themselves losing the narrative of the book itself in the process. The result from the experimentation process was I had

the Viewpoints and quotes to the right and a blank page to the left in alternating order for each to function individually but still allowing the representation through their voice to be present while also maintain the connections through location and conversation.

How do the Methods speak to the Production matter?

When designing the photo book itself I had to consider whether I would send the book away to be printed or print and bind the book myself. I Decided to bind the book myself, due to the nature of the book being so sensitive when tackling the idea of perception of homeless people, I wanted to book to represent the idea of the insecurities of the world they live in. The idea of designing the book myself allows for there to be human errors and imperfections that in an ordered copy would not be present and therefore allowing the book as an object to speak to the insecurity of homeless people and their day to day lives, tackling the idea of how the viewpoints are not secure and nor is the outcome of the book itself.

Evaluation

The process of designing the photo book itself has been enlightening to my practice overall and how narratives function in different contexts along with how to tackle representation strategies. When Starting with this project I outlined a body of the work that was completely different to what the outcome has become, due to the complex and sensitive nature of the book it has meant that I had to find a way to overcome the representational issues that arise with the photographer and the photographed moreover, leading to me allowing the homeless people to control the narrative through

the viewpoints and the conversations meaning that although I have held the lens throughout the project homeless people have dictated where I point it. Other things that I would consider is how the final paper type is use functions as I used Double sides matte 180gsm paper due to the thickness of this paper binding it proved difficult due to me not utilising it when creating my dummies. Another consideration I would have for future is the glue is use for my cover due to the high liquid content of PVA glue it caused my book to warp meaning it impeded the final outcome of the book although this did play into my narrative as it allowed the book to echo the human touch that was present when designing the book itself. This process had allowed me to value that narrative play in my practice and it has highlighted the ethical and morals issues that can be present when creating a Documentary project but most importantly how to overcome through process and research.

